

DRAYTON

CHRONICLE

November 2022

Volume 45 No. 10

Editor - Tony Holmes

COMING CHRONICLES

The December Chronicle will be available for distribution on or about **Friday Nov 25th**.

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, Nov 14th**.

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 Nov 11th**, 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

This Month's Cover – one of a number of shots posted on local F'book by **Christine Crook**, featuring the Church with a terrific autumnal tree display. Thanks Christine!

Some more autumnal horticulture inside, with some rare (heritage) apple varieties, from Andrew Bax (and an article re the orchard on the Millennium Green).

For those who like such autumn views, you may just be in time to catch them at some of the arboretums within driving distance for a day out? Most (Nuneham Courtenay, and Moreton-in-Marsh for just two) have great Acer displays, but you need to get there before any gales strip them off!

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:-
Feb	Mon Jan 16th	Jan 27th

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Local Groups & Clubs

Drayton Wives (Lisa Lammiman)

This month our speaker was **Martin Buckland**. He is a local man who often helps at the **Didcot Railway Centre** dressed as a Victorian Railway Navy in the re-enactors team. But he is also very interested in Industrial Archaeology and has been since the age of 14yrs.

Our talk was on the **Wilts and Berks canal** and remember at one point we lived in the county of Berkshire before we moved!!!! The canal opened in 1810 after 15 years of construction but had a chequered career until its legal closure in 1914. In 1977 restoration began in a few places but in 2004 full restoration of the 62 miles was decided upon.

A canal is artificially made, and it can go up and down, whereas a river is natural and goes its own way. Canals were used for moving pottery and where there wasn't a convenient river a canal was made. Potter was a very desirable commodity and needed moving in a way that didn't break it. Pack horses were used up to the 18th century but were not good and broke the crockery. A healthy horse could pull two tons!!.

So the Wilts and Berks canal was created, and opened in 1810 to provide a transport link to the area.

Coal from Somerset was brought into the Kennet and Avon, then the Oxford canal on its way to Coventry. Also the Drayton Brickworks used the canal up and down its length.

A local man called William Strata, who was born in Churchill, noticed that ground was in layers as the canal was built thus the word **Strata** was created to mean layers.

In 1793 the the canal had arrived in Steventon on its way up. The canal was not allowed to progress past Oxford and was going to Wallingford but ran out of money, and so went to Abingdon. After the canal came the Great Western Railway and Steventon station opened in April 1951.

Drayton still has part of the lock and some parts can still be seen. The new canal is in Peep-o-Day Lane.

Martin does guided walks around the canal and river, and his contact address is martin.buckland@ntlworld.com if anyone is interested. It was **a very informative talk** and only a part can be mentioned here, so we look forward to inviting Martin back.

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

Everyone welcome **Lisa Lammiman**

[Ed's note:- I was intrigued by the reference to 'Strata', meaning layers. There could well have been a chap of that name, but I vaguely recall a 'field trip' for geography - it feels like 100 years ago! - to a quarry somewhere, and I think the teacher said that stratum/strata was from Latin, a whole load of geology and rocks names are from Latin, or Greek?]

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

Please email suedraytonpebbles@outlook.com 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
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Drayton Players
Our show with Two One-Act Plays is nearly here, **November 18th & 19th** at Drayton Village Hall. See the advert on page 5. If you wish to be involved in any way, please call me :-
Georgia Alston (01235 531425)



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Email contacts:- rector@damascusparish.org.uk (or admin@) & for Linda:- lindajjcw@gmail.com

The church remains open daily {Sunday – Sat, **10 – 3pm**}

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 Thurs).

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE - SUNDAY Nov 13th 10am



This year the Service for Remembrance will take place in St Peter's church where the War memorial is on one of the walls. It will begin at 10:00 and there will be a pause in the service for people to join us

for the Act of Remembrance starting at 10:50. This will be when the wreaths will be laid, the names read out and there will be a two-minute silence. **All are welcome** to join us as we remember those who laid down their lives for us.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Mondays	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice
Tuesday	2.30 pm	*** Tuesday Connect – ALL welcome for a cuppa & chat (*** now the 2nd 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.

