

Drayton Chronicle



April 2022 AD

Editor: Maurice (Mo) Puddick

Volume: 45 Issue: 3

CHRONICLE INFORMATION

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

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

NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

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

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

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

email to editor@draytonchronicle.net

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

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

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

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

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

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

Editor

Key dates for next Chronicles			
Issue	Deadlines for contributions		Printed Chronicles available on:
	Adverts	Editor	
May	15 th April	18 th April	30 th April
June	13 th May	16 th May	28 th May

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

---- Number of Inserts ----

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

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

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

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

FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS

Are you feeling lonely, isolated or in need of some friendly company? 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 5th April and 3rd May. If you would like a chat with a friendly, sympathetic voice, or to join us, please call **Beryl** on **513379** or **Ros** on **535589**.

BAPTIST CHURCH

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



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

Baptist Coffee Shop: Please join us on Thursday mornings 11am-1pm at the **Caudwell Centre**, Gravel Lane for Tea or Coffee and a chat.

LOCAL METHODIST WORSHIP



High Street, Milton

Sunday Service: 10:30 am

Contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle. Tel: 531409



Easter's importance and long history of celebration, has given rise to numerous customs and traditions over the years, both religious and secular, some remembered and kept, some forgotten and lost. Hot cross buns and Easter eggs come quickly to mind.

Eggs look as dead as a smooth oval stone, but we know better. We know that if an egg is fertilized and kept warm by the parent, that hard shell will start to crack, and into the world will climb a wee animal full of life. The symbolism of an egg can be found in different cultures and faiths. It is often used to show new life, birth or regeneration. The emergence of a chick from an egg can be symbolic of Christ rising from the tomb. So the egg reminds us that what looked dead and hopeless on Good Friday was actually full of life, new life, because on the third day Jesus broke out of death to be alive forever. This is the good news message, this is the Christian message of hope and of freedom. As I write this to you, the fearful pandemic of Covid still grips the world. Now a new unrest, of conflict in Ukraine, although not global, is also testing our freedoms.

Hot Cross Buns seem to be available all year round now because of their delicious taste. When I was a child a local baker would hand out buns to all the children in my little village, but you had to queue up outside the local pub and wait your turn. Hot Cross buns are but one of many different food related traditions to Easter, but they all have something in common. That is to remind us of God's love for us. It is in Jesus' life and his experience on the cross, that we can taste and see that God is good.

Decorated and chocolate eggs are what we all enjoy on Easter Day. They are always bright and cheerful, colourful, fun and delicious and that's because Easter Day is party time for Christians as we celebrate the fantastic news that Jesus is risen.

However you celebrate Easter 2022, I hope that you will find some joy, hope, and peace.

Reverend Rosie Bruce

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

www.damascusparish.org.uk

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

The church remains open daily, Sunday - Saturday 10-3.

REGULAR SERVICES.

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

PARISH REGISTER

Baptism - Sunday 27th February Thomas George Taylor

Services over Easter at St Peter's

Sunday 10th April - Palm Sunday

8:00 Holy Communion (BCP)

9:45 Holy Communion with hymns, bible readings remembering Jesus' final days in Jerusalem.

Thursday 14th April - Maundy Thursday

9:45 - Holy Communion, remembering Jesus' last meal with his friends.

Friday 15th April - Good Friday

10:30 Walk of witness, starting at the Baptist Church and ending at St Peter's 14:00 - 15:00 Hour at the Cross - quiet reflection and meditation

Sunday 17th April - Easter Day

8:00 - Holy Communion (BCP)

9:45 - Holy Communion for Easter Day

You are warmly welcome to join us at any of these services!

Happy Easter from all at St Peter's

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 suedray-tonpebbles@outlook.com for more information or visit our Drayton Pebbles Facebook Page.

YOU STAY WE PRAY, APRIL 2022

27th March - 2nd April Church Lane; Henleys Lane; Caudwell Close; Gravel Lane

3rd - 9th April Abingdon Road; Oday Hill;

10th -16th April Binning Close; Hay-wards Road;

17th - 23rd April Sutton Wick Lane; Greenacres; Newman-Lane; Conifer Drive

24th - 30th April Hilliat Fields; Lyford Close.



