

# DRAYTON CHRONICLE



Volume 45 No. 1

Editor - Tony Holmes

Murals by

Margaret Jones

# COMING CHRONICLES

The **March Chronicle** will be available for distribution on or about **Friday Feb 25th**.

The Editor will be **Margaret Inger (07967 730735)**. **Contributions** may be e-mailed (as below, best to 'editor@'), or placed in the Chronicle letter box, outside Vickery's store on Drayton Green, **DEADLINE = 5.15 pm, Monday, Feb 14th**.

**After this deadline**, items get **less precedence** for inclusion (No guarantees!), & need to reach us by the Wednesday.

**STOP PRESS - ADVERTISERS should note** that the deadline for ads is **EARLIER, Friday Feb 11th**, due to their preparation time.

NB :- **Can we politely remind** Contributors that the above **deadlines** are exactly that; It should perhaps be realised that the later an item is received, the less precedence it gets.

**NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS** (any doubts, ask the Editor!) All contributions to the Chronicle are most welcome. Be sure to **include the name, address and (in case clarification is necessary) telephone number of the author**. Contributions can be made :-

1. By **email** to the relevant editor (and please use a **meaningful title**, we get a lot called Chronicle!)

to reach the next editor → [editor@draytonchronicle.net](mailto:editor@draytonchronicle.net)

**Please remember to check** that you soon get a confirmation reply. We do occasionally have emails sent – and they just don't arrive!

2. An **email attachment**, in WORD please (NOT a PDF file!).
3. A good, **black typescript** on white A4 paper or smaller. **BUT** – IF you can type it, PLEASE see numbers #1 & #2 above?! [Scanning is a real nuisance, and tends to create errors!]
4. **Hand-written? Preferably not PLEASE, if over maybe a para.** This is 2021, should be a way to type & send it?! (= fewer errors!).

## ADVERTISING RATES

For Block Advert (about 1/12<sup>th</sup> page)

- - - Number of Monthly Inserts - -

| Advertiser Category  | 1     | 3      | 6      | 12     |
|----------------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
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Half-size block adverts, normally for one or two inserts, are charged at half the above rates.

**All requests must be accompanied by cash or a cheque made payable to 'Drayton Chronicle'.**

They may be placed in the Chronicle Letter Box, outside Vickery's Hardware Store, Drayton Green, in shopping hours, OR send your requirements :- [advertising@draytonchronicle.net](mailto:advertising@draytonchronicle.net)

## DATES for the FOLLOWING Chronicle

| Issue for    | Copy Deadlines :- to Editor by (& Ads on the Fri before these) | Chronicle published and available for distribution on Friday:- |
|--------------|--|--|
| <b>April</b> | Mon March 14th   | March 25th   |

**DISCLAIMER** This Journal is published in all good faith and every care is taken in its compilation. The organisers of the **DRAYTON CHRONICLE**, and its Agents, therefore accept NO responsibility for **OPINIONS EXPRESSED**, nor for the validity of any **ADVERTISEMENT**, nor for any **EFFECTS ARISING WHATSOEVER** from the publication.

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**This Month's Cover** – is intended as a small tribute to **Margaret Jones**, who sadly passed away recently (page 10).

That page shows her with her mural in the Stratton Way underpass, but the cover also shows her work in the alleyway from the **Market Place to Stert Street in Abingdon**.

The description on [Abingdonblog.co.uk](http://Abingdonblog.co.uk) (thanks to them also for the picture, they've lots more Abingdon info) states that this work, showing **three stone landmarks** (or former ones) in Abingdon, was commissioned by 'Friends of Abingdon' (1991).

The Queen Victoria statue had been in the Square, but was moved to the Abbey Grounds after WW2. The middle one in the shot had been demolished by Cromwell's forces, and the furthest image is an 'Obelisk Lamp Standard', from the first days of the town's gas lighting, in the mid-1800s.

# Local Groups & Clubs

## The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project

Registered Charity 1098966



Youth & Community Acting Together

We are now fully back in the flow of things and have been back in the village hall as well as meeting and chatting to young people as we walk around the village every week. **It's great to see so many people at our junior session** with big smiles on their face when remembering their Christmas.

The group have been busy reflecting on the past year with the positive things they learnt with pride, and looking forward to plans for 2022, some have big plans! On the 'older' session we have been working on our leadership skills with a view to put these to use over the coming months supporting the games and activities with the junior session.

A big thank you to all the young people at the Monday drop-in and in Year 6 at the primary school for taking time to fill out **a survey expressing what they would like to see on the new planned sports area**. Its so important to have your voices heard and counted! **We have passed all responses on to the PC**.

Finally, we are still on the look out for **a parent volunteer** to spend 15 minutes at our **tuck shop** at the start of each session. This would be a shared role, once a month, collecting money and briefly engaging positively with the young people that attend. **Thank you to those that already help** – its always appreciated! If you would like to help, please contact Jake using the details shown. (NB:- the pic = 'dodgeball' >>>>)

**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, or emily.adyp@gmail.com

Tel:- 01235 848694 or 07875 649008 and →

**Website** - [www.damascusyouthproject.org.uk](http://www.damascusyouthproject.org.uk)



Jake Damascus, Roxy Damascus,  
James Damascus, Emily Damascus



Jake\_Damascus; James\_Damascus;  
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**YouTube** - The Abingdon Damascus Youth Project – MIND GYM



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| <b>Associate Priest</b> | Revd Meg Heywood    | 537100       |
| <b>Pro-warden</b>       | Mrs Linda Johnson   | 527521       |
| <b>Pro-warden</b>       | Mrs Val Cross       | 535183       |

The church remains open daily {Sunday – Saturday, **10-3**}.

NB – Please note that the open hours have changed!

And >> all information is correct at time of going to press.

