

DRAYTON CHRONICLE



CHRONICLE INFORMATION

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

Issue	Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available on:
December	15th November	26th November
Jan/Feb	17th January	28th January

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.

Advertising Charges: for single Block Advert (approx. 9cm x 4.5 cm) :-

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Double-size adverts (approx. 9cm x 9cm) are charged at twice the above rates. All advertising MUST be paid for in advance, either electronically, in cash or by cheque made payable to 'The Drayton Chronicle' and placed in the box at or sent to Vickery's. Requests for advertisements should (preferably) be emailed to Stephen Fearnley, the Chronicle Advertising Manager, advertising@draytonchronicle.net, or placed in the box at Vickery's. If you wish to discuss your requirements please phone Stephen on 01235 531347. Note: deadline for ads is the Friday before the deadline for contributions (see top of page).

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



Please refer to the Church Notice-board for details of future services.

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Local contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409

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

The church is open daily for private, individual prayer
Sunday – Saturday, 10 am-4pm

REGULAR SERVICES.

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

Thursday morning Holy Communion Service

This service will now start at 9.45, the same as the Sunday service. 1st and 3rd Thursdays will be Holy Communion and 2nd and 4th Thursdays will be Celtic Morning Prayer.

Coming to Church

For everyone's safety we are strongly recommending that everyone who is visiting Church wears a mask when moving around Church and sanitises their hands please. We now have the joy of being able to sing!

At Home

You can continue to 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.

Remembrance Sunday—14th November

There will be a service of Holy Communion for Remembrance Sunday at 9.45, with an Act of Remembrance starting at 10.45. This will take place in church where the memorial of the names of those who have died in both World Wars and in the Korean War are inscribed. *Everyone is welcome*

PARISH REGISTER

Baptism Sunday 10th October **Everly Grace Vaughan**
Funeral Friday 15th October **Peter Madley**

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.....

November, the month in which "the raw afternoon is rawest, and the dense fog is densest, and the muddy streets are muddiest." *Bleak House, Charles Dickens.*

November can certainly be a most dreary month; our church and public life has a sombre tone to match the weather. It is the season of remembrance and what we do with our remembering, matters. Right remembering is about more than setting a day or month to remind ourselves of the people and events that have shaped our lives.

Remembering rightly is about how we live in the light of those facts. In the Old Testament the Israelites, were forever being called by God to remember – to remember who they were, where they had come from, a call that was usually made at times in their life when things were going wrong. But that call to remember wasn't about just reminding themselves how they had got into their current mess,

it was also a call to a future that would be different. God's promise for a different future is for all nations, not just one. God asks his people to remember with both honesty about historical events, gratitude, sorrow, humility and above all, hope and vision.

I carry a small wooden cross given to me when I became a hospital chaplain. It has been shaped over several decades by many hands griping and rubbing it in their hardest of times. I find myself holding it much more frequently in November. It reminds me of past stories and people, but it always reminds me that Jesus who has gone before through the darkness of death; that I can remember the past with a sure and certain hope. November, it's a good month to 'get your hands on' a small wooden cross and keep hold of it. It puts the past, present, future into God's safe and faithful hands. November may be a gloomy season but if winter comes then Spring will surely follow. Remembering the seasons tell out the message of resurrection hope.

Revd Phil Sutton Associate Minister

DAMASCUS Parish

Tel: 01235 635476 Mobile: 07507378737 ,

YOU STAY WE PRAY

31st Oct—6th Nov	Whitehorns Way
6th—13th Nov	Cornville Rd; Crabtree Lane; Lesparre Cl.
14th—20th Nov	Drayton Rd; Milton Rd; New Cut Mill; Fisher Close; Marcham Rd; Meads Close; Rippington Court; Stone Hill
21st—27th Nov	Steventon Rd; Kiln Lane; Mott Cottages; Barton Court
28th Nov—4th Dec	Eastway; Eastway MHP



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DRAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairperson Tamsin Crane

Traffic Calming

Drayton Parish Council notes the recent posts on the Families in Drayton Facebook page about speeding in the village and safety concerns, and particularly the noise/vibrations from HGVs at night.

All of our Councillors, Parish, District and County, live in Drayton and are just as concerned about the extent and level of speeding vehicles - of all types. Personally, I live just off Abingdon Road and so am very aware of the traffic noise at night.

So what is the Parish Council's role in addressing this worrying issue? All matters road related (road conditions, traffic calming and pedestrian safety) are the legal responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council (OCC). This means it is only OCC who can improve road surfaces, install white-lining, build speed humps, install speed cameras etc.

However, the Parish Council takes these issues very seriously, and has a dedicated Traffic Calming Working Group. We have met with representatives of OCC on a number of occasions to discuss measures that we want to be taken to improve traffic and pedestrian safety in Drayton. As a next step, this Working Group has undertaken a detailed review of conditions in specific parts of the village, with a view to refining a specific list of measures to calm speeding traffic and ensure pedestrian safety. We will share this list with OCC, who will review our proposals, determine what is appropriate and achievable within the allocated budget. OCC will be responsible for designing, planning and implementing whatever measures are ultimately agreed – the Parish Council will continue working closely with them to provide input and feedback.

This process does all take some time, but the Parish Council and OCC share a common goal. We will continue to do our best to improve safety for all of our residents and visitors, and we will endeavour to keep everyone informed of the progress we make. Residents' suggestions or contributions are always welcome.

