

DRAYTON

CHRONICLE

August 2022



COMING CHRONICLES

The September Chronicle will be available for distribution on or about **Friday Aug 26th**.

The Editor will be **Margaret Inger** (on 07967 730735). **Contributions** may be e-mailed (as below, best to 'editor@'), or placed in the Chronicle letter box, outside Vickery's store on Drayton Green, **DEADLINE = 5.15 pm, Monday, Aug 15th**.

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

STOP PRESS - ADVERTISERS should PLEASE note that the deadline for ads is **EARLIER, Friday Aug 12th**, due to their preparation time.

NB** :- **Can we politely remind** Contributors that the above **deadlines** are exactly that; in general, **the later an item is received, the less precedence it gets**.

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

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

for the next editor → editor@draytonchronicle.net

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

2. An **email attachment**, in WORD please (NOT a PDF file!).
3. A good, **black typescript** on white A4 paper or smaller. **BUT** – IF you can type it, PLEASE see #1 & #2 above?! [Scanning is a real nuisance, and tends to create errors!]
4. **Hand-written? Preferably not PLEASE, if over maybe a para**. This is 2022, should be a way to type & send it?! (= fewer errors!).

ADVERTISING RATES

For Block Advert (about 1/12th page)
--- Number of Monthly 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

Half-size block adverts, normally for one or two inserts, are charged at half the above rates.

All requests must be accompanied by cash or a cheque made payable to 'Drayton Chronicle'.
They may be placed in the Chronicle Letter Box, outside Vickery's Hardware Store, Drayton Green, in shopping hours, OR send your requirements :- advertising@draytonchronicle.net

NB Re the Planning advert/notice over on page 3 >>> we checked the Planning Application reference, and at the time of going to press, it's NOT active. I expect that only a small subset of readers would have an interest in the related ownership query, but we were assured (by Vale's Planning Dept) that when this issue hits doormats round the village, that reference WILL be OK on their Planning data-base/website.

This Month's Cover – one of a number of shots posted on local F'book by **Christine Crook**, featuring the annual **Swan Upping** process (steeped in tradition, 800+ yrs), and a snap from further downriver. But it has a most valuable purpose, checking on the swan population (adults & cygnets) on the Thames from Sunbury up to Abingdon, and runs for 5 days in the second half of July.

Local TV news reported that a recent avian flu outbreak had affected bird numbers, but it was encouraging that the numbers were better than had been expected. They added the inevitable **appeal to anglers**, to be more careful with discarded fishing line, they always find & rescue some trapped birds.

DATES for the FOLLOWING Chronicle		
Issue for	Copy Deadlines :- to Editor by (& Ads on the Fri before these)	Chronicle published and available for distribution on Friday:-
Oct	Mon Sept 19th	Sept 30th

KEYMINDERS

Serving Drayton and nearby villages and towns for over 25 years

Professional yet personal care for your pets and home when you're away

01235 520290 info@keyminders.co.uk
www.keyminders.co.uk

DRAYTON TELEVISION SERVICES

Digital TV aerials installed Extra aerial points
Television Wall mounting New TV Sales
Satellite Sky or Freesat FREE ESTIMATES
TV tuning and programming

Telephone: 01235 531451

JB Construction

Property maintenance Brickwork - guttering
All aspects of roofing including flat and rubber roofs
Driveways - Resin Driveways Fencing - gates
Call: 07545999865
Email: jb-construction22@outlook.com

Local Groups & Clubs

Drayton Wives (Lisa Lammiman)

This month's meeting was called Axtell to Zacharias - by local historian Liz Woolley.

They were famous builders and entrepreneurs, who in the 1880s started to shape Oxford's layout along with about seventy other builders. Fortunes were made, regulations ignored, political careers made and grand designs built!!

They developed the suburbs in 1850 within the medieval walls of Oxford and the landowners were mostly churches, colleges and the aristocracy. Thomas Axtell was a craftsman builder along with Thomas Henry Kingerlee and John Money, names of which can still be found in Oxford, for example Kingerlee builders.

Other names of middle class builders were John Salter the boatbuilder, and clothing manufacturer Joel Zacharias.

Many of you will be familiar with the Randolph Hotel from the series Morse but it was built by architect William Wilkinson in 1866 who actually lived at the top of the hotel and who has a blue plaque on the hotel.

Another current name in Oxford is Benfield and Loxley who met and became great friends. They built their own brickworks at Sandford in 1900. As the war came the engines from the brickworks were taken into service and the site closed.

In 1881 Thomas Kingerlee - a master builder - moved to Oxford and became the biggest landlord and housebuilder but as a forward thinker he owned a slate works and his supply shops. But he was concerned for his staff and built a YMCA in George Street in 1889. The company is now run by David Kingerlee.

This is just a short precis of how the historic names of Oxford builders are still with us today. Oxford is always interesting to walk around, especially when you go down the side streets and look for the blue plaques or even delve into the street names!!

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

Everyone welcome

Lisa Lammiman

Pebbles Baby and Toddler Group >> we meet in Church on a Wednesday morning, during term time (next one is **Sept 7th**), from 10.00 – 11.30am.

You are so welcome to join us!

Please email suedraytonpebbles@outlook.com for more information. Look forward to seeing you!

Letters to the Editor

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



Martin Hudson Flooring

Hudsonmartin@hotmail.co.uk | 07590192298

Martin Hudson

Floor Layer

Carpet, Vinyl, Lino & Luxury Vinyl Tiles



Drayton Players

We are pleased to announce that the Drama Group are up and running again, and Two One-Act Plays are under way with rehearsals as I write this piece. These will take place in **November this year** at Drayton Village Hall. **Please watch out** for all the information in the forthcoming Chronicles.

If you wish to be involved in any way, please call me :-

Georgia Alston (01235 531425)



NOTICE OF PLANNING APPLICATION

In accordance with Section 13 (1), (2), (4) and (5) of the Development Management Procedure Order 2015 (as amended), requisite notice is hereby given through this advisement to any relevant landowners whose land may be affected by planning application reference **P21/V2203/HH** at address 122 Abingdon Road, Drayton, Abingdon OX14 4HT

The applicants acknowledge they are not the sole land owners of all land required to facilitate the proposed development and they have been unable to ascertain any of the other land owners to which this application relates, as denoted by the red outline in the application Location Plan. In conjunction with ownership certificate D displayed as a part of this advertisement, in accordance with relevant legislation this notice is required to be displayed for 21 days from the date of its publication prior to the determination of the planning application.

Detailed plans of the application can be found by visiting the Vale of White Horse website by using the following link and through searching using the unique planning reference number P21/V2203/HH. Comments can be made on the planning application on the Vale of White Horse Website.

<https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/planning-and-development/comment-on-planning-applications/find-an-application-and-comment/>

Rich & Kate Bridge

ST PETER'S CHURCH



(part of the DAMASCUS Parish)

www.damascusparish.org.uk

The
DAMASCUS
Parish

Drayton | Appleford | Milton
Sutton Courtenay | Stevenon

Rector	Revd Helen Kendrick	848297
Associate Priest	Revd Rosie Bruce	07707 087131
Associate Priest	Revd Meg Heywood	537100
Pro-warden	Mrs Linda Johnson	527521

The church remains open daily {Sunday – Saturday, **10-4**}.

NB – all information is correct at time of going to press.

REGULAR SERVICES

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

PLEASE NOTE

Tues Aug 2nd *** 2.30 pm is the FINAL 'First' Tuesday Connect, it's moving to the SECOND Tuesday as of Sept (13th). See page 19.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Mondays	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice
Tuesday	2.30 pm	*** First Tuesday Connect – ALL welcome for a cuppa & chat (first Tues of month)
Weds	10.00 am	Pebbles Baby & Toddler Group (term-time);

Please let us know if you need help of any kind, so that prayer and practical support can be offered in a safe way.

