



# DRA YTON CHRONICLE

DECEMBER 2021

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS

EDITOR: MAURICE (MO) PUDDICK

VOLUME: 44 ISSUE: 11

## CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The next **Drayton Chronicle** will be the **February 2022** issue edited by: **Tony Holmes, (531180)**.

Issue for	Deadline for contributions:	Issue date:
February 2022	Friday 14th Jan - Adverts  Monday 17th Jan for contributions	Friday  28th  January

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

### NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

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

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

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

email to [editor@draytonchronicle.net](mailto:editor@draytonchronicle.net)

Your contributions should either be embedded in your email as plain text or attached as a rich-text or Microsoft Word document!

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

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

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

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

After the deadlines listed at the top of this page, only urgent items will be considered for inclusion and then only if emailed directly to the editor by the Wednesday following the deadlines at the latest.

Editor

Charge for a single Block Advert (about 9cms x 4.5cms)

---- Number of Inserts ----

Advertiser Category:	1	3	6	12
Drayton Resident	£6.00	£16.00	£31.00	£60.00
Non-Drayton Resident	£7.00	£19.00	£37.00	£72.00

Double-size adverts are charged at twice the above rates.

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

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

## FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS

**Are you feeling lonely, isolated or in need of some friendly company?** Now, in these (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**

## BAPTIST CHURCH

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



Please refer to the Church Noticeboard for details of future services.

The Thursday Baptist Café resumed on the 11th of November (11am– 1pm)

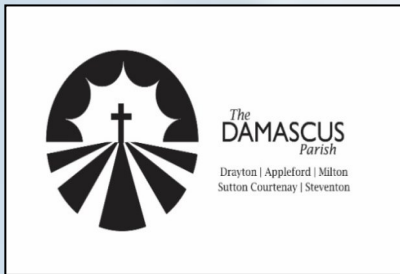
## LOCAL METHODIST WORSHIP



High Street, Milton

Sunday Service: 10:30 am

Contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle. Tel: 531409



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

## ST PETER'S CHURCH, DRAYTON part of the DAMASCUS Parish

[www.damascusparish.org.uk](http://www.damascusparish.org.uk)

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

The church remains open daily, Sunday – Saturday 10-3 Please note change of time.

### REGULAR SERVICES.

Sunday	8.00 am	Holy Communion on 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month only.
Sunday	9.45 am	Holy Communion (CW), except 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday when a non- Eucharist Morning Praise is held
Thursday	9.45 am	Holy Communion (1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursdays) Celtic Morning Prayer (2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursdays)

### Christmas services at St Peter's

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December 9:45 – Carol Praise with Holy Communion

18:00 Carol Service at All Saints, Sutton Courtenay  
*This service will also be streamed: See our website for details or contact the Parish Office on 01235 847179 for the link.*

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December 4 pm – Christingle  
 11:30 – Midnight Mass

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December 9:45 Family Communion for Christmas Day.

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December 10:30 Damascus Parish Holy Communion, Sutton Courtenay.

**All are welcome to join us.**

*All the Collections at these services will go to the DAMASCUS youth work and The Children's Society.*

Happy Christmas to you from all at St Peter's

### Coming to Church

For everyone's safety we are strongly recommending that everyone who is visiting us wears a mask when moving around Church and sanitises their hands please.

### 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.

### PARISH REGISTER

**Baptism** – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October Toby Salcombe  
**Funeral** - Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October Joan Winifred Beames  
 Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October Tom Oliver

### YOU STAY WE PRAY, DECEMBER 2021

28<sup>th</sup> Nov- 4<sup>th</sup> Dec Eastway; Eastway MHP  
 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> Dec Church Lane; Henleys Lane; Caudwell Close; Gravel Lane  
 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> Dec Abingdon Road; Oday Hill  
 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> Dec Binning Close; Hay-wards Road  
 26<sup>th</sup> Dec – 1<sup>st</sup> Jan Sutton Wick Lane; Greenacres; Newman Lane; Conifer Drive

Childrens Society Box Collection

**£701.58** (including gift aid), was raised to support the work of the Children's Society.

### **From the Ministry Team...**

The Nativity Scene – with a manger, shepherds, wise men, Jesus, Mary and Joseph and a baby – it's all so familiar to older people, who are shocked to hear that some of the younger generations may be unaware of the story. Doesn't everyone know the Christmas story?

Yet the first Christmas was restricted to just a few. What 21st Century Christians proclaim as the most significant event in history began in a remote corner of the Roman Empire, without any of the pomp and publicity we associate with kingship and power. What has been called 'The Greatest Story Ever Told', escaped almost everyone's attention in first century Palestine. In 2020, many of us experienced a Christmas when so many of the ways we traditionally mark the season were suddenly denied to us.