Drayton Wives

The meeting this month was Tidying up the Marie Kondo method.

This was very appropriate as we are now approaching Spring when we welcome new beginnings! The speaker was Linda Gelens a Home Organizer whose family had all left home and she was looking for new challenges which included decluttering her house!

Marie Kondo is the leading name in Japanese decluttering and has written many books on the subject including the Life Changing magic of tidying up

Linda started forming a capsule wardrobe of 15-20 pieces that all worked together and getting rid of everything she hasn't worn in the past year. This does apply to men and women as men are also hoarders of favourite clothes that don't fit anymore.!

There are five steps to this which you only have to do once.

- 1) Commit to tidying
- 2) Imagine your ideal lifestyle. Feel it, Think it, Smell it.
- 3) Finish discarding first decide what you want to keep but not everything
- 4) Tidy by category not location, clothes books, papers miscellaneous, sentimental items

Above all does what you want to keep Spark Joy and make you feel happy. Look at everything and Joy check them.

This can be applied to every room in the house including the kitchen, garage, junk rooms bathroom etc.

Start Joy checking now by forming a plan, action, now, inspire yourself, choice. This actually forms the word PANIC but if you follow this method you won't!!

So every house in Drayton can be Joy checked this Spring which is a great idea as I can then buy more clothes to fill up the wardrobes again. Hooray!!!

Lisa Lammiman

Letters from Liberation: Commemorating the Liberation of Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp

Dr Myfanwy Lloyd will present this online talk and Q&A to be streamed first live from 7pm, Thursday 14th April 2022 - the evening prior to the anniversary of the liberation of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, which occurred 77 ago on 15 April 1945.

On display at the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum in a permanent Bergen-Belsen exhibition is a piece of paper with addresses from across the globe written on it. This sheet of paper represents the compassion of one man of the Yeomanry, Arthur Tyler.

Dr Lloyd will tell the story of how Arthur Tyler met Polish Holocaust survivor Naomi Kaplan during the liberation of the camp, and how that meeting changed both their lives.



Arthur Tyler was a Lance-Bombardier with the 63rd Anti-Tank Regiment (Oxfordshire Yeomanry), when his unit took over Bergen-Belsen concentration camp on 15th April 1945. None of the soldiers could have expected the horrors they witnessed in the camp. Filled with anger and revulsion at the actions of the Nazis, the Oxfordshire Yeomanry men helped survivors as best they could.

Arthur collected from the liberated the addresses of relatives and offered to write to them, a gesture of kindness that would have a huge impact.

In 1946 Naomi Kaplan wrote in a letter to him that,

"I met very many British soldiers and I asked everybody to write about me to my family, but nobody did it – only you."

Pieced together during the Covid-19 pandemic, the story of Naomi and Arthur highlights how kindness and integrity can have profound and lasting impacts.

This historical research also raises issues for our own times. What can this story tell us about the ongoing battle against Holocaust denial? How can we use historical research to fight lies and distortions in the era of 'fake news'?

Dr Myfanwy Lloyd is an historian and freelance museum consultant. Her current research includes into Naomi and Arthur's story is supported by the Holocaust Museum Houston and the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum. Other recent projects include co-curating 'Owning the Past: From Mesopotamia to Iraq' at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, and the 'Nice Cup of Tea' exhibition at the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford. She has been a tutor for Continuing Education at Oxford University for 20 years, specialising in war and memory, women's history and postmodernism.

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On Sunday 6th of March an open air service was held in Sutton Wick, Drayton in remembrance of the **Sutton Wick air crash** which occurred on **5 March 1957** when a Blackburn Beverley C Mk 1 heavy transport aircraft, serial number XH117, of 53 Squadron Royal Air Force crashed at Sutton Wick, Drayton, Berkshire.



Of the 17 passengers and five crew aboard, all but four died in the accident. Two people on the ground also died.

Two civilians on the ground, three crew, 15 passengers and a number of RAF Police dogs died in the initial impact and ensuing fire. Two crew, two passengers and one RAF Police dog survived.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sutton_Wick_air_crash



A group of 1950s Commonwealth War Graves Commission RAF graves in Abingdon New Cemetery, including seven victims of the Sutton Wick crash



The crash site of XH117 shortly after the accident.

