

# DRAYTON CHRONICLE



## Drayton Scarecrows

2021

Photos:  
Stephen Fearnley



# CHRONICLE INFORMATION

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

Issue	Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available from:
June	17th May	28th May
July	14th June	25th June

## 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](mailto:editor@draytonchronicle.net)*

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

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

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Good Friday



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Easter  
From Janet Strong

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

**The church still remains open daily for private, individual prayer! Sunday – Saturday, 10 am-4pm**

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

**Sunday 8.00 am Holy Communion on 2nd Sunday of the month only.**

**Sunday 9.45 am Holy Communion (CW) , except 4th Sunday when a non-Eucharist Morning Praise is held**

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

For everyone's safety, once in the building we will all be expected to wear masks (unless exempt) and sanitise our hands and remain socially distant from those who are not in our bubble. We look forward to welcoming you.

There will also be online services from across the DAMASCUS Parish on our website. There are resources for Home Worship on the DAMASCUS Parish website [www.damascusparish.org.uk](http://www.damascusparish.org.uk) or join one of the many 'virtual' services such as Oxford Diocese Church at Home at 10.00a.m [www.oxford.anglican.org/livestream](http://www.oxford.anglican.org/livestream) Listen to 'Sunday Worship' on Radio 4 at 8.10am. Also watch Songs of Praise,( usually BBC1 at 1.15pm, but times may vary). There is also the Church of England free phone line, 'Daily Hope' 0800 804 8044, offering a selection of prayers, hymns, songs and reflections.

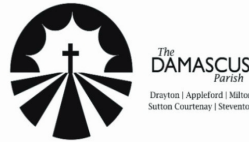
Please let us know if you are self-isolating and need help of any kind, so that prayer and practical support can be offered in a safe way.

### YOU STAY WE PRAY

2 <sup>nd</sup> —8 <sup>th</sup> May	Abingdon Rd; Oday Hill
9 <sup>th</sup> —15 <sup>th</sup> May	Binning Close; Haywards Rd
16 <sup>th</sup> —22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Sutton Wick Lane, Greenacres; Newman Lane; Conifer Drive
23 <sup>rd</sup> —29 <sup>th</sup> May	Hilliat Fields; Lyford Close
30 <sup>th</sup> May—5 <sup>th</sup> June	Manor Close; The Green

# ST PETER'S LETTER

From the Ministry Team...



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

### From the Ministry Team.....*New can be messy!*

On Easter Sunday I stood at dawn in a garden, one voice among many celebrating that 'Jesus Christ is risen today'. In the meantime, we are looking forward to the Ascension (13 May) - where the risen Jesus leaves his disciples – and to Pentecost (23 May) - where we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. These events coincide with loosening restrictions on 12 April, then 17 May, as we work towards 21 June, when, if all goes to plan, most things open up again: theatres, cinemas, music venues, gyms, churches. Much to celebrate together as a new normal appears. Yet, as we emerge from the pandemic are we filled with joy or doubt? What is the new normal? What are the effects of long Covid and how can our NHS be strengthened? Will offices reopen, will the centres of our towns and villages ever fully recover, when will foreign travel be possible? It will take time to find answers to these once-in-a-life time questions, just as it did for the disciples of Jesus.

They knew for certain that Jesus' resurrection was so, so important; and before his Ascension, Jesus did a number of things to 'convince' them that he is alive again. He eats and drinks. After his death and resurrection, Jesus appears first to Mary Magdalene, in the garden outside his tomb and, later that evening to the other disciples. Mary mistook the risen Jesus for a gardener and Thomas didn't believe his fellow disciples when they tell him that they've seen Jesus. Thomas wants the empirical evidence of his own eyes. A week later, Jesus tells Thomas to look at his hands and touch them, to 'reach out' his hand and put it in his side wound, he says 'Do not doubt, but believe'. The resurrection hasn't made Jesus look perfect – but the renewal is transformational. And that is what God is about - making you *new*. *New* can be messy. It seems to be part of God's way; things won't always look the way we think they should. We may have more questions than answers right now, but a good question, lovingly held, can hold us open to the possibility of different answers, of new life.

So what does resurrection look like from within this pandemic? Perhaps we've already been answering, through new ways to work, or closer connections to creation, or unleashing our creativity, or by re-imagining how we see our neighbours – the same faces yet having experienced very different journeys.

Perhaps new life comes as we admit that we are indeed fragile, that we need each other, that letting go is often how we open our hands to receive. But we don't have to go back to how things were, when we can go forward with some faith that things can change, as we can change, for good.

So as we hold the questions open, and look forward towards Pentecost and beyond, you are invited to come along, just as you are, to any of the services taking place across the Parish (details included elsewhere in this magazine). **All are welcome.**

God the Holy Spirit invites a response from each of us to live as Christ, even on our most uncertain days; and in the words of Paul (from the Message version of 1 Corinthians 13) we are given something to work with: '*Trust steadily in God. Hope unswervingly. Love extravagantly.*'

May we wish you every blessing this Eastertide.