## REGULAR SERVICES

|          |         |   |
|----------|---------|---|
| Sunday   | 8.00 am | <b>Holy Communion</b> (2nd Sunday only);  |
|          | 9.45 am | <b>Holy Communion</b> (CW) except 4th Sunday, when a non-Eucharistic Morning Praise is held;    |
| Thursday | 9.45 am | <b>Holy Communion</b> (1st & 3rd Thurs) – or . . .<br><b>Celtic Morning Prayer</b> (2nd & 4th). |

**For everyone's safety**, once in the building we shall all be expected to wear masks (unless exempt) and sanitise our hands. We do now have the joy of being able to sing! **Thank you.** We look forward to welcoming you.

**If you cannot attend in person, why not try** 'Sunday Worship' (Radio 4 at 8.10am). Or Songs of Praise (usually BBC1, Sunday, 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 & need help of any kind, so that prayer and practical support can be offered in a safe way.

## PARISH REGISTER

**Memorial Service** Nov 20th **Aidy Darling**



## **YOU STAY WE PRAY (February)**

30th Jan – 5th Chestnut Drive; Holly Lane; Walnut & Willow Way  
6th – 12th Furlongs; Plough Lane; Furrows End; Lammas Land; Virgate; Fallowfield Close  
13th – 19th Lockway  
20th – 26th Whitehorns Way  
27th – March 5th Corneville Rd; Crabtree Lane; Lesparre Close

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**PLEASE NOTE** :- The attention of our Readers is drawn to the letter regarding an intended 'tidy-up' of the **graveyard** (see the Letters pages, 9 & 10). The last time this topic was raised it proved to be quite contentious?!

## **From the DAMASCUS Ministry Team**

**Love Hearts** – were they your favourite sweets? Love hearts - February is the month of celebrating love albeit with roses, cards and chocolates rather than a tube of cheap sweets. The more extravagant your gift, the better; love is measured in extravagance. Ask a London florist what is a generous bouquet of red roses, and the response may well be 'at least 50 blooms!'

Love hearts – love hurts. True love is not measured in financial extravagance, but the extravagance of time, commitment and dedicated care and compassion. If you truly love, then you will certainly hurt more for others than yourself.

February is a month when not much seems to happen. St Valentine's Day, midway between Christmas and Easter, provides a welcome opportunity for businesses and spenders alike to gain from yet another round of retail indulgence!

**But February offers us so much more.** It's a time for looking and seeing that "love is all around me and so the feeling grows. *it's everywhere I go*". From the gentle warmth of a winter's sun to the delicate gossamer threads and dressing of frost on trees and cobwebs to the delicate and vibrant colours of the crocus, hellebore and winter berries.

February – a time for turning from the dark of winter to the growing light of day. February always makes me think of 'love hearts and love hurts'; that God's gentle, exquisite and extravagant love is not shown in one commercial festival, but on every day of the year. God's true love for us knows what it is to hurt; he allowed his Son to suffer in all human forms and in doing so, he showed us that with his love, "There's no beginning, there'll be no end 'cause on my love you can depend."

If you are struggling with the loss of a loved one, feeling unloved, take a walk around your garden or village and let the words of a familiar hymn, poem or song to come to mind. **Or ask a member of the ministry team** to walk or talk with you so you can explore God's love for you.

May you find February a truly lovely month.

**Revd Philip Sutton (DAMASCUS Parish ministry team)**

{NB The words quoted are from a 1967 song:- Love is all around. >> Ed: see page 17 for a little more on that song}

# Local Groups & Clubs

## **Drayton Wives (Lisa Lammiman)**

The New Year started for Drayton Wives with a couple of well attended coffee mornings but still adhering to COVID rules. Everyone was pleased to see each other for a chat and to catch up with events over Christmas, as well as looking forward to our program for the coming year when we have **some great talks planned along with our coffee and craft chats.**

We shall of course be having our monthly walk generally organised by Josie Midwinter, our very own Rambler.

This month we had a lovely walk around Drayton even though it was a bit frosty and slightly foggy. This made the walk a bit unusual as we couldn't really see the lovely views.

If there are **any ladies who would like to join us we are a very friendly group.**

Why not join us for coffee on Feb 14th, at **10.00am in the Caudwell centre.** *All are welcome Lisa →*



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## Drayton W.I.

Our first meeting of January each year is our Birthday meeting. This we celebrated in the cosy atmosphere of The Wheatsheaf pub in the Village. We exchanged Christmas gossip and rejoiced in the fact that we were able to spend the Holiday with friends and family.

This month, (February 10th), we are being entertained by **Bollywood**. This promises to bring colour and warmth to a chilly February evening.

The W.I. meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month, in the Caudwell Day Centre (7.30pm), Gravel Lane.

**Visitors welcome**, come and see what we are about.

**Brenda Malin**



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##### **More Wives** #####

**Our previous meeting** (report just missed the December Chronicle) was a **wonderful and heartwarming talk** by **Mr John Caldicott** about a girl called Daisy. Mr Caldicott is a former governor for the Thomas Coram Foundation for children, the UK's oldest childrens charity.

Imagine being a young unmarried mother in the 1930s and you had nowhere to go apart from the workhouse? Daisy's mum Rebecca was born in 1893 and married a well-off gentleman, but unfortunately she later remarried to a Charles Throssell who was not of great standing. Daisy didn't get on with her stepfather who would often go missing and then return home without any money.

Daisy worked in Golders Green as a domestic servant but then decided to go and join her sister Nora, working in a laundry in Luton. Daisy then meets a chap (1935) and finds herself pregnant - as she tells him he leaves her.

She finds it difficult to work and applies to a Luton workhouse for sanctuary, but Daisy was not eligible to live in the workhouse and was transferred to Redhill in June 1936.

The founding hospital there took in children from mothers of good character, who were then given new names.

Daisy had to provide a statement of when she met the father and his name. Nearly all fathers were John Smith. But she was investigated to make sure it was all true and had to go in front of a jury where if it hadn't been for a vicar who spoke up for her she might not have had her child taken into care.

Things looked up when Daisy went to work as a housekeeper for a gentleman (Edward) to look after his children and he asked her to marry him. Daisy wanted her child back but Edward said no. He then died and his family asked Daisy to leave the house.

Off she went and finally married a farm labourer. **Now the surprise** was that **John Caldicott was the original son** of Daisy.