In 2021, we hope and pray that many of the familiar experiences that help Christmas come alive will return to our homes, our churches, and communities so Christmas will be a busier celebration than last year, but probably not yet back to what has happened before. The streets will be crowded, but shops may struggle with supplies. Parties will take place, but many people might still feel reluctant join in. Family gatherings are allowed again, but the vulnerable may hesitate. Christmas services will be held, but many will be singing in masks.

A lot of people will struggle to hold their 'usual' Christmas. But whatever else December brings, it will offer us an opportunity to enter more deeply into the joyful mystery that lies at its heart: God becoming human in the birth of Jesus Christ - because God loves us. This may be the very opportunity to rekindle or deepen our faith in what really matters about Christmas.

To find what lies at the heart of Christmas – to discover or rediscover the good news of God's saving love as revealed in the birth of Jesus. Discovering what lies at the heart of Christmas is a challenge to each of us to ponder in our hearts – as Mary did – what the extraordinary events of the first Christmas might mean for us now and in the years ahead. On that first Christmas the angels sang to the shepherds: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests." It was that chorus which inspired an American Minister, Edmund Sears, to write my favourite Christmas Carol, 'It Came Upon a Midnight Clear'.

Sears, troubled by the world's turbulent history and failure to hear the Christmas message, was himself recovering from a breakdown. Written in 1849, his words have a timeless ring about them:

Yet with the woes of sin and strife

The world has suffered long.

Beneath the angel-strain have rolled

Two thousand years of wrong.

And man, at war with man, hears not

The love-song which they bring.

Oh, hush the noise, ye men of strife,

And hear the angels sing.

May you hear the angels sing this year and discover for yourselves what lies at the heart of Christmas – the greatest gift of love.



**The Reverend Helen Kendrick**

**Rector of the DAMASCUS Parish**



# PEBBLES


If you have a baby or toddler, you would be so welcome to join 'Pebbles'. We meet on a Wednesday morning from 10.00- 11.30a.m. Please email: [suedraytonpebbles@outlook.com](mailto:suedraytonpebbles@outlook.com) for more information. Look forward to seeing you!

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## Blah blah blah – Does it serve a purpose?

The number of relatively new arrivals to the Climate Emergency issue in recent weeks and years has been truly staggering. In the past week alone, I have been asked to sign up to several new local and re-

gional pressure groups. They are all very unhappy with the rate of progress towards climate targets. It's not always clear how they propose we get there, but I am sympathetic with almost all of them.

That we still have not scrapped plans for a new Cumbrian coal mine or developing a new oil field off Shetland is very disappointing. Locally, trying to marry the Carbon output of all our planned road building or the proposed Thames Water reservoir with our own local carbon targets is hard to justify. I am as frustrated and anxious as anyone.

Almost no one believes that COP26 has solved the problem. Most people are frustrated at the gaps in what has been agreed and wanted more from the event. But that surely is the point, COP was never an event it was part of a process. The Paris COP's main ambition of getting us down to a 1.5% temperature increase remains the target. COP26 was ever only the next step. The size of the step may disappoint many but what matters now is the size of the steps that still need to be taken to achieve the target and can we all agree to take them in time.

On the plus side, there are people in this country and around the world who have been working day in, day out to try to make COP 26 a success. Those efforts will continue. Meanwhile, the protests and the pressure will continue to build. You and I can continue to adapt our lifestyles – less flying, less meat eating, moving to EVs and the rest whilst calling on our Government (and our local councils) to strive harder.

Greta is right to be angry with Blah, blah, blah, but even Blah, blah, blah can play a part.

As long as it continues, the issue is in the headlines and the pressure will be maintained. The pressure on the negotiators and representatives at COP26 has been relentless and has been an important part of the process. Those nations and organisations resisting making necessary changes are being increasingly exposed.

Having spent the last 50 years not talking enough about a problem many knew was there, some Blah, blah, blah is welcome.

## HIF1 Didcot Thames link Road

The consultation period for the HIF1 Rd has been extended into 2022 giving people the chance to voice their opinions and suggestions. It is a massive proposal with different issues all along its length. The planning application is aimed to be heard by the OCC Planning Committee in late Spring 2022. Given that the applicant is OCC Highways, it will be important to maintain the independence of OCC's Planning system.

## Thames Water Reservoir

Both County and Vale Councils have come out against this proposal at least/until the case for need has been proved and been thoroughly tested by independent scientific and hydrological experts. There is also a demand to see the methodology used by TW in calculating the carbon output of building and running the facility.