NB --- Please see Meg Heywood's letter, re her retirement, in the letter pages (centre).

PARISH REGISTER

Baptism Sept 17th **Cosmo Luther Carrington Percival**



YOU STAY WE PRAY (November)

Oct 30th – 5th Eastway; Eastway MHP

6th – 12th Church Lane; Henleys Lane; Caudwell Close;
Gravel Lane;

13th – 19th Abingdon Road; Oday Hill;

20th – 26th Binning Close; Haywards Road;

27th – Dec 3rd Sutton Wick Lane; Greenacres; Newman Lane;
Conifer Drive



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From the DAMASCUS Ministry Team

Autumn is a time of preparation for the long cold winter ahead and the darker evenings after the clocks have gone back. Harvest is over, this is the time for pruning, for letting go, clearing out, for making changes. Sometimes these can be difficult for us to do.

Autumn is a time of great beauty, a time of abundance and even a celebration of the earth, as leaves decay to enrich the soil and prepare for new life. The harvest is gathered in, this is the time for looking ahead and preparing as best we can for the future. In these uncertain times, perhaps these things can be difficult for us to do.

Autumn is a time of the year when days draw in and for a while, day and night are of equal length. **It is a season of harmony and balance, when life comes full circle.** It is a season of anniversaries, Remembrance Sunday, Armistice Day, All Souls and All Saints day. Time set aside for remembering and counting the cost, a time of mourning, which will be difficult for us.

Autumn is a time of preparation, of looking forward, for recognising our place in that life cycle and journey towards wholeness. This season of autumn is of looking forward and waiting, when we look forward to the coming of hope and healing, for that coming of Advent and the retelling of the great Christian story of Jesus coming into the world. Something for us to be thankful for, and also something joyous for us to do.

With love and prayers

Rosie Bruce

(Associate Minister - DAMASCUS Parish ministry team)

Local Groups & Clubs

Drayton W.I.

Sadly we didn't have Chloe this month because the pressure of being a new teacher didn't allow her the time to come to us - we all wish her well in this very demanding occupation.

Instead we had a lady from Abingdon who had studied the rats, rabbits and a very brassy badger from her garden. If you have visited the Antiques Fair in the Hall recently you may well have spotted her there selling her antiques and her book.

Watching these creatures and how they lived in the field near her home and allotment fascinated her and she named them, fitting their lifestyle. So, Bodger the badger, Clever Trevor the rabbit, etc. It also follows their lives and the disruption caused by the loss of their homes caused by building houses (the field in question is now Moreland Gardens), and as for the little creatures, well who knows their fate?

The book is called The Country Tales, by Lynn Carter, recommended as a good read for all ages.

Next month we have Chocolate, its making, presentation and of course product tasting, which we will do for her. If you are interested in this subject please come along but if you do we have to charge a small fee this time to help with the costs. Please consider coming, Thurs Nov 10th at 7.30, Caudwell Day Centre (Gravel Lane) we'd love to meet you, AND - samples will be available!

Visitors welcome, come and see what we are about.

Ann Webb



2 Courses: £29.99
3 Courses: £35.99

Festive Menu

Starters
Pork Liver & Chicken Pate served with Salad, Onion Chutney and Toast.
Smoked Salmon and King Prawns with lemon vinaigrette, horse radish mayo and salad.

Mains
Christmas Roast with Turkey, served with seasonal veg and all the trimmings.
Christmas Roast with Lamb, served with seasonal veg and all the trimmings.
Vegetarian tart served with seasonal veg and trimmings.

Desserts
Cheesecake served with ice cream
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www.DraytonPlayers.org.uk

Next PC Meeting

All residents are welcome to attend.

Now **Tuesday** evenings (2nd of month) so next it's November 8th, in the Caudwell Day Centre (Gravel Lane), 7.30pm (Planning C'tee, 7pm).

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

Vacancies

From the PC part of the DraytonVillage website :-

There are currently **three vacancies** for Councillors on Drayton Parish Council. This unpaid position involves working for the local community as part of a team of 11 Councillors. The Parish Council usually meets in the evening on the second Tuesday of each month in the Caudwell Day Centre.

