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# ***DRAYTON CHRONICLE***

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# Chronicle Information



The next chronicle will be the **April** issue. Editor: Maurice Puddick, Tel. 01235 538188

Key dates for next Chronicles:

Issue:	Deadline for Contributions:		Printed Chronicles available on:
	Adverts	Editor	
<b>April</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> March	14 <sup>th</sup> March	26 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>May</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> April	18 <sup>th</sup> April	30 <sup>th</sup> April

### Notes for Contributors

Contributions to and advertisements in the Chronicle are **very welcome**. Please send us your letters, reports from village clubs and societies, articles, tips and advice, photos, suggestions etc. Please be sure always to include your name, address, and (in case clarification is needed) your phone number. Without names we will usually not print an item at all. The editor reserves the right to place, edit, shorten or even reject contributions as required.

Please send your contributions by email to: [editor@draytonchronicle.net](mailto:editor@draytonchronicle.net)

Advertisement requests should be sent to: [advertising@draytonchronicle.net](mailto:advertising@draytonchronicle.net)

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

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

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Steak & Ale Pie served with mash, garden peas & gravy  
Pork loin with creamy mushroom sauce served with chips & garden peas.

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Pro-Warden	Mrs Val Cross	01235 535183

*The church remains open daily, Sunday-Saturday 10am-3.00pm*

## 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)  
 Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 7.30 p.m Ash Wednesday Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes at St Michael and All Angels Steventon  
 Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March 9.45a.m Family Service for Mothering Sunday.

**Everyone is welcome.**

## REGULAR EVENTS

**Wednesday mornings 10.00 – 11.30a.m Pebbles Baby and Toddler Group.**

If you have a baby or toddler, you would be so welcome to join us. We meet in Church. Please email [suedraytonpebbles@outlook.com](mailto:suedraytonpebbles@outlook.com) for more information or visit our Drayton Pebbles Facebook Page.

First Tuesday afternoon of the month, 2.30 – 4.00p.m  
**First Tuesday Connections.** Call Ros on 535589 or Beryl on 531379 for more information and see page 15

## PARISH REGISTER

### FUNERALS

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022 Margaret Tame  
 Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022 Terry Stopps

# ST PETER'S LETTER

## *Find Life – read in Lent!*

Many of us would remember from school days talking about what we would 'give up' for Lent. It was usually chocolate, sweets or biscuits. Lent – being the time between Pancake Day (this year 1<sup>st</sup> March) and Easter – has become associated with, 'giving up, usually enjoyable things, to become a better person.' It was following Jesus' example of the time he spent in the desert before He began His ministry.

Today there are many articles, books and podcasts about how to become a better person: eat well, rest more, take exercise, meditate, read, do voluntary work, avoid alcohol, be mindful, look at your carbon footprint ... and so on. For many of us, it tugs at something inside. We do want to become better people and leave the world a better place. The list can often feel very daunting, and sometimes we feel guilty for not trying or for failing. Or, if we do achieve it, we can feel superior to others. So, what do we do with these inner 'side-effects' of wanting to be better?

Christians believe that becoming a better person is something that God does for each one of us by His Holy Spirit. He starts in our hearts. This is what was happening for Jesus when He was in the desert. He was being challenged about what kind of person He was – where did His identity lie? Was it in what he does (turn these stones into bread)? Or what He has (I will give you all the Kingdoms of the world)? Or what others said about Him (do something spectacular – jump off the Temple and come down unharmed)?

Jesus overcame all these temptations that we wrestle with because He believed what He was told a little earlier at his baptism. He is God's Son – loved and accepted for who He is – no self-



improvement plan, no achievement necessary. Later in His life, through dying on the Cross and raising again, Jesus offers that gift to us today – the gift of becoming a son or daughter of God, loved and accepted. Like a present, it can be received and opened.

*Intrigued?* Try and read through one of the stories about Jesus told by his friends at the time – Mark, Luke, Matthew or John, on the internet (BibleGateway) or in the Bible, for Lent! Get a version that you will find easy to read or listen to – there are plenty around, and just enjoy finding out about Jesus through their eyes and see what you think. Many Christians will be doing something similar as we too want to get to know Jesus better this Lent and to remind ourselves all that He did to know that we are loved and accepted by God.

May we all become aware of the touch of God's grace and love in our lives this Lent.

**Meg Heywood, on behalf of the DAMASCUS Team**

## YOU STAY WE PRAY, MARCH 2022

27 <sup>th</sup> Feb – 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Corneville Road; Crabtree Lane; Lesparre Close
6 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> March	Drayton Road; Milton Road; New Cut Mill; Fisher Close; Marcham Road; Meads Close; Rippington Court; Stone Hill
13 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Steventon Road; Kiln Lane; Mott Cottages; Barton Court
20 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Eastway; Eastway MHP
27 <sup>th</sup> March– 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Church Lane; Henleys Lane; Caudwell Close; Gravel Lane



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# DRAYTON PARISH COUNCIL



The Parish Council has been busy in the past few weeks – in addition to the routine work we undertake, we have been focusing on traffic/speeding concerns, improving village footpaths, progressing art projects, and continuing to work with the developers at the Manor Farm and Walnut Meadows housing developments to ensure that the outstanding work is completed on these.