*The Reverend Dr Karen Hyde*  
Associate Minister in the DAMASCUS Parish



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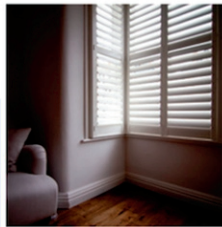
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# LETTER FROM WESTMINSTER

David Johnston MP Member of Parliament for Wantage



I was the 135<sup>th</sup> speaker for the House of Commons motion to pay tribute to Prince Philip, but they only got to the 131<sup>st</sup> MP. Had I been able to speak I would have recounted an anecdote in James Callaghan's book in which he found himself squeezed into a small car with Prince Philip and Margaret Thatcher. Despite the fact he had been PM, he wrote "I recognised at once the force of their characters and decided that my best contribution to the general happiness would be to remain quite quiet." Sensible man. Few people will serve their country as long and as steadfastly as Prince Philip did ours.

So far, so good, on reopening post lockdown. I spent most of the first full Friday I could visiting shops and pubs who were, as you can imagine, pleased to have reopened – despite that snow on day 1! Just before the retail visits, I'd been at the Sylva Foundation and the Earth Trust in Little Wittenham and been inspired by what both are doing. Make sure you check out the brand-new Earth Lab the latter has been building, which will open in the near future, not least to admire its construction. It is built with glulam beams and has a rammed earth wall, straw installation and a wildflower roof – I got a sneak peek and was very impressed.

I am among the MPs who has returned to parliament Monday-Thursday each week (parliament only sits on occasional Fridays). It's not exactly lively yet – many MPs are continuing to participate virtually and there are so many restrictions in every part of the building, including the continuation of the 50 person limit in the House of Commons, that you don't see many people in the way you used to. But important business continues to proceed, including the Domestic Abuse and Finance Bills.

Much continues to be by Zoom however. It has been a pleasure to continue to attend meetings of parish councils, most recently that of Aston Tirrold and Aston Upthorpe. I am always impressed with the dedication of people who sit on parish councils as there is not a lot of glory to the posts, but they're vital to ensuring that very local issues get the consideration they should. And, of course, parish councils played a key role in the community's response to Covid. I also continue to take searching questions from school children via Zoom – as I did just before Easter with Sutton Courtenay primary school. Some of the questions children ask you are tougher than the ones adults do.

The constituency and Oxfordshire have done very well from the Government's Culture Recovery Fund, with Didcot Railway Centre, Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra and Origin Technical Productions receiving a combined £400,000 in the latest round and 31 organisations receiving over £5 million overall – I hope we see them all flourish when they can get back to normal.

As ever, if I can help with anything then do contact me via [david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk)

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

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

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# DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

## Andy Cooke

Dear all,

### Coronavirus

Still on this subject, but with the encouraging continuation of the reduction in cases, hospitalisations, and deaths (brought down by lockdown, increasingly kept down by vaccination), we can focus more and more on the nuts and bolts of what's needed to help people.

### Variants

While there has rightly been surge testing on the variants of covid that have made their way into the UK, it's become clear that the vaccines we already have do provide excellent protection against severe illness from them. A recent outbreak of the "South African" variant (B.1.351) in a care home in Lambeth (brought in through staff who had refused the vaccine) caused zero serious illnesses or deaths amongst the residents who had been vaccinated with the Oxford/Astrazeneca vaccine.

It is right to test and trace these, but some media outlets have blown them up into scare stories that these evade the vaccines. While some erode (to a degree) the protection against transmission and asymptomatic illness, or even mild illness, the protection against severe illness and death appears as strong as ever.

### Grants

Grants for "restarting" business delivering in-person services for the general public are now available, paying up to £6,000 for non-essential retail businesses, and up to £18,000 for hospitality businesses, accommodation, leisure, personal care and gym or sport business premises. Please contact [grants@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:grants@southandvale.gov.uk) if you think you may have an eligible business, and don't hesitate. And, once more, sign up for business email updates from the newsletter at [sbvs.co.uk](http://sbvs.co.uk) to get any potential grant information as soon as possible. The scheme will be open until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

(We had originally intended to make immediate automatic payments to business rate payers without needing an application form as we have for similar grants, but the government has said it wants us to collect additional information and carry out counter-fraud checks. This meant that a new application process had to be designed just for this scheme, so PLEASE check to see if you can apply if you're running any sort of business)

### Test and Trace £500 payments

The government recently expanded the scheme to pay £500 to eligible people who lose income having been told to self-isolate through the Covid test and trace system – it now includes eligible parents and guardians who lose income if their children are sent home from school due to positive cases among students or staff. A revised application form will be available on our website soon.