**Richard Webber**

**OCC/VWHDC**

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## Letters to the Editor...

### Tom Oliver

Dear Friends,  
Your kind messages of condolence at the death of my beloved husband Tom, have meant a great deal to me and to our family. Your support during several years of complex medical conditions have been greatly appreciated and although I shall miss him dreadfully, I am happy that Tom's earthly life ended peacefully, surrounded by his loved ones and that we were blessed by 58 years together.  
For your thoughtfulness and support, thank you all so very much.

### Jean (Oliver)

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## Bonfire Night Wordsearch



We had a bumper post bag of entries (actually bumper Chronicle Box full of them!) from folks who were all lit up by November's 'Bonfire Night' themed Wordsearch puzzle (the 'Coffee-Break' Quiz).

Doubtless most of the puzzlers had worked out that the answer was 'ROMAN CANDLE' (anagram of 'Normal Dance').

The lucky winner, with a banger of a prize, is Clare Kirk of the High Street, [had a Catherine Wheel sent one in, I suppose we'd have been obliged to award her the prize?!]. And we didn't pick a 'Guy' .



## Drayton Table Tennis Club

The 2021-22 season has started, and we are about 6 weeks along in matches played. The league players are all very pleased to have returned to action after the enforced Covid break!

The Didcot League has reduced from 5 divisions made up of 42 teams to 4 divisions of 32 teams. Covid has clearly influenced numbers participating! Drayton's 4 teams are having mixed fortunes. The Artisans in Division 1 lie in mid table. This is about par for the team and so far, they're winning the ties that we expect them to triumph in.

The Buzzards in Division 2 have won 5 and lost 2 and are as I write, top of the table. A slightly false position, as their losses were to two so far unbeaten teams that have ties in hand. Our two division 3 teams are having contrasting fortunes. The Dingos are currently third with a played 6 won 2, drawn 2 and lost 2 records.

Young Daniel Gifford is doing well following his move up from division 4, having won 11 of his 15 matches. Conversely the Corinthians are in the bottom 2. However, the season is very young and with a total of 21 league ties to be played by each of our teams there is a very long way to go!

The club hosted the Divisional Championships during half term week. No champions from Drayton Club but I can report that Chris Blencowe was runner up in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division competition winning all but one (the decisive one) of his matches.

Have a great Christmas everyone!

**John Gould**

### To the Editor,

I'd guess that quite a few readers – especially in relevant locations – would like to know how the **Planning Application (P21/V2176/FUL)** for land off **Kiln Lane** has been getting on?

It had caused quite a stir on the local Facebook pages back when it was announced.

The 'Consultation Period' for comments and objections had seemed unduly rushed, squashed between mid-August and the Sept 3rd deadline, though the target decision date had been a more leisurely Nov 17th.

Having just checked the outcome on the Vale website, as this issue is about to set sail for the printer, it seems that the target decision date has been mysteriously extended to December 21st.

Given the substantial and comprehensively reasoned volume and weight of the many objections to the proposals, it seems reasonable to wonder why the decision has indeed been delayed, as opposed to the simple reply of "NO, sorry, address all the issues, perhaps do a further application in due course" which would seem the more obvious response, given the evidence?

*Name supplied but withheld by request*



## Coronavirus

Since last month, coronavirus levels rose, dropped significantly (especially amongst children) and then started climbing again – which indicates the drop may have been linked to half-term.

A total of 47 people are in hospital with covid in Oxfordshire; seven of whom are in mechanical ventilation beds.

The best way to flatten covid is, as always, through increasing immunity, and vaccination is the best way to achieve this. As of today (as I write this), the Government has announced they will open up booster jabs to the under-50s. I've been refreshing the webpage, but I'm not yet able to book; I'll be booking as soon as I can. The protection from boosters has been measured as taking immunity considerably above the highest two-dose levels and will overcome any waning.

## Reservoir

Following last month's article on the reservoir, and my (and others!) submission to Ofwat, Thames Water have been instructed to resubmit their environmental information, with more besides. The review period for the reservoir (and **only** this reservoir, out of all strategic submissions to Ofwat nationwide) has been extended to deal with this.

Even so, they've missed out whole chunks of the information requested – such as their new, special flood risk calculation that reverses the previous long-standing red-risk of flood increase due to building a reservoir the size of Abingdon on a floodplain and displacing the watercourse run-offs and weighing down the clay floor of the vale with 150 megatonnes of water. They reiterate that, for some reason, the risk is actually reduced now, honest. Unfortunately the modelling that states this is still missing. Although they do say it's still "high level" and needs more work...