Brownies

Drayton Brownies

We have had a very busy term at Brownies, full of crafts, games, and a little bit of learning!

It's been a joy to see the girls gaining in confidence after so long away from meetings and they have really thrown themselves into all the activities.

We have completed the Live Smart badge, learning about DIY skills, kitchen safety, money, and road safety

Spirit Owl particularly enjoyed the self-care evening that Olivia planned and ran as part of her Gold Award. Many of the girls have been working on badges at home and have shown great understanding and compassion for people in need, both at home and in Ukraine, raising money and awareness for different causes. I am incredibly proud of them all and should have some photos to share by the next Chronicle!

Brownies is open to girls aged between 7-10 years. We are currently full and have a waiting list, if you would like to add your daughter, please visit Girlguiding.org.uk to register.

If you have an older child (age 14+) doing D of E who needs a place for the volunteer section, we can offer one place per term. Please email Laura at drayton1st-brownies@live.co.uk if you would like more information.

Laura Hughes



We're Searching for Volunteers

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 531347
or Colin cullimore3@sky.com 531923

The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project

Registered Charity 1098966



Youth & Community Acting Together

Our Monday evening sessions in the village hall have become the place to be for young people on a Monday night. The group is growing fast and coming together as one.

Firstly, a big thank you to Tony at the Village Hall for allowing us to run our Half Term session inside on such short notice due to the weather. We spent the time working on some target practise to improve our football shooting skills before heading inside to warm back up and have a 'Old School' Mario Kart Competition. This initiated a great conversation around just how far gaming has come since the Super Nintendo and 8bit gaming days! One young person said "I thought it was just because the TV was old it looked like this not because that's how games were back in the olden days."

The small group of older young people that are completing their Young Leaders' Training have been busy planning their own warm up activities to deliver to the rest of the group. They have been thinking about safety, styles of communication, equipment needed and most importantly how to make everything fun!

In recent weeks, we have been making some new art for our noticeboard and looking at our digital footprints and what we can do to be safer when using apps on our phones. This has included looking at who can see our pages, what we have shared and how identifiable we are online.

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

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

Tel: 01235 848694 or 07875649008

Website - www.damascusyouthproject.org.uk



THE WHEATSHEAF Seniors Menu

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Soup of the day (ask your server)

Mains

Fish & Chips served with garden peas or mushy peas with tartar sauce & lemon.
Gammon Steak served with chips, garden peas, grilled tomato & onion rings. Topped with pineapple & fried egg.
Steak & Ale Pie served with mash, garden peas & gravy
Pork loin with creamy mushroom sauce served with chips & garden peas.

Desserts

Sticky toffee pudding served with custard or Ice cream.
Hot Chocolate Brownie served with ice cream.



April Post

As I write the Thames Water/Water Resources South East consultation on (amongst other things) the proposed 4 square mile, 30m high reservoir is about to close. Thanks largely to the efforts of GARD (Group against Reservoir Development) there have been hundreds of responses from individuals, organised meetings

and presentations in all the villages immediately affected + questions and a debate in the House of Commons. It is rare to find such unanimity of feeling from well informed residents, Councils and MPs against a major infrastructure proposal. This will be the third attempt by Thames Water to get this proposal through. Each time it has cost the public purse millions. At least this time around the arguments against are better funded and well organised. The "gated" process for decision making may go on for many months more, but hopefully the final decision will finally remove the threat of Europe's largest above ground reservoir supplying water to London and Southern Water being built in Oxfordshire.

The proposed new road (HIF Rd) between Didcot, the Thames and the Golden Balls roundabout, is the other major hot topic for local Councils of all levels. Decision time is almost upon us and there is still some disagreement about the best way ahead. Originally conceived more than 10 years ago as a means of alleviating the traffic congestion – present and future - generated by so much housing development around Didcot and the surrounding area, there have been many changes and events which have made many doubt the original assumptions. Changes in population forecasts, the arrival of new Local Plans, changes in Council administrations, increasing awareness of the Climate Emergency, Covid and (yes) Brexit have created a very different world. Are roads and new road- building the best solution in a world fighting climate change? Urgent discussion of alternatives – better bus services, more focus on Active travel, possible Light Rail lines - are all being considered. Everyone wants to find a 21st century solution that fixes the problem for the foreseeable future and one that is flexible enough to cope with rapidly changing demands.