PARISH REGISTER

Funerals	June 13th	Alan Clive Evans
	June 22nd	Carol Anne Mitchell



YOU STAY WE PRAY (August)

July 31st – 6th	Binning Close; Haywards Road;
7th – 13th	Sutton Wick Lane; Greenacres; Newman Lane; Conifer Drive
14th – 20th	Hilliat Fields; Lyford Close
21st – 27th	Manor Close; The Green
28th – Sept 4th	High Street; Chiers Drive; Cheers Farm; Halls Close



Qualified. Experienced. Reliable.

Matt: 07841 677921

thebrightspark.info@gmail.com

: the bright spark electrical services



STEVE WOODLEY GENERAL HANDYMAN

STEVE WOODLEY

T: 01235 533486

WOODERS1964@ICLOUD.COM

M: 07871 619028

From the DAMASCUS Ministry Team

"Bind us together...with cords that cannot be broken.

Bind us together ... in love".

These words are taken from a hymn written by **Bob Gillman**. It draws attention to Jesus' teaching of how we are to depend on each other and to look after each other. It also points out that we have our need to belong, because we are social and sociable beings.

On the first Monday in the month, I go for a "Knit and Natter" in the afternoon. Being a beginner to knitting, it takes time and patience to create something wearable from just a single thread of yarn and a lot of knots and weaving. "Woven together" and "tight knit" are expressions used to describe relationships and communities. In the DAMASCUS Parish, we are blest to have villages with a wide variety of social activities; from sports clubs, youth groups, to the Arts and more. They are there for us all to benefit from, as well as making our communities more "close knit"

A warm welcome awaits in all of the above, to our new neighbours, and those who are trying something new (like knitting!) . Whether it is going to a coffee morning or shaping decisions on the Parish Council, there is plenty to make us "woven together". As we come out of the Covid restrictions on our lives, the after effects of those limitations are showing in peoples mental well being and on our children's development. Very recently, an elderly friend was told by their doctor, of the importance of not only staying physically active but also socially active. The more you put in, the more you get out of life.

Enjoy your family and friends and whatever summer plans you have made and let us be thankful for the blessings of the community around us.

With love and prayers

Rosie Bruce

(Reverend - DAMASCUS Parish ministry team)

Local Groups & Clubs

Drayton W.I.

This month, although we were few in numbers for various reasons, we had a **wonderful speaker**. He admitted to be a metal detectorist and has been for a very long time.

His name is **James Mather**, and he was responsible for finding the **Watlington hoard**. It is most detectorist's dream to find a hoard!!

After the discovery of the first amount of coins he consulted with the land owner and they contacted the relevant body for this type of find. The problem was they couldn't come for several days. What to do now?

The hoard was re-buried and marked with stones, thereby was a problem, animals and birds had been looking in disturbed ground for snacks. He returned just before the official diggers arrived only to find his marker scattered. Luckily it was found and retrieved. Taken away to be dissected from the soil compacted around it.

The most wonderful hoard of mostly silver was purchased, and is now in the **Ashmolean museum** next to the Alfred jewel. He did explain the code of detectorists, who can't just go anywhere, without permission.

There are sadly a group of people who invade land under cover of darkness, without permission, to scavenge for whatever they can find.

No meeting in August, but have a lovely summer, and see you in September!

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

Visitors welcome, come and see what we are about.

Ann Webb

PYO SUNFLOWERS

DAILY IN AUGUST ONLY!

- Free entry + free parking
- 10 am – 5 pm daily
- Sunflowers from £1 per stem
- Bale play, sandpit, picnic area
- Burgers and hot dogs, coffee, cake, ice cream
- Enjoy a drink at our 'Sunflower Sundowner' evenings (select weekends only)



**High Lodge Farm, Culham, Abingdon
OX14 3BN**

(1,400m from Rye Farm car park)

www.highlodgefarm.com

The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project

Registered Charity 1098966



Youth & Community Acting Together

We are always grateful to those that volunteer their time to help with the sessions so that they can run as smoothly as possible.

We would like to have **a few more people** to volunteer once a month for 20 minutes on our tuck shop as part of our session. If you think you could help, then please get in contact with the team!

NB Monday Aug 8th, it's Tie-Dye Day!! It's an extra £1, bring an old white item. Call for info?

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

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

Tel:- **01235 848694** or **07875 649008** and →

Website - www.damascusyouthproject.org.uk



Jake Damascus, Roxy Damascus,
James Damascus, Emily Damascus



Jake_Damascus; James_Damascus;
Roxy_Damascus, Emily_Damascus

YouTube - The Abingdon Damascus Youth
Project – MIND GYM

HAD ANY suspicious texts?? Please forward them, free-of-charge, to 7726 so your service provider can investigate. Or, any Dodgy Emails?! Forward them to:- report@phishing.gov.uk (then delete them!)

Steventon Farmhouse Bakery & Café

The Bakery is Open



**Wednesdays to Saturdays 9am - 1pm
Fresh Bread, Takeaway Coffee & Much More!**

If you wish to order go to our website

www.farmhousebakerycafe.co.uk

Milton Garden Machinery Ltd

Delivery & Collection service available

Please call or email for a quotation

We repair all types of petrol driven machinery.

Main dealers for: Alko, Atco, Briggs Stratton, Countax, Cub Cadet, Echo, Efc0, Hayter, Lawnflite, Mitox, MTD, Murray, Toro, Westwood, Wheelhorse.

We repair Stihl and Honda machines too.

Windyridge Farm, Milton Road, Drayton, Abingdon,

OX14 4EZ **Tel: 01235 555115**

Email: paul@miltongardenmachinery.co.uk

www.miltongardenmachinery.co.uk

Established for over 30 years

Next PC Meeting

All residents are welcome to attend.

Now **Tuesday** evenings (2nd of month) so it's August 9th, in the Caudwell Day Centre (Gravel Lane), 7.30pm (7pm for the Planning C'tee).

[NB Parking IS a bit limited near the CDC, so if you plan to attend, & can walk or bike there, please do?!]

Latest Meeting

This isn't a full, official report of proceedings, but a précis from someone who attended. There are still it seems **TWO vacancies for Parish Councillors**, so a chance to 'step-up' for a public-spirited volunteer to put themselves forward? **Apply to the Clerk for more info.**

A couple of significant items were mentioned by Vale Councillor **Andy Cooke**, his column on page 11 has more info, but they detailed both **more prevarication by Thames Water**, and the **interesting new development** that their Board could soon be threatened with jail time for further transgressions on their existing looooooong list of pollution crimes.

The other news related to the ongoing, and also very long-running saga, of the Walnut Meadow development, and the intended Sports Facilities, the latter being thwarted by protracted delays and inactivity by Miller Homes. However, the discovery of a **Barrow** there (prehistoric, not wheel) has apparently afforded a chance to get some long-overdue enforcement against them, with proper corrections to the mass of rubble that their then contractor had buried where the pitch drainage should have been. We can but hope . . .

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

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



Town Furlong Cattery

Kingston Road, Frilford
01865 391864

www.townfurlong.co.uk

Volunteers NEEDED >> are YOU a mum, dad, grandparent, or carer?

We need people with your experience at **Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire**.

With your knowledge and experience, you could be the vital support a family needs and make a big difference to their lives.

WE are there for parents when they need us most. If YOU could give as little as **TWO hours** a week (yes, just 2 hours!!) to support a parent and their children, then PLEASE get in touch >>

01235 511152 or our Email is:-

admin@homestartso.org

<http://www.home-start.org.uk/volunteertoday>

Suzy Willis & Associates

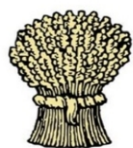
MCSP HCPC AACP

CHARTERED PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

Old Lodge, Henleys Lane, Drayton,
OX14 4HU

Tel: **01235 531269**

Please call for a face to face or remote consultation



THE WHEATSHEAF Seniors Menu

£9:95 for 2 courses

Starters

Pork liver & Chicken Pate with onion chutney, salad & toast.
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.