Parish Council vacancies

We currently have **4 vacancies on the Parish Council**. I would personally like to encourage Drayton residents to consider putting themselves forward to act as Councillors. I joined the Parish Council in 2018, and as a newcomer to Drayton (and indeed Oxfordshire), I have found it a great way to get involved in village life, and get to know other Drayton residents.

The Parish Council discusses and makes decisions on a variety of important issues that affect our community. It is a great forum for you to provide input on matters that concern or interest you in the village. Probably the most important are planning matters, traffic calming measures, managing open spaces (including footpaths and playgrounds), managing the allotments and burial ground, and making grants to local charities and organisations. The Parish Council also regularly coordinates with the Vale of White Horse District Council and OCC about issues that affect the parish (particularly planning and traffic). The Parish Council meets one evening a month (7.30pm-10pm), and there is a bit of reading of emails and papers in between meetings. If you choose to join a Working Group or Committee, then there would be an additional meeting a month. You don't need any particular experience or specialist knowledge to be a Councillor (training/guidance are available if needed). In fact, it is far better if the Parish Council reflects the diversity of the community, and has councillors with different life experiences,

interests, perspectives and opinions. So we actively welcome residents of all ages and backgrounds to get involved. You will be helping shape our community, and influence matters right on your doorstep!

Footpaths and Bridleways

We are aware that some of the footpaths and bridleways in the village are in less than an ideal state and become very muddy in winter months. We have a working group who are focussing on these, working with local landowners to make improvements.

Manor Farm – Village Green

The plan is for the Manor Farm space to be handed over to the ownership of the Parish Council, for the benefit of the village. Once we own it, we can consider whether we want to do anything specific with this space – planting trees/improving etc., so that it is a nice, safe green space for all of us to enjoy, promoting outside activities and improving the environment.

Before ownership is handed over, the Parish Council wants to ensure that the developer, Cala, has done everything to this area that it is supposed to have completed according to the landscape plans, and that any issues (such as the hogweed) have been resolved satisfactorily. We have a meeting in early November with the Vale of White Horse and Cala to do a walk around to check on this.

Walnut Meadows

The developer, Millers, has submitted a further planning application to the Vale of White Horse with a proposed plan to make changes to the large public open space. The Parish Council has provided its input, and we await a decision from the Vale. We are hopeful that this area can be improved as soon as possible, so that it starts being a village amenity rather than a neglected eyesore. More on this soon.

Tamsin Crane, Chairperson

2021 Drayton Parish Council Key Dates

Planning Committee Meetings start at **7.00pm** followed by Monthly Parish Council Meetings at **7.30pm** in the **Caudwell Day Centre, Gravel Lane, Drayton**. It is Council policy to set aside a total of 15 minutes for the public to ask questions, raise issues or express views concerning Parish business, for consideration by the Council.

All welcome.

Dates for the remainder of 2021:

9th November, 14th December

Any Questions for the PC?

To contact any members of the Parish Council, all enquiries should be directed to the Parish Clerk, Lorraine Watling: **clerk@draytonpc.org** or **07909 176061**. Any Drayton resident may also ask to be added to the Clerk's email list, to receive prior notice of meetings and any relevant documents.

All PC Minutes are archived on the village website **www.draytonvillage.co.uk**, which also has a link to back copies of The Chronicle, information on the latest activities of the Drayton 2020 Implementation Committee, and details of other events in the village.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Andy Cooke



Dear all,
Brown Bins again

To update last month's news:

- The Garden Waste collections resumed a couple of weeks earlier than I'd originally been briefed
- The extension to the one-year-subscription is **three** months instead of two months

I have heard, both around here and elsewhere, that collections are not infrequently a day late (and, as per the letter sent out, are often on different schedules; this latter has been due to the availability of vehicles and the requirements of the roads). They've been late due to being somewhat overstretched.

However, the overstretch should be lifting as I type and I've just been told that the garden waste service will **return to its normal fortnightly collections from next week (25th October)**, so it should be back to normal by the time you're reading this.

From the 25th of October onwards, customers can put their brown garden waste bins out on their normal collection day in their recycling week every fortnight.

In addition, there will be an Extra Garden Waste Week in November (week commencing 8 November) when customers can put out one extra bin's worth of garden waste that week.

Coronavirus

Covid levels have been rising steadily over the past month, primarily in under-18s (secondary school ages have been particularly affected), but spilling over to parent-ages (primarily 40-49) and from there to older groups.

A total of 35 people are in hospital in Oxfordshire with covid, but only two of those are in mechanical ventilation beds.

As of yesterday (14th of September as I write), 107,869 people in the Vale have had their first dose and 100,347 their second. I don't have the figures for booster doses, but these are by far the greatest rate being administered – albeit slower than we'd like.

Whilst the covid rates are alarming at the moment, early data on over-eighties hints at the booster jabs already having an effect there, and data from Scotland (who are well ahead of England on 12-15 vaccinations) shows that their teens are, in stark contrast to ours, showing rapidly *falling* covid levels.

Universal Credit

At the meeting of Full Council on 6th October, a resolution was passed to write to the Government to urge them to restore the uplift to Universal Credit. The impact from removing the uplift, coming at exactly the time of increased utilities bills and the onset of winter, and affecting over 5,000 families in the Vale, will be very significant.

It may seem unlikely that the Government will listen, but I wasn't that hopeful when we did this on the planning rules and on the Expressway, and both have been at least deferred and heavily re-examined. Worth a shot, anyway.

Climate Emergency: 100 Network

We also passed a resolution to join the 100 Network, a network of local authorities pushing to address climate change. As well as reaffirming our commitment to carbon neutrality for council operations by 2030 and for the entire district by 2045, we gain access to a swathe of useful materials and tools to help us do so.

