

DRAYTON CHRONICLE



Photo Stephen Fearnley

CHRONICLE INFORMATION

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

Issue	Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available on:
March	16th February	24th February
April	16th March	24th March

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.

Please send your contribution by email to:
editor@draytonchronicle.net

Advertisement requests should be sent to:
advertising@draytonchronicle.net

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

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

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We're really pleased to say that the church remains open daily for private, individual prayer! Sunday-Saturday, 10am-3pm. For everyone's continuing good health, once in the building, please would you follow the guidelines for social distancing and using the hand sanitizer. Thank you.

REGULAR SERVICES – We are sorry to have to tell you that there will not be any Sunday services in Church for the time being. The situation will be reviewed in early February.

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 oxford.anglican.org 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.

A Prayer

*God of compassion,
Be close to those who are ill, anxious or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
In their anxiety, be their hope;
In their darkness, be their light;
Through him who suffered alone on the cross,
But reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen*

YOU STAY WE PRAY

31st Jan– 6th Feb	Hilliat Fields; Lyford Close
7th–13th Feb	Manor Close; The Green
14th–20th Feb	High St; Cheers Drive; Halls Close
21st–27th Feb	Friars Mews; Monk Close; Prior Drive; Abbot Crescent;
28th Feb–7th Mar	Chestnut Drive; Holly Lane; Walnut Way; Willow Way

ST PETER'S LETTER

From the Ministry Team...



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

A 28 day money back guarantee if you are not delighted with your purchase. Shame it doesn't apply to 2021! This year has certainly started in a way that none of us would have wanted for our nation and world. Wonderful work by vaccinologists and healthcare workers certainly bring us hope for the future course of our pandemic, but then the financial and mental health problems will become even more apparent in our everyday lives.

In the early part of this year, I am taking great hope and encouragement from a well known poem: *God Knows* by Minnie Louise Haskins, an inspirational Christian, whose life story is well worth reading. Her remarkable ministry, career arose from ordinary beginnings, yet her determination, faith and courage to adapt and serve others acts as an inspiration to us all.

The opening words of this poem were made famous when King George VI read the introduction to the poem in his 1939 Christmas [BBC Radio](#) broadcast to the [British Empire](#).

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown"; and he replied, "Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than a light, and safer than a known way."

So, I went forth, and finding the hand of God, trod gladly into the night. He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone east. So heart, be still! What need our human life to know if God hath comprehension?

Minnie Haskins (1875-1957)

Our Christmas bible passages may have faded from our mind as the year progress, but their constant reference to 'do not be afraid' and 'Emmanuel – God is with us' are essential messages to take with us throughout 2021. Two simple messages from this poem keep coming to mind this year:

Don't fear tomorrow, God is already there.

Courage is fear that has said its prayers

It may be that you have noticed that our churches have suspended our corporate acts of worship for the safety of our whole community. This does not mean we have packed up what we do! We are actively involved in supporting those who cannot feed their families, lack warm winter clothing or are struggling with anxiety, depression and loneliness.

If you, or someone you know, is desperate for help, please let us know and we will do all we can with our professional care colleagues, to help in any way possible.

Revd Phil Sutton
Associate Minister
DAMASCUS Parish
revphil@damascusparish.org.uk or admin@damascusparish.org.uk
Tel: 01235 526114 Mobile: 07507378737

Parish Register

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LETTER FROM WESTMINSTER

David Johnston MP
Member of
Parliament for
Wantage



There is no denying that lockdowns are grim and this one is possibly the worst, given it is the longest and we don't yet have a clear idea on the timetable for leaving

it. As I write, my phone says the temperature in Didcot is a balmy 4 degrees – which is higher than it has been in recent days and which of course makes it more challenging than the first one was. But I am reasonably confident this will be the last one.

It has been wonderful to see the progress with the vaccine, with over 5.4 million people having already received one at the time of writing, one of the fastest rates of administering it in the world. I volunteered with the Ray Collins Charitable Trust in Wantage earlier in the month, registering patients from the Newbury Street and Church Street practices as they arrived every 3 minutes for their jabs. They were delighted to be receiving them, not least as so many have spent much of the last year inside.

MPs have been advised to stay at home and participate virtually, so that is largely what I have been doing – back to asking questions and giving speeches to a webcam as I was earlier in 2020. However, you have to turn up in person if you are on a Bill Committee, which scrutinises legislation line by line, and I am on the one for the Telecomms Security Bill, which I spoke in favour of a few weeks ago. It's all about how we deal with high-risk companies such as Huawei in our telecoms networks and it is fascinating to hear from experts in the field as part of the process.

There was very nice news at the beginning of the year when Andy Baker, the founder of Play2Give, received an MBE for his services to the community. Many of you will know his story, but he has now raised over £250,000 for good causes. I am a patron of his charity and whenever I meet him he has a smile on his face, is optimistic and is full of ideas about new ways to raise money for children and health services. He is a real inspiration.