The Council's work is varied and interesting, it's organised into topic areas ie:- Finance and Personnel, Neighbourhood Development Plan implementation, Planning, Rights of Way, Transport, etc. Councillors often undertake work on their topic, and may attend meetings between the regular monthly ones.

Any resident over the age of 18 can apply to join the council, as can non-residents with substantial links to the parish. The elections team at the Vale of White Horse District Council or **Lorraine Watling, the Parish Clerk**, can provide further information about eligibility.

If you can help deliver the work of the Council, and would like to be considered for this position, please email an expression of interest to the Parish Clerk, that's to email id:- clerk@draytonpc.org Your email should include a few lines about yourself, describing your links to the Parish, your skills and interests, and how you feel you can contribute to the Parish Council's work within the community. You may also be asked to address the Council at the meeting when your application for co-option is considered.

Soooo, if you'd like to lend your shoulder to the wheel and try to progress the delayed Walnut Meadows development, or perhaps you either especially love or hate the walnuts on the village green, then this is **your chance**!?

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.



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Nudge the Funny Bone (without Politics . .)

As we go to press, the recently selected PM (after a long and convoluted process too!), has just been ousted, and a new one is hurriedly being chosen for #10. **But for a spot of light relief**, here are some top-rated **Edinburgh Fringe** jokes. No politics!

1. "I tried to steal spaghetti from the shop, but the female guard saw me and I couldn't get pasta".
2. "Did you know, if you get pregnant in the Amazon, it's next-day delivery".
3. "My attempts to combine nitrous oxide and Oxo cubes made me a laughing stock".
4. "By my age, my parents had a house and a family, and to be fair to me, so do I - but it is the same house and it is the same family".
5. "I hate funerals - I'm not a mourning person".
6. "I spent the whole morning building a time machine, so that's four hours of my life that I'm definitely getting back".
7. "I sent a food parcel to my first wife. . . FedEx".
8. "I used to live hand to mouth. Do you know what's changed my life? Cutlery" (Tim Vine with that one).

Having said "no politics" – there was a joke that went around (even in Tory circles!), just after (then) Chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng was summoned back from America, to be told by (then) PM Liz Truss that his policies were making her look bad (?!) and he'd have to be sacked.

"Apparently when trying to come back, he had real trouble with booking a flight . . . nobody wanted him anywhere near **Business or Economy**".



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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

The (Bob Cutting) Big Band Show (and their guests!) went very well (October, good attendance, great time had by all), and they hope to be back in December for another one (possibly 11th, but look out for some adverts nearer the time), perhaps also a show sometime in the New Year?

We've another **ANTIQUES Fair**, Sunday Nov 6th, and later in the month (Sat 26th), another **CRAFT FAIR**, run by Kathy Head for one of her several good Charity causes.

I hear that our **NEW HIRER**, a class for **Irish Dancing**, intended for 4-y-olds and upwards, has been doing well as word has spread round children and parents. That's Tuesdays, early evenings (5.30 for an hour), their leader Ashleigh is on **07375 878445**, 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!).

Now, news of **another NEW HIRER**, just a test/taster session at first, Nov 9th, Weds morning. They're called **'Little City**, and their website says "We are an entirely mobile **ROLE PLAY 'city'** for the under-5s to explore & enjoy, utilising our bespoke backdrops, and specially selected high-quality toys and equipment, your child can fully immerse themselves in their own world, and welcome you in too"! Look out for their notices leading up to that date, and in the New Year they hope to be in once a month. See www.littlecityuk.com

NB:- our existing **Toddler Group**, who moved back to Thursday mornings, will still be doing their usual weekly sessions.

Now, one more thing, and at present it's a bit of a **MYSTERY**?! We've had a booking, 4pm to 6pm, Weds Nov 9th, from a builder/developer, for what they call a meeting with 'residents'. None of our usual Council contacts are aware of what this might be about, and the firm (called Hill, based in Essex), just referred to it as a "residents meeting with a construction builder" – whilst being shall we say coy about what and where might be involved??