## Sports Survey – Walnut Meadows

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who completed the Walnut Meadows Sports survey that we recently conducted to determine what sports facilities and activities residents would like to have in the village at the large public open space at this site.

We received 350 completed online and paper surveys, representing the views of approximately 800 residents, which is a very good response for a survey of this type. The Parish Council have been analysing the completed surveys. As well as the provision of a Pavilion, MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) and associated car parking, the most popular activities requested were:

- Aerobics/Gym/Keep Fit
- Tennis
- Athletics/Running/Jogging
- Children’s Football
- Table Tennis
- Five-a-side Football
- Cycling
- Basketball
- Cricket



The Parish Council is now engaged in discussions with Miller Homes, to enable them to finalise a planning application that will accommodate some or (hopefully) all of these elements, as well as take account of feedback from the Vale of White Horse Landscape Officer and Archaeologist. An important factor is the need to reduce the level of the site, which has been left too high, apparently following the burial of construction material on the site by Miller Homes. We are actively pushing this project forward to resolution, and are hopeful of Millers achieving a plan that will be acceptable to the Parish Council and Vale of White Horse District Council, so that we can begin work on the sports facilities. We will keep you updated in future editions of the Chronicle.

## Benches

The Parish Council received funding from Richard Webber’s Councillor Priority Fund which we have utilised towards buying four new benches for the village, and two planters. These are made out of recycled plastic, so are eco-friendly and will hopefully be a welcome addition for those walking around the village. We are hoping to position these at various sites around the village, most likely at Manor Farm, the Burial Ground, the Village Hall and the small green at Walnut Meadows (the area alongside Barrow Road). We look forward to the planters providing a colourful floral display.



## Traffic

We continue to chase Oxford County Council (OCC) - Highways department to get their feedback on the list of traffic calming measures which the Parish Council proposed that OCC should implement (including the proposed new pedestrian crossing on the High Street). Things are moving more slowly with OCC than we would like, given their team shortages, Covid and other priorities.

In the meantime, the Parish Council is applying to OCC to be considered for a new 20mph speed limit in all or certain parts of the village, with support from Richard Webber our County Councillor. It is not guaranteed that the reduced limit will be implemented in our village – OCC will consider a number of factors including accidents, presence of schools, walking routes etc., but hopefully we will be in the mix for consideration. I am sure you will ask who will enforce this limit – it will still be up to the local police, and so enforcement does largely depend on police being in the relevant area at the right time to spot speeding offenders. However, it is generally thought that a lower limit will ultimately reduce the speeds that people drive, even if not to 20mph itself, then significantly below the 30mph+ that we are currently witnessing.



## Other

See our separate articles about the Walnuts on the Village Green (opposite the Post Office) and our Jubilee planning proposals.

**Tamsin Crane, Chairperson**



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# DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT



Andy Cooke    [Andy.Cooke@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:Andy.Cooke@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

## Reservoir

Starting with this, because there's something all of us can do.

The unnecessary megareservoir that Thames Water wants us to all pay for to go onto their balance sheet is currently being put forward as the only plan for the Water Resources South East (WRSE) group – which is comprised solely of water companies (unlike the water resources groups for other regions). This is an attempt to pressure RAPID/OfWAT into being more likely to approve their reservoir.

WRSE have a (not very well publicised) public consultation going on here: <https://wrse.uk.engagementhq.com/the-proposed-solution>

The response time is 14<sup>th</sup> March. GARD have put together a bunch of useful arguments and suggestions here: <https://www.abingdonreservoir.org.uk/>

You can fill out the online form at the WRSE site (which is rather laborious and involved, unfortunately. I wonder why...), and you can also email responses to [contact@wrse.org.uk](mailto:contact@wrse.org.uk) (make sure you state you wish your response to be taken into account).

Remember:

- This will be a huge storage tank jutting eight stories up above the Vale (so we can't exactly gaze out over it like Farmoor; the edges will be way above our heads).
- There's every possibility that no recreation use would be allowed due to fear of intrusive non-native species and security risks
- It doesn't solve any water issues; the Severn-Thames Transfer link does that (and could come online before this is likely to be completed: they estimate a decade to build, but no megaproject like this has ever come on close to on-time, so could easily take 15-20 years).
- It's unnecessary – the Severn-Thames Transfer (which they admit would need to be built, anyway) would be done in 3 years at far lower cost and minimal disruption, providing plentiful new water to the region (which is why it solves the issue).
- The environmental damage, carbon impact, cost (put on our bills for the next half century and more), and loss of biodiversity would be long-lasting and devastating. Parts of the village will see the sun set in winter half an hour earlier than before, due to being in the shadow of the reservoir.

My response will be: Build the Severn-Thames Transfer first and then see if you can come up with any reason for this thing (spoiler: they can't, the mega-reservoir would be redundant, which is why they want the reservoir first).

Before you say, "What's the point?" bear in mind that the last time this was put forward, the weight of negative responses, marshalled by GARD, was crucial in getting it stopped. Public opinion is the currency of democracy – make yours felt.