If you haven't yet, get yourself to Lushlooking Cakes on London St in Faringdon when you can. They opened a shop just before Christmas having worked from their home very successfully for some time. Having eaten cupcakes in around 20 U.S. states, I think the ones at Lushlooking Cakes are some of the best and it's great to have a new local business in Faringdon, particularly now Stay Grounded has closed. That said, the Stay Grounded van will be back in force and it's great to hear the Bell's exciting plans for the venue.

As ever, if I can help then please get in touch via david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk

☎: 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,

Coronavirus

We're back in lockdown with the new more transmissible version of the virus. With the pressure on hospitals throughout the Thames valley, a major incident was declared in early January; many of the District Council staff have been seconded to the Local Resilience Forum. Some responses from the Council may be delayed due to this; please bear with us.

Please remain careful and remember that as the new variant is easier to pass on, it's more important than ever to keep two metres distance whenever possible (including when wearing a mask) and to self-isolate whenever you have symptoms. Cases look to be falling at last; we need to keep it up. This should be the final stretch now that the vaccine is rolling out at speed – as long as take-up is high, when the rollout reaches enough people, we can progressively relax restrictions and get back to life as we knew it.

If you need any help, or feel you may need it, during this lockdown and beyond, please contact our Community Hub (which is always staffed regardless of the major incident):

Telephone: 01235 422600

Website: www.southoxon.gov.uk/communityhub

Email: communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk

Please don't hesitate to contact our Community Hub on the telephone number, website, or email address above.

Local businesses – please sign up to the South and Vale Business Support mailing list by visiting www.svbs.co.uk - it's the quickest and most direct way to find out as soon as grant funding is available locally. There is more advice and options for support at <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/coronavirus-community-support/support-for-people-who-need-help/>, which has the Community Hub details, links for financial guidance, food banks, and Housing Support.

Winter Support Grant Scheme

We have launched a new grant scheme to help residents affected by the pandemic buy food and keep their homes warm this winter.

We have been working closely with Oxfordshire County Council, City and the other districts on this Winter Support Grant following the allocation £1.4million of government funding to Oxfordshire.

Following discussions, the county council allocated around £1M of that funding to providing free school meals. The rest has been distributed across the districts in the county with our share being £150,000 (South £76,006 and Vale £73,430).

Our local information and advice centres, Citizens Advice South and Vale, and Wantage Independent Advice Centre will be distributing the funding to those in need.

The advice centres can support people with supermarket vouchers for food and fuel vouchers to top up prepayment meters or with paying a heating bill. This will be alongside their usual package of advice and support around budget management, debt and benefit advice and any other assistance the resident may need signposting towards.

If a resident has received a food voucher from a previous scheme, they can still apply for a Winter Support Grant.

Garden Waste Suspension

We had to temporarily delay the start of the garden waste service (due to resume on 11 January) due to reduced staffing levels – a significant chunk of crews became ill or had to self-isolate, and the decision was made to focus remaining staff on

the core household waste services. The Vale are genuinely sorry for the inconvenience this will have caused and we're reviewing the staff levels as of the week commencing 18th January (when I'm writing this update) with a view to restart as soon as possible.

We have been able to keep the Household Waste Recycling Centres open, however.

Vaccines

The vaccination programme is going well; we have over 20 Primary Care Network vaccination centres operating, plus roving vaccination teams who have been working their way around care homes and doing home visits for those who are less mobile. A mass vaccination centre for Oxfordshire is due to be opened soon (at time of writing; it may be open by the time you read this). Oxfordshire as a whole is on target for vaccinating the top four most vulnerable groups by mid-February.

There are, unfortunately, fraudsters seeking to prey on the vulnerable at all times and now is no exception. There have been scams related to the vaccine rollout, usually by text messages claiming to be from the NHS offering the opportunity to sign up for the vaccine. The scam texts ask you to click on a link to an online form – where you are asked to fill out personal and financial details.

Covid-19 vaccines will only be available via the NHS. You will be contacted by the NHS, your employer, a GP surgery or a pharmacy local to you, when you're able to receive it.

At no point will anyone be asked to pay for the vaccine.

The NHS will never ask you for your bank account or card details.

The NHS will never ask you for your PIN or banking password.

The NHS will never arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine.

The NHS will never ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents such as your passport, driving licence, bills or pay slips.

What to do if you are targeted: If you receive a call, you believe to be fraudulent, just hang up.

If an email looks suspicious, do not click on any of the links - forward it to report@phishing.gov.uk.

Suspicious text messages should be forwarded to the number 7726 which is free of charge.

Anyone who believes they are a victim of a fraud, should report it immediately via actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.