If you are on a low income (under £306 per week) and will face financial hardship as a result of self isolating, you may be eligible for a payment. Check at the District Council website at <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/coronavirus-community-support/support-for-people-who-need-help/financial-support-available-for-those-on-benefits-who-are-told-to-self-isolate/>

### Leisure services reopening

We're gradually reopening leisure centres and outdoor pools. Centres, facilities, and activities are only opening where it is possible to do so and maintain social distancing. The capacity and procedures in place will be kept under constant review.

White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre, Wantage Leisure Centre, and Faringdon Leisure Centre are all at least partially reopened under covid-secure rules; all activity sessions need to be pre-booked ahead of visits (Fitness Classes, Creches, Sauna/Steam Rooms, and Coffee shops are still closed at the time of writing (19<sup>th</sup> April)).

We intend to reopen the outdoor pools at Abbey Meadow in Abingdon and Riverside in Wallingford; exact opening dates yet to be confirmed.

### Garden Waste

Our Garden Waste systems are undergoing an upgrade – we are currently unable to accept new applications. The upgrade should be complete "by early May"; I haven't managed to get any more specific dates.

### Cycle Hub at Didcot Parkway

Didcot Parkway Station has just opened its new cycle hub with space for an extra 600 bikes. The hub caters for standard and non-standard bikes to be securely parked. It is fitted with CCTV, motion sensor LED lighting and bike repair stands. The new cycle hub has opened ahead of 16 May, when GWR aims to run around 90 per cent of its usual timetable of trains.

That's all for this month. Stay safe, take care, and with any luck, we'll be on the run-up to the final relaxation of restrictions next time I write one of these!

**Andy**

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# COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

## Richard Webber

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

Dear All

There are strict rules around the election period and editors will rightly not publish anything that is political. I generally try to avoid being party political in my contributions to Parish magazines but I am sure political zeal occasionally gets the better of me.

So here goes with some thoughts that, I hope, will offend no one.

### The Arts

Those who know me best, will be aware that I am an ardent Arts fanatic. Indeed I have three children involved in the arts – an artist, a cellist and an actor – so I write with some feeling. The past eighteen months have been a trial for all of them with events cancelled and venues closed. The artist has come through least scathed while the cellist has been able to continue with private tuition and performance opportunities are beginning to resurface. The actor has kept going with a second career whilst awaiting the reopening of venues, some of which may not survive.

Most of us have depended for the past year on potted entertainment provided by the likes of Amazon and Netflix, but the opportunities for new talent to emerge have shrunk dramatically. We wait to see how live theatres and concert halls will manage in the unlocking from Covid process. There is a worry that the public will be reluctant to visit such venues in time to save some of them.

New building developments demand contributions towards sculptures, mosaics and murals from developers. There is no such long term provision for live arts – theatre, music, dance etc. If and when Covid restrictions allow, those of us who appreciate live arts will need to reengage as soon as possible if the industry is not to suffer long term damage.

### Local Elections

All of us involved in politics at any level need to know we have the support of the people we represent. Most local elections are won on a 35% turnout or less. Democracy and all those who have fought for it, and those who have died for it cannot thrive long term with that level of involvement. Please vote on May 6th.

Richard Webber

01235 534001

### From St Peter's Church

We have been very grateful to the Bell ringers, who have rung for our Easter Day service, as well as the events around the death of the Duke of Edinburgh. Unfortunately, there has also been a silence of another kind- the chimes of St Peter's clock have had to come off. As many of you know, they haven't been working properly. The mechanism is being looked at..... more details to follow next month.



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# DRAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Dear Drayton Residents / Organisations / Clubs / Societies,

The online **Drayton Annual Parish Meeting** (Meeting of the Parish) is scheduled for **Tuesday 4th May at 6pm.**

Join from the meeting link:

<https://deputyclerk.my.webex.com/deputyclerk.my/j.php?MTID=m4a18e0b757905165532913a15f5ffa6a>

Find the link on the village website, on the Agendas and Minutes page, under agenda: **2021 Annual Parish Meeting Agenda:** <http://www.draytonvillage.co.uk/drayton-parish-council/agendas-minutes/>

Alternatively, email [deputyclerk@draytonpc.org](mailto:deputyclerk@draytonpc.org) requesting a link to the meeting, and we will be happy to email you one.

You are welcome to do a 5 minute update on your organisation / club / society.

Regards

Chris Price

(Deputy Clerk)

*Ed note: letter edited to include link instructions*

**NOTICE** **Announcement of death** sent to the Chronicle by Richard von Hoven for the residents of Drayton who will remember his mother:

Gillian von Hoven

Died quietly after a short illness on 10th April.

Over 50 years living in Drayton, actively involved in many activities including Drayton Wives, Wooden Spoon, St Peters Church & the drama club, in 2005 she moved to be near family in Shropshire following the death of her husband Geoffrey.

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## Drayton Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting Agenda

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held remotely on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 6:00pm.