## Vale Budget

My own eyes tend to glaze over at the word "Budget" so I may well lose a whole bunch of readers right here. Although this Budget was always going to be a more interesting one than normal due to the impact of coronavirus on the finances and the reduction in central government funding – leading to quite a few Local Authorities elsewhere going "broke".

I've got to admit, I was expecting the worst, so the draft plan was surprisingly positive (in my opinion, anyway). On the

downside, the much-publicised increase in government grant came in at £377.

That's not "per person" or "after inflation." It's a grand total increase of £377 for the entire council before inflation (so a fairly chunky decrease in real terms after inflation).

Meanwhile, the cost for subsidising the 2 hours of free parking in council carparks has leapt from £300,000 just a couple of years ago to £450,000 per year. And, on the one hand, we don't want to encourage car use – but we REALLY don't want to damage shops and businesses in our towns and make shopping much more expensive. So whilst ending the subsidy for free parking had to be at least considered, we really didn't want to go there. Reducing it to one hour lets us preserve it and still helps people to pop in and go shopping and covers most of what people want to do, so that is what's been put in.

(And if we didn't do *something* about it, that ballooning subsidy would just grow and grow and we'd have to bite the bullet sooner or later). There'll be a new £1.50 for 2 hours rate, and other fees will go up by 40p – but one hour free parking will be retained. This should make it sustainable long-term)

We're also putting £150,000 in to improving CCTV and £200,000 to resurfacing car parks and improving lighting – aiming to reduce risk of crime.

There's also £450,000 for improvements to play areas and public open spaces, £250,000 for tree planting, £250,000 for the climate emergency, and we've managed to tap other funding sources to get us £1.5 million for leisure projects in Faringdon, Wantage, Abingdon, and Botley.

Given that I was bracing myself for bad news, this was far better than I anticipated.

## Rough Sleeper numbers over winter reduced to zero

As it says – the number of rough sleepers in the Vale and South Oxfordshire put together this winter was reduced to zero for the first time since 2013. The housing needs team has added to their targeted prevention and intervention measures (which translates into preventing hundreds of households each year from becoming homeless or rough sleeping). Despite the 85% success rate, there had been an entrenched small number of rough sleepers with complex needs, and thanks to working with partner agencies to address the physical and mental health issues and reasons for refusing help, the team succeeded in helping everyone off of the streets in both the Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire this winter.

That's all for now,  
Take care,  
Andy

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# COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT



**Richard Webber**  
richardwebber777@gmail.com

For the past 15 years, my colleague, Cllr Bob Johnston of Kennington and Radley has been trying to persuade me to explore Thrupp Lake as a haven of peace and wildlife. This last Valentine's weekend, my wife and I went on a bicycle ride to see if he was right. In spite of the mud and rain, we thoroughly enjoyed the journey and would recommend it to anyone on foot or bicycle. Living next door to Sutton Wick gravel pits, as we do, still a major active quarry site, it was great to imagine how our area might look after many years of restoration.

Havens of peace are in short supply in my own area at present. With the threat of the Thames Water Reservoir, whose banks may well cast early evening shadow over Drayton, and the proposed HIF1 Road between Sutton Courtenay and Appleford potentially affecting traffic, noise and air quality in both villages, peace, quiet and wildlife could all become distant memories. The two projects together have a cost tag amounting to billions and dwarf any other projects in the whole of Oxfordshire. It begins to feel that the infrastructure gods have got it in for us. Decisions on both will be made in the next few months.

In the case of the Reservoir, it is important that all those of us who have views on the need and advisability of the scheme should engage with and support GARD\* – the group of scientists who believe there are better options, and also respond to the Thames Water consultation. Silence from local residents can be used as acquiescence by those who wish to see these schemes coming about.

In the case of the Hif Rd, please engage with your Parish Council and write in to OCC\*, the planning authority, with your views on this scheme. I am aware, from residents who contact me, that there is a great deal of concern over already growing noise disturbance from Appleford Sidings. Few complaints have been received by the environmental health team so far, so please write in to them with your concerns if you have them. Given the potential addition of noise from the Hif road together with any reverberation from the banks of the proposed flyover, it is essential we have a full understanding of the present baseline noise levels before we inflict any more on local residents.

In the end, it will be the data which decides if, when and how these massive projects. The more data we can give them, the more we will be heard.

## Points of contact for any of the above:

To register your response to the TW Reservoir consultation:

[wrse.uk.engagementhq.com](http://wrse.uk.engagementhq.com) (you only need to answer the questions you wish in this overlong document).

If you cannot cope with the questionnaire, email your response/feelings to:

[contact@wrse.org.uk](mailto:contact@wrse.org.uk) and please copy your email to your MP and local Councillors

To contact GARD with help/IT expertise/Video modelling:

[Gard.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:Gard.secretary@gmail.com)



GARD is a local community group formed to campaign against Thames Water's proposals to build a reservoir south-west of Abingdon.

## **Abingdon Reservoir – Latest from GARD Public Meetings**

Thank you to everyone who came along to our public meetings. It has been great to be able to update you on the latest plans and to get your ideas on more ways to fight this mega reservoir.