New Bus Services

On a non-Covid front, there has been a series of major changes to bus services and frequencies across Oxfordshire. Services will now operate more frequently between Milton Park and Didcot, with improved links to the site from Wantage, Grove, Abingdon (via Drayton) and Oxford.

Community Consultations

We've launched two consultations into how we raise money for infrastructure and community facilities needed to support planned growth across the district.

We are asking the public, local businesses and organisations to comment on our draft Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule and the draft Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

Both consultations run until midnight on Monday 8 February.

To find out more and to have your say visit the consultation pages for:

The CIL Charging Schedule: <http://survey.southandvale.gov.uk/s/CIL-ChargingSchedule-CommentForm/>

The Developer Contributions SPD: <https://survey.southandvale.gov.uk/s/DeveloperContributionsSPD-CommentForm/>

That's all for this month.. Stay safe, Andy

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Webber

richardwebber777@gmail.com

01235 534001

December 2020 (Ed note:Chronicle not published in Jan)

As I write, it is the beginning of a very strange festive season. Rather than a list of moans and problems, I will confine myself to some positive messages in the hope that 2021 will be a better year.

At the December OCC full County Council meeting, a very significant motion was passed, that henceforth our County will be moving towards making all built up areas 20mph zones including villages. It will take time and money to achieve. Whilst there is an argument that petrol and diesel cars produce more pollution at 20 than at 30, the latest evidence is that. Traffic flows more smoothly and this, in itself, reduces pollution. This, together with improved pedestrian and cycle ways together with the move to electric vehicles should make villages like ours, safer, healthier and more pleasant places in which to live and work.

At the same meeting there was an undertaking to focus on clearing back vegetation from footpaths. This would be part of making walking and cycling safer particularly for push chairs and wheelchairs.

Secondly, the new street lamps being installed all across the County are going to save money. However many people are concerned at their brightness causing unnecessary light pollution. There is a plan to review how well the new lights are working and, where required replace the white bulbs with gentler, warmer ones.

The latest spending review contained better news for County Council finance which has been under sustained pressure from austerity for many years. Indeed, at the risk of being proved completely wrong, there will, for the first time in many years, be some room for manoeuvre (and political argument) in the next budget. At least that gives local government some choices to make rather than the relentless round of "what to cut next"!

The message from the Director of Public Health and his team is clear. Whilst there is much better news on the horizon with the expanding Covid vaccination programme. To avoid a third spike in cases, we all need to keep to the guidance for the next few months at least. So, in the meantime Hands, Face, Space and be patient!

January 2021

If, like me, you are feeling worn down by the unrelenting stream of news and updates on the Corona pandemic following on from several years of unrelenting news of Brexit, I am hoping you feel the need for something different.

Catherine and I have been discovering new walks starting and ending at home. After so much rain, much of the countryside is currently under water so the numbers of routes are increasingly limited. Trailing down roads (only where there are pavements) next door to high speed, noisy traffic is not much fun and does not allow for much conversation.

Determined to find a new route, and in spite of the conditions, last weekend we decided to take a cross country route that we had taken without mishap some years ago.

All went well until we faced the one field we knew could become very wet indeed. The path around the edge of the field was looking very deep in puddles, but there looked to be a much drier possible route across the middle. Wearing good strong wellingtons, we set forth.

After ten minutes successfully negotiating the worst of the mud, simultaneously we were each brought to a halt as all four boots disappeared fast, more than a foot into the mud. Stopping to laugh was the big mistake as they slowly continued to sink further. Grabbing each other's hand to avoid falling over, we struggled to maintain our balance. Catherine, quite fairly, in trying to extract a boot, decided to let go of my hand just as I was trying to extract one of my boots. I lost my balance and fell flat on my back into the mud. The lady who, more sensibly, was wading through the puddles and shallow mud on the assigned path, looked across with some concern at two senior citizens struggling "Do you need any help?" she called. She then realised that we were both convulsed in laughter and walked on.

Sensibly, Catherine was soon standing in the mud barefoot and making steady headway in extracting her boots. But my boots were longer, I am heavier and my boots had sunk deeper. I was also on my back. After some minutes, I managed to twist myself sideways which allowed me to pull hard enough to get first one boot free and then the other. In twisting I was now covered in mud, front and back. We eventually made it home, but before being allowed back into the house, I had to be hosed down, fully clothed.

We won't try that again.

But it was in the minutes that I was lying on my back, staring at the sky, wondering how I was going to move, that the realisation that for all the talk of the need for joined up cycle routes in our area, we also have need for a safe, joined up, clearly signposted system of well-maintained footpaths.

There was a time when the majority of the world depended entirely on footpaths. Well done to the many people who are agitating to have them better maintained. It is interesting that it takes a lockdown to make us realise how much we should appreciate them.

Richard Webber

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DRAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Graham Webb

Walnut Meadow Recreational & Sports Pitch area

Drayton Parish Council met with Miller Homes and Vale of the White Horse District Council on 8th January to progress preparation of the recreational and sports pitch land at the centre of the Walnut Meadows development.