On the plus side, and just at the moment there is a distinct lack of plus sides, our local science and technology and its development continues to be the envy of most of the country. Advances at Harwell and Culham and MEPC continue to make world news while Milton Park is leading the way on local traffic initiatives.

With a Ukrainian son in law, I am painfully aware of how events in Ukraine are on everyone's mind. It is extraordinary how it has brought the West together and how local people are accepting that the world economy will take a hit, but that is nothing to what Ukraine residents and its President are coping with. While we wait for Government to get a workable system together, people wishing to offer help and accommodation are encouraged to contact VWHDC who have a growing list of those interested.

And, together with all the above, Councils and Councillors are working hard to address all their regular issues – parking, roads and highways, environmental health, housing and never forget dog poo.

Richard Webber Cllr

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Drayton Table Tennis Club

The first post - lockdown season of table tennis is almost complete for our teams. The official date for the end of the action being 17th April. Our 4 teams have all fared

well and it looks certain the Dingos in Div 3 will finish in the top two and secure promotion. They look like just pipping the Corinthians who are third at the time of writing. In Div 1 the Artisans will be in the top half which constitutes a successful return to playing! Buzzards in Div 2 are mid table and again this is a satisfactory result.

Sadly, our Bidmead Cup team failed to get beyond the Quarter Final stage, losing by only 3 points to Sandford Club. With a possible total of 444 points to aim for and starting 173 points behind the team of Matt Davies, Tony Krason and Daniel Gifford did extremely well losing 385-388!

The Didcot League has a plan to run the Handicap Shield competition once the league season concludes. This has been purposely put back from the usual mid-season event, to avoid the possibility of Covid interrupting the season. Our teams will have to decide if they wish to enter and I'll report as to how things go as and when the competition takes place.

John Gould

theWI INSPIRING WOMEN

This month was our annual meeting, the end of a very peculiar year, but hopefully the start of a brand new year. Our officers have stayed the same and after being thanked for their efforts to keep us

all informed in the few meetings we had.

Special thanks to Gillian for setting up the zoom meetings for the ones who could master their machines, I will bring it in from the garden where it landed when I've forgiven it for the hassle it caused me. All business complete we were treated to a selection of puddings, the lemon roulade was amazing.

April's (meeting) falls on Maundy Thursday, we will meet as usual because most services are now held in the daytime. We have invited back the speakers we had on about the only free day during periods of lockdown nearly 2 years ago. They took us back to the war years and the period just after when food was still restricted or unavailable.

I understand we are to be treated to some samples of rationed recipes which we will be tasting!!! If you wish to come along and join in the tasting with us we meet in the Caudwell Day Centre on Thursday 14th April at 7.30 pm, see you there.

Ann Webb

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The bi-annual Dorchester Festival takes place this Spring, 29th April – 8th May. The Festival is an amazing collection of over 50 events packed into just 10 days at Dorchester Abbey, raising money for Dorchester Abbey and for Daybreak, an inspirational local charity.

Emerging from a tough couple of years, Dorchester Festival is an opportunity to get together with friends and family to enjoy an eclectic mix of great entertainment. This year's mix ranges from The King's Singers to folk band Merry Hell, from our Bash party in the huge marquee to The Comedy Night, from the Duck Race to Lego Master builders, inflatable walk through brains and so much more!

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CENSUS

	Occupancy
1881	4.4
...	
1921	4.1
...	
1961	3.3
1971	3.1
1981	2.7
1991	2.6
2001	2.5
2011	2.5

Occupancy rate (persons per household). Occupancy has consistently fallen in every census from 4.4 in 1881 to 2.5 in 2011. The 2011 figure is slightly less than the national average of 3.36. The steady fall is largely down to decreasing birth rates but also due to increased longevity and the consequence of two and single occupancy households.