He did make contact with Daisy and her brother Fred and had their first meeting in 1981 where Daisy told him his father had been the love of her life, but no other details.

It was a lovely story that had such a difficult start but a wonderful end.



## Walnut Meadows

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the **Walnut Meadows Sports Facilities survey**. We received over 350 completed paper and online surveys, representing the views of approximately 800 residents, which is a **great response**.

We are now collating the results and will report the findings in a future edition of The Chronicle.

### Next PC Meeting

**All residents are welcome to attend**. Now Tuesday evenings (2nd of month) so it's Feb 8th, in the Caudwell Day Centre (Gravel Lane), 7.30pm (7pm for the Planning C'tee). [NB Parking IS a bit limited near the CDC, so if you plan to attend, & can walk or bike there, please do?!]

**To contact** any members of the Parish Council, all enquiries should be directed to the **Parish Clerk, Lorraine Watling**; she may be contacted at [clerk@draytonpc.org](mailto:clerk@draytonpc.org) or 07909 176061, and she will ensure that messages are passed on. Any Drayton resident may also ask to be added to the Clerk's E-mailing list, so that they receive prior notice of meetings and any relevant documents.

All **Parish Council minutes** are now **archived** on the village website: <http://www.draytonvillage.co.uk/> which also has a link to **back copies of the Drayton Chronicle**, and details of other events in the village.

**Ed's Note:-** Those who recall the great interest in the Kiln Lane planning application (P21/V2176/FUL) may wonder what happened to it? Despite the unseemly rush that the Vale imposed for gathering comments and complaints, its 'target decision date' is now further delayed until Feb 25th, having already been delayed once until just before Christmas.



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# Local Groups & Clubs

## Drayton Table Tennis Club

**Happy New Year everyone.**

Four months into our relocation to Tameside school I'm happy to say **things have gone very well**. Although we were sad to leave the village we are only 1 1/2 miles away and it certainly hasn't affected attendance at our practise evenings.

We are well into our return to playing league table tennis and I am pleased to report in the Bidmead cup our team have progressed, by way of beating Abington club in the first round. The team of Matt Davies, Tony Krason, and Daniel Gifford won by a slender margin of 15 points.

In Division One the Artisans are in fourth place and look set to finish in a happy mid table position. In division two the Buzzards team are also in a good mid table position and all things being equal should finish up there or thereabouts.

We have two teams in Division Three where the Dingos are having a good season, currently lying second and with a good chance of finishing in the top two. The Corinthians struggled at the start but have made a decent recovery. They should certainly continue to move up the table and could well finish in the top half.

All our team players are really pleased to be back playing competitive table tennis and we are hopeful the season will certainly continue to its expected conclusion in the spring. At least one of the other local leagues has stopped playing for the time being, but the Didcot league has decided to continue. Of course, with our club taking appropriate precautions both during matches, and at our practise sessions.



I'm pleased to report that **Daniel Gifford** has been selected to represent the Didcot league in the **English League Carter Cup competition**. This is for junior players throughout the country and we are hopeful Daniel and his team will make some progress. They will be up against some of the best young junior players in the country, but I am sure they will give a good account.

I shall report with details of their progress once the competition gets underway.

**John Gould**

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[Ed:- this RBL report in the right-hand column just missed the deadline for our December issue >>>]

## *Rosie's Hair Lodge* ✂

My name is Rosie

After 31 years I've decided to open my own hair lodge in the village of Drayton.

I am open from 9.30 - 2.30 Tuesday to Friday.

Please ring or message me on **07842848784** if you would like to book an appointment!

Find me on Facebook by searching Rosie's Hair Lodge.

## Drayton TODDLER Group

Drayton Baby & Toddler Group will be changing their sessions (temporarily) until the Spring of '22 from Thursday to Wednesday mornings.

Session times remain the same, that's 9.30 - 11.30, open to parents/grandparents/carers with children under 5 years.

Please find us on Facebook for regular session updates.

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## Royal British Legion

The Branch (Steventon & District) held a most successful Curry Lunch on Remembrance Sunday with 60 attending, including 98 year-old WW2 veteran **David Delafield** of Drayton, who served in the Royal Navy as an Engine Room Artificer on minesweepers in the Far East, based in Ceylon and Hong Kong, clearing Japanese mines and keeping harbours open.

The function was also much enhanced by the gift of a barrel of **Skyfall beer** by Jim Southby of Milton. Donations for imbibing this gave a welcome boost to funds.

**Nick Thompson**



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# YOUR LETTERS

## Wendy Mann

Dear Editor, Whitehorns Way

**Thank you to everyone** for the kind messages of condolence following the tragic and premature passing of my beloved wife Wendy, who died suddenly on December 14th.

We spent 37 wonderful years together living most of that time in Whitehorns Way with our boys, Robert, and Richard.

Christmas was Wendy's favourite time, decorating our house with many lights and she loved to see families with children pausing as they passed by. Her smile and happy personality will be missed by everyone, life will not be the same without her.

Kind Regards Derrick Mann

[Ed's note:- readers may have met Wendy, without realising it, she'd worked for many years in the Abingdon branch of WH Smith]

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## From the Damascus (St Peter's) team

Dear Editor, via email

### Tidy up of St Peter's graveyard

*We would like to thank everyone who responded a few years ago in endeavouring to keep St Peter's graveyard eco-friendly.*

**We are making this request again** as in mid-February we'll be tidying up the graveyard to keep it eco-friendly.

Please feel free to take any wreaths, Christmas flowers and other memorabilia that are not biodegradable you have placed on your loved one's grave over the Christmas period.

Kind Regards Val and Linda

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## Steventon Cricket Club

Dear Editor, via email

Although it may be the depths of winter right now, we're already counting down the days to the new season, with indoor pre-season training for our men, women, girls and boys starting this month on Sundays, in Abingdon & Didcot variously.

We're excited to announce that Steventon's new **Women's cricket team** have entered into the Home Counties Women's Cricket League for the first time in 2022, building on last season's success with both U15 girls' cricket and women's softball cricket. **If you're interested in getting involved, do get in touch.** We have a very friendly and talented squad, across a wide age-range.