As updated previously, the land currently does not meet agreed planning obligations, therefore we need to ensure those obligations are met before the Parish Council can proceed with further development, as detailed in the Neighbourhood Plan.

We received a revised proposal from Miller Homes, and although it's moving in the right direction with regard to re-leveling most areas, addressing privacy and aesthetic concerns raised by residents, and quality standards required for further development, the District and Parish Council feel there is more work to be done.

The District Council Planning Enforcement team have requested that Miller Homes assess the lowest level the land can be reduced to, taking into consideration drainage requirements for the area. The proposal will then be assessed by Planning Enforcement from a development and drainage perspective, and Oxfordshire County Council from a Highways perspective.

An initial response is expected mid-January, with a full revised proposal by the end of the month. A further update will be provided in next months' Chronicle.

Project Manager

Applications are coming in for a Project Manager for Drayton 2020 implementation projects. This will be an increasing workload as projects like the sports field and pavilion, and professional project management will enable us to ensure the intended outcomes. Applications and proposals will be discussed after the closing date.

Bins

The requested litter bins and dog bins were discussed. Location is critical for their usefulness, but also for access by collection vehicles. The PC is in discussion with Biffa, the contractor, and new bins are expected soon.

Allotment Fencing

An order has been placed for allotment fencing, which is expected to be installed after some enabling works by the contractor. New water troughs have been installed and connected, well done the working parties.

Cycle Path Improvements

Cycle path improvements continue, the latest being Bridleway 29 where drainage work and culvert clearance have reduced the impact of run off from nearby fields. This will make it more passable for pedestrians too. We are looking at specifications for a topping suitable for both horses and cycles. It is hoped

to establish a viable cycle route from Sutton Wick via BWs 29 and 26 connecting with Peep-O- Day Lane/Sustrans No.5

Community Support Working Group

With the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions it is hoped to re start the Community Support Working Group, subject to renewal of funding that made it such a success before..

Land Behind Kiln Lane

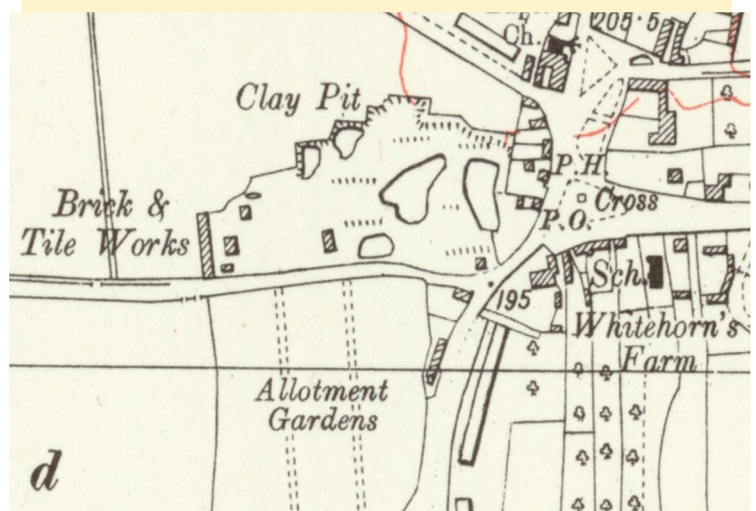
Recent interest in the land behind Kiln Lane that has been cleared of undergrowth has prompted a closer look at what, for many, is a forgotten corner of Drayton's History. It's well known that this road's name reflects the brick works that was there, and Eirwen Jones' "Discovering Our Neighbourhood" (on the Drayton web site) suggests that the rebuilding of the village after the Great Fire of 1780 used its bricks, and it may indeed have been established for that purpose.

It was not unusual for small scale brick works to exist to supply local materials for use nearby. There was a clay pit on the north bank of the Thames at Culham, just downstream of the lock, and another at the top of Spring Road in Abingdon. In an era when road transport was still difficult it made sense to source locally. This led to local variety in brick colour, for instance those here are a bright russet red whilst up near Banbury bricks have more yellow and pink in them. Further afield London stock bricks have a dark ochre colour.

The Brick and Tile Works is shown on the 1875 Ordnance Survey, with a small pool to the north of the kilns, but a look at the 1938 map (pub. 1944) shows the extent of the works by then, with the clay pit extending well to the west and right up behind the Wheatsheaf to Marcham Road. Surely an enterprise of this size was shipping its products further afield?

Many people will remember that after the brick works the site was home to Barton Garage, a petrol forecourt with workshops and a yard behind. The road through Drayton was a busy trunk road then, taking traffic from Southampton docks up to the Midlands.

It would be useful to date when production of bricks ceased and when the garage was established. Some local people remember working there, and even remember fishing in the pond that is still there, last sign of the clay pit?