All the aspects surrounding "natural capital" rely on the provision of recreation, which, unfortunately, is still a significant risk against any being provided at all, due to environmental considerations. They may not even allow walkers to walk around it when constructed (if constructed!), let alone have any water sports at all. "Mitigations" would be costly and sometimes impractical.

They intend, apparently, to mitigate the disruption during the decade-plus construction phase from the tens of thousands of HGV movements and earthmovers by "controlling dust through dampening of haul roads and earthworks, along with other standard good practice for large construction sites."

I'm not completely reassured, for some reason.

And the carbon cost of the reservoir (embodied carbon, carbon of construction, and carbon given off from methane outgassing and operation in use) still looks incomplete and overoptimistic (again, somehow, in 606 pages of extra documentation, they've found it impossible to add the calculation details). Even if their numbers were accurate, it'd blow out all our plans to achieve net zero by our target dates.

***And it's still unnecessary when you bear in mind the alternative option of simply linking our region to the existing plentiful water reservoirs in the wet half of the country!***

My simple mind still thinks that a 3-year, far less disruptive, far less carbon-impactful, far cheaper project to do that (the Severn-Thames Transfer link would bring in **more** water, which would be new to the region) should be tried first if there is a calculated need for something to be done. Rather than a 12-year-construction megaproject with massive disruption, risk, and carbon cost. Albeit the Severn-Thames Transfer would be less profitable or useful for tax purposes, but I do think that should not be a key consideration..

## Christmas period free parking

The annual free parking tradition is provided by South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils to encourage people to shop locally for their Christmas presents, and is even more important this year following the economic impact of the Coronavirus pandemic.

The free parking days allocated to each area are agreed with the individual town councils depending on which day would best suit local traders.

Drivers will be able to park for free in South and Vale car parks on the following days:

- Abingdon – Saturdays 4, 11 and 18 December
- Didcot – Mondays – 6, 13 and 20 December
- Faringdon – Saturdays 27 November, and 4 and 11 December
- Goring – Saturdays 4, 11 and 18 December
- Henley – Fridays 10, 17 and 24 December
- Thame – Saturdays 4, 11 and 18 December
- Wallingford – Thursdays 9, 16 and 23 December
- Wantage – Saturdays 4, 11 and 18 December

On the above days there's no need to display a ticket, however maximum stay times will still apply in some specific car parks.

That's all for now,

Take care,

**Andy Cooke (VWHDC—Councillor)**

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## A bit more fun with Google Lens:

Walking in the fields behind Drayton St Peter's Church we came across a field of crops. Being relatively ignorant of crops, I took a photo and "asked" Lens to identify it.

It appears to be a popular short term forage crop -



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Submitted by: Stephen Fearnley

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## Bring a Christmas message!



Would you like to remember a loved one at Christmas by writing their name on a star or a Christmas tag? Please place them in the bowl on the Welcome desk in Church from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December. They will be hung on the Christmas tree in St Peter's.

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## DRAYTON ART GROUP

Drayton Art Group is now meeting again on Tuesday afternoons at the Caudwell Day Centre. We

are a group with a wide range of interests and abilities and whilst we have a programme of subjects for our meetings, members can do their own work if they choose. Our programme for the autumn term has included Trees, Off the Beaten Track and Sunset. In December we have Christmas related topics such as A Seasonal Still Life.

We currently have space for up to 4 new members, so if you are interested in joining us then please contact David Icke at [sue-and-david-icke@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sue-and-david-icke@hotmail.co.uk) or 01235 532090.

- **Free parking days return for the run up to Christmas—see Andy Cooke’s article on page 7.**
- **Drink and needle spiking**

You may have seen reports in the media recently following an increase in instances of alleged drink and needle spiking.

Being spiked with alcohol or drugs can make you seriously vulnerable. If you have any concerns, please take a look at the [Talk to Frank website](#) which has some great tips on staying safe and what to do if you think you or a friend has been spiked.

We believe that everyone deserves to feel safe while out enjoying time with friends – please share this link your family and friends.

- **Government grant for farmers on Areas of Outstanding Natural**

Defra has launched a grant scheme for those who farm in protected landscapes.

Please help to spread the word to farmers and land managers in your parishes who support any activities on Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty as they may be eligible to apply. The programme will run until March 2024.

For more information, please see the [grant information sheet](#) or the [North Wessex Downs website](#).

- **Vale 9th most eco-friendly district in England**

Vale of White Horse was named the ninth greenest out of 314 local authority areas in England.