We will be running a **full range of junior cricket** again this year as usual, with hardball cricket available for girls and boys aged 10-17, in addition to our Allstars and Dynamos softball cricket programs for ages 6-11, which will launch in late February.

**Do book early if you can,** both programs sold out quickly last summer. Again if you would like more info, do get in touch, via email or the website.

The men's 1st XI have been promoted to division 5C of the Cherwell Cricket League, which will make for a good challenge this summer, while the 2nd XI drop into division 8C, which should help us back to winning ways after a tough 2021. We are always on the lookout for **new additions to the senior squad**, whether casual or committed.

If you think that you (or your child) might be interested in **playing cricket, or any other role** (eg umpiring, coaching, scoring, or groundwork), do join our friendly and welcoming club. We have 2 men's league teams on Saturdays, a T20 team on a Wednesday night, Women's team matches on Sundays, and junior cricket for girls and boys of all ages from 6-17 throughout the week.

Matches and training take place just along the road on Steventon Green. Get in touch with club secretary/junior coach Joe Bennett on **07966 592381** or [Joe@woodfestival.com](mailto:Joe@woodfestival.com), or find out more (or message us) via website <https://www.steventoncc.org.uk/>

Kind Regards Joe Bennett

# MORE LETTERS

## Margaret Jones

Dear Editor, via email

It was with great sadness that we learnt that Margaret Jones, wife of Gwyn Jones, died shortly before Christmas. Margaret had been ill for several years with Alzheimer's.

Many in the village will remember that she designed and painted the murals in the underpass in Abingdon (Stratton Way), and was involved in the design of the decorations on the sundial on the Millennium Green.

For many years she had taught Elocution, Art, Drama, Classics and Technology at the Convent School in Abingdon. We shall miss her.

Kind Regards Stephen & Ruth Fearnley



## £200 from Upcycling – Well Done!

Dear Editor, Henleys Lane

**Thank you** to everyone who bought some of Millie and Max's homemade Christmas wrapping paper and labels. They've sold out and raised an amazing £200 for 'Reverse Rett'.

Thank you! Sarah



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## Who's that avin' a DING-DONG?!

Dear Editor, via email

The Oxford University Society Change Ringers celebrates its **150th anniversary on Weds Feb 2nd.**

As the Society rang its first peal at Drayton (the 'Stedman Triples') that day in 1882 (their Tenth anniversary), they would like to mark the occasion by **ringing in St Peter's in the afternoon** – restrictions permitting.

**Listen out for them!**

Kind Regards

Meg Heywood (Revd)



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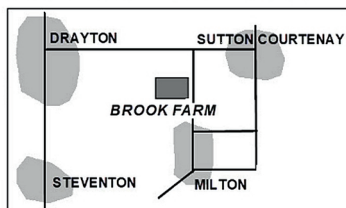
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## Coronavirus

I'm hoping that by the time you read this, the Omicron wave will have well and truly subsided and we will be well on our way back towards more normality. As I write, the cases and hospitalisation numbers have started to point downwards, which is encouraging.

Regardless, and as we've been hit by variants in the past, I'd urge **anyone who hasn't had the chance to get a booster to get one**. Although Omicron managed to elude antibody protection to a degree, it was still curtailed heavily by recently-boosted people, and protection against severe disease (**primarily mediated by T-cells**, which weren't dodged by Omicron) was exceptionally good. To the point where boosted 70+ year olds had a LOWER chance of ending up in intensive care with Omicron than unvaccinated 18-year-olds. Let's hope this is the last of the prominent variants.

## Reservoir

I proposed a resolution at December's District Council meeting that unless or until Thames Water manage to put forward a credible reason why they need the continent's largest banded reservoir to be built here (and "**It would be a great commercial asset for our company**" is NOT a good reason!!), we should officially oppose it – and that Thames Water need to include far more environmental impact analysis, details of the cost (those given were extremely dubious and high level) and full details of their convenient new flood modelling which they claim makes the **flood risk** go away completely, but **they can't let us know the details right now**.

There are other far less disruptive, costly, and environmentally damaging ways to resolve any water need (which would actually bring new water into a water-stressed region, rather than further stressing the River Thames) than building a mega-reservoir larger than Abingdon (which would make Farmoor look like a village pond in comparison), heavier than five towns the size of Swindon, hugely disruptive during the lengthy build, and expensive (in both financial and environmental terms) – and a facility that would not only **fail to provide any water to Oxfordshire itself**, but which would have a strong chance of being **unsuitable for any recreation usage** due to fears of contamination by intrusive non-native species.

I was gratified and heartened to receive unanimous cross-party support and the resolution was carried, which means that all levels of local government have expressed their serious concern to OFWAT and Thames Water.

In less positive news, the Reservoir proposal passed "Gate 1" of the OFWAT process. Looking into it, it appears this is pretty much a box-ticking exercise and a given; OFWAT have responded to the many concerns and criticisms stating that Thames Water will be expected to address them at "Gate 2", expected late this year. They did, though, include my request that if it fails yet again (they've been trying this repeatedly for 25 years now), Thames Water should release their earmarking of the land so we can end this repeated nonsense.

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## Domestic Retrofitting

This is probably the least sexy motion ever passed by a council, and I helped to write it and second it, but it's an important one for combating the climate emergency (in my not-so-humble opinion): emissions from **heating houses account for 20% of all greenhouse gas emissions**. Upgrading houses and retrofitting them can reduce that drastically, but it does not only cost more than many householders can readily pay up front, it can be awkward to navigate the various things to do and there's a lack of the skills to do it nationally. We've proposed that if Government can stump up a long-term grant (they've dabbled with short-term grant systems and chopped and changed repeatedly), we can do the on-the-ground element of linking up with providers and providing an easy and co-ordinated route for householders and providers to access what is needed and relevant grants.

## Housing Requirement changed in Local Plan

The Local Plan's target of housebuilding (in which we have 5.04 years of housing supply – just above the 5 year threshold where we lose protection against speculative development) is significantly higher than the numbers that the Government's standard method of assessment would provide.