ART INSTALLATIONS IN DRAYTON

Greetings to everyone, and here's to hoping 2021 is a great deal better than 2020 was! I never thought I'd want to get the needle so much, but that goes to show. I'll have a jab at explaining the following, and try to inject some sense into the whole project.

In spite of the setback with this awful virus, we have been endeavouring to continue with the projects which we promised to deliver way back in April 2019. For those of you who have been following the progress, we are nearly there with the entrance signs. We hope to have them installed by the late summer, which considering the setbacks that we've had, is remarkable.

The next project will be the walnuts on Drayton Green, (opposite Vickery's) which the Parish Council would like to install instead of bollards, to keep cars off the green, instead of unsightly bollards. For those who don't know, the theme which links all the installations are walnuts, as this village is well known for its walnut trees.

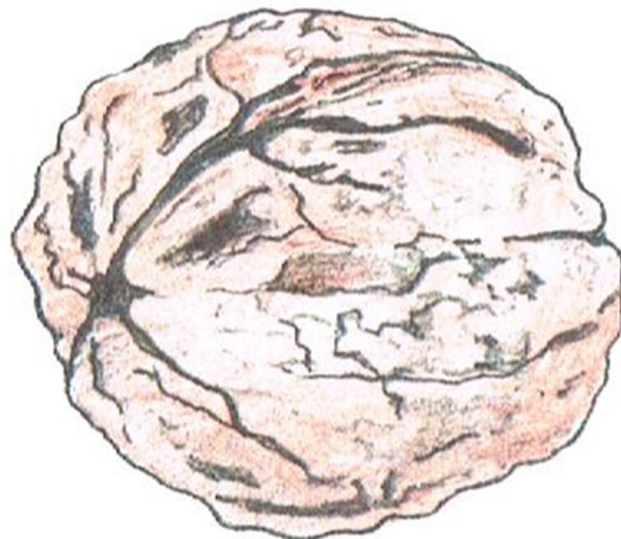
We've come up with a wonderful artist who can deliver seventeen walnuts for us to disperse round the grass to stop unwelcome parking, and at the same time create an artistic feature which will add interest to the centre of the village.

In order for us to comply with regulations regarding funding, we need to have demonstrated that we have your approval. So now is the time to act! Bollards or walnuts? Look at the visuals, and let us know what you think. You can contact us on our website: publicart@draytonpc.org. If you don't have the means to contact us electronically, just leave your comments with Lawrence at the shop.

Please do not complain about the use of public funds for art. Remember, if we don't use this money for the purpose for which it has been allocated, we lose it to others who will. Once we've enhanced the village with all our projects, Drayton will become a place of interest and innovation.

Please could you submit your comments by February 14th. Easy to remember: St. Valentine's Day. Love your village, embrace the walnuts.

Thank you very much, Pervin Shahin (Drayton Parish Council)



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LOCAL GROUPS AND CLUBS

DRAYTON FOOTBALL CLUB

Throughout December, Drayton's First and Reserves team both won all their games, including a cup game each. Drayton First beat Dorchester 1-0, Steventon 4-2 in the league and also 4-0 in the cup; The Reserves also beat Steventon 4-2 in the league, Sutton Courtenay 2-0 and Benson 2-0 in the cup. After a great month of performances, we must hold fire, till this current Lockdown is eased, so we can pick up where we left off. As it stands, Drayton First are 9th/13 and Drayton Reserves are 2nd/11.

Renovation Updates: The Clubhouse has been successfully painted and once Lockdown is over we aim to get started on the flooring as well as phase 2 of modernising our Bar Area. Please like us on Facebook "Drayton Wasps Football Club" for updates

Bradley Cox

DRAYTON WIVES

Hello everyone,

I do hope you are all keeping well in these strange times!!!! Hopefully next year we can get back to enjoying our coffee mornings and meetings plus our all important outings which I for one have missed greatly!!

However Josie and I have been busy becoming Volunteer walk leaders for walking for health which means that we are not so restricted with the numbers for walks. We can take about 10 other people with us so get your walking shoes on for next year!!*

So myself and the committee wish you all a wonderful New Year.

Lisa Lammiman **Ed note: letter written before latest lockdown—might need to check current Govt guidance.....*



Church Page continued: **PEBBLES Baby and Toddler Group** meet online, on Zoom, every Wednesday morning, during term time, from 10.00am—10.30 am. You are so welcome to join us! Please email suedraytonpebbles@outlook.com for more information. Look forward to seeing you!

DRAYTON W.I.

Like many other groups we haven't met properly for some time. We have, however, Zoomed; we zoom our monthly meeting with those able to join in and we also have Zoom coffee mornings as well. I must say the coffee mornings are very cheap and the coffee is served just as you like it, hot and fresh. Sometimes we have a poor choice of biscuits depending on who has left any in the barrel. After a catch-up with county news and family and friends' happenings and those of the right age that have had their vaccine!!! Then we have a quiz or another subject to discuss. It keeps us up to speed with each other and all our other members that don't zoom. When we meet in person again we will celebrate being 101 as we meant to last year, in style, with our friends.