Planting and protection of trees

One of the more immediate things we can do in this respect is encouraging tree protection and planting, as they are great at acting as carbon sinks. We've created a new policy for planting trees on council land (at <https://www.southandvale.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/South-Oxfordshire-and-Vale-of-White-Horse-Policy-for-Planting-Trees-on-Council-Owned-Land.pdf>) and have created a useful page for support in getting trees protected here: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/planning-and-development/wildlife-trees-and-landscape/trees/>, which also provides an interactive map to show if trees are already protected.



Reservoir

Thames Water have once again resurrected their proposal for Europe's largest concrete-bunded reservoir to fill the green space between Drayton, Marcham, Grove, and Steventon. It has been submitted to OFWAT, who invited comments.

I made mine, noting my alarm that Thames Water had blacked out whole swathes of the environmental impacts (ostensibly on the grounds of commercial confidentiality, but I find it difficult to see how the course of the River Ock is that commercially sensitive – and no other water company needed to do this).

And to quote from my submission: *“With my most objective hat on, as a Chartered Engineer, Member of the Association of Project Managers, and Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute, it does seem very strange that the Reservoir option is even being considered with the Severn-Thames Transfer option also available (and apparently less favoured by Thames Water).*

The carbon cost, financial cost, time and resources cost, environmental impact, disruption, and so forth are so much against the Reservoir as opposed to the Severn-Thames Transfer option even with Thames Water's best efforts to obscure, or omit information that it's almost ridiculous that the reservoir option is still under active consideration (had I put comparable options in a Business Case and favoured the reservoir equivalent, I'd have been thrown out of the room).

Andy Cooke continued...

*Especially as it brings **no new water** into the water-stressed region and would be prone to algae (their submission on avoiding this is fundamentally inconsistent) as well as susceptible to running dry in the longer droughts, unlike the alternative.*

And, with my Project Manager's hat firmly on, when considering rival megaprojects, if one would take over a decade and involve considerable engineering risk and massive disruption, whilst the other would take three years with far less risk, and if there was an ongoing concern of the situation which either was aimed to mitigate occurring, the quicker and simpler one would win hands-down. "

On top of that, linking to the existing reservoirs in the far wetter half of the country is far cheaper and a LOT less environmentally damaging. Basically, if there's a need for extra water, then the transfer link is far quicker, cheaper, more reliable, provides more water (and this is new water to the region), hugely less disruptive, much more environmentally friendly, and far less likely to go wrong. The reservoir would, however, provide a massive amount of corporation tax write-down for a prolonged time; that's the only remaining advantage for it that I can see.

(Oh, and I did notice that the often-mentioned **"recreational benefits"** now look to be unlikely that they'll even be attempted without abandoning any attempt to mitigate some of the environmental damage.)

I did go into far more detail in the eight page submission, but you'll be grateful to learn I'm not reproducing the entire thing here!

OFWAT did get back to me, saying that they'd extended the consultation period and are now requiring Thames Water to resubmit the environmental impact statements with less blacking out – I understand quite a few people had been on at them about it.

GARD have separately submitted a considerably more detailed critique that's even more damning and with full and rigorous working (I'm completely independent of GARD; I'm just very interested in all other submissions).

That's all for now

Take care, Andy



COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Webber



Dear All

Home to School transport

This is a topic that raises its head every year as parents struggle to understand and navigate their way through the rules and regulations. Every year there are complaints of unfairnesses in the system as some parents are faced with bills for hundreds of pounds they were not expecting. I thought it would be useful to get a County expert on this issue to explain the rules. For those short of bedtime reading, the result is below.....

It is only in a minority of cases that children are eligible, under the law and Oxfordshire's Home to School Transport Policy, to free travel to school. If children move to an address outside the administrative area of Oxfordshire County Council, the responsibility for determining and, where appropriate, providing free or assisted travel passes to the child's new home authority.

The legal basis for the provision of home to school transport is set out in sections 508A, 508B, 508C, 508D and 509AD and Schedule 35B of the Education Act 1996 (as amended by Part 6 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006) and, where appropriate, the Equality Act and English and European case law. In addition, local authorities are under a statutory duty to have regard to the Home to School Travel and Transport Guidance and the Post-16 Transport and Travel Support to Education and Training guidance. Both sets of statutory guidance were issued by the Department for Education.

Normally eligibility for free travel is determined at the time that a school place is allocated through:

- *Oxfordshire County Council's Coordinated Admissions Scheme for entry at the normal points of admission; and/or, the issuing of an Education, Health and Care Plan; and/or, the operation of the Fair Access Protocol; and/or, the In-Year Coordinated Admissions Scheme.*

Children are eligible for free travel if they attend the nearest available school or educational placement to their address, if the distance from home to school is over the "statutory walking distance" of 3 miles if aged 8 or over or 2 miles if less than aged 8 and of school age. If the nearest school is outside Oxfordshire, children are also eligible for free travel to the nearest school in this council's area, if the distance from home to school is over the "statutory walking distance" of 3 miles if aged 8 or over or 2 miles if less than 8 and of school age.

In addition, children attending the nearest available school to their address, even if it is less than the statutory walking distance, are eligible for free travel if it would not be safe for a child, accompanied by an adult, to walk from their home to the school. If the route is subsequently determined to be safe to walk the parent will be given up to 6 weeks' notice of the withdrawal of free transport. At the end of that period, free transport will be discontinued.