We've therefore done what looks to be obvious: officially switched to the standard figure, which turns out to be just over two-thirds of the figure in the original Local Plan. The main upshot of this is that we now have considerably more land supply announced, so should be a lot safer from speculative development (something that was a curse a few years back).

## Pilot Scheme to simplify Neighbourhood Plans

We've successfully applied to get onto a limited scheme to simplify Neighbourhood Planning. We'll be working with South Oxfordshire District Council to come up with a simplified and more streamlined way of doing Neighbourhood Planning, which will be accepted by Government. It's originally targeted at areas that haven't yet produced a Neighbourhood Plan, but could be of considerable use when Drayton eventually needs to update the existing Neighbourhood Plan.

That's all for this month. **Take care, and stay safe,**  
**Andy Cooke**

# WHAT Happened to Drayton's Brickworks? (Andrew Bax)

In the Chronicle of February 2021, **Josie Midwinter** drew attention to an unusual headstone in the west graveyard of St Peter's church, unusual because it is made of **brick**. It was erected in memory of Walter and Emma Clarke who acquired the brickworks in 1899 and they remained in the ownership of their family until the works were discontinued during WW2.

At one time the brickyard covered some three acres bordered by Steventon Road between the Wheatsheaf and Kiln Lane.



Oxfordshire History Centre reveals that, in 1854 the works were owned by William Norrington, a local baker and farmer, who with B. Norrington, presumably his son, continued to operate them until the Clarks took over. However, it is probable that the brickworks existed in some form from a much earlier date. Much of the village lies on a deposit of Kimmeridge Clay, recognisable in the rusty-coloured bricks from which many of Drayton's older houses are built. The **Wilts & Berks Canal**, (opened in 1810), passed to the west of the village and enabled coal to be brought in for firing the kiln, and bricks to be transported along its length so Drayton bricks found markets far beyond the immediate locality.

In 1979 **Mrs Dorothy Clark** (née **Dunsdon**), of 33 High Street, was interviewed as part of a brickworks research project by the Oxfordshire County Museum Service.

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Her father, **Jack Dunsdon**, (born 1881), worked in the brickworks from leaving school, aged 15, until it closed.

There were five claypits, up to 40ft deep, and a waggon on rails for carrying the clay to the shed in which a steam engine drove machinery for **pugging** the clay (a process for ensuring consistency) and making wire-cuts. During Jack's time the original funnel-shaped kiln was replaced by a square, flat-topped down-draught kiln with six outside stoke holes. The Victorian County History notes that the works manufactured bricks, tiles and drainpipes, and that the kiln was also used for **lime-burning** (to produce plaster). Sand was obtained from a gravel pit down the road to Sutton Courtenay. Transport to and from the canal, and surrounding villages, was by horse and cart.

Jack was one of six labourers employed at the works. In the 1920s they earned a basic rate of **12 shillings a week**, working dawn to dusk, six days a week. That meant they worked much longer in the summer months, increasing the productivity of the brickworks and their basic wage to £1 a week [Ed:- that £1 equals just over £60 in today's terms]. Jack was the only one skilled in hand-throwing bricks and is recorded in a local paper as producing **99 bricks in an hour!**

In 1942 a garage was opened on the site of what is now Mott Cottages. **Roger Alder** has provided the accompanying photograph and told me that the garage was painted a patriotic red, white and blue, and that **ROP** stands for **Russian Oil Products**. In 1946 his father-in-law, **Dave Burt**, bought it and transferred to Drayton a garage business he'd started in Barton Lane, Abingdon, so it became known as **Barton Garage**. Dave was a Drayton man, having earlier run a small farm from his home in High Street.

In the 1950s four of the claypits were filled in and developed for what became **Whitehorns Way**. The rest of the site included the Old Post House, in which Dave lived, and a yard for the garage, at which Roger was to become mechanic. In the 1970s Dave moved to a bungalow he had built next to the remaining claypit and sold the Old Post House to Roger. Eighty years since it was last in use, that claypit has now been filled in for development but an enduring reminder of Drayton's industrial past is preserved in the name of Kiln Lane.



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# Loose Ends

## Drayton FC

[Ed – this report just missed our December issue]

Drayton FC are very happy with the way we saw out the year with both sides.

Drayton First have won 2 and lost 2 in their last 4 games, with wins over Steventon and Hagbourne, defeats coming against Cholsey, and a last minute winner for Milton Utd Development being the difference between the 2 sides. Currently, the first team sit 3rd in the league, a great position to end the year off with and a great platform to push forwards with.

Drayton Reserves have won, drawn and lost a fixture in the last month, the win coming against Abingdon United U23s where **super striker (& author!) Bradley Cox** ended up scoring an overhead kick, putting the game to bed for the Reserves. They also got a point against Benson, but lost to undefeated Compton in a hard fought battle. We are currently sitting midtable.

### Acknowledgments:-

Drayton Reserves say goodbye to Joint-Manager Lewis Parry in the New Year who is taking some time out of management. We wish him all the best. Luke Meehan continues as manager.

**Drayton Construction and Fix'N'Point**, our main sponsors, we would also like to thank at the end of this year for their ongoing support for the club.

Thank you to the team at **MDCC Construction** who came into the clubhouse and kindly plastered numerous areas around the building that needed sorting out before we could proceed with any more clubhouse developments.

Finally, we must say a **massive thank you to Marco and the team at The Wheatsheaf pub** who have helped to support our club on numerous occasions. The Wheatsheaf recently donated to the football club so that we could afford some new flooring for the clubhouse to replace what we had before, and we are very grateful for this kind gesture.

We will have pictures uploaded on our Facebook page of this in due course (these ARE now uploaded – as this edition goes to press).



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### Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project

[Ed:- This account was received in December, after that edition appeared. See page 3 of this issue for a more recent missive, and their contact details].

The last month in Drayton has been very exciting for the Abingdon Damascus Youth Project and the young people have loved it!