Ann Webb

The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project

Registered Charity 1098966



Coming back to work to be told that there is another national lockdown on the way is not how the team had anticipated starting 2021. However, there are still many things to be excited about, going forward!

The Trustees have recruited a new member of staff which will enable us to provide more support for the young people of Drayton this year. Please follow our social media accounts to stay updated with our support services and activities. Contact details are at the end of this article!

For any indoor or outdoor activities, we are currently operating on an invite-only basis as per the Covid19-secure requirements set out by our regulatory body (National Youth Agency). We have group support session on Monday evening between 7-8pm. If you feel like you could do with some extra support, please message the team to discuss what we can do for you as we know one size doesn't fit all! In addition, we are also regularly walking the streets of the village hoping to stop and chat socially-distanced so we stay in touch face to face as much as we can. If you see the team be sure to say hi!

Parents – we know how difficult 2020 has been and it is not getting easier as we are still in the midst of this pandemic. Young people are struggling and if you need help in how to have helpful conversations with them do get in touch.

We are also very proud of the help we have been able to give to the elderly and isolated in the community through our inter-generational activities and will continue to do so.

The ADYP Team – Roxy Elford, Jake Fleetwood and James

Jacob Fleetwood, Youth Worker The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project (ADYP) Registered Charity Number 1098966
Website: www.damascusyouthproject.org.uk
Tel: 01235848694 07875649008

LETTERS

Lifting the Spirits

In all that is besetting us at the present moment, notwithstanding the need to forgo the closeness of a family Christmas, how uplifting and joyous it was to hear the Church Bells ringing the rounds on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning. Thank you, St. Peters Drayton Church Bell Ringers, it was greatly appreciated - let's hope for the return of your normal weekly practice and Sunday ringing very soon. It is so much part of the ritual of village life throughout our county and country. Best Wishes for a better New Year.

Tom and Bunty Knight, Church Lane, Drayton.

NOTICE

It is with much sadness that Marian (formerly of Steventon Road) passed away on November 26th at the age of 91.

Mum for many years played badminton and short mat bowls in the village hall.

She will be sadly missed by her children, David, Joyce, Evelyn, Marie, Doreen and Angela and daughter and sons in law, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Joyce Walsh

Dear Editor

We were really pleased to relaunch The Duck House on the pond in Sutton Wick Lane just before Christmas.

The Duck House was kindly renovated by our friend Terry Gibbard, who gave his time and the materials free of charge. The Duck House was originally launched on 2009 and we had noticed

earlier in the year that it needed renovating.

This really was a team effort from Terry Gibbard, Steve Gibbard, Phil and Max Waddup and Paul and Toby Biddle. Everyone kindly contributed their time and supplied the materials. A big thank you to all involved !

We know how much the villagers and the children love to see the Duck House and it would be great to raise some money in memory of Molly Gibbard for Helen & Douglas House.

Please see below link if you would like to donate.

<http://Molly-gibbard.muchloved.com>

We really hope you all have some pleasure from seeing the new Duck House on your walks around the village.

Best wishes Mandy Biddle



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ALLOTMENTS

Please could you thank all the volunteers that helped dig the trenches to lay water pipes for the new troughs at the Allotment: James, Ben, Elaine, Daniel, Chris, Rosie, Norman, Matt, Geoff, Andrew, David, Daz, Marie, James and especially Tim Atkins (Allotment Warden). Many thanks!!

Chris Price



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Age UK Oxfordshire and their team of volunteers can help to build your confidence and support you to be involved with the online world in which we now live. Tech Buddy is our new and free to access, IT help service. Whether you have a computer, tablet or phone why not give us a call for some simple, clear advice. We offer basic free help via:

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Why the walnut?

See page 9.....



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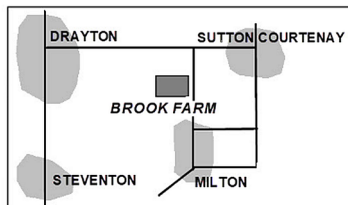


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N.B. Information correct at the time of writing, in mid-January.

Coronavirus vaccination scam

Action Fraud has issued a warning about this scam, where members of the public have received text messages claiming to be from the NHS, offering them the opportunity to sign up for vaccinations.

The texts ask the recipient to click on a link which takes them to an online form where they're prompted to input personal and financial details. In some cases the online form has looked very similar to the genuine NHS website.

When you are eligible to receive your vaccination, you will be contacted by either the NHS, your employer, a local GP surgery or pharmacy.

Coronavirus vaccinations will only be available via the NHS. The vaccinations are free of charge and you will never be asked for your financial details or to make a payment.