Also children aged 11 to 16 who are eligible for free school meals or whose parents are in receipt of the maximum level of Working Tax Credit and who attend one of their three nearest suitable schools (or places other than school at which they might receive education under section 19(1) of the Education Act 1996), are

Richard Webber continued....

eligible for free travel where they live more than 2 but not more than 6 miles from that school. The 2 mile distance is measured by "walking route" and the 6 mile distance is measured by road route. This entitlement applies to all children of the relevant age for the schools concerned, and applies whether a child does or does not have an Education, Health and Care Plan.

However, there is no statutory entitlement to free travel based on living in a catchment area or parental preference. The Home to School Transport Policy did provide free travel to the catchment school, subject to the address being beyond the statutory walking distance, up until 2014 but this was removed for new entrants from September 2015 after a large scale public consultation. If the policy had remained unchanged, given the increasing academisation of schools, the council would have lost control over this element of public expenditure. Essentially academies can set or amend a catchment area and could therefore quite legitimately expand their catchments and so, if there had been no change of policy, expand the financial commitments of the council.

If you have managed to wade your way through that, I reckon you deserve free home to school transport for your children. For most of us, the regulations are a minefield and most parents choose schools for their children without realising the financial implications.

Suffice it to say, I am pushing for a clear summary of the above to be issued to all parents together with school application forms.

Richard Webber

Richardwebber777@gmail.com



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LOCAL GROUPS AND CLUBS

DRAYTON WASPS

Drayton Football Club have had a promising start to the new season thanks to some notable individual player performers as well as some new additions to the squad.



Drayton First team currently are sitting mid-table of Division 1, with wins against Watlington Reserves, Hagbourne United and Steventon contributing towards this. Nathan Merry and Josh Dennis have both bagged themselves 4 and 5 goals respectively.

Drayton Reserves are currently situated at the bottom end of the table, as the team continue to try and find their feet under the guidance of their new managers. We aim to be moving up the table in no time at all! Last seasons club top goalscorer Matt Stephens finds himself with 3 goals from 6 games.

Drayton Football Club have recently gained sponsorship for some new kits. Drayton Construction have renewed sponsorship of the first team and a new startup company called Fix'N'Point, created by ex-Drayton footballer Shane May, are the new sponsor of the reserves side.

The club renovation is still underway as we are now focusing on getting our ceiling and flooring improved. We hope to have this completed by the new year.

Sidenote-Not so long ago, our dugouts were vandalised by some youths and we were on the lookout for someone to help us with this.

Look no further than our local community. Drayton Construction managed to provide some bricks for us and Gary Neal from Cholsey Brickwork spent some time putting them back together to build us a new dugout!

Please check us out on Facebook for our sponsors' contact details as well as fixture updates, match reports and construction updates.

Bradley Cox

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LOCAL GROUPS AND CLUBS

The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project

Registered Charity 1098966



Youth & Community Acting Together

The colder months are here, and our sessions have moved indoors where we can stay nice and warm! This gives us a chance to explore topics with some new activities and games. We have also taken this opportunity to move some of our young people into our older session so more focussed work can take place.

The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project
Registered Charity 1098966
Youth & Community Acting Together

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MONDAYS @ Drayton Village Hall

This month we have been busy exploring gender stereotypes and looking at how we can challenge gender norms and further to this, how we often move between feminine and masculine stereotypes regardless of the gender with which we identify. It has led to some interesting and thought provoking conversations.

We are lucky enough to have partnered with the Food Bank in Abingdon who have been supplying us with a few ingredients to help improve cooking skills with simple but nutritious recipes at our sessions.

It was great to bump into some of the young people and families that attend our sessions during the Abingdon Fair. We hope everyone had a great time and ate their fair share of candy floss!

Our Team has grown – Oliver Blagrove has joined is a youthwork apprentice doing his Level 3 in youth work and Loren Knowles has joined as a part-time support worker with responsibility for our social media content. We are very proud of Roxy who has now taken on a part-time role with Oxfordshire County Council as an Education, Employment & Training (EET) Officer – no one could do the job of re-engaging 16- to 18-year-olds, who have slipped through the net, back in to EET better than Roxy.

Finally, as mentioned in previous editions we have been selected as one of the Abingdon Mayor's two Charities for this year. On Saturday 23rd October, an Autumn celebration was planned in the Market Square. At the time of writing this piece the event was still a week away. We would like to say Thank you to all those who volunteered their time or donated prizes for our stalls.

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

Do contact any of us on jamesq.ycat@gmail.com, jakef.ycat@gmail.com, roxy.ycat@gmail.com, emily.adyp@gmail.com

Tel: 01235 848694 or 07875649008

YouTube - The Abingdon Damascus Youth Project – MIND GYM

Website - www.damascusyouthproject.org.uk

You are warmly invited to the **Abingdon Damascus Youth Project AGM**

To be held on 11th November 2021 at 7pm, virtually on Zoom, due to the still high rate of Covid.

We are planning a bigger, face to face, celebration of the young people's achievements, next summer.

If you would like to attend, please make contact by email, anne.whitehead284@gmail.com for a Zoom link.