The forthcoming 2021 census results may tell us if these trends are continuing. The new estates built in the past few years may also have an impact.



Hi, I was walking in the millennium Green this week and found daffodils had been pulled up and thrown on the ground to die. It couldn't of been a child as it needed a strong hand to rip them off from the base.

I came back next day to take a photo and pick up the poor daffodils, I brought them home, they are now in a vase to live to see another day.



What kind of person does this ?

Submitter's name withheld.

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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

What an extraordinary month for people power. As GARD has delivered our public meetings, awareness across the Vale has grown enormously.

Your support has resulted in:

- David Johnston MP raising the issue in Prime Minister's Questions
- Layla Moran MP securing a parliamentary debate in Westminster Hall
- All political parties support us against the reservoir
- County and District Councils unanimously against the reservoir
- Newspaper articles in several local and county wide publications as well as BBC South East
- Volunteers and several residents' groups linked to GARD emerging across villages
- A huge response to the WRSE consultation from concerned residents

Thank you to everyone who responded to the consultation - there is no way that the water companies or regulators can ignore such a response.

But it's a long game, with several more steps to go through before we get this monstrous mega-reservoir binned. We look forward to meeting you at future events, chatting to you while delivering leaflets and, most importantly, hearing from you about how YOU can help GARD make a difference.

- Join GARD (just £10 lifetime membership, helping fund leaflets and meeting hall fees): gard.membership@gmail.com.
- To offer help: gard.secretary@gmail.com

Watch out for our BANNERS - coming to a road near you soon!

Keep an eye on www.gard-oxon.org.uk and Facebook @abingdonreservoir for the latest information.

The GARD AGM: Friday 29th April, 7:30pm Steventon Village Hall.

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Flexicare South Oxfordshire

Join us on **Sunday
8th May 2022** for the
return of the Flexicare
Community Walk.



Run, walk, wheel or cycle your way along routes of different lengths and ease on and around the Ridgeway, starting from **Snells Hall, East Hendred**. Refreshments available. Raising money for Flexicare, an Oxfordshire based charity providing a specialised sitting service for families with severely disabled children in the South Oxfordshire area which includes Drayton and Abingdon.

For further information or to register, visit our website www.flexicare.org



Jayne (Drayton), Katherine (Wantage) and Lynn (Abingdon) medically trained co-ordinators/sitters

<https://www.flexicare.org/events/flexicare-walk-8th-may-2022/>

Friends of Drayton School Association (FODSA)

Members of FODSA have been and continue to be very busy planning events to raise money for our village school.



Our school children had great fun doing a sponsored Santa fun

run....in January! Our original plan to host the fun run in December had to be postponed due to Covid. However, that didn't stop the children from having an enormous amount of fun dressing as Santa and running laps of the school field. They also raised a fantastic amount of sponsorship money too!

Back by popular demand...the Drayton Village Scarecrow Trial 2022. FODSA are hosting the trial from Friday 15th April – Sunday 24th April.

Lots of people told us how much they enjoyed last year's scarecrow trial, so we are doing it again, but this year the theme is music and musicals!

We have invited village residents to get involved and decorate a scarecrow to reflect a music/ musical theme. We are looking forward to spotting the scarecrows right across the village. Trail sheets, containing a map of where you can spot the scarecrows, can be purchased from the Mace store. We wonder how many scarecrows you can match to the correct music or musical?

We are also busy planning a Village Fete on Saturday 21st May at Drayton Village Hall, 12 – 7 p.m.

Please come along and support us and have some fun! From 12 – 5 p.m. there will be magic shows, an animal roadshow, Morris dancers, bouncy castles, a BBQ, tea, coffee and cakes, games, a raffle, stalls, and much more. From 5 – 7 p.m. local bands will play and we will have a hog roast. All are welcome, so please come along and join us! All money raised from FODSA events go towards our village school.

Emma Wilton

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Public Meeting

**RE: Walnut Meadow Sports Facility
Drayton Village Hall , Friday 1st April at 7:30 pm.**

A very Warm Welcome to **Sue & Garry Cato** who have moved into **Church Lane** from **Bicester**. They are looking forward to joining in with village life.