We started off the month with looking at **protective behaviours**, how to stay safe on social media and be protected online. This went well, and all the young people were engaged and learned a lot on how to be safer while using social media. As the group are very sporty and love a good football game, we also played a lot of football under the floodlights.

It was **Anti-Bullying week** in December, and we took this opportunity to educate the young people on the impact of bullying. We did assorted activities to cover a variety of subtopics which come under bullying (eg at the signs of bullying so young people can recognise this).

We also had a game called **'Bullying vs Banter'**. This was where we read scenarios to the young people, and they had to decide whether it was Bullying or Banter. This made for some good discussions between the young people with different views.

The lead-up to Christmas was exciting for the project and even more so for the young people! We did loads of different activities, for example making lots of Christmas cards for the elderly residents from the young people.

We held our **Covid-compliant Drayton Christmas Party!** Both age groups merged into one group, and we played Bingo with some very special prizes. It was very good to get the young people into the Christmas spirit and it was a **lovely final session to end the year**.

It has been a fantastic year for them, and we really look forward to seeing all the young people in the New Year, when we look forward to hopefully see some new faces!



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# County Council Report



## Richard Webber - Oxon CC

My children like to make sure that I am fully informed and updated on any new ideas and ways of thinking. This Christmas, I was given a book by a young, eminent Dutch economist who is passionate that many of our economic problems could be solved with a universal basic income given to everyone together with policies providing housing to the homeless free of charge and obligation. He believes that there is overwhelming evidence that the homeless, the unemployed and those below the poverty line would respond very positively. Whilst I am not fully persuaded, I am intrigued enough to start reading the economist's follow-up book.

However, in our part of Oxfordshire - particularly in the Vale - we have, thankfully, very low unemployment, homelessness and poverty. But we do have **a related problem**, getting steadily more acute. **This is the problem of housing affordability.**

A few weeks ago, I was approached by a young local scientist who was despairing of ever being able to get onto the housing market. He was in his early thirties, on a well above average salary but had no access to bank of mum and dad. He had been saving towards a house deposit but price increases were outstripping his rate of savings. The village he would like to stay in now had almost nothing for sale under £350,000. There are almost certainly far more people in our area in this bracket than those in poverty.

One possible solution is simply to build more homes. But we've been trying that for some years now!



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→> One possible solution is simply to build more homes. We've been trying that for some years now. The latest Govt survey had both VoWHDC and OCC in the top 10 of 150 councils for the numbers of houses built since 2010. But whilst housebuilders insist on building more large homes for the wealthy, and London commuters, this simply **feeds more house price inflation**. We need more affordable housing or rather, housing that people can afford. But there is little profit for developers in low cost, affordable housing. And there is no evidence in this country that building more houses reduces house prices.

With some ingenious use of capital reserves, VWHDC has managed to build 10 affordable homes in the past year. Very few councils have been able to do this and, anyway, it is a drop in the ocean of what is needed. **Without major changes in the way Councils are allowed to finance building**, it is doubtful that solutions lie in this direction.

So how does a wealthy area like ours provide homes that the next generation of local residents can afford? No one really knows. There is, however, some unlikely light at the end of the tunnel. Latest ONS statistics suggest that population numbers in this country (and indeed worldwide) are falling. This may give us some economic challenges, but fewer people need fewer houses. If this trend continues, one might expect a steady downward pressure on house prices which would allow more young people to get on the housing ladder. It would also mean less house building in the future.

But does this mean that the solution lies in less economic growth? I need to get on with my Dutch economist's next book.

Happy New Year

**Richard**

If you have feelings on any County issues you would like me to hear, please contact me:- 01235 534001 or via [richardwebber777@gmail.com](mailto:richardwebber777@gmail.com)

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**Our MP (Wantage/Didcot) is David Johnston (OBE, awarded for services to Social Mobility and Education).**

My debate on the role of developers, housebuilders & management companies was held at the beginning of January.

You can see it on my Facebook page, but I used as many constituency examples as I could of the low-quality of some homes; their environmental impact; the lack of affordable homes; the role of management companies, who charge large fees for very little work; and the overall broken process by which the houses come into being, including the failure to provide the infrastructure that is always promised.

My recommendations included ensuring a higher building standard for the homes; 'use it or lose it' planning permission; making builders build to the latest environmental standards, not the ones that existed when they got planning permission (often several years before); a tougher regime for management companies that prevents them hiking their fees and treating home-owners badly, and for the supporting infrastructure to go in first, as people no longer believe it will follow afterwards!

As I said, my campaigns for better infrastructure – including Grove Station to be reopened, improvements to the A420 and A34 and much better medical facilities for the constituency – are the least we should see given the number of houses we've had. There was quite a bit of cross-party support for what I said, and it is something I will return to regularly.

Making predictions about Covid is a mug's game but, at the time of writing, we do seem in a much better place to what we were last year. I am glad that people could, in general, have a better Christmas and New Year than they did the year before. I am particularly pleased our schools have remained open for all children (most were open for at least vulnerable children throughout the pandemic) as it's the best place to learn.

Regular readers will know that I am the lead parliamentary sponsor of the **Local Electricity Bill**, which would enable local communities to buy their energy from local, renewable sources. At the moment a community operation generating renewable energy would have to pay in the region of £1 million set-up costs to access the grid and agree to supply the whole country, rather than just, for example, their local village. This year, I'll be chairing a new All Party Parliamentary Group of MPs and Lords to try and help push this forward.

I know many of you are continuing to have **problems with your post**. I am in regular contact with Royal Mail about this, something I held a debate on in Parliament in June 2021 and which I have raised multiple times. As ever, the Royal Mail staff are working hard but something is still not working correctly. I'll continue to keep on the case of Royal Mail HQ.

**If you need to get in touch with our MP >>**  
**email [david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk)**

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### Letters to the Editor

The Editors reserve the right to shorten, clarify or reject any letter. Each letter must bear a legible name & address, and a phone number (please!) in case any text needs verification.

You may request that the name isn't published, and we'll usually abide with this if there's a plausible reason.