Press & Public are welcome to attend and can participate during the public participation session.

Signed: Tamsin Crane (Chairperson, Drayton Parish Council).

Published: 21<sup>st</sup> Apr 2021.

### Suggested Agenda

1. To approve the suggested agenda for the meeting.
2. Apologies for Absence.
3. To Approve the Minutes of the Previous Annual Parish Meeting.
4. Report from Parish Council Chairperson – Tamsin Crane.
5. Reports from Parish Council Committees and Working Groups.
  - a) Finance and Personnel Committee – Patricia Athawes.
  - b) Planning Committee – Graham Webb.
  - c) Rights of Way & Conservation Working Group - Richard Wade
  - d) Public Art Working Group - Pervin Shahin
  - e) Community Support Working Group - Richard Wade.
  - f) Website Working Group - Garin Schoonhoven
  - g) Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Group.
6. Report from OCC Councillor – Richard Webber.
7. Report from VWHDC Councillor – Andy Cooke.
8. Reports from Drayton Community Organisations.
9. Residents Participation
 

Open forum - residents may speak about any items of interest to the parish.
10. Chairman's Closing Remarks – Tamsin Crane.



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# SCARECROW TRAIL!



After many of our members of FODSA (Friends of Drayton School Association) visited neighbouring villages to walk their scarecrow trails over recent years, we decided this would be great fun for Drayton village to give a go. We were all ready and organised with 21 families agreeing in February 2020 to make a scarecrow to go ahead in April/May. Then we entered lockdown no.1. The "scarecrow team" agreed that it would be irresponsible to encourage people out and about at that time when the advice was to stay at home, whilst also realising that getting supplies to make a scarecrow was challenging!

Fast forward a year and event planning and fundraising being at an all time low, we decided that the scarecrow trail may bring a little more enjoyment to people's daily exercise, and hopefully bring a few smiles to everyone's faces. The idea being that we have families making scarecrows, their house is marked on a map, and anyone who was interested followed the map and guessed the TV or film theme of each scarecrow, and then hand their answer form back to Vickery & son, including on it, their favourite scarecrow!

**Winners of Scarecrow Trail:**  
*Henry Gibbard and Louis Orlando*

**Winner of hidden TV/Film:**  
*Steptoe Family*

## Winning Scarecrows



**First Place: Peter Rabbit**



**Second Place: Ghostbusters**



**Third Place: Madhatter's Tea Party**



**Winners Gracie and Edie** 😊

We could not have hoped for the response we have had to this! We printed off 150 maps, gave them to Mace to sell for £1 and hoped to sell at least 100 over the two week period!..... We had to ask the school to print us more maps on day two as we had sold out, and that trend continued throughout the two weeks! We have had over 450 families wandering the trail in this time and it has been wonderful to see!

The scarecrows have ranged from Rosemary and Thyme to Danger Mouse, we have had a flying Superman to Spider-Man crawling up houses, Pirates of the Caribbean to Captain Underpants, it really has been a great effort put into each one! Ironically the members all chose to avoid both Harry Potter and Frozen as we assumed they both would be hugely popular! But not one appeared! We can not thank the scarecrow makers enough, the time and effort you all put in was amazing!!!! Many thanks to Mace and Vickery & son, for helping us out with the collection and drop off points of the maps, your support is always greatly received.

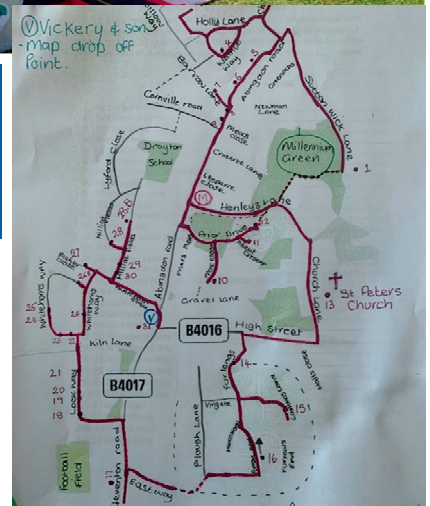
We are very encouraged with the feedback that just maybe a 2022 trail would be welcomed back to the village, with many more people interested in taking part.

Many thanks to all who supported this event, Drayton school will be overwhelmed with the support of the village yet again.

**Laura Broad, FODSA**

**Looking forward to Scarecrow Trail 2022!**

**And many thanks to the fantastic FODSA Scarecrow Team: Sophie Hudson, Laura Broad, Sue Turnbull, Sarah O'Leary, Emma Wilton and Claire Cox**



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## The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project

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I think we can all agree that April was full of highs and lows and it was not just because of the weather! Sadly, the ADYP team had to say goodbye to the trusty gazebo after so much wear and tear over the past year. However, do not panic a new one will be with us shortly!!