Susan Brooks Agent 10

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To the Editor:

Tommys For Drayton Group



I am proud to announce, that thanks to the generosity and hard work of a few women of the village, we have now purchased two Tommys. The Tommys will be displayed on the village green for a few weeks each year during the period of remembrance.

The Tommy's will provide a focal point in the village for those who would wish to place a cross or a poppy at the location. The display

comprises a male and female silhouette. to acknowledge both roles in all conflicts.

At the base of the two images a handcrafted, donated trough which will be situated, into which a piece of grass will be placed. This will enable crosses and poppies to be left as personal memorials.

There has been some mention of concern about these items being vandalised or even stolen. To address these concerns the group of fundraisers will place and remove the Tommy's every day.

I would like to thank those ladies of the village once again for their time and generosity in making this happen and the gentleman who made the lovely trough.

I hope the village appreciates and enjoys the fact that finally we are physically recognising those who have served and lost lives in ensuring our freedoms that we all enjoy today.

Susan Baird

Editorial Comment: The village has physically commemorated the dead of both world wars and Korea in the erection (1919) and name plates incorporated (1999) in the Lych Gate at St. Peter's Church. See Article on **Page 14—December 2021 Vol: 44 Issue: 11** for detailed background.

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Reservoir

The response to the WRSE public consultation has been staggering. Thank you!

A very high number of resident responses went in to WRSE before the deadline – far beyond any level that I can believe they expected. And they were universally negative and many asking the question: “Why don’t you do the Severn-

Thames Transfer link?”

Your responses could make the difference. My own has been sent – it’s seven pages long, so I won’t repeat it here (The councillors, MPs, and GARD have been directly emailing WRSE over this). I will repeat the four recommendations with which I finished:

Recommendations

1 – *The current Emerging Plan is not fit for purpose and should not be pursued in its current state. By placing SESRO [the reservoir] first, it is inflexible, not cost-effective, has worse short-term drought resilience, maximal negative environmental impact (as far as can be seen), and does not provide necessary information on multiple aspects including flooding and carbon costs.*

2 – *Plans adopting STT-first [Severn-Thames Transfer] should be explored and pursued. This will permit a truly holistic approach to water provision nation-wide, maximise flexibility, take into account changing population estimates, provide for better cost-effectiveness and environmental impacts, and take on board widespread feedback.*

3 – *Full and timely disclosure of all available costs and modelling (economic, carbon, environmental, flooding, water planning, engineering) should be made prior to consultation.*

4 – *The slight widening of WRSE membership should be further pursued (overcoming the principal agent problem). As well as the OCC representation, there should be VoWHDC representation and GARD representation. This would permit plans to be properly scrutinised before coming forwards, with visibility on all assumptions, models, and calculations, permitting appropriate transparency and feedback from representatives of the local area and independent scrutineers.*

Thames Water and other water company representatives also turned up at a “drop-in” session at Steventon on the 2nd of March. The Thames Water representatives did not have a good time. They had no answers to the environmental impact question, how they could claim the reservoir was remotely cost-effective, why their plan for reservoir-first left the drought-resilience part until well after 2040, the flood modelling they claim to have...

Instead, they kept trying to insist that despite the intrusive non-native species problem and the security aspects of a huge strategic reservoir, they would *somehow* manage to provide recreation facilities anyway as if they hoped that would distract us. I did ask: “If you can’t find some way around all those problems, would you abandon the reservoir project?” They didn’t answer.

The next phase is to see their response to the WRSE consultation.

Ukraine

At the moment, there is little more that the Council can do to help the people of Ukraine than to show where people can donate to support the Ukrainian people and to carry out symbolic actions such as flying the Ukrainian flag in solidarity (which we have done) and issue statements of support.

However, the refugee sponsorship scheme should be opening as I write this on the 14th of March (later than I’d have wanted, but better late than never). It is not live as I write, but should be at the following location when it is: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-sponsorship-scheme-for-ukraine>

The Council is expecting to receive guidance in the coming weeks on the support we will be able to give to those hosting Ukrainian refugees. I’ll update you as soon as we know more.