### **Meetings with MPs and Councillors**

Huge thanks to Councillor Sally Povolotsky for pulling together a zoom meeting with MPs David Johnston and Layla Moran and a multitude of councillors from the Vale of the White Horse District Council and Oxfordshire County Council. All voiced support for GARD and it was great to hear the leader of OCC, Cllr Liz Leffman, update us on the ways in which OCC plan to make sure local government and residents views are properly reflected in water plans for the region.

### **The current consultation**

The southeast water plan is being developed by Water Resources Southeast (WRSE – a group comprised only of water companies). Unsurprisingly, the plan favours their profits over customers and local residents. After years of saying the Thames Valley is the most water stressed region of the UK, WRSE now plan to sell water out of the region for profit - so the reservoir isn't just for London as we have always been told.

We asked the adjacent grouping, Water Resources East, why they weren't offering water transfer to the southeast. Their answer: WRSE had independently concluded they didn't need it. How can it be cheaper to spend £2-3 billion on a reservoir than simply connecting to WRE?

### **What can you do? We need everyone to respond to the consultation to tell WRSE that their plan is not fit for purpose and must be rethought:**

- Register at [wrse.uk.engagementhq.com](http://wrse.uk.engagementhq.com) and complete the consultation by 14 March
- Email [gard.chair@gmail.com](mailto:gard.chair@gmail.com) for a PDF to help you, or find facts at [www.gard-oxon.org.uk](http://www.gard-oxon.org.uk)
- For organisation, use "other" and then add "resident of ..."
- If you don't have a view on a question, "no comment" is fine
- A few questions start 'Do you agree..?' The answer is always no. Boxes for 'other comments' are a chance to say you oppose the reservoir as unproven and unsuitable
- Once completed, please email your MP and local councillors to tell them you oppose the reservoir. Contact details are on our website and please cc: [gard.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:gard.secretary@gmail.com)

### **If you prefer not to complete the consultation, email contact@wrse.org.uk direct:**

- You oppose the WRSE plan as not fit for purpose
- You believe the environmental, carbon and financial cost of the reservoir is unacceptable
- The plan is not adaptable or transparent
- Calculations of population increase, and sustainability reductions are not credible

Please cc: your email to your MP and Councillors and [gard.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:gard.secretary@gmail.com)

## LETTER FROM WESTMINSTER



**DAVID JOHNSTON MP** [david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk)  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR WANTAGE**

I took part in a productive meeting regarding the proposed Abingdon reservoir (which continues to be an odd name for it given where it is actually proposed to be located) with GARD and other local politicians. I know that not everyone who writes to me feels the same about the proposal, but it continues to be true that Thames Water have failed to adequately make the case for the reservoir, or to demonstrate they have properly considered alternatives or to show they have truly measured the environmental impact of it. I'll be using my platform in Parliament to try and ensure we can get better answers to the questions local residents have.

I'd much prefer to spend all of my time on infrastructure that people actually want, like Grove Station and improved health facilities. I'm having discussions in Parliament about how to fix the fact that our population has fast outgrown our infrastructure, particularly our GP surgeries. This is a constituency-wide issue although it's particularly frustrating to hear the long-overdue GP surgery on Great Western Park is still no further forward, despite assurances I'd been given by local health leaders at a meeting I chaired in September. It's very difficult to understand what is so difficult to deliver this, as both council leaders and health leaders say they're supportive and it was part of the original proposal for the development. It won't solve the problem we have by itself, but it is the minimum we need to ease a bit of the pressure in the Didcot area.

For what it's worth I think we should be very proud of the role the UK has been playing in trying to support Ukraine in this period. No-one wants to see a war and if one happens it will be due to unprovoked aggression from Russia, rather than anything Ukraine has done. In addition to warning Putin of the consequences should he attack, we've been providing training and capacity-building through Operation Orbital which has helped to train over 20,000 Ukrainian personnel as well as provide anti-armour weaponry and encouraging other countries to take a more robust response. Having attended a session with the Ukrainian Ambassador in Parliament, I know our efforts are appreciated.

It's not often one of our councils makes it into the national news and for Oxfordshire County Council, it's unfortunately not for the right reasons! I have nothing against anyone deciding to choose veganism if that's what they want to do, but eating vegan meals should be just that, a choice. It does not help the environment if we shun locally reared meat in favour of imported meat or imported avocados. We have many farmers in this constituency and across Oxfordshire who produce high-quality meat yet often struggle to make a living. I regularly visit farms and it is very hard work for small profits; they are frequently subject to theft and abuse/vandalism from animal rights activists. They deserve our support and I hope the Council will reconsider.

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



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## LOCAL GROUPS AND CLUBS

### Drayton W.I.

Our February meeting "BOLLYWOOD" was a wonderful mixture of movement and laughter, although I think it was more "CARRY ON" than Bollywood!

We all joined in the dancing, which is not the classic form of Indian dancing, this varies from region to region and is influenced by the film industry but now very much adopted as a form of exercise.

Our next meeting will be a more sober affair being our AGM but as resourceful ladies we incorporate a pudding tea break. Each member will hopefully bring a favourite pudding of her choice to share, it is surprising the range of choices that are forthcoming.