It was a busy Easter for our young people, continuing with our intergenerational work in the village the young people designed and created some more care packs to then deliver during their Easter half term. This would not have been possible without the help of the local All Saints Church, Damascus Parish and Vale of White Horse District Council, thank you.

The team and young people have been getting their fitness back by playing lots of games on the field by the Village Hall through out the Easter half term. Was so good to see some old faces and some new ones join in too. You can catch us on the field from 6pm every Monday with our new gazebo and a bag of sport equipment as the sun continues to shine and provides us with some better weather. This session is open to all ages and we would love to see more people come and get involved! Also, our new website is up and running please use the details below to check out our work and what we offer! Feedback welcome.

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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](mailto:suedraytonpebbles@outlook.com) for more information. Look forward to seeing you!



The ADYP Team – Roxy Elford, Jake Fleetwood and James Quartermain, Emily Astley-Madge

Rita Atkinson The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project  
(ADYP) Registered Charity Number 1098966  
Website: [www.damascusyouthproject.org.uk](http://www.damascusyouthproject.org.uk)

## LETTERS

Dear Editor

It did my heart proud to see the Union flag raised to half mast at the Church in commemoration and respect for HRH, The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, a great man who served our nation well. Thank you, Glyn.

Shirley Thomas

Dear Editor

I was so sorry to hear of the demise of the table tennis club. I was teaching at the school when it began and my children were in the club. Everyone enjoyed it and it excelled to great heights. John worked hard with many others. Good luck in finding a solution!

Yours sincerely

Judy Henman *Ed note: not sure if it is the demise—possibly a re-homing—could we have an update please?*

To Damascus Youth Group

Gillian Ahers and Sheila Cook would like to thank you very much for the parcels which were left on their door steps. Thank you again, G. Ahers and S.Cook

### Notice

#### His Royal Highness Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh, 1921-2021.

Tamsin Crane, Chair of the Drayton Parish Council expresses the sadness of the Council and the residents of Drayton village at the news of the death of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh.

We join the rest of the nation in mourning as we remember with immense gratitude, respect and admiration the lifetime of service which His

Royal Highness devoted to Her Majesty, to our Nation, to the Commonwealth and the many important causes he supported over the years.

The Council extends its heartfelt condolences to Her Majesty The Queen and members of the Royal Family.

Due to Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, the Parish Council will not be offering a traditional books of condolences. However messages of condolence can be submitted online via the Royal website at [www.royal.uk](http://www.royal.uk).



OPEN LETTER to the person who feels that they have more right to my birthday present than I do.

During the night of 2<sup>nd</sup> April, someone stole my flowering peach tree (pink blossom, in full bloom and 3' high approximately) which had been given to me by my family for my 87<sup>th</sup> birthday.

If you have been the recipient of an unexpected 'Easter' gift, please do ask where it came from.

Whoever you are, you came and took it in the night. Please now return it in the night, the empty pot is still there, ready to receive.

Sheila Cook, 1 Gravel Lane, Drayton



Dear Editor

On Friday 9 April when I opened my front door I was confronted with a carrier bag containing several items. There was no card or note saying who it was from and I was puzzled. I asked a neighbour if she had put it there as it was near my mother's birthday. She had not but she also had received one and told me that it was from the Damascas Youth group. I would like to say thank you to the young people and their leaders for this kind and thoughtful gift. My mother's birthday is on the 16 April so I will wrap them up and give them to her with a little card saying who they are from.

Once again thank you to all involved, very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Paula Fiorentini-Carter

### ROYAL BRITISH LEGION GARDEN PARTY

This year is the centenary of the formation of the Royal British Legion, although the Steventon and District Branch (of which Drayton is a part) was formed 8 years later. It is planned to hold a very informal tea party on Sunday 23 May 21 at the home of our Chairman at 27 Stocks Lane, Steventon from 3pm to 5pm. We would be pleased to hear from members and others who would like to attend. Please telephone 01 235 832077 for an invitation (please leave a clear message with your telephone number if no reply.)

This event will be run in full complicity with the Government "Step 3" Covid regulations which will apply from 17 May 2021.

Ian Baird Dep Chairman, Steventon and District RBL.

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## Sculpture Tribute to Drayton Resident

Andrew Bax

On Christmas Day 2014, Mary Lyon died at the age of 89. It is typical of her modesty that, although she had been a long-time resident of Crabtree Lane, many of her neighbours were unaware that she was one of the foremost geneticists of the 20th century. Officially, she retired in 1990 but, in different capacities, she continued working until two years before her death.

Mary was pivotal in leading and developing mouse genetics at Harwell, and perhaps her greatest achievement was the discovery of X chromosome inactivation in 1961. In recognition of her work, she was made a Fellow of the Royal Society and in 1984 received their Royal Medal; she was also awarded the Pearl Meister Greengard Prize, the March of Dimes Prize and the Wolf Prize in Medicine. She was elected a foreign member of the US National Academy of Sciences in 1979, and in 2013, the UK Genetics Society created the Mary Lyon medal in her honour. The Mary Lyon Centre, a national facility for mouse functional genomics, opened in 2004 on the site where she worked.