I've heard from our **Bowls Club** (indoor – obviously! – on what is called a 'short mat') – that they would **welcome a couple of new players**. It's a skilful game, but easy to learn the basics, and just a nominal fee per session, plus they're very big on the essential tea & bikkies!

Their afternoon sessions are on Mondays & Thursdays, get there for 2pm, AND they have a mostly separate group on Weds evenings, for which they're setting up around 6.30pm. They're a friendly bunch, why not give it a try?! Email Val (chair) for info valerie.locke@btinternet.com

GRATEFUL THANKS – to Matt, of **Bright Spark** Electrics, who responded quickly in July when some of the Hall wiring failed, leading to no lights in the main corridor, kitchen, and one of the Main Hall alcoves. And thanks to our hirers for being so understanding, especially the FODSA group, who had to be quite creative during the evening of their recent fund-raiser (the lights had failed just the day before). Now though, we have lovely new wiring, AND some LED lights, better to run, longer lasting, and much brighter!

The **Hall Management C'tee** meeting in mid-July had a little presentation ceremony, with an inscribed silver salver for retiring Chair **Ann Webb** (with her family present too), in recognition of her many years of service (aided for many years by her late husband Bernard of course). The Hall (in fact the village) owes her a massive 'thank you' for staying at the helm for so long! And she'll be staying on the c'tee.

And we welcomed **Liz Sheppard** onto the c'tee at that meeting, thanks for coming forward!

Advance news of a **NEW HIRER**, a class for **Irish Dancing**, intended for 4-y-olds and upwards (no upper limit they tell me). They'll be in on Tuesdays, early evenings (5.30 for an hour), from I think Sept (look out for the exact date on the local F'book site). She – Ashleigh – says they're teaching **traditional Irish dance** to young dancers, starting with light (or soft) shoe dancing, and moving onto 'heavy shoe', the special form of tap made famous by several well-known performers.

Ashleigh is on **07375 978445**, please ask her for all queries on what they do, as I can't dance a step (though 'heavy shoe' sounds alright, for one who has heavy feet!).

Some bad news for hirers I'm afraid, after holding the hire rates steady for about 10 years, we are FINALLY having to bring in some **increases**, due to, well, like everyone out there, the famous increased costs of gas, electricity, etc. Hirers will be advised in due course exactly what their new rate is, and when it will start.

Re bookings generally, August is a quieter month, but there are fewer weekend spots looking forward.

Drayton Chronicle

A further big **THANK YOU** to **Colin & Carol Arnold**, who ran the Distribution side of the Chron team for many years, but recently stepped down.

Kay Davies has stepped in, aided by hubby **Gareth**, and the individual distributors (four on a rota) are now helping by retrieving the agent bags from Vickery's shop, as he's kindly storing them (agents, please DO remember to take them back!).

Welcome to Jenny Sawtell, who has volunteered to do the deliveries up on Walnut Meadow. And grateful thanks to **Aurore Cox**, for doing those three rounds for so long!



The Old Farm Shop
Harwell, Abingdon
Oxon, OX14 4DP
01235 831247

- Local Vegetables and Veggie Box
- Free Range Poultry & Fresh Meat
- Dairy products
- Bread and Cakes
- Condiments
- Open from 8 am to 6 pm

Phone: 01235 831247
Email: theoldfarmshop@aol.com

<<< ANN WEBB

Re the presentation to Ann Webb, in the L-H (Hall) column, she sent a 'Thank-You' note just before this issue went to print:-

I knew I was to be given a salver because I had seen it briefly at our last meeting. But I was not expecting the length that Fred & Sue Stevens had gone to to make it so special, I was presented with the now engraved salver in front of the committee and all my children.

That in itself was a shock, as it had been kept secret from me, but nonetheless a wonderful addition to the committee that I know so well. Light refreshments were laid on as well and enjoyed by all.

All I can say - now I have regained my composure – is that all the gifts I have been given, flowers, a voucher and now the salver were **greatly appreciated** by me from a wonderfully loyal committee.

Finally a **special thanks to Fred and Sue** for the lovely food, and to Tony with his help finding out when we could best use the Main Hall (cooler on such a hot day!).

Thank you all. Ann



Larkmead
VETS
Caring for pets, horses & farm animals throughout South Oxon

Didcot, Great Western Park
& Sutton Courtenay: 01235 814991

Cholsey & Benson: 01491 651379

Horses & Farm Animals: 01491 651479

www.larkmead.co.uk   

Weather Getting Warmer? (again?!)

Don't forget your Garden Birds!

Many folk put food out for them, but as it gets warmer, they like a drink too (and of course, YOU like a shower, well, they rather like a bath, keep the feathers clean!) A



large flat dish like the one pictured is good (if you can). Keep it topped up with water every few days, you'll get some regular avian visitors. Possibly a hedgehog too, if they can access the garden?

L H GOODWIN professional decorator

Our services include both domestic and commercial painting and decorating.

We are fully insured and all work guaranteed 25 years' experience – References available.

For a free estimate please call Leigh on **07789 873483** or visit my website

www.lhgoodwin.co.uk



- Scarification
- Hollow Tining
- Lawn Aeration
- Over seeding
- Top-Dressing
- Removal Weeds
- Moss Control
- Professional Service

NO CONTRACT

Contact Steve

01865331501/07894983801

Email: cotswolds@greensleeves-uk.com

TRADING STANDARDS MESSAGE

Residents are being warned to be cautious of cold callers **impersonating Local Authority / Council officers** in the Oxfordshire area. All council officers should have an ID badge available and be more than happy to show it when asked. If concerned, you can contact the council to verify the name of the council officer.

Residents should also be aware of **cold callers picking up scrap metal from properties**. All scrap metal collectors must have a scrap metal licence for the local district they are collecting in. Scrap metal collectors must also have a Waste Carrier's Licence (issued by the Environment Agency). Both of these licences can easily be produced when requested, so if there's any queries, do not engage with the collector.

LITTER BUG TRAIL

From **Saturday 6th August to Sunday 4th September** South Oxfordshire and VoWH district councils are running **FREE Litter Bug Detectives Trails** for children in 14 sites across the districts.

The children who take part have a chance to win £20 vouchers for themselves and a rainbow-coloured bench (made from recycled plastic) for their school.

The activities are aimed at primary school children (under-12s) to promote recycling and reuse messages and explaining the damage litter does to our environment.

Each child, who sends in the correct answer, can request a personalised Litter Bug Detectives certificate.

How to take part >> Go to our webpage

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/litter-bug-detectives-trail

and download the trail map of the area to visit. The map will show a trail to 14 sites, at each site there will be a question on the themes of waste and recycling. The 14 answers will each provide a letter to make three words.

Email the three-word answer and your name and address to waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk

before **midnight on Sept 11th** and the team will send you a Litter Bug Detective Certificate and enter you for the prize draw.

One of the trails is in Drayton, SEE their poster notice on page 12. Here's the chair the school could win:



Friday Club

Dear Editor, via Email

Due to a number of different issues, we are sorry to have to say that the FRIDAY CLUB will NOT be resuming.

Beryl and I would like to **thank** ALL the cooks, drivers, and other helpers who have been such a **great support** over the years, and we wish you all the **very best**.

Kind Regards Sylvia Bond

DANES/MACE STORE

Mon-Sat 5am-8pm - Sun 6am-6pm

FOR ALL YOUR PAPERS, MAGAZINES,
GROCERIES, FROZEN FOODS,
CARDS, OFF LICENCE and
SAVOURY SNACKS.

LINK CASH MACHINE AVAILABLE

LOTTERY TICKETS

**In Store Bakery and
Freshly cut sandwiches**

MOST MAJOR CREDIT CARDS TAKEN

NOW WITH PAYPOINT

TEL: 01235 554813

Fax No: 01235 531217



Well Done - and Thank You!

Dear Editor, Friars Mews

May we express our **heartfelt thanks** to the **wonderful team** who restored the entrance area to the Cala estate.

On Saturday June 18th they, with their mowers, strimmers and rakes, returned what had become an unsightly overgrown field back to a **well cut grass area, a welcoming entrance** from the Abingdon Road to Edward Park.