I would like to report that Ann Webb is now home from hospital and making good progress and hopefully will soon be able to resume duties as our reporter

The W.I. meets 7.30pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in the month at The Caudwell Day Centre. We welcome visitors.

**Brenda Malin**



### Drayton Table Tennis Club

The nights are getting lighter and spring is on its way. At the time of writing many of our players have a spring in their step. Two thirds through the season and our teams are clearly enjoying returning to playing after such a long break due to COVID. Overall, the season has run smoothly for our four league teams although the Artisans have had a number of rearrangements due to opposition teams having to postpone. In addition, both our Division Three teams have had on one occasion the opponents failing to turn up to a scheduled match. As a consequence, the league has awarded walkover wins. Although the players would much prefer to have played the matches.

Each of our four teams are doing well, and none of them are fighting relegation. Three are happily in mid table and the Dingos in Division Three are looking good for a second-place finish. Individual performances by some of the players has been top class with Matthew Davies in our Division One Artisans team currently on 88% having played 33 matches. A truly outstanding effort. Some other top performers are Tony Krason on 77% in the division two Buzzards team, Jonathan Cattell on 72% in the Division Three Corinthians team and also in Division Three in the Dingos team young Daniel Gifford on 74%.

Our regular coaching and practise Monday nights are very well attended with a good mix of young and older players, together with Novices some more experienced performers. This is well managed by our club coach Janet Quarry ably assisted by assistant coach Chris Blencowe. Chris is undertaking a Level One coaching course which will provide the club with a second fully qualified coach, something that bodes well for the future of the club.

**John Gould**

The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project  
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Throughout February, a small group of young people has been working closely with the staff on their Young Leader Training. Initially, this involves looking at what makes a good leader and identifying these traits within themselves. There is still lots to do but we are feeling very positive about it all and hopefully we will have some very confident and able young leaders in the community, in the not-too-distant future. To help facilitate this we have made the session slightly longer and it now runs from 6-730pm.

We have had a few new faces at our sessions recently and it's been great to see new friendships blossom over the past month. If you live in the village and would like to send your child along, please do – it is safe space to get to know other young people in the village. We have also been looking at developing communication skills and the food value in our favourite food and drinks! Some eye-opening experiences that's for sure!

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), [emily.adyp@gmail.com](mailto:emily.adyp@gmail.com)

Tel: 01235 848694 or 07875649008



Jake Damascus, Roxy Damascus, James Damascus, Emily Damascus  
YouTube - The Abingdon Damascus Youth Project – MIND GYM

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

### Drayton Wasps Football Club

Drayton FC have got off to a winning start in the New Year with the First team defeating Cholsey United 3-2 in their only game back, whilst the Reserves side have found themselves undefeated in their last 4 games. These were victories against Steventon, Stanford-In-The-Vale, Marcham (Cup fixture) and a draw against a very strong Compton side.

Both sides are in promising positions to reach a cup final, and we aim to reach them.

For updates on weekly fixtures and results, please like us on Facebook "Drayton Wasps Football Club," where we regularly post.

**Bradley Cox**



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## LETTERS



### CENSUS

The first Census in England was in 1801. The population of Drayton was recorded as 484. There has been a Census every 10 years since then apart from 1941 during World War two. The 1881 Census recorded a lower population of 287, living in 65 houses. By 1911 the population had increased to 513 and despite the loss of life from the first World War and the influenza pandemic it increased to 592 by 1921, 307 males and 285 females, living in 145 dwellings.

The 1921 Census has been in the news recently following the release of the original Census documents completed by each household. Unfortunately, access is not free, but you can find it at <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/1921-census>. You can search for a relative by name and birth year.

The 1961 Census recorded 1,916 persons in 574 households and the 2011 Census 2,353 in 958 households.

The 2021 Census was held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021. Information from that Census will start to become available in May of this year with the publication of statistics for local authorities. Parish data will appear later.

The Census can tell us a lot about the social aspects of our village and, subject to the editor, I will reveal this information in subsequent articles.

**Martin Blogg, High St.**

### Walnuts for all nuts

This is just an update on the completion of the installation on the village green. Our lovely sculptor, Andrew, will be back in sunny Drayton (he comes from Middlesbrough so loves escaping to our balmy climes) to complete the installation in March. Yes, even three days working outside in March down here is a welcome relief! It's his escape to the sun.

If you remember, the Council ran out of money, before we could protect the parts of the village green that were still exposed to careless parking and damage from dustcarts and lorries driving through it.

Now, through the generosity of various residents, we have been able to raise the money for a further eleven walnuts, which is amazing. The installation has proved to be extremely popular, and there is even a resident in Steventon who has ordered her own personal walnut to be installed in her garden.

By the time you read this, a specially commissioned sign will have gone up on the green near the bus stop, briefly explaining the art installation to non-residents who have been interested in knowing more about this feature.

That's it in a nutshell, so I must crack on,

**Pervin Shahin**



### Drayton Chronicle

**HELP** please – we are looking for someone in the village who can help us to organise the distribution of the Chronicle.