Her discoveries led to great advances in our understanding of X-linked inherited diseases such as haemophilia, Duchenne muscular dystrophy, fragile X syndrome and certain cancers. Now, a sculpture commemorating her work has been installed outside the new training centre, Advance. Advance is a bespoke scientific training centre at MRC Harwell offering specialist practical and theoretical training courses to develop the skills and knowledge within the life sciences. It has long glass spears with unique double helix air twists within it. These glass spears are surrounded by 150 metal X-chromosome shapes, each with DNA shapes cut within them.



The sculpture was designed and created by Jenny Pickford, an artist blacksmith from Herefordshire. Jenny creates sculptures using a mixture of glass and metal, saying she loves the interesting contrasts between the fragility of the glass and the strength of the ironwork. It is a fantastic tribute to the history of MRC Harwell's mammalian genetic research and the ground-breaking work of Mary Lyon.

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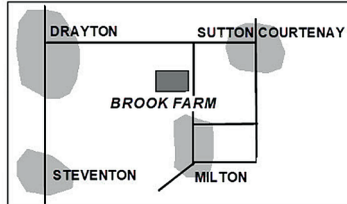


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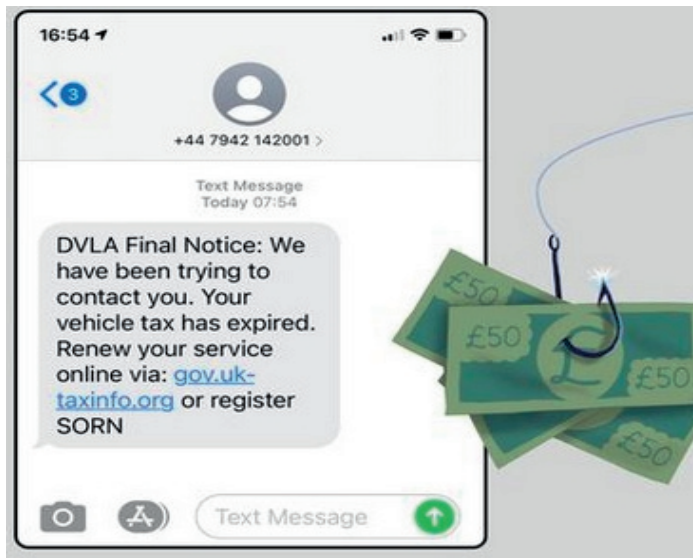
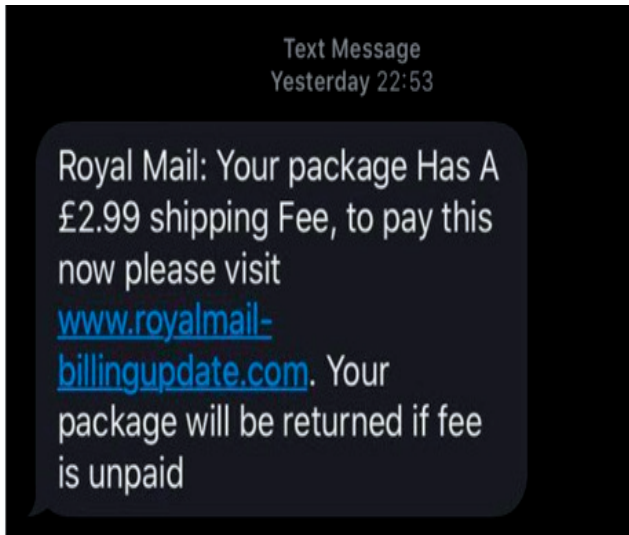
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## Bank card scam

A local resident, and Neighbourhood Watch member, reported receiving a phone call in which she was informed that her bank card had been compromised by someone using it overseas to withdraw several hundred pounds. She was asked to use the phone number provided to call to arrange a replacement card. Fortunately, the resident recognised that it was most probably a scam and ended the call. She called her bank, *on a different phone line and not using the number that the caller had provided*, and ascertained that her bank card had not been compromised, and that it was indeed a scam.

## Five signs you might be being scammed

- You're contacted out of the blue, even if the caller claims to be from an organisation that you use.
- The offer seems too good to be true.
- You feel under pressure to make a decision.
- You're asked to share personal and financial information.
- You're asked to keep it a secret.

Ensure you have anti-virus software installed on your devices and always update it when prompted. Use passwords containing a minimum of eight characters, including upper and lower-case letters, numerals and symbols (e.g. \*,!,#). Change your passwords regularly.

## Reporting scam emails, phone calls, texts and letters

If you've been the victim of a scam or fraud it's likely you'll feel embarrassed and upset. But please don't let that stop you reporting it to Action Fraud by calling **0300 123 2040** or online at <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> Forward suspicious emails to [phishing@report.gov.uk](mailto:phishing@report.gov.uk) Forward suspicious texts, free-of-charge, to **7726** so that your service provider can investigate.