Robert and Jackie Walker (grateful residents!)

[Ed's note:- 1) This community-spirited activity got a mention on the local 'Families' F'book page, back at the time, it was described as the team (including a number of juniors!) who would usually tidy up the Millennium Green, but on that occasion didn't have much to do there, so came and did that work on Manor Farm. Well done all.

2) I see that Robert & Jackie refer to it as 'Cala Estate', & 'Edward Park'. At the July Parish Council meeting, a concerned resident raised the topic of Cala trying to influence where S106 funds would be spent (it's not up to them), but in passing the 'what name is it really?' question came up. It seems that any of the above names for the estate might get used by residents, but the preferred PC description is actually 'Manor Farm']

The Back Pain Centre

Dr Natalie Nickowski MSc, DC

Dr Amanda Learoyd

Dr Warren Spreadbury

Chiropractic relief from:

- Back pain & sciatica
- Frozen shoulder
- Neck, shoulder & arm pain
- Tennis/golfer's elbow
- Headaches & migraines
- Knee & ankle pain
- Arthritis & postural problems
- Chronic pain



**FREE
SPINAL
ASSESSMENT**

Free Parking

Sports Therapist

Spinal Analysis Machine

Recognised by all health insurance Companies: BUPA - PPP - AXA

4C Deanes Close Steventon OX13 6SZ

info@steventonbackpaincentre.co.uk

www.steventonbackpaincentre.co.uk 01235 848008

Hash House Harriers

Dear Editor, via email

Would you like to run or walk with a sociable, local group, followed by a visit to the pub for a beer (or coffee) and, sometimes, chips? If so, how about joining **Didcot Hash House Harriers**?

We are part of the **international hashing family**. We meet at 11am on winter Sundays, & 7pm on summer Tuesday evenings. We start and finish at a local pub, ending up in the bar or garden for a sociable drink and chat. We welcome anyone and everyone including families (all children must be accompanied by an adult).

'Hashing' is like a paperchase, or 'hare and hounds' in that a trail is laid in advance and the 'pack' then have to find the correct route. **No-one is left behind** and the trail is 4.5 - 6 miles for the run, and 3.5-4 miles for the walk. No long-term commitment, just join us when you can, and there is **no joining fee**, your first run is free and we charge £1 each time you come along after that.

Please email:- lemonydh3@gmail.com, or look up Didcot Hash House Harriers at <http://dh3.azurewebsites.net>

Kind Regards

Melanie Jefferies



Travel research volunteers wanted

Do you travel in Oxford or Didcot? Volunteers wanted for an app-based research project, to fill in a travel diary for several days. You're then eligible for a Retail Voucher as a reward.

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/travel-research-volunteers>

MORE LETTERS

Alan Evans

Dear Editor, via email

Sadly, Alan passed away on May 24th, at home with his family. He had lived in Drayton for 60 years, loved the village, and had many friends here. **Thank you** for all the messages of sympathy, and offers of support.

Kind Regards Pauline Evans (& family)

A.L. VICKERY AND SON
Hardware and much more

Keys Cut while you wait, cookshop, housewares, tools, gardening...
...you'll save money, time And mileage when you try




Vickery's first!

5 The Green, Drayton, Abingdon OX14 4JA
Telephone 01235 531497
Just park outside!

OPEN Monday to Saturday
9:30am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm. Lunch 1pm to 2pm

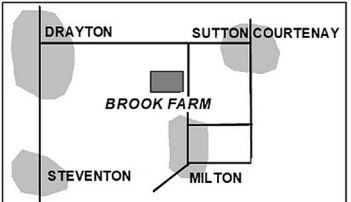
HAVE YOU TRIED OUR **FREE RANGE EGGS?**



Brook Farm

Brook Farm, Milton Road OX14 4EZ

OPENING HOURS
Mon to Sat - 9.00am to 1.00pm Except Friday 9.00am to 6.00pm
FREE RANGE EGGS, & POTATOES (if available)



Census 2021 – First Results

The first results of the 2021 Census have just been released. The England and Wales population increased from 56.1M in 2011 to 59.6M in 2021, a rise of 6.3%. In our area the Vale population has increased from 120,988 (2011) to 138,900, a rise of 14.8%. South Oxfordshire grew by 11.1%, Oxfordshire as a whole by 10.9%.

Household density, which has been falling consistently from the very first Census, declined slightly in the Vale from 2.45 persons per household in 2011 to 2.42 in 2021.

Kind Regards Martin Blogg



SP COURIER SERVICES
'MOVING ASSISTANCE'

House – Flat – Apartments – Office
FURNITURE MOVED / TRANSPORTED
Ebay COLLECTIONS - DELIVERIES
Tel 07721 679487 & 01235 524589

A. GIBBARD

HIGH QUALITY INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR
PAINTING AND DECORATING

TEL: 01235 528342 MOBILE 07759 842388
78 STEVENTON ROAD, DRAYTON

Christian Aid TEAS - Aug 14th

Dear Editor, Milton Methodist Church

What about a bit of **luxury**? Sit in your garden and enjoy a **ready prepared home made tea!** We plan to make and deliver CREAM TEAS on Sunday August 14th. All takings will be for **Christian Aid**.

The teas will comprise **two scones, jam, clotted cream and a generous piece of cake**, all served in a cardboard box and will cost £5 pp. Please order by emailing Mary Hancock or Geoff Caudle (imhancock@gmail.com or geoffcaudle@gmail.com) - with the words '**Cream tea order**' in the message title. Please provide your address and post code and state the number of teas you require.

Teas will be delivered before 3.00pm. Either leave the money for the tea on your front doorstep or request details to pay electronically.

Kind Regards Geoff Caudle

[Ed's note:- For more activities at Milton Methodist Church – I'm sure I can think of several potential 'Knit & Natters' - PLEASE SEE page 18]



We undertake projects of all shapes and sizes. We specialise in:

R & R Landscaping - Garden Maintenance
Richard and Ryan Seamark - Garden Clearance
randrlandscaping12@outlook.com - Turf Laying
07565 421637 / 07498 399521 - Patios
Call or email us today! - Fencing
42 Abingdon Road, Drayton - And much more



Thanks for the Memories

Dear Editor, Whitehorns Way

I was pleasantly surprised to see myself in Sarah-Jane Harrington's **May Queen photos** in the July issue.

I'm sure my Mum still has some photos somewhere too. Looks like we're in the school hall. I remember the event even though I could only have been around 5 or 6 years old at the time, possibly 1973 but could be a year later?

In the group photo I am 2nd from the right, next to Sarah-Jane. Behind me is Suzanne Perris (now Woodley) and from the left on the front row could be Jane Ball & Alison Webb. Behind Alison on the right of the May Queen could be Karen Stimpson.

Kind regards Fiona Jackson (was Sadler)

Your District Councillor



Help for Cost of Living Crisis

The District Council has opened a **voucher scheme to support households who can't afford to pay for life's essentials.** It's part of the Gov't's Household Support Fund (HSF) and a portion of the funds allocated to Oxon County Council have been passed on to the District Council as part of the county-wide support package, which

includes help for children eligible for free school meals through the holidays. Funding is limited and the scheme is open initially to people who have not had support from it before. However, the councils will open it to second applications if funds remain.

The funds are not restricted to people in receipt of benefits and there is no requirement that residents must be employed, or must be unemployed. In contrast to previous schemes, a portion of the funds will be allocated specifically to support pensioner households.