The research by [OxfordshireLive](#) took into consideration different factors including how often people walk or cycle, domestic carbon emissions per person and how much the council spends on the environment.

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## The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project

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Youth & Community Acting Together

The past month has been really exciting for the team in Drayton. We have been out and about on Street Work in the evenings and have been stopping and chatting to the young people in the village during the chilly nights!

This month we teamed up with the Toy Planet in Wantage to deliver a retro games night at our drop-in session. For the staff this was a blast from the past and for the young people it was eye opening for them to see just how far the gaming industry had come! This was so much fun for everyone who came along, and we hope to have an evening like this again in the future!

In addition to this, the team have been working with the young people around protective behaviours and discussing the differences between risk taking behaviour and being at risk. This has opened some brilliant discussions and they have a deeper understanding of how to stay safe on the streets and online!

A big thank you to the Drayton Football Club who have kindly shown our volunteers how to turn the floodlights on and off so that we can continue the sporting activities through the dark winter nights!

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

Do contact any of us on

[jamesq.ycat@gmail.com](mailto:jamesq.ycat@gmail.com),

[jakef.ycat@gmail.com](mailto:jakef.ycat@gmail.com), [roxy.ycat@gmail.com](mailto:roxy.ycat@gmail.com),

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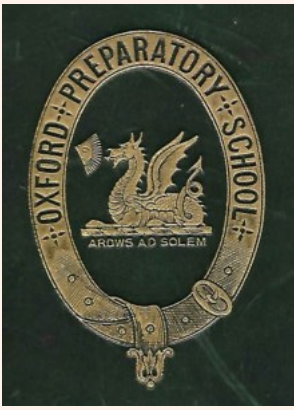
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## Skippers War: Dragon School, Oxford and the Great War

Streaming on the Soldiers of Oxfordshire (SOFO) Museum website from 7pm, Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021, *Skippers War* is a short film highlighting an extraordinary cast, from what was a small North Oxford

school, of young men that fought during the Great War. Their stories are told through a mixture of the speeches and writings of then-headmaster Charles 'Skipper' Lynam alongside a wealth of historical research.

Presented by Desmond Devitt, author of *The Skippers War* and the regular Skippers War blog, the film will also feature readings from a similarly exceptional cast of actors educated at the very same North Oxford prep school - The Dragon School. These include Tom Hollander, Hugh Dancy, Paul Chahidi, and Sebastian Croft.



Jack Smyth VC

Another 'old Dragon', former Secretary of State for International Development Rory Stewart OBE, said of *Skippers War*, the book on which the upcoming short film is based,

*"The story of these hundreds of lives and deaths connected by five years in a north Oxford prep school is almost an encyclopaedia of the war. The Dragons evacuate from the beaches of Gallipoli, are killed at the third Battle of Ypres, meet Lawrence of Arabia and Marie Curie, grapple with the German High Seas Fleet in the Battle of Jutland, save the wounded at the Easter Rising and are shot out of the sky by Baron von Richthofen..."*

The story of three old Dragons brought down by the infamous 'Red Baron', Manfred von Richthofen, and his 'Flying Circus', and another former pupil that would win the Victoria Cross shooting down the first enemy airship over England, are just a few that will be told in the film when it streams on 7<sup>th</sup> December from the SOFO Museum website.

Free to view with no pre-registration required, donations to support the museum's work - preserving the county's military heritage and the stories of local people affected by conflict - will be encouraged.

**Stream Link:** <https://www.sofomuseum.org.uk/whats-on/skipperswar/>



School Photo (1915) with Skipper Lynam and Jack Smyth



Jack Smyth VC Medal

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*Silent night, Holy night  
Shepherds quake at the sight  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia  
Christ the saviour is born  
Christ the saviour is born*

One of the most iconic Christmas songs, *Silent Night* made its world premier on Christmas Eve 1818 in the small Austrian town of Oberndorf bei Salzburg. The performance, which was given during Christmas mass in the town's quaint little church, was quite a success, but no one had any idea that the piece would eventually become hugely popular around the globe.

### Joseph Mohr - Lyrics, Franz Xaver Gruber - Music

The lyrics for the song, which is called "Stille Nacht" in the original German version were written in 1816 by Joseph Mohr. Born out of wedlock in Salzburg on December 11, 1792.

Mohr was able to attend the prestigious Akademisches Gymnasium (private high school) in Salzburg with the help of dome vicar Johann Nepomuk Hiernle. The vicar recognized the young Mohr's musical talent and Mohr became a member of the choirs of the University of Salzburg and the Benedictine monastery, where he sang and played the violin. From 1808 to 1810 he studied philosophy at the lyceum of the famous Benedictine monastery in Kremsmünster, Upper Austria, and eventually returned to Salzburg where he continued his studies at the lyceum.