## CONTACTING THE POLICE

The police request that you should only call 999 in an emergency and 101 if it's urgent. If possible, please use the online reporting services at [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)

## Information from Abingdon Information Centre



The Abbey Cinema in the Guildhall in Abingdon will be re-opening on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May and ATOM Science Festival has altered to a Geocache event on 12<sup>th</sup> June.



Abingdon Air and Country Show at Abingdon Airfield, Dalton Barracks, has moved from May to 11<sup>th</sup> September this year.



Please see the websites for further information, and to check that this info is still up to date!

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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**.



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## DRAYTON HALL NEWS

At last (long last!), signs of hope for our Hall regulars (well, formerly regulars) and ad-hoc hirers. [NB Anything in this report could be scrap paper if the Govt changes its mind, or perhaps does decide to introduce the 'vaccine passports' idea that has been discussed in recent weeks – Denmark apparently has 'Coronapas' which is helping them get back to normal?].

The Govt's '4-Step' Covid plan has 'Step 3' (week of May 17th) listed by them to be OK for 'indoor adult group sports & exercise classes', and the general trend so far (as we go to printing, though I've not heard back from everyone yet), is that groups like **BounceFit, Clubbercise, RockBox, & Pilates** all expect to be back from that week, and the Toddler group soon after if not that one.

We've gained a few new regulars, **Heights Trampoline & Gym** group is one, sessions for the **younger** set, Tues & Thurs pm, and Sat mornings. However, their Sat sessions will sometimes not run, as we've a number of hires pre-booked from ages ago who will take precedence, a few weddings who cancelled last year and picked a new date later this year, and some dog shows (who have to book up miles ahead due to Kennel Club rules).

Other 'newbies' are a 'Short Tennis' group (midweek daytime), and a **line-dancing group**, likely to be early Friday evenings. Doubtless other regulars like Brownies, Rainbows, the Sequence Dancers, various Badminton players, etc, will be back soon, the Damascus Youth Group too – in their usual Monday format (they've been having some counselling sessions through 'Lockdown'), and a couple of monthly groups, Wives and the U3A craft group, should return in due course.

Our **Bowls Club** – a principal user in 'normal' times - are a little concerned though (I hear) as it seems they may be a bit short of able-bodied men who can shift their mats out into place and then store them again after sessions.

By the time this issue hits doormats, I hope to have remembered how to wrestle with (!) the website process that lets me update the Hall calendar of activities, so have a look at <http://www.draytonvh.co.uk/> then see under What's On.

Tony Holmes

**Don't forget your pencil or pen!**

Local and Police Commissioner Elections will be taking place on Thursday 6th May . Polling Station is Drayton Village Hall off Lockway, as usual. Covid safety measures will be in place, one of which is to please remember to bring your own pen or pencil to place your

X

## DID YOU KNOW?

Every week on a Friday from 12pm – 5pm, starting at the Sutton Courtney end of the village, Andrew drives his van around Drayton delivering fresh fruit and vegetables. Based in Sutton Courtenay, Mathews & Son supply many of the residents of Drayton and surrounding villages with produce which is sourced locally wherever possible, depending on the season. Other products such as honey are also available. It is possible to buy directly from the van once it has parked up, or you can email an order in advance, which can be dropped off at your house or collected from the van. Andrew even does gift boxes of fruit and veg.

If you are interested, look out for the van on a Friday (pictured below outside Vickery's at approximately 12.45pm). If you would like to order in advance for either collection from the van or delivery to your door, you'll need to email: [mathewsandson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mathewsandson@hotmail.co.uk).



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## COFFEE-BREAK QUIZ

Name the 7 trees and arrange the first letters of each tree into a seven-letter word, which will be amazing!



### The Prize

1 x grow-your-own Christmas Tree (30cms tall) plus  
1 x Silver Birch (110cm tall)



Post the seven-letter 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 May 2021. The first correct answer opened after that date will win the prize.



## GARDENING FOR BEES AND OTHER POLLINATORS



### Bee facts

There are about 250 species of bees in the UK; 224 wild solitary bees, 25 wild bumble bees and 1 domesticated honey bee.

A honey bee produces a teaspoon of honey (about 5 grams) in her lifetime.

To produce a kilogram of honey, bees fly the equivalent of three times around the world in air miles.

The type of flower the bees take their nectar from determines the honey's flavour

To get more bees, grow more colourful plants. Bees love blue and prefer cluster plants such as lavender and rosemary.

### Trees to help pollinators

Male grey willow (*Salix cinerea*)

Goat willow (*Salix caprea*)

Small-leaved lime (*Tilia cordata*)

Apple (*Malus* sp - any, fruit bearing, or ornamental)

Cherry Plum (*Prunus cerasifera*)



Wild Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna/laevigata*)

### Gardening tips to help pollinators

Provide flowers throughout the year – some bees emerge as early as February.