To find out about the scheme and to complete an application form please visit the council's webpage:-

whitehorsedc.gov.uk/household-support-fund

CPPM LOCKSMITHS

Locked Out
Key Snapped
Keys Lost
Faulty Locks
Lock Upgrades
UPVC Locks



Emergency Locksmith – 24 Hour Service

www.cppm.org.uk

email: colinpizzie@btinternet.com

Tel: 01235 239068 Mob: 07760 537147



ProClean

Housekeeping & Ironing Services

Sue Oliver



**Fully Insured & all Staff are DBS checked.
All equipment & cleaning products supplied.
Call now or email for a quotation**

East Way, Drayton, Abingdon - Tel: (01235) 468402

Email: sue@hsoliver.co.uk

PROFESSIONAL GARDEN SERVICES

Stephen R. Matthews

50 Witan Way Wantage, OX12 9HB

Tel: 01235 766412

Mobile: 07796 532356

stephenmatthews.pgs@gmail.com

All kinds of work undertaken, including:

- garden maintenance and restoration
- fruit tree, shrub and rose pruning
- hedge cutting, turfing
- fencing and landscaping.



THAMES VALLEY FARMERS MARKETS (8.30 to 1.30)

Fresh, Quality produce, Locally* produced, Competitive prices –

(*'Locally' – Didcot mkt has a wonderful fishmonger, up from Sussex, always sells well – little sea for fishing round here?! AND – that Didcot mkt has MOVED, it's now up on the Broadway)

AUG Dates Ab'don (3rd Fri) 19th; Didcot (2nd Sat) 13th

TVFM news - ring 01235 227266 see website - Tvmf.org.uk

→ Walnut Meadows (yet again!)

The saga of the fallout from the developers burying tonnes of rubble in the sports field areas and raising the land levels has continued.

The **County Archaeologist** has completed an investigation and has concluded that the 'Barrow' site there was damaged by their recklessness. His initial reaction was to ban any further construction in the northern third of the site of the sports fields – which would have prohibited construction of the MUGA and hugely limited sports field development. This would have made the sports pavilion fairly pointless.

After we got back to him and discussed options, he's going to allow the MUGA to be built in its intended location, and the sports field drainage may go ahead – IF they follow careful processes and do not further damage the site.

An **Agonomist report** has also come in, stating that until much of the rubble is removed, **drainage cannot be put in.** This is **completely damning to the developer.** They now have to put this right, in my opinion. I know that the Enforcement Team are working flat out to bring a resolution (I've got a lot of time for them after having worked with them on this and found out where are the limits of their authority and powers), and this should give them considerable ammunition to get this sorted, even with the limited powers at Councils' disposal on enforcement. [more on page 13 >>>]



Qualified. Experienced. Reliable.

Matt: 07841 677921

thebrightspark.info@gmail.com

: the bright spark electrical services



Litter Bug Detectives Activity Trail 2022

COME AND JOIN OUR LITTER BUG DETECTIVES TRAIL BETWEEN SATURDAY 6 AUGUST UNTIL SUNDAY 4 SEPTEMBER AT

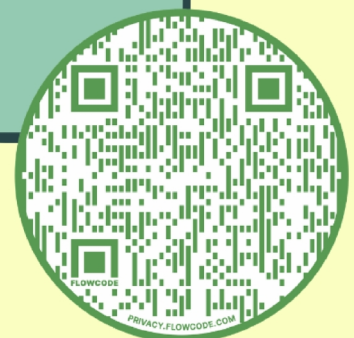
DRAYTON VILLAGE GREEN TO MILLENNIUM GREEN

1. Simply scan the QR code or search on our website www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk.

Download the appropriate trail map which will lead you on a trail to 14 sites around the park or parish.

2. At each site there will be a question on waste and recycling. The 14 answers will provide you with a letter each to make three words.

3. Email the three-word answer and your name and address to us at waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk by Sunday 11 September and we will send you a Litter Bug Detective Certificate.



Vale News Round-up

Reservoir

Unfortunately, Thames Water haven't agreed a date for the promised meeting with me and others. I have spoken to others who have had a meeting with them, and I'm not that optimistic – it was described as a “woe is Thames Water, so misunderstood,” meeting, and no answers were forthcoming to questions such as “Why is the Severn Thames Transfer project last on the timeline?”

I'll ensure that I've messaged them first about that so there's no excuse for not having a decent answer. I have noticed the recent **Environmental Agency report on sewage and water quality**, which is **damning for a number of water companies**, Thames Water amongst them.

"Four companies (Anglian, Thames, Wessex, Yorkshire Water) were rated only 2 stars, which means they require significant improvement. Two (Southern and South West Water) fell to 1 star, the bottom of our star ratings, meaning their performance was terrible across the board."

"The sector's performance on pollution was shocking, much worse than previous years."

"Repeat offenders can now expect criminal prosecutions for less serious environmental incidents where once the Environment Agency would have used civil powers. **We would like to see prison sentences for Chief Executives and Board members** whose companies are responsible for the most serious incidents. We would also like to see company directors being struck off so they cannot simply delete illegal environmental damage from their CV and move on to their next role."

It is highly unusual for the foreword to a government report to call for people to be jailed. So, Thames Water MUST understand that this sort of thing does not exactly improve our confidence in their getting this done environmentally, safely, and efficiently.

[Ed's note:- Do ANY of TW's activities inspire confidence, except in their ongoing incompetence?] ➔➔

KOGELS of Abingdon Limited

HOME EXTENSION SPECIALISTS
AND GENERAL BUILDING CONTRACTORS

72 Steventon Road
Drayton
Abingdon

Tel: Abingdon (01235) 531200
Email: kogelsofabingdon@btconnect.com
www.kogelsofabingdon.co.uk

Oxon
OX14 4LD



Fun and Imaginative Dance Classes for Children 2-16 years

Book for a Free Taster Session!

Thursdays @ Steventon Village Hall
Wednesdays @ Northcourt Centre, Abingdon

Email: bettybloombdance@gmail.com

Website for more information:

bettybloombdance.co.uk

Mobile: 07785 232862

Meryl computer doctor & tutor

technical expertise with the human touch

Setup PC, Apple, tablet, phone, internet, printer

Fix technical & user problems, big or small

Learn getting started, new skills, better ways

07794 656607

info@computertutorabingdon.co.uk

www.computertutorabingdon.co.uk



Flat roofing specialists. Tile repairs. Fascias, moss removal, guttering, leadwork, felt roofs. 10,15,20, year guarantees supplied with all roofing works
GET IN CONTACT FOR YOUR FREE QUOTATION

Tel: 01235 239631

e: abingdonfeltroofing@outlook.com

Web: Abingdonfeltroofing.co.uk

Proud members of

Checkatrade.com
Where reputation matters

Free shows, performances . . .

. . . and sports sessions in **Didcot Garden Town!** On a lighter note, the **Didcot Garden Party** is returning through the summer holidays to bring events and sports activities to Cornerstone Arts Centre and local parks in Didcot.

Vale of White Horse & South Oxfordshire are working together to bring **free activities** for families and young people.

All the events at **Cornerstone** will be taking place outside in the centre's decorated courtyard during the six-week period. The whole space is being transformed into a welcoming garden for everyone to use and enjoy. Their café bar, Nourish, will be open Mons to Sats throughout the summer for visitors to treat themselves to refreshments, lunches or just a coffee and cake.

The theme for this year's Didcot Garden Party is health, wellbeing and the environment. As well as performances and activities at Cornerstone, the party will branch out to other locations in Didcot. **Dancing sessions** will be available at the District Community Centre on Great Western Park, a six-week **cricket course** and three **skateboarding sessions** will happen at Ladygrove Park, and fun family orienteering will take place at Edmunds Park.

The garden party is part of the district councils' revised ambitious Didcot Garden Town delivery plan, which has been simplified to focus on more community events and projects that encourage healthy lifestyles, increase sustainability and help to tackle climate change.

Andy Cooke

YOUR LOCAL GARAGE

Servicing all makes and models of vehicles,
Diagnostics, General Repairs,
Tyres, Exhaust, Air Conditioning, MOTs



www.autocheckoxfordltd.com

autocheckoxfordltd@gmail.com

Unit 3, Cuebar Court, Lashford Lane,
Dry Sandford, OX13 6EB.