# Down the Years



So, for this occasional venture back into the **Pop Chart annals**, who was charting this time of year, going back through time? **Remember these?** >>

**20 years ago** – doesn't seem that long, but **Westlife** were about to be #1 with 'World of Our Own', in the process setting a new record for the fastest act to get TEN chart-toppers. And I see that **Britney Spears** reached #4 with 'Overprotected' – some irony in view of the recent court activity she's been undergoing with her father?!

Back **30 years** and that month was only notable for the re-issued 'My Girl' (**Temptations**, oddly, only a minor hit when it first appeared in the 60s!), but **Right Said Fred** were soon to be #1 with 'Deeply Dippy'.

**40 years ago** (is it REALLY so long?!) and people of a certain age should recall **The Stranglers** with 'Golden Brown', and at #1 had been 'The Lion Sleeps Tonight' by **Tight Fit**. Also charting was the epic 'It ain't what you do, it's the way that you do it' by **Fun Boy Three** with . . . **Bananarama**, and **Chas & Dave** ('Ain't No Pleasing You').

**FIFTY years ago** (for real old-timers) and we'd just had quite a bunch of memorable hits in the top 5, **T Rex** with 'Telegram Sam', also **Don McLean** ('American Pie'), and **Harry Nilsson** with the amazing 'Without You'. Asking their fans to 'Meet Me on the Corner' were **Lindisfarne**, **Gilbert O'Sullivan** was 'Alone Again (Naturally)' and the **New Seekers** had a big hit with 'Beg Steal or Borrow'.

Can anyone recall **1962**?! **Cliff** had just been #1 ('The Young Ones', from the film of that name), and the **Everly Brothers** had a big hit with 'Cryin' in the Rain, so too **Karl Denver** with 'Wimoweh'. Oh, and the iconic **Sam Cooke** was there too, 'Twistin' the Night Away'. Sadly, those who were doing the Twist back then likely can't manage it now without a following visit to a chiropractor?!

The Church page (4) 'Letter' uses as part of its message the 1967 hit for the Troggs, 'Love is All Around' (an even bigger hit when re-released by Wet Wet Wet in the 90s).

The **Troggs** were from Andover, but lead singer **Reg Presley** sounded as though from deepest Zummerzett.

In a TV interview (possibly after they came to fame with 'Wild Thing'), Presley famously said "Oi puts zex on the stage, dunn eye" {he hadn't a typical sex-symbol look . . .}

Sadly Reg died this month 2013.

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This month **TWENTY years ago** we lost Princess Margaret, sadly in the Queen's 'Golden Jubilee year' (and then followed in March by the Queen Mother's death). In the entertainment world, **Will Young** won the first series of 'Pop Idol', **Dot Cotton** got married in Eastenders (it was reported that the chap's guide-dog was sent for remedial tuition), and **Martin Kemp's** character got blown up.

We also sadly lost **John Thaw** (of Morse fame, and The Sweeney), and two wonderful comic talents, **Dudley Moore**, and the unique lunacy of **Spike Milligan**.

In **1992**, the **Maastricht Treaty** was signed, (founding the EU), and the Bosnian civil war was just starting. And we were soon to hear of the Duke & Duchess of York's separation (strangely topical with Prince Andrew in the news?).

Back in **1982**, Argentina was preparing to invade the **Falklands**, and here, **Laker Airways** went bust, stranding some 6,000 passengers, and the **DeLorean** factory (in Belfast) also went down the financial toilet. But just starting was the '**Next**' clothing chain.

And in **1972**, the UK was soon to see the closure of the last **Trolleybus** system (in Bradford), and the final trip for the famous **Brighton Belle** 'pullman car' train. But **Aardman Animations** (eventually creating Wallace & Gromit) was founded, and **Watership Down** was published.

# GARD (Group Against Reservoir Development)

## Through to the next stage

There have been lots of developments this month regarding the proposed Abingdon reservoir. The regulator has released their view on the water companies' recent submissions as to how they will provide water over the next 50 years and the reservoir has been given the go-ahead to proceed to the next development stage. **This is very disappointing, but not unexpected.** It is also disappointing that the regulator has largely ignored many of the points against the reservoir raised by local groups, organisations, and councils.

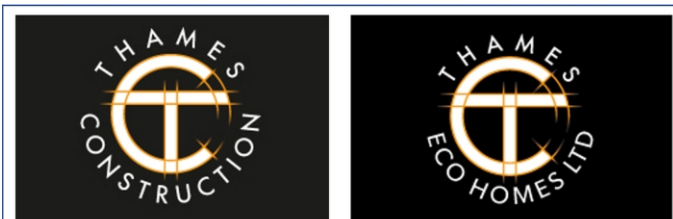
The regional water company grouping, called Water Resources Southeast, will reveal their big plans in the week beginning 17th Jan and there will be a consultation period. Once we formally receive the plans and can analyse them, we will be highlighting what local people and organisations can do to help fight these proposals.

## The proposed reservoir

As a reminder, the reservoir will be the largest of its kind in Europe, rising 25m above the ground and filling the area between Marcham, Abingdon, Drayton, Steventon and East Hanney - **the construction will be at least 10 years of misery for us.**

We know that much of the information on which the reservoir has been planned so far is **incorrect**. As a simple example, an increasing population is one of the main reasons why Thames Water argue that it's needed. For the last 4 years we have been trying to get them to use sensible figures for this increase, rather than the ludicrous worst-case scenario they always seem to use.

Only this week (mid-Jan), the Office for National Statistics published figures reducing their expectation for future UK population increases - due to the falling birth rate, deaths will now outnumber births for the foreseeable future. In fact, immigration is now the only reason why numbers will stabilise or increase. This is the 4th update in a row where the ONS has lowered its forecasts and any actual increase will only be a fraction of what Thames Water are planning on. **This fact alone makes the argument for the reservoir ridiculous.**



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## Upcoming meetings & opposing the reservoir

We have lots of meetings coming up with Thames Water, local MPs, Oxfordshire County Council and VOWH District Council, where we will be helping to develop a unified opposition. Next month we can let you know how you can respond to the consultation and help get this stopped. **Evening public meetings** (7:30pm) are being finalised across local villages. Dates so far are:

Friday 4th & 25th February – Steventon Village Hall

**Friday 11th February – Drayton (Small Hall)**

Monday 21st February – Hanney Memorial Hall

Tuesday 22nd February TBC – Marcham Centre

Thursday 24th February – East Hendred Snells Hall

Monday 28th February – Garford Village Hall

More details will follow or keep an eye on [www.gard-oxon.org.uk](http://www.gard-oxon.org.uk) and Facebook [@abingdonreservoir](https://www.facebook.com/abingdonreservoir).