Thank you
Anne Whitehead
ADYP Secretary

Christmas Carol Concert Cancellation

Sadly the annual Christmas Carols Concert (usually held the first Sunday evening in December in the Village Hall) has been cancelled due to COVID issues. However, watch this space (and Social Media) for details of **outdoor carol get-togethers this year**



WI NEWS

Our October speaker was a representative of the War Graves Commission. She explained to us, with slides, how this whole entity was brought about. It was a journalist who made it his business to record the soldiers who lost their lives when war broke out in 1914. When the enormity of the records became too large, he, after consultation with government, handed his records over and the War Graves Commission began. It now maintains grave yards all over the world. All maintained by volunteers to a very high standard as it is only fitting for the sacrifice they made for us. In November, we will learn more about the role of medical detection dogs. There will be a dog present but not a detection dog. We would not like one of these wonderful dogs detecting something that would be a surprise or shock depending on the discovery. Thursday 11th November, at 7.30 pm in the Caudwell Centre, Gravel Lane. See you there!
Ann Webb

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LETTERS

The Home Coming

Ian and Sue of the Engine House, Church Lane would like to thank everyone who came to breakfast on Sunday 12th of September. The return of the traction engine "Master John" to the house where its operator once lived was a joy to behold. A big thank you to the owners and operators who took time out to bring the engine to the house and spend time explaining the workings and history of this fine engine. In line with the ploughing event held later in the day at Barrow Road, a collection was made in support of the Caudwell Day Centre and a healthy £110.00 was raised, well done all.



Macmillan Coffee morning

Thank you to everyone who either came, or gave a donation for the Macmillan coffee morning. We have raised **£ 1,321 :52** but the actual amount in real terms is more, once gift aid is taken into consideration.

Many thanks to Miriam Drewe and Jo Thomasson, we could not have done it without your help!

Liz Kidd / Brenda Malin

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

The RBL poppy appeal kicks off on 28th of October this year. If you wish to show your support you will be able to donate and get poppies etc from our local businesses in Drayton, who have kindly agreed to have collection boxes and poppies on their premises. Many thanks to them. Drayton school will also have a tray of appropriate items (no pins) for the children if they wish to donate.



Harry & Susan Ash

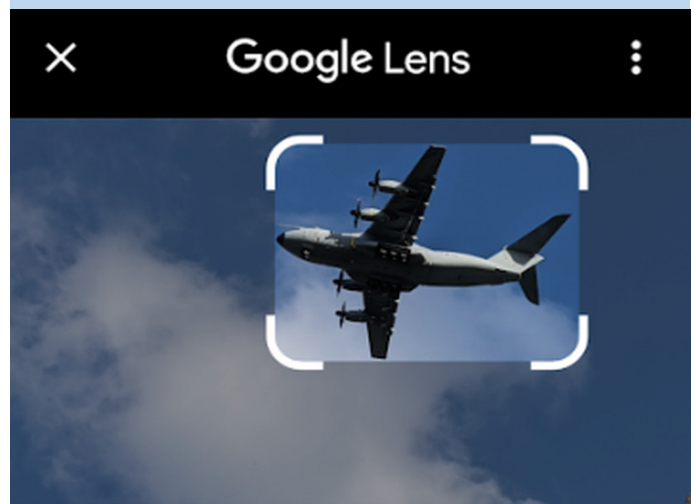
Royal British Legion Steventon and District Branch

Royal British Legion Curry Lunch Sunday 14 Nov will be held in Steventon Village Hall on Remembrance Sunday at 1215 for 1230 hrs. This event is open to all. Cost £15. There will be a cash bar. Tickets will be sent out on your request accompanied by cash or a cheque made out to "The Royal British Legion Steventon and District Branch" and delivered or sent to :- Brigadier Nick Thompson 27 Stocks Lane, Steventon OX13 6SS.

Aircraft

You will remember that about 3 months ago you printed a letter from me about using the Android phone lens facility to identify plants. For the last couple of days we have had an aircraft flying overhead rather noisily. Yesterday I took a photo of it on my phone and did a 'lens' check. It identified it as an Airbus A400M - military transport. I believe that they are based in Brize Norton.

- Stephen Fearnley



Airbus
A400M Atlas
Military transpo...

 Search

NOTICE: BOWLS CLUB

It is with great sadness that Drayton Bowls Club have been informed that one of their previous members

Peter Madley

passed away on 2 October 2021. He was a genuinely lovely man and our thoughts go to his family at this very sad time.

Val Locke Chair DSMBC
(Drayton Short-Mat Bowling Club)

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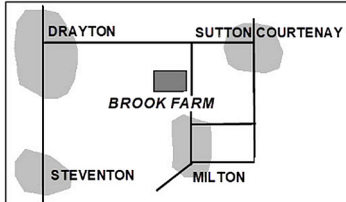
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First stop.... Drayton!



On a cloudy but dry June day there was a special send off for the two donkeys, Wizard and Muffin and our standard poodle Nelson. We had a catering bus selling bacon butties and two pipers to send us on our way. Our first stop was Drayton and we had a warm welcome and tea at our old home, Gilbournes Farm. The donkeys had luxury stables at Paul and Karen Caudwell's farm and the following morning a crowd of old friends and new greeted us on the Green to send us off in Royal fashion.

We had a large banner over the carriage which read '**DONKATHON FOR MS RESEARCH**'. This was a stroke of genius as all along the route people stopped us for a chat and to give us a donation. We raised over £6,000 in our collecting boxes this way.

Our route took us through Burford and into the Cotswolds. Some of the hills were a challenge for the donkeys but when we came to steep hills everyone except the driver got off the carriage and walked. On country lanes Nelson ran alongside the carriage. Of course, hills go down as well as up and the old adage is true '*Going up hill the donkeys sweat – going down hill the driver sweats!*'

Travelling through the network of country lanes at 2 mph was a special privilege. You see and hear so much that is just not possible to hear or see from a car. At Notgrove we had a warm welcome from Notgrove Holidays, one of our sponsors and in the next village of Kinton we had a ford to cross. This is very near the Cotswold Farm Park and Adam Henson (from Countryfile) came out to help us across the ford.