01865 730011

Courtesy cars available

Free collect and delivery service

Sharman Roofing

GRP fibreglass flat-roofing specialist

tiling, slating, leadwork, guttering and fascias,
new builds, re-roofs, extensions,
maintenance & sheds

all work considered, call Mark on

07979 791075

msharmanroofing@gmail.com

BARBABROS
BARBERING SERVICE
THAT COMES TO YOU

ALL AGES
STARTING FROM
£17.99

www.barbabros.co.uk
07340880449

Oh God . . .

When God was giving out Brains, I thought he said
"Trains", and I missed them;

When God was giving out Looks, I thought he said
"Books", and I didn't like the look of the cover;

When God was giving out Noses, I thought he said
"Roses", and I said I'd have a Big, Red one;

When God was giving out Chins, I thought he said
"Gins", so I asked for a double;

When God was giving out Legs, I thought he said
"Kegs", and I said I'd have two big fat ones;

When God was giving out Heads, I thought he said
"Beds", so I asked for a Big, Soft one.

Libraries Summer Reading Challenge

Get curious and inventive this summer with Gadgeteers, Summer Reading Challenge 2022.

The Summer Reading Challenge runs until **Sept 10th** in all [Oxfordshire Libraries](#).

In this fun, free reading challenge, children will team up with the Gadgeteers, a group of friends who love creating new inventions. Through reading brilliant books and collecting rewards, children will help the Gadgeteers use their skills to plan an EPIC summer party at their local community centre! Complete the challenge to win a medal, certificate and an entry into an exciting prize draw!

Produced by The Reading Agency and developed in partnership with the Science Museum Group, the challenge inspires children to use their curiosity and creativity to discover the science behind the everyday. It is the perfect summer activity to build your child's reading skills and confidence during the holidays.

How to take part >> Children will need to be a member of Oxfordshire Libraries, you can for free.

From Saturday July 9th, children can sign up to the challenge for free at their nearest [Oxfordshire Library](#). They will be given a **Gadgeteers folder** to keep track of their reading. As children read books, they will receive stickers to add to their folder and other special incentives.

When they complete the challenge they will receive a Gadgeteers medal and certificate. Finish before Sat Sept 10th to be entered into the Oxon Libraries prize draw with fantastic prizes of science kits and book vouchers.

Read library books of your choice

For their challenge, children are set a reading goal – we recommend reading 6 books over 3 visits. They can read any library books they like, including [eBooks](#) and [eAudio](#) from Oxfordshire Libraries. Check out the Gadgeteers book displays for fantastic reading ideas.

Mini Challenge

From July 9th, under 4s can sign up to a Mini Challenge with their own special collector's folder and stickers. Join in at your [local Oxfordshire Library](#) and complete the challenge to win a gold medal sticker and certificate... and this year be entered into an exciting prize draw!

Summer Reading Challenge website

Visit The Reading Agency's [Gadgeteers website](#) <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk> for amazing book ideas, fun games, exciting competitions and all the latest Summer Reading Challenge news!

If your child is up for an additional challenge or you can't get to a library, The Reading Agency's online [Summer Reading Challenge](#) runs alongside the in-library one. Children who join the online challenge and reach their reading goal, will unlock a Gadgeteers certificate to print and keep.

For help using the website, and the online challenge, go to: <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/help>

Events Contact your local library for information about family-friendly events and activities.

Prize Draw Complete the Gadgeteers, Summer Reading Challenge in an Oxfordshire Library by 10 September 2022 to be entered into a prize draw.

Prizes include book vouchers and science kits.



Richard Webber - Oxon CC

Cost of Living Crisis

For many of us, the **climate emergency**, and **how to address it**, has been the the top priority for some time now, but what can we do as individuals and local government representatives?

Or is it a problem that only national governments can solve? Oxfordshire temperatures hitting 39 degrees Celsius certainly make it very difficult to duck the problem. However, sitting in the blazing heat, trying to decide if it's better to keep the heat out or open the windows and let some air in, it is too easy to forget some of the other major problems facing us.

A combination of Covid, the Ukraine war, and Brexit have produced a **perfect storm** of pressure on inflation and the general cost of living.

Whilst some of the ideas on how to reduce the cost of living may work against efforts to address global warming in the short term, is there now an immediate (hopefully very short-term) necessity to reassess which should be top of our priorities? →

Oxfordshire's best source of reclaimed wood

We care for our environment and transform lives



One stop wood shop for your DIY projects. Good quality hard and soft wood in many sizes. Scaffold boards, pallet wood, plywood, live edges and fabulous range of reclaimed wood furniture.

Community Wood Recycling Find us at 4 Suffolk Way, Abingdon, OX14 5JX www.oxfordwoodrecycling.org.uk

OXFORD WOOD RECYCLING



REMLOC PLUMBING & HEATING LTD

Trading Standards Approved
Gas Safe & CIPHE Registered

- Central Heating Installation
- Boiler Servicing
- General Plumbing
- No Job too Small
- Free Estimates

01235 536345 / 07709 961 655
www.remloc.co.uk / email: info@remloc.co.uk



Tonks Brothers Funeral Directors

158 Ock Street, Abingdon OX14 5DT
Tel 01235 539444

166 Kennington Rd, Kennington OX1 5PG
Tel 01865 736144

Day or Night
www.tonksbrothers.com

'Proud to be a family business'

→ The ONS (Office of National Statistics) forecasts that **one family in six is facing economic hardship** and it is likely to get worse as we go into winter.

At the height of the Covid pandemic, local groups of volunteers in towns and villages managed to arrange support of all kinds for our most vulnerable residents. The cost of living crisis has, and is producing another, possibly even larger group of people, who will need help.

Should we now be resurrecting those local Covid groups, who did such a great job in supporting the worst affected so that we are ready to support those worst hit by the cost of living crisis? We should certainly not allow 'sympathy fatigue' to overtake us and ignore the problem.


If you have feelings on any County issues you would like me to hear, please contact me:- 01235 534001 or email richardwebber777@gmail.com

Richard Webber
(OCC Cllr, Sutton Courtenay & Marcham Division)

K. L. YATES BUILDERS

FOR ALL YOUR BUILDING SERVICES

Extensions and Alterations
Property Maintenance
Kitchens and Bathrooms
Carpentry and Tiling



Call RICHARD for an estimate on
01235 531275 or mobile 07788 738248

BAPTIST CHURCH

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



REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

6.00pm Evening Service A traditional form of service, often with guest speakers.

(PLEASE check the Church noticeboard for info re services)

NB LOOK OUT for the BAPTIST CAFÉ with tea, coffee, cake & a chat! Thursdays 11.00 to 13.00, BUT – please NOTE it’s been relocated, to the Caudwell Day Centre, Gravel Lane.

griffin interiors

...soft furnishing solutions...

Interiors and soft furnishings workroom located in Appleford making quality handmade curtains, pelmets, blinds, cushions, alterations.

Headboards, loose-covers and upholstery.

Poles, tracks and fitting service.

Design studio with extensive library of fabrics and trimmings.

Fabrics and curtain making materials available for home curtain makers.

20 years experience. Off street parking.

Flexible opening hours.

01235 847135/07808 762626

griffin.interiors.oxford@gmail.com

www.griffininteriorsoxford.co.uk

HALLS GARAGE

Established 60 years – Servicing and repairs

- MOTs
- Batteries
- Diagnostic Facilities
- Vehicle Collection Service
- All Makes and Models

(Milton Park, Drayton, Steventon, Culham, Appleford, Sutton Courtenay)

The High Street, Sutton Courtenay, Abingdon, OX14 4AW

Tel: 01235 848236 • Mobile 07767 165072

mothallsgarage@gmail.com

Open 06:30 to 18:00 Mon-Fri

WESTMINSTER VIEW



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

As some of you will know, I **resigned** from my role as PPS to the Dept for Education earlier this month. Education is a great passion of mine and I did not take the decision lightly, but I **could not defend** what was taking place at No 10 this month or indeed these past few months.