Suspicious text messages should be forwarded, free of charge, to **7726**. If you're suspicious about an email forward it to report@phishing.gov.uk.

If you believe you're the victim of fraud please report it to Action Fraud as soon as possible by calling 0300 123 2040 or via the website at <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk>.

Ask for ANI support for those experiencing domestic abuse

The government has teamed up with Boots and independent pharmacies. The Ask for ANI scheme allows those at risk or suffering from abuse to discreetly signal that they need help and access support. By asking for ANI, a trained pharmacy worker will offer a private space where they can understand if the victim needs to speak to the police or would like help to access support services such as a national or local domestic abuse helplines. More information at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pharmacies-launch-codeword-scheme-to-offer-lifeline-to-domestic-abuse-victims>

Covid-19 volunteer groups

If you'd like to request help with shopping, dog walking, posting letters or would just like to hear a friendly voice on the telephone, please contact the volunteer groups as follows:

Drayton: email tamsin.crane@drayton.pc.org or call **01235 535933**. Alternatively, email richard.wade@draytonpc.org or call **01235 532321**.

Other sources of support (food banks and finances)

VOWH Council can help if you're struggling with living costs. Call **01235 422600** or complete the online form at <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/coronavirus-community-support/support-for-people-who-need-help>. Citizen's Advice can help with food bank vouchers by calling **0300 330 904**. If you're in financial crisis you can speak to a Citizen's Advice adviser in confidence by calling **0808 2082138** (free) between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

The Silver Line

This free, confidential, helpline provides information, friendship, advice and protection to people aged 55 and above, plus support for older people suffering abuse and neglect. The helpline's open 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Call the specially trained team on **0800 4 790 80 90**.

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

Contact NAG5 by calling **01235 848694** or e-mail neighbourhoodactiongroup5@hotmail.com

COFFEE-BREAK QUIZ

A mystery prize this month! Name the six birds and arrange the first letters of each bird name into a six-letter word which should make you laugh!

Post the word with your name, address and phone number in an envelope marked 'Chronicle Competition' in the Chronicle Box outside Vickery's Hardware Store by 15th February 2021. The first correct answer opened after that date will win the prize.



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FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS

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

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

DRAYTON HALL 'NEWS'

Not much to report at present, for obvious reasons! However, under the Tier4 Guidelines, we can host a few sessions, for designated Support Groups, or education/training purposes.

One request though, would people please NOT leave clothes by the Children's Air Ambulance bin? It's been full for some time, and though we've requested a collection, they're very busy, and we've had no clue about when our bin can be emptied. Bags that have been left there just get soaked, and will likely go to waste

Tony Holmes

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MILLENNIUM GREEN

The Millennium Green is a registered charity (Charity number 1072020) and is run by a small Committee of volunteers, 4 of whom are Trustees. Over the last 20 Years it has grown to become a much-loved feature of Drayton life.

The Green has really come into its own during 2020, especially during Lockdown times, with large numbers of all ages using it for their exercise and enabling home schooled children - and their parents- let off steam! ! It has provided a great open space to meet up with friends and enjoy the sunshine while still abiding by the Covid-19 Government rulings of that time.

FODSA (Friends of Drayton School Association) has organized treasure hunts, fairies even moved in for a while and a knitting marvel hid 50 handmade Christmas fairies to be found and hung on trees at home. Trees were decorated including the beautiful Ribbon tree to remember someone at Christmas. Apples and Walnuts were picked in the autumn and made into many a Crumble or the more exotic Walnut Pesto!



We rely on Volunteers to litter pick and to help in our working parties; our Green does not look this good without village support, attention, time, love and in fact money. It's come a long way in the last few years, when the grass was cut only once a year, the mud crept up around your ankles and you risked what you might tread in with each step as the grass was so long!

The Green is a Charity and therefore relies on the goodwill of its Friends, many who make a regular financial contribution to its upkeep. The Parish Council has kindly currently taken over the cost of grass cutting within the Village Contract. As a result of these vital contributions we can then cover the essentials such as Insurance, tree maintenance and the odd disaster. This year like the majority of Charities we have been unable to have any fund-raising events such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Carols on the Green or even the planned open-air Cinema. Therefore when unexpected expenses occur, such as we have had even this year, such as costly wall repairs, it's getting harder and harder to meet the costs.

With this in mind, if you are a regular user of the Green, could you consider becoming a Friend of the Green? If every family, if they were able, could donate even say £10 per year, our reserves would be very much healthier, allowing us to do further work on the beautiful, but costly, stone wall, provide a sign explaining the plan of the apple orchard, replace worn out wooden benches and more. The jobs keep coming. As we are a Charity we can also claim Gift Aid if you are a UK tax payer, so could gain a little more from any donation.

If you are unable to help with a donation, but could give support in a more practical way, please keep an eye out for our working parties which we advertise on the Millennium Green Facebook page as well as on the Green Noticeboard. We always welcome any help, no expertise required.