Excitement mounted as we entered Wales but frustration as well. The border is not a straight line and we found ourselves

weaving in and out of Wales. We have several different photos of 'Welcome to Wales' signs! The weather was warmer, but the donkeys thrived on the warmth even if the humans found it more stifling.

On the last day nostalgia set in – we had had such an amazing experience we didn't want it to end. At St Melangell we had the warmest of welcomes and the donkeys' held their heads high as a clapping crowd awaited our arrival. As soon as the donkeys were settled in their field shelter Christine Browne (Vicar of St Melangell) held a moving service outside



Arriving at St Melangell

in the donkey field. She had worked hard at researching references to donkeys in the bible and wove the service cleverly around that. It was an emotional time as John Hughes – the singing farmer accompanied himself on his guitar for another rendering of 'the Donkathon song'. (see www.donkathon.org) For more details check out the 'Daily Blog' on www.donkathon.org where you will also find the full script of the service at St Melangell.

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Adam Henson (Mikal Ludlow Photography)



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COFFEE-BREAK QUIZ



Bonfire Night Wordsearch

We have a mystery prize this month for the winner of the Coffee-Break Quiz. To enter, simply solve the anagrams below to find thirteen words or phrases connected with November 5th. Twelve of these will appear in the Wordsearch. All we need is **the name of the word or phrase which does not appear in the Wordsearch.**

Write down the name of the missing word (anagram and solution), with your name, address and phone number, and place in an envelope marked 5th November Competition in the Chronicle Box outside Vickery's Hardware Shop. The first correct entry drawn on November 15th will win the prize.