Weekend bookings until Xmas are just about all filled, have been for a while, and 2 weekends of that are down to the **Players**, back after quite a gap with their show on Nov 18/19th (see p5). Enjoy!

Drayton Table Tennis Club

Our teams are now a few weeks into the season with varying fortunes. The Artisans in Division 1 are so far **unbeaten** with Matt Davies so far on a 100% record. In Division 2 our two teams had their first derby match with a draw the result. Callum Richardson won all his 3 for the Corinthians to help them achieve the draw. Corinthians are currently top at the time of writing but Buzzards are in the bottom two. Both teams have only played 2 matches so it is very early to assess anything. **Callum is top of the League averages** on 100%.

In Division 3 Dingos drew their first two matches but with a few illness and injury issues have already called on a substitute from the Division 4 Eagles team. The Eagles had a first week bye and have lost their first two matches since. However, with two players new to league table tennis it will take time to settle into competitive play.



The Didcot League Individual Championships took place in late October, so I'll confirm how our players fared in the next issue.

We have welcomed **some new members** to our Monday coaching sessions and it's good to see they have enjoyed the sessions. It bodes well for future league players.

John Gould

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[by Susan Baird]



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Fly Tipping – WARNING!!

You have a legal responsibility, or **Duty of Care**, to make sure that all waste from your household or business is disposed of correctly.

You could face prosecution and a **fine of up to £5,000** if your waste ends up fly-tipped.

Always check your waste is being disposed of by a **registered waste carrier**, otherwise you risk your waste being fly tipped. Anyone employed to remove waste from your home or business must have an 'Upper Tier waste' licence that will start with **CBDU**.

You can (and should!) check the register of waste carriers on the Environment Agency website:-
<https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers>

Extra advice:- Record the Reg Number of any vehicle used by a waste carrier for your rubbish – AND – ask for a proper Invoice & Receipt

Weather Getting Colder?

Don't forget your Garden Birds!

Many folk put food out for them, but 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. And when it gets frosty, please check it's not frozen over!




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Chronicle Team

Christmas is coming! But we didn't quite start thinking about it soon enough for this issue (!), so, look out for a message soon from Kay Davies about our regular get-together with a mince-pie or two!

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Dear Editor, via Email

Thank you to everybody who supported our Macmillan Coffee Morning, held recently, or made a donation.

The amount raised was **£1,430** but this does not take into account the gift aid, so in real terms the total will be more!

Special thanks to **Miriam, Jo, Jenny, and Heather** for your support, we could not have done it without your help.

Kind Regards Liz Kidd / Brenda Malin

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This Year's Poppy Appeal

Dear Editor, Lockway

The **Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal** kicks off this year on Oct 27th. If you wish to show your support you will be able to donate and get poppies, crosses, etc from our local businesses who have kindly agreed to have trays and collection boxes on their premises again this year.

Drayton Primary school will also have a tray of appropriate items (no pins) if the children wish to donate. There will also be a tray of poppies and crosses in **St Peter's Church**.

On November 5th a 'pop-up table' will be on **Drayton village green** between 10.30 & 2.30 with poppies/crosses/enamel pins/etc. Looking forward to your continued support.

Kind Regards Sue & Harry Ash

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)

NOV Dates Ab'don (3rd Fri) 18th; Didcot (2nd Sat) 12th

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

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Dr Amanda Learoyd

Dr Warren Spreadbury

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Keith Clough

Dear Editor, via email

Sadly, **Keith Clough**, passed away in Sobell House on 22nd September, aged 89 years, after a short illness.

Keith, a resident of Sutton Wick Lane, was a Chronicle distributor for many years and a trustee of the Millennium Green. He was a true gentleman and will be missed by his friends, neighbours, family, and wife Jean.

His funeral will have taken place at South Oxfordshire Crematorium (October 18th) by the time this edition goes to press, but **donations** to the RNLI, and the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust, in memory of Keith, can be made online at www.tonksbrothers.com

Kind Regards Dawn Waddup

[Ed's Note:- Dawn's letter, giving us this sad news, is quite correct. Keith was an 'agent' for the Chronicle, and back in the days when we needed partial funding from our Lottery game, he did an incredible amount of work organising that effort in Sutton Wick to maximum effect!]