We did discuss internally whether symbolic gestures were useful; from my background in the military, my firm view is that they certainly are.

The Ukrainians fighting have access to international media and are made aware of such gestures, in addition to the concrete actions such as sanctions, provision of military equipment, provision of humanitarian aid, and diplomatic pressure.

The symbolic gestures are useful in two ways – firstly, in telegraphing that the public in these countries are firmly behind the actions of Governments and people giving that concrete aid and are actually pushing for more. Secondly, in boosting morale. Morale and the cohesion it provides are crucial in warfare (as per von Clausewitz); when you are fighting and in horrible situations, such gestures help more than you would imagine.

Useful routes to donate include:

The Disasters Emergency Committee: <https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>

The Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal: <https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-crisis-appealE>

The UNHCR refugee agency: <https://www.unhcr.org/uk/>

The UN’s childrens charity, UNICEF: <https://www.unicef.org/uk/>

Tree Planting

The initiative to start planting new trees is under way; the first 420 of about 1500 having been planted in Abingdon. This is an excellent way to naturally remove carbon dioxide from the air, whilst making the area more beautiful and improving biodiversity. We should have granted a further application for Wantage by the time this sees print, and we’re urging more groups to come forward with proposals for planting trees on council land across the district – for more information visit whitehorsedc.gov.uk/trees.

EV Chargers

In order to support the transition towards electric vehicles, we are providing EV chargers in Dictric Council car parks across the Vale. Work has begun in Abingdon (Cattle Market and West St Helen) and Wantage (Portway), and work is now beginning in Faringdon. The intent is to support residents without off-street parking overnight and provide top-ups to commuters and visitors during the daytime. More information here: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/parking-roads-and-streets/parking/car-parks/park-and-charge-ev-charging-sites-in-our-car-parks/>

That’s all for now. Take care,

Andy Cooke

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The Signs are that the *Platinum Nuts* and bolts are in place

At last, here is the update on the **village entry signs**.



After much deliberation, adjustment and adherence to road regulations and traffic safety, we have finally come up with an agreement that all parties are happy with. We will be installing the signs during

July, subject to PC approval of the last design from the artists. More details will follow. They will look absolutely stunning, and will be a further enhancement of our village. We will have put Drayton securely on the map.

Next, to **the nuts**. I am sure that most of you will have noticed our completed installation of the walnuts, and will be really pleased about the effect they are having both artistically, and practically. The grass is returning, and the green is now a unique place of interest and beauty, rather than a nonentity. Once the plants have taken, we will have a sculpture garden with parking deterrent, which is a pioneering concept. I am very happy to report that at OCC headquarters, they are all talking about it, and are very happy with the outcome. Thank you, to all those who have voted to support this idea, and a special thank you to those who have contributed financially to the final installation. Without you all, we wouldn't have managed to do this.

After last month's appeal for volunteers to help with organising the **Platinum Jubilee** celebrations, we have formed a steering group, and plans for a wonderful afternoon are well under way. The date is **Sunday 5th June**, and the venue, we are hoping, will be the green next to the village hall: more in next month's edition, when we have firmed up on logistics. I have had a lot of positive feedback from residents, who are looking forward to coming along with their picnic, and join in the fun. Let's make this an occasion to remember. All ages welcome!

Pervin Shahin Drayton PC

PS: We will be holding another meeting for residents in the village to come along and discuss the next stages of our art installations later this summer, to be announced.



Daffodil Walk - 3rd April

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This is an event held in aid of Sobell House Hospice, where all proceeds raised will help to fund the care and support we provide. We thank our friends at Adwell House, Tom and Imogen Birch Reynardson, for very generously opening their gardens to host this special event for the seventh year running.



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Please contact Linda on 01235 522901



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David Johnston MP for Wantage and South Oxfordshire

I am writing this at home, having caught Covid. I am pretty sure I had it right at the start of the pandemic, in early 2020, but it was before the testing regime we developed so I can't know for sure. This time, I've definitely had the 2 lines, confirmed by a PCR.

It isn't pleasant but I've had all 3 jabs and so I mostly have symptoms of a head cold and fatigue.