In 1811 Joseph Mohr entered the seminary after being granted a special permission, which he had to obtain given his status as an illegitimate child. He successfully finished the seminary four years later and was ordained as a Catholic priest on August 21, 1815. Following his ordination, Mohr worked as an assistant priest in various communities across the province of Salzburg, including Mariapfarr, where he wrote the lyrics in 1816. In 1818, while serving as an assistant priest in Oberndorf, he met Franz Xaver Gruber whom he asked to compose the music to accompany the lyrics. Specifically, Mohr asked Gruber to compose a melody for choir, two solo voices, and guitar.

It was not until 1827 that Mohr was responsible for the administration of his own parish. Despite his popularity with his parishioners, who adored him for his outgoing personality and peace loving attitude, the church made a failed attempt to "reign him in" by accusing him of neglecting his job. The accusations turned out to be baseless and the official investigation was recalled. Mohr eventually found himself in Wagram (Austria) where he focused his efforts on social reforms and dedicated the last ten years of his life to fighting poverty and helping those in need. Among other things, he initiated the building of a school in Wagram, which was officially opened in 1838. Joseph Mohr died on December 4, 1848 in Wagram.



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**Drayton Parish Council** notes the recent comments on the Families in Drayton Facebook page about how the village marks Remembrance Day.

The official war memorial in Drayton is the lych-gate at St Peter's church. (See page 14)

This is the roofed gateway at the Church Lane entrance to the church grounds. This lych-gate was provided from financial contributions by villagers and was erected in memorial to those who died in the first and second world wars.

There is also a memorial plaque inside the church where a wreath was placed on Remembrance Day. It has traditionally always been placed here, as there is no obvious external spot for this, given that our memorial cross is in fact a tribute to Queen Victoria rather than a war memorial.

We understand that some residents have expressed a desire to install a 'Tommy silhouette' at an appropriate location in the village, as can be seen elsewhere. The Parish Council is supportive of this, provided that an appropriate place can be found to store it for the rest of the year (outside of November) and that means can be found to purchase it (we understand that it costs approx. £180).

Due to various financial rules and regulations, the Parish Council cannot use its general funds to purchase the Tommy itself, but it can consider making a grant of funds to an appropriate third party to buy the Tommy.

That third party has to be a charitable organisation, not an individual. We approached various village groups and associations last year to see if they wanted to apply for such a grant, but we did not receive any applications for funds at that time.

Alternatively, if any individuals wish to group together to fund the purchase of a Tommy, and are willing to make arrangements to store and install it, the Parish Council will happily give permission for it to be installed during November on a portion of the village green area opposite the post office.

Applications for such a grant or for permission as outlined above should be made to the Parish Clerk. **Lorraine Watling;** [clerk@draytonpc.org](mailto:clerk@draytonpc.org) or 07909176061

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# DRAYTON - LYCH GATE



## Commemoration

First World War (1914-1918), Second World War (1939-1945), Korean War (1950-1953)

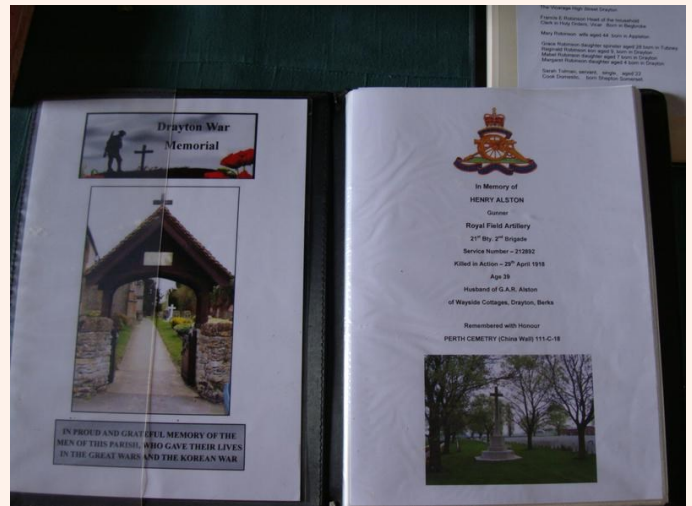
## Ceremony

- Dedicated Date: 02nd November 1919  
Attended by: Local Clergy/Dignitaries
- Rededicated Date: 30th September 1990.  
Attended by: Archdeacon of Berkshire.