## **THAMES VALLEY FARMERS MARKETS** (8.30 to 1.30)

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(\*‘Locally’ – Didcot mkt has a wonderful fishmonger, up from Sussex, always sells well – little sea for fishing round here?!)

**FEB Dates** Ab'don (3rd Fri) 18th; Didcot (2nd Sat) 12th  
TVFM news - ring 01235 227266 see website - [Tvfm.org.uk](http://Tvfm.org.uk)

# NOTICE BOARD

## VALE of WH District Council

If you need any help, or feel you may need it, even post-lockdown, PLEASE don't hesitate to contact our Community Hub on the telephone number, website, or email address :- (it's always staffed regardless of the major incident):

Telephone: 01235 422600

Website: [www.southoxon.gov.uk/communityhub](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/communityhub)

Email: [communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk)

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[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/children-education-and-families/fostering](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/children-education-and-families/fostering) or please call **0800 783 5724**. Types of placements are both short & long term and include sibling groups. And you can check for updates on their Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/FosteringinOxfordshireOCC/](https://www.facebook.com/FosteringinOxfordshireOCC/)

**There's a range of different fostering schemes, and YOU just might make a big difference to someone's life?**

### YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL CONTACTS :-

**Parish (Clerk)** Lorraine Watling (clerk@draytonpc.org)  
OR phone 07909 176 061);  
**District (VofWH)** Andy Cooke (07507 602911)  
& **Oxfordshire County** richardwebber777@gmail.com



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## FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS

**Are you feeling lonely, isolated or in need of some friendly company?** We hope to resume our USUAL monthly tea and chat afternoons in Church this month; so, Feb 1st (then March 1st, etc, 2.30pm to 4pm) and you can be sure of a warm welcome.

We shall contact all our members to confirm the session, just in case Covid concerns rise up again!

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

## LISTINGS

**Antiques Fair** – In the Village Hall - Sunday Feb 6th (and March 6th too) from 9.30 am (to about 3pm). Varied stalls, just 50p entry, and the chance of an ace bacon sarnie, toasties, etc!

The **Hawk Conservancy** (near Andover) are open again on Feb 11th, and besides their usual offerings, they have a number of evening events (which sell out early!).

See <https://www.hawk-conservancy.org>

**GARD Meeting** – More info about Thames Water's latest misleading proposals for a reservoir that will mostly benefit TW, at OUR expense. Friday Feb 11th, 7.30, Village Hall (Small Hall).

**Drivers BEWARE!!** You may have seen the news, but if not, check out the **revised laws** (as of Jan 29th) affecting priority at junctions, plus clearance for cyclists, pedestrians, & horses. Maybe Google something like 'Highway Code changes'?

**Riding for the Disabled** – would love some more volunteer helpers, many tasks, dates & times. Like horses, people, both? See their Facebook page at 'Abingdon RDA' for all the info!

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**Pebbles Baby and Toddler Group** >> we meet in Church on a Wednesday morning, during term time, from 10.00 - 11.30am. You are so welcome to join us!

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

## (Mostly) Hall Diary for FEBRUARY

All events held in Drayton Hall unless otherwise stated  
 To book the Hall :- bookings@draytonvh.co.uk or call Tony Holmes on  
 (01235) 531180; see the website :- www.draytonvh.co.uk  
 (for other regular events, see the R-H column >>>)

|            |           |               |   |
|------------|-----------|---------------|---|
| Tues       | 1         | 2.00pm        | Bowls League match  |
| Sat        | 5         | 2.00pm        | Private Function (child's party)  |
| Sun        | 6         | 9.30am        | ANTIQUES FAIR (to 3pm)  |
| Tues       | 8         | 1.00pm        | Private Function  |
| Tues       | 8         | 7.30pm        | <b>Parish Council Meeting</b> Caudwell DC<br>(Planning C'tee - 7pm)       |
| Fri        | 11        | 7.30pm        | GARD meeting (Small Hall)   |
| Sat        | 12        | 11.00am       | Private Function (child's party)  |
| Sun        | 13        | 10.00am       | Private Function (child's party)  |
| <b>Mon</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>5.00pm</b> | <b>CHRONICLE DEADLINE</b> (see p2)<br>(NB Adverts by Friday 11th please!) |
| Sun        | 20        | 11.30am       | Private Function (child's party)  |
| Sun        | 27        | 1.00pm        | Private Function (child's party)  |



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It seems about the right time to resurrect the 'Regular Events' diary, as per those dim & distant pre-Covid times. Many of the regular Village Hall groups & classes have restarted, just a couple left and their return seems imminent.

## 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)
- 1.45 pm Drayton Art Group (until 4 pm) *Caudwell Day Centre*
- 2.30 pm First Tuesday Connections (1st Tuesday) *Church*  
NB Hoping to have restarted (see page 19)
- 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

- 9.30 am Parent & Toddler Group (NB Temp switch fom Thurs)
- 10.00 am Pebbles (Baby, Toddler, Carer group) *Church*
- 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

- 9.45 am Holy Communion (\*\*) *St Peter's Lady Chapel*
- 11.00 am Baptist Café (to 1pm) *Baptist Church*  
NB For any Baptist Church activities --- DO PLEASE check with them before attending (see page 16)
- 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 we heard was hoped to be restarted by now; 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 16) *Baptist Church*

**NB IF you're in the village, afternoon of Weds Feb 2nd, DO listen out for the special bell-ringing (see the letters page 10).**