When I decided to move from being a charity chief executive to becoming an MP in 2019, most of my family and friends thought I was mad. They are interested in politics and know how much it matters, but they wouldn't touch it with a barge-pole due to the hours, the abuse and the low regard in which many in the public – wrongly in my view – hold politicians.

Politicians should uphold the highest standards and act in a way that is best for the country. We should also consider the politicians who will come after us. It is very important to me that we do all we can to encourage good people into politics so that the country is well served, but events in recent months have made the view of politics and politicians worse and will only put more people off entering it, which I deeply regret. I know some disagree with my decision, but I didn't believe the Prime Minister could provide the leadership the country currently needs and **I think it was the right decision for him to resign.**

Such is the funny way things pan out, just before I handed in my resignation, I had a PMQ to deliver. I had arranged to host some of the Ukrainian refugees being hosted in North Moreton at Parliament the previous week and secured them PMQ tickets to sit in the gallery. I had written to the Speaker asking if I could be called on to ask a PMQ that week. I then got word the PM would be abroad for the week I had arranged, so we moved it to the following week. It had been weeks in the planning and now, suddenly, it was one of the most dramatic days for PMQs. I decided to go ahead after I checked with the North Moreton hosts that they were happy with me doing so, which they were – and the refugees they're hosting were delighted to be referred to. I got a small handful of furious emails from regular correspondents wanting to know why I hadn't used my PMQ to call on the PM to resign, little realising I had already decided I was going to straight after I had delivered it.

This year's climate summit was another successful one and I was very pleased to receive input from a range of local and national experts, alongside Alok Sharma and – a particular highlight – children and young people from local primary and secondary schools. If you missed it, you can watch it on my website www.david-johnston.org.uk

If you need to get in touch with our MP >>

email david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk

Local Dog Walking
I will walk and feed your dog while you are out

Instagram: [secret_walkiesx](https://www.instagram.com/secret_walkiesx)

Phone: 07742498269

Email: mia.may8@icloud.com



ANDY BRYAN BUILDERS

For all types of building work from a reliable local company

Extensions, Alterations, Kitchens & Bathrooms, Carpentry, Decorating, Patios, Plastering, Roofing, Brickwork and Plumbing

MOB: 07905386150

Down the Years



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

In **2012**, I see a coincidence with the recent success of **Kate Bush's** wonderful rediscovered 'Running Up That Hill', as a remixed version was used in the closing ceremony of the London Olympics (**TEN years ago**, **ALREADY?!**), and made the top-10.

Back **30 years** – **Jimmy Nail** (remember him?!) had a #1 with 'Aint No Doubt', & that month was notable for the **Billy Ray Cyrus** hit 'Achy Breaky Heart', and the reissued 'Barcelona' made #2 by **Freddy Mercury & Montserrat Caballé**. I see that Bob Marley had a minor hit with 'Iron Lion Zion', after the studio apparently rejected his original title of Brian High On Fryin'?

40 years ago (is it REALLY so long?!) and we'd just had **Dexy's** at #1 (Come On Eileen) also **Irene Cara** (Fame), with high in the charts **Hot Chocolate** (It Started with a Kiss), **Bananarama** (Shy Boy), **Yazoo** (Don't Go) and **Madness** (Driving in My Car). Not a bad few weeks?! Oh, and soon to be #1 were **Survivor** (Eye of the Tiger), and **Culture Club** (Do You Really want to Hurt Me?).

FIFTY years ago (for real old-timers) and we'd just had **Alice Cooper** at #1 (School's Out), and **Rod Stewart** (You Wear it Well – back then he could sing it well too!!), with **Roxy Music & Sweet** not far away (Virginia Plain, & Wig-wam Bam), and soon to be #1 were **Slade** (Mama Weer all Crazee Now – they didn't just do Xmas hits?!), **David Cassidy** (How Can I be Sure) and **Lieutenant Pigeon** (Mouldy Old Dough). Also coming up the charts were the wonderful **10CC** with the amazing 'Donna', and the rather different **Peter Skellern** (You're a Lady). The latter featured a brass band, especially something called a Euphonium, & the hit was covered by a strange collection, Telly Savalas, Dawn, Johnny Mathis, & Brigitte Bardot !!

Can anyone recall **1962?! Let me help:-** In just a few weeks, an **incredible set of records charted**, **Frank Ifield** and his big voice had just been #1 (I Remember You), with **Pat Boone** just behind (the novelty 'Speedy Gonzales') & **Neil Sedaka** too (Breaking Up is Hard to Do). **The Tornados** would soon be #1, (their iconic instrumental 'Telstar'), with just behind them **Shirley Bassey** (What Now My Love – another big voice!) and another iconic hit, **Little Eva** (one of the all-time great sing-alongs, The Loco-Motion). Also making the top-5 then were **Carole King** (It Might as well Rain until September – yes, she's THAT old!), **Marty Robbins** (Devil Woman), and another of the all-time great voices, **Nat King Cole** (Ramblin' Rose). Carole King (with songwriter hubby Gerry Goffin) had written **The Locomotion**, intended for someone else, but Little Eva (their babysitter) had that gigantic hit with it!

I don't usually look back further, but I discovered that around this time in **1952**, a chap at the NME was having the bright idea of actually compiling a Chart, so, the birth of the top-10 (as it was). And originally based on a phone poll of around 20 shops – just 20!!



COOMBES
Home Improvements

ELECTRICAL • KITCHENS • BATHROOMS

m 07827 258818

e dean@coombeshomeimprovements.co.uk

www.coombeshomeimprovements.co.uk

Mazey's

86c Abingdon Road, Drayton, OX14 4HP
01235 523773

Treatments include waxing, spray tans, facials,
lash treatments, manicures, pedicures & more . .
email: mazeysbeautysalon@gmail.com

This month in 2012 the London Olympics were on (TEN years ago ALREADY!) – and poor Boris (then London Mayor) was glowing in the reflection of all those GB medals. How times change! And sadly, we lost **Marvin Hamlisch**, **Bernard Lovell** (astronomer), **Phyllis Diller**, & **Neil Armstrong**, who'd taken that giant leap for mankind.

TWENTY years ago the TV service FREEVIEW was just being announced, we lost longtime TV performer **Carmen Silvera** (known especially in sitcom Allo Allo), and **Tony Blackburn** was soon to be the first winner of I'm A Celeb (or not, in all too many cases!) - Get Me Out Of Here.

In **1992** a chap called **Graham Norton** made his debut at the Edinburgh 'Fringe' (whatever happened to him?), and football's **Premier League** was starting its first season (rebranded from the old 'Divison One'). And we were just about to lose **Christopher Trace** (Blue Peter).

FORTY years ago we sadly lost some stage & screen greats, **Henry Fonda**, **Kenneth More**, **Ingrid Bergman** (Casablanca & many more), and in a tragic car crash, **Grace Kelly** (Princess Grace as she'd become). And the WW2 air ace **Douglas Bader** too. Coming into the world were **Andrew Alexander**, cricketer **Jimmy Anderson**, **Billie Piper**, and local politico **Layla Moran**.

Art Group

Drayton Art Group continues to meet on Tuesday afternoons at the **Caudwell Day Centre**.

Our programme has included topics such as painting without brushes and an outdoor session on the Millennium Green.

We recently held a workshop with local artist, **Claire Cross**. The subject of the workshop was 'Painting the Northern Lights', using watercolour paints and Indian ink. Some examples of our attempts are shown below.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday **September 6th**.

If you are interested in joining us, then please contact **David Icke** (email sue-and-david-icke@hotmail.co.uk) or **01235 532090**.



Other Local News

Secret Touch

EYELASH EXTENSIONS

INSTAGRAM: [secret_touchx](https://www.instagram.com/secret_touchx)

Call: 07742 498269

Email: mia.may8@icloud.com

Can YOU Support SOBELL HOUSE?