## Description

Two stone side walls support an elegant, wooden framed Lych Gate with a gabled, tiled roof. Two landscape orientated, brass plaques incorporating engraved inscriptions and names, are set, one per side, into each of the gable ends, representing WW1 on one plaque and WW2 together with the Korean War on the second plaque. Lych gate is surmounted by a large Cross.

**12 o'clock : THIS GATE WAS RENOVATED BY PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION / IN 1990 AND THE NAMES ADDED OF THOSE WHO FELL / IN THE 1939 TO 1945 WAR AND THE KOREAN WAR 1951 / (10 NAMES in two columns)**



**ACCOMPANYING BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE**



## Inscriptions

**6 o'clock : THIS GATE WAS ERECTED BY THE / PARISHIONERS OF DRAYTON TO THE GLORY OF GOD / AND IN MEMORY OF THE MEN WHO FELL / IN THE GREAT WAR 1914 - 1918 / (30 NAMES in three columns)**

**Source: Mike Coyle**

[www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/item/memorial/31352#](http://www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/item/memorial/31352#)



## Drayton Wives

### Growing up in the Corner Shop!!!

Our talk this month was by our very own Josie Midwinter about living and growing up in her fathers shop in Station Road Didcot.

Josie bought hand made models of the shop which helped us imagine what the shop and contents looked like.

Her father was a milkman in Headington and ended up a Regimental Sargeant Major after the war.

They had a cafe in Wantage for a couple of years then in 1948 they bought the shop in Didcot.

It was a great family affair and everyone took part in running the shop, all the children had their own jobs to do and Josie enjoyed always having her Father around her.

It was the centre of the community as it was opposite the station and near the old Didcot Depot therefore they were never short of customers The favourite purchase was Lyons fruit pies (my favourite was apple and blackberry) and condensed milk to make snacks with while on shift on the trains.

They sold everything from sweets in jars, cigarettes, fruit and vegetables.

Josie wasn't always good as she had a scam going on with the return of the pop bottles which paid her 3d pence for each bottles. This went on until they found she was recycling the returned bottles from the cellar and getting the money for them again.

Obviously got this entrepreneur skill from her father.

In due course her father expanded and went into shoe repairs, home delivery (before Tesco) and even bike storage for customers on the trains. The station has only just started to do this so he was ahead of his time!!!

The shop carried on until more supermarkets opened in the Broadway and could offer cheaper prices. It closed in 1962.

Lisa Lammiman

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Millie( age 8) and Max (age 6) have been hard at work creating some homemade Christmas wrapping paper and labels.



These have been made from reused packing paper, discarded paper rolls and card. (Much more environmentally friendly than shop bought paper wrapped in plastic!)



They are hoping to sell these locally in order to raise funds for 'Reverse Rett' - a charity close to our family's hearts.

If you'd like to make a purchase or support them in their fundraising efforts please look for the box outside number 3 Henleys Lane.

(Or give us a knock!)

Suggested donations

Labels- 10p each

Short roll - 20p each

Longer roll - 50p each

From Mum Sarah.

# theW

## INSPIRING WOMEN

Our November meeting was a very amazing topic. The speaker began by telling us how it was discovered that a dog's nose could detect more than where the biscuits were kept.


The lady, who is now Vice President of this organisation, had a dog that made her understand by his persistence that she could have a health problem. She did, and if it wasn't for the dog, it may not have been detected until it was too late. This was the birth of detection dogs.

Their purpose is not only to detecting cancers but possibly Covid. They also assist people with health issues that are sudden and can be dangerous by pre-warning of an imminent attack. The doggie visitor was called muggles and spent his time wandering from lap to lap to get as much fuss as possible

Next month is party month, Santa sack gift to the value of £3 and a plate of something nice to share. Caudwell day centre, Gravel Lane, Thursday Dec 9th 7.30 pm.

Ann Webb

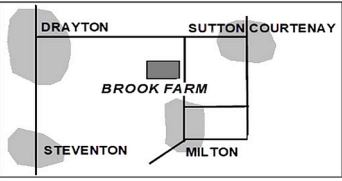
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Whether it's your Facebook, Amazon, or Netflix account, the explosion in popularity of online apps and services means more and more of us have to remember an increasingly long list of passwords.