I have a partner but being at home alone all day makes me think of 2 things: firstly, how hard it must be to be on your own all the time. If you can, please volunteer for organisations like the Didcot Good Neighbour Scheme, through which I see a widower each week. The second thing I'm reminded of is what a vital job all the various community groups did during the pandemic to support their neighbours.

You may or may not know that PMQs are predominately allocated by electronic ballot the week before they take place. Having been drawn for only 1 PMQ in my first 25 months, I was then drawn for a further 2 in just 3 weeks. The first I used to raise the lack of new GP surgeries we've had to support all the new houses that have been built. The second I used to raise the reservoir proposal, a shadow of uncertainty over the Steventon, Hanneys and Drayton area for over 2 decades now.

For all the yah boo politics PMQs has long been criticised for, it remains the best place to raise a local issue as it is a rare occasion when the House of Commons is full, people outside parliament are watching on tv and it means the Prime Minister's office swings into action to help deal with the issues you're having.

It was very moving to be in the House of Commons for President Zelensky's address to MPs, as it has been to watch him and the Ukrainian people resist the brutal invasion Putin has launched of their country, with support from the UK and its allies. I know people have been frustrated by the pace at which refugees are being brought to the UK and I agree the system did not move fast enough at the outset. It is now moving much faster, and we have several generous strands for entry. It is important that we know we can put in the right support the refugees that we take - we still have Afghans in hotels in Oxfordshire because we don't have houses for them - and so we have to make sure we have the right health, education and pastoral support in place as soon as possible, which the Government is working hard on.

One final thing: Grove library is 50 years old this year and has a great collection of items from 1972 (or thereabouts) on display for a month!

As ever, if I can help with anything then do let me know via david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk

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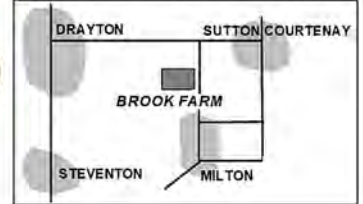
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Hall Report

First, we must pay **great tribute** to Ann Webb, who has decided to 'step down' after many years of valiant service as Chair of the Hall Management C'tee. She was knocked for six by a fall, requiring a hospital stay, and then a dose of Covid! She's been home a while now, so free from the JR's catering skills (!), but has decided it's time to take it easier.

We shall be seeking some extra talent on the C'tee, we've an overdue AGM in May, precise date to be decided (see the next issue, and local social media). Could YOU help?!

We're coming up to one of our busy periods, lots of dog shows amongst other things, so parents if you fancy a b'day party for your child, don't leave it too late. As we go to press, a couple of bookings have just appeared for October, another busy spell, so well done to them for thinking ahead!

Also we MIGHT be gaining a new Martial Arts class (probably Monday evening), but that's not quite confirmed yet, again, look out for more next time and/or the local F'book?

And our B'ton group (also Monday eves) can I hear do with a new player or two, I believe they prefer a 'decent standard', but I never could play that game so if that could be YOU, let me know and I'll put you in touch? (www.draytonvh.co.uk and look for 'Bookings').

Oh, and lastly for now, it looks like we'll be hosting the Village Fete (for FODSA) in May (21st), AND a celebration 'do' for the Queen's Jubilee on June 5th, look out for all the details nearer the time. Our next ANTIQUES FAIR is Sunday April 10th (note, second Sunday this month, not the first, which is taken by a long pre-booked dog show!).

Tony Holmes

REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

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

MONDAYS

- 2.00 pm Short Mat Bowling Club Session
- 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 DC*
- 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*
- 1.30 pm Whist Drive *Caudwell DC*
- 2.00 pm Drayton Wives (Last Wednesday in the month)
- 2.15 pm Badminton
- 6.30 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) *Caudwell DC*
- 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 DC*
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**
- 6.00 pm Evening Service (see page 2) *Baptist Church*



Photo Ed: 19/3/2022

A tranquil view of the Bridgewater to Taunton canal (15 miles), recently walked by this editor. Also adjacent to the Parrett and Macmillan Ways. Highly recommended for a short break with plenty of open countryside and interesting villages. **Editor**