This is an important but not very time-consuming post. (8 – 10 hours a month?) This is not actually distributing the Chronicle itself. We have distributors and agents who do that task. This is about collecting and distributing bags that hold the Chronicles, telling the distributor how many copies each of the agents needs and printing out this information to give to the distributor.

There is obviously more to it than that, but please, if you feel inclined to help us, contact either

Stephen [advertising@DraytonChronicle.net](mailto:advertising@DraytonChronicle.net) 531347  
or Colin [cullimore3@sky.com](mailto:cullimore3@sky.com) 531923

### Sad Loss

I would like to add my condolences to Gwyn Jones following the death of his wife Margaret.

Margaret was a very gifted and flamboyant woman of immense talent. Her brilliant artwork in Abingdon is there for all to see. I was personally lucky enough to talk her into providing the drawings and calligraphy for my small insignificant book on herbs, her wonderful pen and ink work significantly raised the level of that publication from the mundane.

I was also privileged to see her perform in many Historical Plays alongside her husband as they took their band of strolling players out and about. She commanded the stage with her amazing voice and interpretation.

A very sad loss.

**Bunty (Jeanette) Knight**

### Neighbourhood News

A very warm welcome to Mr & Mrs Paul & Mandy Longford who have moved into Church Lane from Kennington. They have already enjoyed friendly chats with many local residents during the course of their busy house build.  
Best Wishes, **Susan Brooks**

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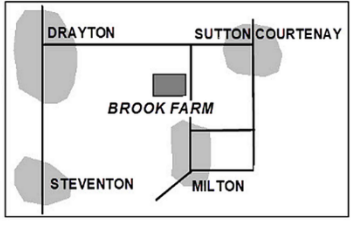
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## LETTERS continued

### ***Beware the Menace about to Overshadow our Lives***

There has been much publicity about the impending threat to our area by the proposal from Thames Water to build a reservoir on the site between Drayton, Steventon and East Hanney.

This article isn't a detailed description of the facts, but a synopsis of the effects to local communities of such a construction in our midst.

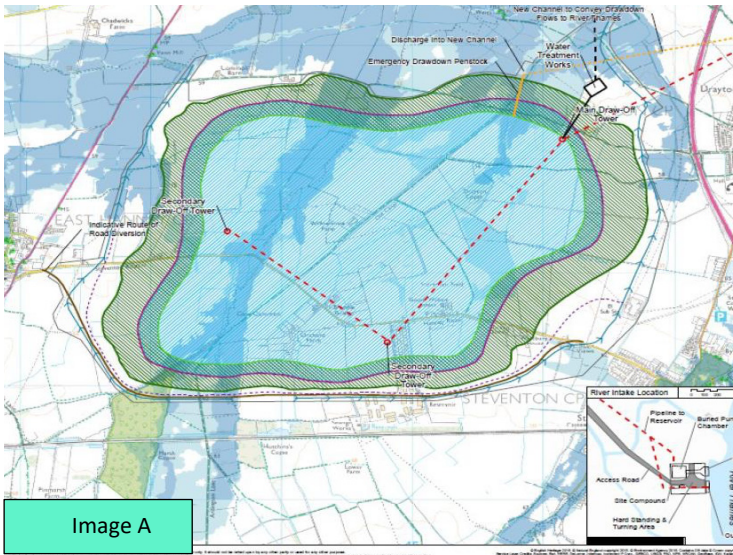


Image A

Many of us thought that the threat had gone away, owing to local protest making Thames Water's proposal untenable.

However, they have started up again, and this time are determined to go ahead with the proposal. **WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING**, and time is running out.

Thames Water is circulating an aerial view of the reservoir. (Image A). This is what they want you to see. What they haven't shown is an ELEVATION of the actual size and height of the reservoir in proportion to the houses nearby (Image B). What we have illustrated are the proposed new houses in the development in East Hanney, with the reservoir as a backdrop in *real size*.



Image B

I hope this shocks you, as it did me, when I went to a meeting held by GARD on Friday evening in the village hall. There should

have been a better turnout of local residents, but obviously most people are not aware of the impending threat. **Well, here are some figures for you to ponder:**