Buy organic, if possible, to ensure bulbs and plants haven't been treated with neonicotinoids.

Have a flowering lawn.

Provide a source of water for bees.

Leave a patch of bare earth – mason bees gather mud to build egg cells.

Leave the dead plant stems over winter. Hollow stems may be used by bees for over wintering.

Include a variety of flower shapes – different species have different tongue lengths.



## OTHER DRAYTONS

Researched by Andrew Bax



## Fenny Drayton – the centre of England

Fenny Drayton folk have long thought that their village nestles in the heart of England's Green and Pleasant land. In 2002 The Ordnance Survey agreed with them when it determined that Lindley Hall Farm on the outskirts of the village was the geographical centre of England. Alas the centre is not open to the public but some years ago the farmer did allow a village walk to view the monument that has been erected to point to the precise Centre of England which is in the middle of one of his fields.

Fenny Drayton was formally known as Drayton-in-the Clay. It is divided by an old Roman road and the excavations for the foundations of house extensions often throw up Roman coins. The oldest building in the village and its focal point is the Church of St Michael and All Angels. The church was originally built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and is of Gothic design with Norman features. The church is surrounded by a circle of 28 yew trees thought to be one of the oldest yew circles in the country. The church has been upgraded through the centuries, the most recent addition being a small community room/kitchen and loo. These most modern of facilities mean that in normal times, in addition to the usual church services the church is used for rock concerts, banquets and talks on all manner of subjects from the history of the trumpet to fly mating rituals. The medieval banquet and Harry Potter Murder Mystery Evening had the unintended consequence of traffic calming as speeding motorists rubbernecked villagers walking to church in a wide variety of costumes. The older ladies have coffee mornings and those of us of a certain age met once a month for 'Friday with Friends'. There is a difference food theme each month and we enjoy a glass or two of our favourite tippie and put the world to rights.

There are approximately 220 houses in the main village settlement and several outlying farms. There are a few Victorian cottages, but the architectural style of the homes reflects every era of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Like most small villages the school, pub and shop are now part of village history and although the occasional bus laden with school children

passes through even the bus shelter is no longer used. The only other village amenity is the children's playing field this is again used for village gatherings and a Summer Festival. The farmer who owns the adjacent field organised beacons as part of the national chains to commemorate the Queens Jubilee in 2012 and the centenary of the end of World War 1 in 2018. Many villagers worked from home even before the pandemic, the only visible businesses are those associated with diversification by the local farmers.

Fenny Drayton's most famous son is George Fox (1624-1691), the founder of the Quakers. In normal times we have visits from Quakers from all over the world including an annual visit in August from students of the Quaker School in Tokyo. Many of the road names reflect the Quaker heritage. There is a memorial obelisk and interpretation board and a stand of trees planted to commemorate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of George Fox's death in 1991.

Historians debate the precise location of the Battle of Bosworth Field and whether it was actually in Bosworth. Like most of the neighbouring villages we have an historian who thinks it took place in our village. Fenny Drayton is just South of Bosworth Field and Richard III's cortege passed along the road adjacent to the village. Fenny Drayton received one of the highest reparation payments after the battle but whether this was because one of the armies was based at the village or for crops and damage is still matter of debate.

Some villagers claim to have heard the ghosts of Dick Turpin and Black Bess riding through the village even though he was hanged in York. Dick Turpin used to hold up stage-coaches on the nearby Watling Street (now the A5) and hide his horse Black Bess in the cellar of The Cock Inn at Sibson, 3 miles north of the village. Our remaining 'village' pub is The Royal Redgate half a mile south of the village is where most village teenagers get their first job. Unfortunately, it is only accessible by car as there is no footpath. It is famous for its pies and according to legend earned the Royal part of its title when Queen Adelaide, wife of William IV, stopped at the Royal Redgate Inn as she travelled from Warwick Castle to Gopsall Hall in Leicestershire in the 1830s. The pub has a less salubrious past in the early 1800s, it did a brisk trade while hosting bare knuckle fights. Because the pub is directly on the Leicestershire/Warwickshire border if the constable from Nuneaton turned up to break up the fight the pugilists and spectators would step over into Leicestershire where the constable had no jurisdiction.

It is said the best things come in small packages. Fenny Drayton is a small village, indeed the local council deem it a

rural hamlet, but it has a strong identity and a vibrant community spirit. When the virus is done with pay us a visit.

*Ann Wright,  
resident since  
1997*



# DRAYTON 12<sup>TH</sup> AND 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL



Every effort has been made to try to ensure that this Chronicle is as up to date as possible at time of going to print 26/4/2021

Printed by OxUniPrint  
Unit 10 Oxonian Pk  
Langford Locks  
Kidlington