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| FEW ASK GUY | REPS LARK |
| TOCKER | IF NO TUNA |
| PEEP OFT FLEA | RICE RACK REF |
| OLD PET GROWN UP | IN JAM KEGS |
| NOSE ART | NORMAL DANCE |
| WOK FIRER | HEREWITH EEL CAN |
| FINE ORB | |

```

T A P E H F S E M A J G N I K
O C A O H O E R I F N O B J G
L A O A A U R S O D Y V J U E
P T Y Q J N X E V E E G Y Y E
R H B O T T F F L W B F A L T
E E N T K A A I L K A H P M A
D R K B S I I I R W R P J T G
W I P C Z N J I K E A A Y V R
O N V I A S A E F E W L P O X
P E S A A R S R E E K O C S C
N W W Y D R C F H F P K R L K
U H P A R T F E U N E Y P K A
G E O D J O W P R T B R W E N
C E X P T V C C J I A N Y U A
K L N O S A E R T X F C M I E
    
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OXFORD ZEZ NEWS



In order to tackle the city's pollution problems and the climate change emergency, Britain's first **Zero Emission Zone (ZEZ) pilot** is set to launch in Oxford in **February 2022**, with the registration system for exemptions and discounts going live in December 2021.

The ZEZ pilot means polluting vehicles will be charged if driven in key city centre streets ('the zone') between the hours of 7am - 7pm, seven days a week. The level of the charge will be dependent on how polluting the vehicle is. Under the scheme, zero emission vehicles will not be charged to drive in the zone.

The daily charges will be:

- Zero-emission vehicles (0g/km CO₂): £0
- Ultra-low emission vehicles (less than 75g/km CO₂): £2 per day from February 2022, rising to £4 per day from August 2025.
- Clean Air Zone compliant or Low emission vehicles: £4 per day from February 2022, rising to £8 per day from August 2025.
- Motorcycles and mopeds: £2 per day from February 2022, rising to £4 per day from August 2025

Vehicles not meeting the above standards: £10 per day from February 2022, rising to £20 from August 2025.

The ZEZ pilot will work in a similar way to the London Congestion Charge and Ultra Low Emission Zone. Signs will be installed around the perimeter of the zone and on routes leading to it to notify drivers of the ZEZ pilot. Automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras will be used to enforce the zone.

The ZEZ pilot will allow both councils to gain useful experience and information before introducing a larger Zero Emission Zone covering most of Oxford city centre, subject to further public consultation.

Businesses, residents, and visitors are encouraged to visit the **Zero Emission Zone website** to understand how the scheme will affect them and to find out more about the daily charges.

To get to this point, work has included trialling e-cargo bikes to Oxford's Covered Market, updating the Lord Mayor's car to a Nissan Leaf, installing rapid electric charging points for taxis and residents and the start of cable route works for UK's largest public electric vehicle charging hub at Redbridge Park and Ride.

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DRAYTON HALL NEWS

Tony Holmes

Hall continues to get busier as groups have returned, and we now have a new group, the **Ukelele** players (Tuesday evenings). They're not trying to get enough numbers for a whole orchestra, but they tell me they could find space for a couple more, if anyone wants to join in the practice.

Our Martial Arts teacher has returned (Friday evenings), it's called 'Shikidojo' but you'd need to look it up (a self-defence discipline). And the **Dance Fitness** instructor (Laura, Friday evenings, but before the Martial Arts!) tells me she has space for a couple more people – perhaps trying to shed any Lockdown pounds?

The Monday Badminton group have lost a couple of players (moved house, injury, etc) so by all means check them out. They say:- Ladies Badminton, Monday evenings, would welcome any new players of Intermediate level, **gentlemen also eligible!** Contact: kathyglass159@aol.com or Text to 07821 384969.

Oh, and our Pilates teacher (Alex, Tues 9.30am) tells me that her class is pretty well attended, but she could squeeze in one or two more. Anyone out there who does crafts, but would like some company? Our craft group (run by the local U3A) meets on the 2nd Thursday (pm), on any session they might have folk doing needlework, knitting, cards, jewellery, upholstery, all sorts. Plenty of tea and bikkies too I believe.

What else? Very few weekend slots left between now and Xmas, but I guess anyone thinking of a kiddies party could check, just in case there's a cancellation?

Antiques Fairs resume on Nov 7th & Dec 5th, and Kathy Head has her fundraiser craft Fair on Sun Dec 12th, I think she's fairly well stocked for Stalls, but you could give her a try – she's very active on the local Facebook with her work for the homeless.

How to contact the clubs:

for the Badminton group, please contact the group directly (to discuss playing experience etc) and for the others, please email bookings@draytonvh.co.uk and I'll put them in contact.

REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

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

MONDAYS [## = Small Hall in Village Hall]

- 2.00 pm Short Mat Bowling Club Session
- 6.00 pm 'Bounce Fit' (1hr - Sophie 07791 778388) >>> NB If you're new to this class, PLEASE CHECK before attending.
- 6.00 pm Damascus Youth (see page 3) ##
- 7.15 pm Badminton (Private Group)
- 7.45 pm Bell-ringing (for 1½ hours) *St Peter's*

TUESDAYS

- 9.30 am Pilates (via Alexandra Merson 07788 248925)
- 1.00 pm 'Short Tennis' (adapted for indoors!)
- 1.45 pm Drayton Art Group (until 4 pm) *Caudwell Day Centre*
- 2.30 pm First Tuesday Connections (1st Tuesday) *Church Room*
NB Hoping to restart December
- 7.00 pm 'RockBox' (to book, see Clubbercise)
- 8.00 pm Clubbercise (run by Gemma Pearce, see her F'book)
NB Rockbox & Clubbercise have NOT restarted yet, post-Covid (await new instructor). CHECK w. Gemma!

WEDNESDAYS

- 10.00 am Pebbles (Baby, Toddler, Carer group) *Church Room*
- 2.00 pm Drayton Wives (Last Wednesday in the month) ##
- 2.15 pm Badminton
- 6.00 pm Brownies (term-time / Laura 07916 459435) ##
- 7.00 pm Short Mat Bowling Club Session

THURSDAYS

- 9.15 am Holy Communion (**) *St Peter's Lady Chapel*
- 9.30 am Parent & Toddler Group (NB Term-time ONLY)
- 11.00 am Baptist Café (to 1pm – from Nov 11th) *Baptist Church*
NB For any Baptist Church activities --- DO PLEASE check with them before attending (see page ??)
- 2.00 pm Short Mat Bowling Club Session
- 2.00 pm Crafts Group (2nd Thursday – run by U3A, but it's simple to join. Call Kate for info 01235 550486) ##
- 5.30 pm Rainbows (girls 5 to 7 yrs) ##
- 7.30 pm Sequence Dancing (Brian - 01235 531701)
- 7.30 pm Women's Institute Meeting (2nd Thurs) *Caudwell DC*

FRIDAYS

- 11.00 am The Friday Club (monthly) 202466 *Caudwell Day Centre*
NB This is hoped to be restarted AFTER Xmas, and as a monthly event (had used to be fortnightly)
- 6.00 pm Dance Fitness (with Laura – 07443 630939)
- 7.15 pm Shikidojo Martial Arts (check w Paul - 07479 824887)
NB This Class has resumed -
But DO PLEASE check before attending! ##

SUNDAYS

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

Drayton's Defibrillator

A defibrillator is sited at the Village Hall, Lockway. It's on the porch wall to the right as you look at the main entrance. If you ever need to access it, the 999 call handler will give the code to open the box and get the things out, they are very easy to use and make such a difference. There's an App called Save a Life which called **Save a Life** which shows you where the nearest defibrillator is to where you are.

FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS

Are you feeling lonely, isolated or in need of some friendly company? Now, in these (still) 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 (and it is hoped to resume in person in December).

If you'd like a chat, with a friendly sympathetic voice, please call either Ros on 535589 or Beryl on 531379



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Walnuts... We Cracked It!