1. The area of the reservoir will cover the same area as the whole of Abingdon.
2. The height above the plain will be 30 metres, in order to prevent waves from spilling over the edge. The view from houses at the top of Milton Heights will be blocked.
3. A huge shadow will be cast, which will affect the times of sunrise and sunset in the neighbouring areas. In fact, houses here won't be able to see sunrise or sunset until after and before the rest of the country.
4. House prices will be affected in a negative way.
5. There will be three towers in the reservoir (2 secondary draw-off towers for pumping water and one to measure algae blooms). These will be at least 40 – 50 metres above the plain, and will be comparable to half the height of the Didcot Power Station chimneys. Aircraft warning lights will have to be fixed. These structures will be the highest buildings in the Vale landscape.
6. The total weight of water will be 150 million tons. I don't even need to point out that under that amount of pressure, a small breach in the wall would lead to a catastrophic collapse with the entire area flooded by a huge deluge of water.
7. 5 million tons of rubble will be required for the build, although it will be brought in by train, huge vehicles will be necessary to move it around the site. Moreover, tens of millions of tons of earth will have to be moved to scrape out the bottom of the reservoir, and move the earth to the embankments. Other material will have to be moved by lorry up the A34. The noise and pollution of construction vehicles, traffic congestion and disruption will be a permanent feature of our lives.
8. The damage to the environment will be immense, with emissions, dust, noise, destruction of habitat and danger to wildlife. The water will be too deep for nesting birds to use for their breeding grounds, and the likely build-up of toxic algae would poison anything living in the water. A water treatment works opposite North Drayton will have to be built to treat water before it is put back into the Thames.
9. Thames Water says that construction will take 10 years. **All huge projects have long overruns – if we only see 3-5 years of delays, that would be very optimistic. We'd hope for it not to take double the length of time.**
10. It will take two years to fill the reservoir with water, so the estimated time for completion would be 2040-2045 – **or later.**
11. There will **likely** be NO recreational activities allowed, due to security and the real danger of sabotage. It is doubtful whether even walkers would be allowed to walk round it for this reason.
12. This reservoir isn't necessary, because if Thames Water even halved their leakage by 2040, they would save more than the amount provided by the reservoir
13. A much cheaper way of drawing water to areas that need it would be from the River Severn. Why not link our region to the "wet" areas to the west of us, who have surplus water, and who could fulfil both our needs, as well as London's, at a fraction of the cost? This would be far cheaper and be achieved far quicker. **AND IT IS ALREADY PLANNED – DO THIS FIRST AND WE ALMOST CERTAINLY WON'T EVER NEED THIS RESERVOIR!**
14. WHO WILL BE PAYING FOR THIS? We will be. Our water bills will go up to pay for the £2 billion construction bill. ➡

## LETTERS continued

15. WHY????????????? Because Thames Water are in debt to the tune of £13 billion with interest at the current low rates of £400 million a year. The most scandalous FACT of all is that THEY WANT TO CREATE AN ASSET TO SELL ON. I have had to gloss over a lot of the facts due to lack of space and kindness to this month's editor, but I hope that there is enough here to incense you as much as it has incensed me. The full info is on GARD's website at [www.gard-oxon.org.uk](http://www.gard-oxon.org.uk)

GARD isn't just an organization of NIMBY's. GARD is supported by eminent scientists and engineers, who have come together with our MPs and Councillors from across the political parties to talk sense and reason in a bewilderingly obtuse scenario.

### WHAT CAN WE DO TO STOP THIS?

We have to act **before 14<sup>th</sup> March** by going to [www.gard.oxon.org.uk](http://www.gard.oxon.org.uk) where all will be explained. We need to voice our opposition by saying that the whole enterprise is unacceptable. You can also register at [wrse.uk.engagementhq.com](http://wrse.uk.engagementhq.com) and complete the consultation, OR email direct to [contact@wrse.org.uk](mailto:contact@wrse.org.uk) saying you oppose the plan as not fit for purpose, that you believe the environmental, carbon and financial cost is unacceptable, the plan is not adaptive or transparent and that calculations such as population increase, and sustainability reductions are not credible, being far too high. Please cc the email to your MP and Councillors so that they can register your disapproval and act on our behalf. Good luck and thank you for reading this and for helping to stop the madness.

P. Larsson, Drayton Resident



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### FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS

Are you feeling lonely, isolated or in need of some friendly company? If so, join us for our monthly tea and chat afternoons in the church. The meetings take place on the first Tuesday of the month 2:30 to 4:00pm and you can be sure of a warm welcome. The next two meetings will be 1st March and 5th April. If you would like a chat with a friendly, sympathetic voice, or to join us, please call Beryl on 531379 or Ros on 535589

## OXFORD WOOD RECYCLING



Did you know that the Social Enterprise 'Oxford Wood Recycling', based in Sussex Way just off the Drayton Rd, is an award-winning charity?

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- to protect the natural environment by recycling and re-using waste wood and by promoting the use of sustainably-produced timber – meaning well-managed local woodlands.

Currently, OWR collects over 1500 tonnes of waste per annum and returns 300 tonnes back into use for DIY. The remainder is passed on for recycling as panel board or for energy recovery by UK-based Biomass power stations. The Company employs around 20 people and works with volunteers, work placements and trainees, many with disabilities, to support their personal and career development. They collect all types of wood waste (but not trees or garden waste) from homes or gardens, return it to their workshop and ensure it is 100% recycled and reused. They will collect wood within a 25-mile radius of Abingdon, at a cost of £20 call out plus £20 per m<sup>3</sup>, with a minimum charge of £60.

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# Lovely Jubbly Jubilee

**Date: Saturday 4th June / Sunday 5th June –  
volunteers required to organise**

As everyone will be aware, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee (70 years!) will be celebrated throughout the country this summer, and **Drayton Parish Council** would like to mark the occasion with a village event for residents of all ages, that hopefully everyone will remember for years to come.