Join in a local fundraiser perhaps?? Coming up is a 'Squats Challenge' (Sept), with a Golf Day and Half-Marathon too (both in Oct). <https://sobellhouse.org/get-involved/find-an-event/>

OR – perhaps **patronise one of their shops**, a way to help yourself, and a very good cause? Packed with new and 'previously loved' items, nearest shops are in Didcot (94-96 Broadway, 10 to 4.30, not Mons or Suns), Wantage (4 Kings Walk, 9.30 to 5, not Suns) or up in Oxford (Little Clarendon St, 10 to 4.30, not Suns). More info on what shops have:-

<https://sobellhouse.org/shop/find-a-shop/>

MR. Guy's

Architectural Design

07762160547 guy@mrguys.co.uk www.mrguys.co.uk arb Architects Registration Board UKA

Electrical Problems? Call

ROBERTS
ELECTRICAL



Domestic • Commercial • Industrial

- Electrical Hard Wire Testing
- Domestic Electrical Reports
- Landlords Certificates
- Portable Appliance Testing
- Re-wires Full or Part
- Extra Power or Lighting Points
- Electrical Showers Complete
- Security Lighting, Fire & Intruder Alarms
- LED & Low Energy Lighting Installations
- Data & Telephone Wiring
- TV & Home Entertainment Installations
- Heating Controls and Wiring

We are able to Part P/Building Control our electrical works

Office: 01235 528800 Mobile: 07786 930463

Windy Ridge Court, Milton Road, Drayton, Abingdon OX14 4EZ

FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTATIONS

Milton Methodist Church News

Services in August

7th Mr Peter Hemmings; 14th Mrs Carol Sturt;
21st Mrs Ruth Coward; 28th** Rev Frances Blood
(*service of Holy Communion)

Services start at 10.30am, and last about an hour.

We are always pleased to welcome visitors.

(for those unaware, the Church is on Milton High St, a few doors down from School Lane, parking on site)

Knit and Natter, next sessions (Tuesdays) are:- August 23rd, September 20th (CHECK this date, the other ones are the FOURTH Tuesday!) and October 25th

Sessions run from 10am - 12 noon cost £2 including refreshments (& wool as available). Come and join us if you enjoy knitting and/or nattering! (01235 763321)

And if you missed it, please see the notice on page 10 re their **Christian Aid Teas** (Sunday Aug 14th), when they'll be delivering CREAM teas round the area, order by email please, as per the info on that page. Enjoy!

NOTICE BOARD

VALE of WH District Council

If you need any help, or feel you may need it, even post-lockdown, PLEASE don't hesitate to contact our Community Hub on the phone number, website, or email address:-

Telephone: 01235 422600

Website: www.southoxon.gov.uk/communityhub

Email: communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk

FOSTER CARERS NEEDED

Could you foster? The demand hasn't gone away with Lockdown! We need short term and long term foster carers as well as carers who can just help out for weekends and school holidays for children of all ages from babies to teenagers.

Foster carers receive a comprehensive training and support package along with financial support. **We need a diverse range of people** with different skills and qualities so that more children are placed in the right home, first time.

The package has recently been **improved**, now has a wide range of benefits, their website has comprehensive info:-

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

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

YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL CONTACTS :-

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

Suspicious Email Reporting Service

If YOU receive a suspicious email **please forward it to report@phishing.gov.uk** – then of course delete it from your inbox! (this excellent service is having an effect, please note they DO send you a confirmation email)

ALBION WILLOW GARDENS

GARDEN MAINTENANCE AND CARE

Gardening Services including:

Mowing Edging Tree & Shrub Maintenance
Planting Power Washing Patio
Hedge Trimming Border Maintenance
Fruit Tree Pruning

Call: **07851 924 524 / 01235 799 782**

albionwillowgardens@outlook.com

FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS >>

IS MOVING! Shifting to the **SECOND Tuesday** (as of Sept) and going to be 'rebadged' as 'Tuesday Connect'. (As described on page 4).

Are you feeling lonely, isolated or in need of some friendly company? IF so, please DO join us for our monthly tea and chat afternoons in the Church. After August 2nd, they'll be the **SECOND Tuesday** each month, so, Sept 13th (then Oct 11th, etc), but still from 2.30pm to 4pm, and **you can be sure of a warm welcome.**

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

LISTINGS

Antiques Fair – In the Village Hall - Sunday Aug 7th (and Sept 4th too) from 9.30 am (to about 3pm). Varied stalls, just 50p entry, and the chance of an ace bacon sarnie, toasties, etc!

The Oxford Vaccine Group, and the Jenner Institute, are frequently looking for volunteers to test new vaccines, you need to be 18 to 55, and they usually pay for your time. <https://trials.ovg.ox.ac.uk/trials/>

Whistle Down The Wind is on at the Watermill Theatre, (near Newbury) to Sept 10th, with an **Audio Described performance** on Sat Sept 3rd – with a 'Touch Tour' at 1pm - see https://www.watermill.org.uk/whistle_down_the_wind

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



Drayton Post Office

Mon - Fri 9 - 5.30 Sat 9 - 12.30

& CONVENIENCE STORE

Open All Week 8 am - 10 pm

9, The Green, Drayton, OX14 4JA
01235 531359

New!

Family-run automotive garage

MOTs, servicing, repairs & more

Unit 6, Station Yard, Steventon, Oxon, OX13 6RX

Tel - 01235 635330
Email - office@povallmechanics.com
Web - www.povallmechanics.com

HAD ANY suspicious texts?? Please **Forward them**, free-of-charge, to **7726** so your service provider can investigate.

DRAYTONDIARIES

(Mostly) Hall Diary for August

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

Sun 7 9.30am ANTIQUES FAIR (to 3pm)
 Tues 9 7.30pm Parish Council Meeting Caudwell DC
 (Planning C'tee - 7pm)
 Sat 13 Private Function (Wedding)
 Mon 15 5.00pm CHRONICLE DEADLINE (see p2)
 (NB Adverts by Friday 12th please!)



EVERLAST ROOFING SERVICES
 New Roofs • All Flat Roofs • Tiling & Slating
 Demossing Chimney • Repairs & Pointing
 Facias & Guttering • All Repairs • 24/7 Call Out
 No job too small

01235 612576 **Checkatrade** 07553 911258

quote@everlastroofingservices.co.uk



Corinne McLardy-Smith
 Osteopath

I can help with your back
 and joint pains

To discuss your requirements
 or book an appointment call

07519 868 817

or email: osteopathybycorinne@gmail.com

Web Site: <https://www.osteopathybycorinne.co.uk>

Premier Beauty, 174 Broadway,
 Didcot OX11 8RN two minutes'
 walk from the Orchard Centre.



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

REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

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

MONDAYS [## = Small Hall in Village Hall]

2.00 pm Short Mat Bowling Club Session
 6.00 pm Damascus Youth ##
 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*
 5.30 pm Irish Dancing - from Sept - see p7 for info
 7.30 pm UKELELE Group! (info:- Gill, 07919 976081)

WEDNESDAYS

9.30 am Parent & Toddler Group (NB Temp switch from 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) NOW IN >> *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

7.15 pm ShikiDojo Martial Arts (Paul - 07479 824887)
 NB DO PLEASE check with Paul before attending! ##

SUNDAYS

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

Climate change: 'Sand battery' could solve green energy's big problem

Because of climate change and now thanks to the rapidly rising price of fossil fuels, there's a surge of investment in new renewable energy production.

But while new solar panels and wind turbines can be quickly added to national grids, these extra sources also present huge challenges, the present lithium batteries are large, and very expensive. How do you keep the lights on when the sun doesn't shine and the wind doesn't blow?

Finnish researchers have installed the world's first fully working "sand battery" which can store green power for months at a time. The developers say this could solve the problem of year-round supply, a major issue for green energy. Using low-grade sand, the device is charged up with heat made from cheap electricity from solar or wind.

The sand stores the heat at around 500C, which can then warm homes in winter when energy is more expensive.

Will this apparently simple idea translate to the UK? With our politicians, answers on a postcard!

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

Printed (in Kingston Bagpuize) by

01865 820088 www.artisanprintsolutions.co.uk

artisan
 print & sign solutions