Oxfordshire Craft Guild

... will once again be at the **Abingdon Craft Fair**, in the Guild Hall, November 4th, 5th and 6th.

As ever, they'll be showing a range of high-class works, ideal for that slightly unusual gift.

Their **Winter Exhibition** returns too, after a Covid-gap, showing at the **Oxfordshire Museum** (which has a range of other attractions, including their Soldiers of Oxfordshire hall), in **Woodstock**, that runs from Nov 19th to Dec 31st.

www.ocg.co.uk

Saying Goodbye

Dear Editor,

via email



This month (November) St Peter's is starting a new chapter as **I will have retired at the end of October**. It's been a very enriching and rewarding 5 years – thank you.

It has been a privilege to hear couples' hopes and aspirations as we have talked together about their weddings, and for children when they come to be baptized. It has

also been very moving listening to people's life stories when being involved in their funerals.

Many of these have a common thread of the importance of family, place and an awareness of a loving God who watches over them – and St Peter's being a special place for them. These services will still continue at St Peter's and the person to contact is **Alison Bampton** in the parish office, so that's email: - admin@damascusparish.org.uk [Ed :- see p4 in this issue]


Sunday services will still continue, although you may find fewer clergy around, and more of the congregation taking responsibility in the running of the church and services (watch this space!). **Pebbles** and **Tuesday Connect** will still be happening as well as a new venture. This is part of our weekly invitation to provide **Warm Spaces** in the Church Room for those who would like to meet with others during the day. In the next few weeks keep an eye on the Notice Board and Families in Drayton Facebook page for more details.

It has been a very special five years here. We have found the village to be friendly and have enjoyed walking along the different footpaths leading into the surrounding countryside. We will miss being here. David and I are so glad to have been able to serve the village and the church and seen God at work. This is our prayer for you from the Bible, (*Numbers 6:24-26*):

May the Lord bring good to you and keep you. May the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be kind to you. May the Lord show favour toward you, and give you peace.

Kind Regards

Meg Heywood



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Tommies Come to Drayton

Dear Editor,

via email

The two Remembrance 'Tommies' will be placed on the green on November 5th. The date coincides with the Royal British Legion **pop-up poppy stall** also on the green that day.

The two Tommies (a male and a female) will represent the fallen and wounded of all conflicts.

At the base of the Tommies will be a lovely purpose-made grass-lined trough into which poppies or crosses can be placed.

This is of course in addition to the war memorial at the church gate and within St. Peters.

The display will remain there for the two weeks of remembrance, and then will be removed for safe keeping until next year.


My **grateful thanks** go out once again to those (and you know who you are) who raised the money for this display to happen.

Kind Regards

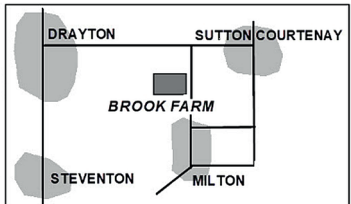
Susan Baird (Drayton 'Tommy' group)

[Ed :- also see Susan's Tommy poem, p7 in this issue]

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Neighbourhood News – we rarely hear now, since the Chron Agents don't need to sell tickets for the former Lottery game, of any folk moving in or out of the village. But if you hear such news (& the people are OK with it publicised!) do let us know!



Motions – Fracking & Cost of Living

When I became a councillor, I was a bit cynical about the value of motions passed at Council. After all, wouldn't Govt just ignore what they didn't want to hear? I thought the key part was representing residents and pressuring on their behalf, balancing the books, pushing on planning and enforcement

– and those are as crucial as I thought, but **the motions turn out to be worthwhile after all.**

After the Expressway was cancelled and the Government thought again about their algorithm-based changes to planning policy (both following motions calling on Govt to do these, **from multiple Councils**), I thought again. Individual Councils might be easily ignored, but when lots of Councils write to the Government saying the same thing, they seem to *have* to listen. It's a way of sending a strong signal up the chain, and it's well known as a function of Councils (I was actually too cynical, I'm pleasantly surprised!).