Unfortunately, some of us cope with this challenge by resorting to practices that leave our data, devices and money at risk - by using the same password across multiple accounts, or by creating simple passwords that could easily be guessed by hackers. Bad password practice is more prevalent than you might think - the UK's National Cyber Security Centre carried out analysis of passwords leaked in data breaches and found that more than **23 million users worldwide used 123456 as a password**. You can read more about it here: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/news/most-hacked-passwords-revealed-as-uk-cyber-survey-exposes-gaps-in-online-security>

**Here are some top tips that will make your life easier and your online accounts more secure:**

**1: Creating memorable passwords**

A good way to create strong, memorable passwords is by using 3 random words. But remember, don't use words that can be guessed (like your pet's name). You can include numbers and symbols if you need to. For example, **"RedPantsTree4!"**

**2: Saving passwords in your browser**

Saving your password in your browser means letting your web browser (such as Chrome, Safari or Edge) remember your password for you.

This can help:

- make sure you do not lose or forget your passwords
- protect you against some cyber crime, such as fake websites

It is safer than using weak passwords, or using the same password in more than one place.

Here are some useful links on how you can start saving passwords in your browser: [Google Chrome](#), [Microsoft Edge](#), [Firefox](#), [Safari](#).

**3: Email account passwords**

If a hacker gets into your email account, they could:

- reset your other online account passwords
- access personal information you have saved about yourself or your business

Your email password should be strong and different to all your other passwords. This will make it harder to crack or guess.

Need help changing your email account password? You can use these links to find step by step instructions: [Gmail](#), [Yahoo! Mail](#), [Outlook](#), [BT](#), [AOL Mail](#).





*A Local Winter Scene (Ed)*



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### Monthly Update:

Drayton have seen a great amount of quality results for both sides since the last update.

Drayton First have moved up to 4th spot, only 3 points off of the league leaders.

A 9-0 win over Watlington Town and a 2-0 win over Dorchester secured the points to move up the table.

Drayton Reserves saw a change in form, with wins against Steventon Reserves and Stanford-In-The-Vale, 6-2 and 5-3 respectively. They also progressed in the cup, beating the league leaders Compton 3-2.

**Bradley Cox**

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## December Hall Report

Slightly different Hall report this time, though I'll mention that we have no weekend slots in December, but a few in January.

Some weeks ago, a **mystery item** was delivered to Hall. The group in session at the time kindly took it in, the van driver left no delivery note (we don't know if was an official courier).

**We hadn't actually ordered it** (the group had presumed, quite reasonably, that it really was intended for the hall). It was a Builder's Merchant item, and despite swapping a dozen emails with them, they haven't been able to find the order on their system. The enquiries were repeatedly hampered by umpteen duplicate requests to provide them with an order number . . . my duplicate replies that "we did NOT order this thing – how many more times?!" were the email equivalent of banging a head on the proverbial brick wall?!

Though we've made a number of local attempts to find the actual owner, nobody has come forward (it's possible somebody bought the thing, and because it's so big, got a friend or 'man with van' to deliver it . . . albeit to the wrong address!!).

The merchant has now given up, (the item value - £40 - would be exceeded by their cost to come and collect it), and they've said "please dispose of it".

SO – if **ANYONE** would like a 'Twin Wall Polycarbonate Sheet' (for roofing or glazing), please email: [bookings@draytonvh.co.uk](mailto:bookings@draytonvh.co.uk) – but beware, it's 2.5 metres long (8ft+), 70cms wide, and so pretty awkward to handle.

Oh, and to close, PLEASE put in your diary the **December Antiques Fair** (Sunday 5th, 9.30 to 3pm), AND Kathy Head's fundraiser **CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR** (Sunday 12th, 11am to 4pm) which hopefully will get bundles of cash for the Oxford Gatehouse (homeless), Oxford Kidney Unit, and 'Children on the Edge'. Both events are a 50p entry.

Tony Holmes

## 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 it's on.  
6.00 pm Damascus Youth  
7.15 pm Badminton (has a couple of gaps for new players)  
7.45 pm Bell-ringing (for 1½ hours) *St Peter's*

### TUESDAYS

- 9.30 am Pilates (via Alexandra Merson 07788 248925)  
1.45 pm Drayton Art Group (until 4 pm) *Caudwell DC*  
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). C.W. Gemma!

### WEDNESDAYS

- 10.00 am Pebbles (Baby, Toddler, Carer group) *Church Room*  
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  
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 (term-time / girls 5 to 7 yrs) ##  
7.30 pm Sequence Dancing (Brian - 01235 531701)  
7.30 pm WI Meeting (2nd Thurs) *Caudwell DC*

### FRIDAYS

- 11.00 am The Friday Club (monthly) 202466 *Caudwell DC*  
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 *Baptist Church*

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**AND VULNERABLE IN THE OXFORDSHIRE AREA**

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**07488549026**

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