Please do feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like to help in any way.

Jane McWhirter

Chair Drayton Millennium Green

E mail - chair.millenniumgreen@gmail.com

THE DOVECOTE

The Dovecote Residents' Association (RA) has the following update on the work that the RA is doing in support of the handover and adoption of The Dovecote, a development in the heart of Drayton:

The RA Elected Committee is actively liaising with Bloor Homes Ltd (as developer), Chamonix Estates Ltd (as property agent), SO-HA, Vale of White Horse District Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Drayton Parish Council and other parties adopting facilities on the development. As background, Bloor has established Dovecote Drayton Management Company Ltd (MC) to take on responsibility for maintenance of the common areas after Bloor completes work on site. Chamonix has been appointed by Bloor to manage day-to-day activities on behalf of the MC. Chamonix is leading on the handover process.

The RA has two primary streams of work in progress: (1) to influence the handover from Bloor to Chamonix, ensuring that all outstanding work is completed to the satisfaction of the residents; (2) to liaise with local government to ensure the RA has a clear understanding of any local government requirements for completion of works on the development and to support effective handover from Bloor to Chamonix and/or the adoption parties.

Handover is currently expected in the first half of 2021 based on feedback we have received, but a detailed plan is yet to be provided by Chamonix. The RA has numerous questions outstanding with Chamonix on how the MC is being set up and when the first General Meeting can be organised to allow Resident Directors to be appointed. Our real drive is to reach a point where we can influence some control over the MC. Until then we are at the behest of Bloor and Chamonix.

The RA has been fairly successful to-date in our attempts to influence work on site: the play area continues to evolve (albeit slowly) and now has a fence and two gates in place; work has started to finish off the paths onto East Way; we have been able to facilitate minor fixes around the development which have been causing residents concern. We continue to challenge Bloor and Chamonix to ensure they meet their obligations and address issues as they are raised by the residents that we represent. There is still some way to go, but we are working hard and remain optimistic that we will all see the benefit of this community asset.

The Dovecote RA has made contact with residents from the Miller Homes and Cala Homes developments in Drayton and offer our support to them in progressing with their handovers. As we have found through our own experience, encouraging residents to work together is key. Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much (Helen Keller). **Please feel free to get in contact with the RA via residents@dovecotedrayton.co.uk.**

Nigel Billingham

Chair, The Dovecote Residents' Association



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DONKATHON 2021

by Polly Vacher who lived in Drayton for 38 years!

Having flown solo around the world twice, Donkathon is the name given to my next big challenge. 'What is it'? I can hear you say. Well, I am going to drive my two donkeys from my home in North Moreton to a remote church in North Wales called St Melangell, a distance of 200 miles.

This is a personal challenge and a challenge for my two donkeys as well! However, it is a great opportunity to raise funds for research into Multiple Sclerosis as my nephew was diagnosed with this progressive degenerative disease of the Central Nervous System at the young age of 26.

The preparation for the Donkathon has been a challenge in itself. We had to find stabling at each of our 27 stops, we had to train Wizard and Muffin (the boys) to go through water. Donkeys are desert animals so are averse to water. They have to go through two fords en route so ford training has been top priority. We are busy building up their stamina so they can manage long hill climbs and an average of 8 miles a day.

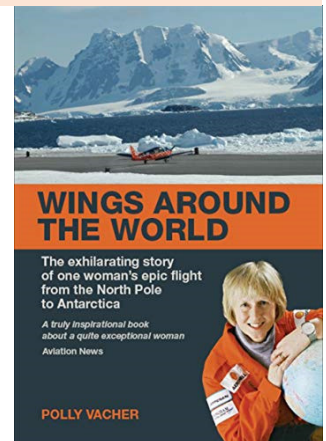
Don't miss the opportunity to join in our interim project: The well known artist, Mandy Shepherd has kindly given us a wonderful painting of the 'boys'. She has also organised a limited edition of prints. All prints are signed and numbered. The numbers will go in a raffle and the winner will get the original framed oil painting – order on line at www.donkathon.org or print off an application form from the website.

More information to follow but:

first stop – Drayton! Come and join in and follow for a while, all welcome! Start date 25th June 2021

Polly Vacher

Polly Vacher MBE is an English aviator specialising in long-distance solo flights. She was awarded the MBE for services to charity in 2002, **raising money for the charity Flying Scholarships for the Disabled**. She lives in Oxfordshire,. Born in 1944 in South Devon, she trained in physiotherapy and spent twenty years in music education. Her interest in aviation developed from a charity skydiving event. She obtained her private pilot licence with her husband Peter in Australia in 1994 and they followed this up by a circumnavigation of the continent. In 1997 she toured the United States by plane, flying solo across the North Atlantic in both directions. Source: Wikipedia (Ed)



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