The table was set, the bunting was up, and the band ready to play. The wind was strong and the cold was chilly, but that didn't stop our intrepid gardeners from digging in and planting all the plants we had bought to enhance our green. With the help of our jolly band, The Cat 'n Fiddle, who serenaded us with a selection of Irish music, a great time was had by all. A lot of really helpful and cheerful people turned up, and though I really didn't think we would manage to get all the plants in, thanks to everyone's help, we made it. The Drayton wildlife group was a real help, and I can't begin to thank everyone else, from the people serving coffee and cakes, to everyone with their spades and trowels. Even the charming lady from the Post Office came over and offered to lend a hand.



It was a lovely occasion, and many people from outside the village stopped to admire the installation and ask us what we were doing. A comment was that Drayton was lucky to have such an inspirational team to enhance its rather boring bit of green space. From the **kernel** of an idea, great things can grow.. I'm going to suggest that we put up a little plaque relating the significance of walnuts in Drayton's history.

We will also install signs telling people not to park on the grass, so these, together with the walnuts and the planting, should do the trick of preserving the grassy areas. We will keep up the temporary fencing until the plants are established, and though it slightly detracts from the impact of the installation, it is necessary for the time being.

At the end of the morning, Andrew de Haan gave a short speech and cut the ribbon to declare the installation open. Well, actually it was string, as we didn't have a length of ribbon long enough, but nobody cared. It was the sense of occasion, and coming together that was the important thing.

About the walnuts themselves, they are set into concrete bases, as I have explained before, and each one weighs 150 kilos, so unless you are a **nutter** and have a JCB, it would be a job to get one out, to say nothing of being slightly conspicuous in the process. Some people say they thought the walnuts should be bigger, some people say they should be nearer the edge, some say they should be rougher, some say they should be further in. Some people say they shouldn't be there at all. So my answer to everyone is that we can never keep everyone happy, and we have done our best.

I would like to thank the South Abingdon Landscape Services company for their good humour and willingness to give us a brilliant deal for the two days they did the garden installation for us. By using our own volunteers, we cut the price of labour

by a half, so that we could afford to spend more on the plants. The new soil has been planted with grass seed, so in the fullness of time, we should have a lovely green again. This time next year it will look amazing.

Breaking news, breaking news, breaking news:

Two people in the village, who would prefer to remain anonymous, have offered to **shell** out for more walnuts to complete the parts of the green that we couldn't afford to protect with Arts money funds. So thus far, we have a total of seven more in the pipeline. Andrew McKeown (**the Sculptor—andrewmckeown.com**) said that he would be able to install them in the spring. Subject to council approval, I hope that this will become a reality. Really exciting! If anyone else would like to "adopt a walnut", please let us know.

We will be holding another village meeting, probably in the village hall, to discuss further plans for the village arts projects early next year, so we will be taking votes on what art installations people would like next. More news shortly.

Pervin Shahin,
Councillor

PS The village signs are under review, and more will be announced on progress on that front, hopefully in the next issue.



The Cat 'n' Fiddle



South Abingdon
Landscape Services

More walnuts...

'My family and I could not be more impressed with the new walnuts and planting on the village green. They look phenomenal and make the open space look wonderful! We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to councillor Pervin Shahin, the artist, the planting company, volunteers and the Drayton Parish council for making it happen! Thank you so much for making our village more beautiful for many years to come!
Thank you and kind regards,
Irma Schoonhoven



Walnuts created by Sculptor Andrew McKeown


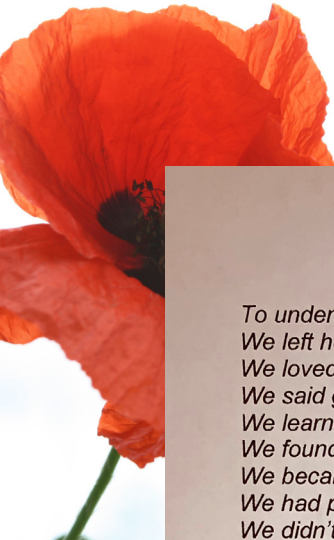




I would like to say a big "Thank You" to Pervin and all her helpers who worked so hard planting out the shrubs on the village green. Along with the "Walnuts", a brilliant concept with a practical use it has given the village a face lift that it deserves.
Shirley Thomas



Drayton is Different
Other communities wanting to protect their grass verges do so by stringing up a row of boring old bollards. We, however, have walnuts.
This harmless eccentricity is just another of the features which make Drayton such a delightful place in which to live.
Andrew Bax, Henleys Lane





To understand a Military Veteran

To understand a Military Veteran you must know:

We left home as teenagers or in our late teens early twenties for an unknown adventure.

We loved our country enough to defend it and protect it with our own lives.

We said goodbye to friends and family and everything we knew.

We learned the basics and then we scattered in the wind to the far corners of the Earth.

We found new friends and new family.

We became brothers and sisters regardless of colour, race or creed.

We had plenty of good times, and plenty of bad times.

We didn't get enough sleep.

We drank too much.

We picked up both good and bad habits.

We worked hard and played harder.

We didn't earn a great wage.

We experienced the happiness of mail call and the sadness of missing important events.

We didn't know when, or even if, we were ever going to see home again.

We grew up fast, and yet somehow, we never grew up at all.

We fought for our freedom, as well as the freedom of others.

Some of us saw actual combat, and some of us didn't.

Some of us saw the world, and some of us didn't.

Some of us dealt with physical warfare, most of us dealt with psychological warfare.

We have seen and experienced and dealt with things that we can't fully describe or explain, as not all of our sacrifices were physical.

We participated in time honoured ceremonies and rituals with each other, strengthening our bonds and camaraderie.

We counted on each other to get our job done and sometimes to survive it at all.

We have dealt with victory and tragedy.

We have celebrated and mourned.

We lost a few along the way.

When our adventure was over, some of us went back home, some of us started somewhere new and some of us never came home at all.

We have told amazing and hilarious stories of our exploits and adventures.

We share an unspoken bond with each other, that most people don't experience, and few will understand.

We speak highly of our own branch of service, and poke fun at the other branches.

We know however, that, if needed, we will be there for our brothers and sisters and stand together as one, in a heartbeat.

Being a Veteran is something that had to be earned, and it can never be taken away.

It has no monetary value, but at the same time it is a priceless gift.

People see a Veteran and they thank them for their service.

When we see each other, we give that little upwards head nod, or a slight smile, knowing that we have shared and experienced things that most people have not.

So, from myself to the rest of the veterans out there, I commend and thank you for all that you have done and sacrificed for your country.

Try to remember the good times and make peace with the bad times.

Share your stories.

But most importantly, stand tall and proud, for you have earned the right to be called a Veteran.

I'm a VETERAN! I WOULD DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN AND AGAIN!

(If you are a Veteran, please copy, paste and share.)



**Shared by Royal Navy Veteran Photographer
Ray White of Steventon Road**