If you can imagine the whole village coming together, like a fete, with a grand opening in the morning, followed by organised races (three-legged, egg and spoon, sack, mothers, fathers - you know the sort of thing) an ice cream van, bouncy castle, Morris dancers, stands like coconut shies etc. We could have village competitions, such as "Drayton Bake Off", best home-grown flowers/vegetables, fairy/miniature gardens made by the children, best dog in show, and fancy dress for adults and children..... the possibilities are endless.

Ideally we would source a marquee, and potentially would hold a barn dance for the evening with local bands, and decorate the marquee with bunting, bales of straw for atmospheric effect, and a caller for the steps.

I'm thinking of the village events in Midsommer Murders, complete with the vicar, an old eccentric lady (plenty of those around including me) and a local nutcase or two (plenty of them too) but hopefully without someone being bumped off half-way through.

All the details, logistics and venue would need to be confirmed (we have three possibilities: Millennium Green, Manor Farm, or the green by the Village Hall). The event could be held on Sunday 5th June (with picnic lunch), or Saturday 4th so that individual groups could still have their own street parties for the "Big Lunch" on the Sunday.

Now the thing is, it's all very well to dream up such a wonderful day of bubbly jubbly fun, but the Parish Council needs support in organising it so that it will go off like a rocket, and not a damp squib. The Parish Council is happy to co-ordinate the event, but we need support to come up with ideas and organise the day. We would love to get the School, Damascus, WI, the village pubs, and other village groups involved. We would need to move quickly to get this organised in time, so would look to set up a first meeting in early March. The best way to volunteer would be to contact me, Pervin Shahin, via my Parish Council email address:

[pervin.shahin@draytonpc.org](mailto:pervin.shahin@draytonpc.org)

I'm hoping my inbox will be deluged!! If anyone else was thinking of arranging something for the benefit of the whole village, do get in touch with me so that we can amalgamate our resources. The bigger the better!

We hope to hear from you!

**Pervin Shahin (Parish Councillor)**

*An update will follow in the next Chronicle so we can all follow what's going on.*



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This month's quiz has a canine theme ☺ and the prize will be a voucher to spend at Pets Corner!

To enter, simply solve the anagrams below to find seventeen breeds of dog. Sixteen of these will appear in the wordsearch. All we need is the name of the breed which does not appear in the wordsearch.

Write down the name of the missing word (anagram and solution), with your name, address and phone number, and place in an envelope marked 'March Coffee-Break Quiz' in the Chronicle box outside Vickery's Hardware Shop. The first correct entry drawn on March 15<sup>th</sup> will win the prize of the gift voucher from Pet's Corner.

MAN IN OPERA	NOT I ALAS
SHUKY	NIP SEAL
DADS HUNCH	RETRIER
HAHA CUUHI	BOLD LUG
LORD RAAB	GIROC
CHIEF ROBINS	TRENDS BAR
BRAN DEMO N	PINK GEESE
RIVER TREE	OIL MAD ANT
LOOPED	

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



First, welcome back home to Ann Webb, the Hall's long-serving Chairlady, who's had quite a spell enjoying the JR's hospitality following a fall. As this issue went to press though, I had a further report that she'd tested positive for Covid, along with a family member, so best of luck with that!

We have very few slots for **kiddies parties** for a couple of months, they've been booked up following Covid restrictions, some rebooking after some of the many cancellations we had. Plus we're coming up to the usual Spring season for dog shows.

I gather that the latest **Antiques Fair** went very well, an excellent attendance, the next one is **Sunday March 6th**.

Now, this bit is for our **regular hirers**, the c'tee is getting fed-up with finding the hall's heating controls have been mistreated. We'll be talking to the groups concerned, but we can't be sure the message gets through to all attendees. The main control is a simple thermostat, like many at home. A button to raise the temperature, and one to reduce it. And we make a simple request to return the target temp, if your group changes it in a session, back to what it was before, usually 17 °C or maybe 17.5°C. How difficult can that be?! One option we shall be discussing, if problems continue, is to take all heating control away from users completely (so, be prepared to come with an extra pullover and a coat?!).

And now, an unpleasant topic, one that shouldn't be necessary to mention, but thanks to some **anti-social behaviour**, here it is. Our cleaner recently had the unpleasant task of dealing with an incontinence pad that had been left on the window ledge of one of the toilet cubicles (gents), and apparently it has happened before.

The hall is a **shared community facility**, so anyone committing such a thoughtless and disgusting act deserves all the criticism that follows. There is a nappy bin in the disabled loo, a suitable receptacle, so USE THAT! We'll also investigate getting suitable containers for sanitary products in the gents, as well as the ladies, but we're quite baffled as to why anyone with such a problem should behave that way?

Sure, it's an unfortunate problem to have, and judging by the ads on daytime TV, one that quite a few people share. That's still NO EXCUSE whatsoever for not dealing with the problem without leaving a disgusting mess for someone else to clean up? Again, we'll be talking to the likely groups concerned, but frankly it's really depressing that we should have to at all!

**Tony Holmes**

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### 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

#### 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 2)
- 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)
- 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 (3)**
- 6.00 pm Evening Service (see page 2) Baptist Church

# DRAYTON HISTORY: BEFORE THE MILLENNIUM GREEN



Thank you very much to **Janet Strong** for the photos showing the Millennium Green before it was the Millennium Green.