In addition, there are sometimes useful things we can do, even if it's just getting set up and with people keyed up and processes worked out and legal kinks ironed out ready to administer what we've asked for or suggested, but sometimes getting people connected with services that can help them, or providing advice.

On Oct 12th, in Full Council, we passed a couple of motions that I want to mention. One was on fracking, and one was on support to businesses in the Cost of Living crisis.

Fracking

Proposed by the Conservative Group Leader, and seconded by myself on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group, and following a consensus approach where both parties amended the original motion to improve it, we passed a resolution that the Council Leader would inform Government (who say they want to take local consent into account) that our position on fracking is unanimously negative: it is an unacceptable energy source for the Vale of White Horse, and they should focus on production and infrastructure for renewable energy. We hope this will have extra impact on the Government, because of the totally cross-party way it was done (they may expect the Lib Dems to criticize this; that the Conservatives joined us on it and we worked hand in glove on it will have been noticed by them). →

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We do not believe that there are currently any (known) plans for exploratory work here, but it is not implausible that the Jurassic Weald Basin (which has had exploratory drilling) may extend this far. We would like to lock that door before anyone pushes at it, and add our voice to the other Councils calling the same way.

Before anyone accuses us of being **anti-technology or NIMBY about this** (despite lots of engineers and scientists as Councillors), I'll point out that the arguments raised on the groundwater pollution risk, seismic issues, environmental damage, and emissions were solid. For me, one huge alarm bell is the regulatory system:- whilst offshore drilling is covered by **exhaustive regulation and safety & environmental cases** (with massive criminal implications for avoidance) to the point where rain falling on an oil rig must be collected, analysed, and disposed of properly – *those rules don't apply to fracking*, the regs are far lighter, despite such activity occurring far closer to peoples' homes and near farms and streams.

Moreover, as the gas is not in a single reservoir, fracking requires the drilling of dozens of wells scattered every few hundred yards across the countryside, and until they were thoroughly fracked, the owners wouldn't even know if their field was viable. And if it wasn't – they'd fold the company, walk off, and leave the environmental damage for someone else to clear up.

And that's for something that even Cuadrilla say is not economically viable in the UK! Why the current Govt insist on trying to push this is beyond me, but we can certainly push back.

Cost of Living support - businesses

The other key motion was on **support for small businesses** in the Cost of Living crisis – who have seen huge increases in their costs, reduction in business, and were left as a late afterthought in the Energy Cap guarantees. This has left them with still huge increases in prices, and guaranteed only for six months – at a time they need stability.

I grew up in a pub. I've seen just how hard the life is and how much work goes in for how little reward – and I know many other small businesses are the same. They've taken a huge hit from the pandemic and **need stability now**; six months is not stability.

We've asked the Government to reconsider the short planning horizon, and to look at additional targeted support for businesses (such as pubs and restaurants, but also others) who use a lot of energy for cooking, heating, and lighting for customers. We understand that many other Councils are calling for the same thing.

Meanwhile, we're going to ensure the **existing South and Vale Business Support (svbs.co.uk)** is ready to send out any grants or support that do get issued from the centre as immediately as possible (preparing now can mean saving days in the future – if they do get set up. And days can make the difference).

It's not much. It's not as much as we want. But this was also unanimously passed, so maybe the Government will listen. This sort of thing has worked before, and now it's more important than ever. It's got to be worth a shot. [See [page 19 for further info](#)]

Even More LETTERS

Poppy Appeal / Curry Lunch (RBL)

Dear Editor, via Email

Saturday Nov 5th, Steventon Village Hall, 12.30 for 1pm*

This is the only event in the year when those who have served in the Armed Forces and Reserves, and others associated with the Defence Services, can meet together, and we **greatly welcome** those who have a looser connection or who support us.

The cost is £15 per adult, first drink free, thereafter donations. **Children come free.** Main Course is provided by **Tiffins** -

All Profits go to Poppy Appeal

Cash or cheques please to N H Thompson, 27 Stocks Lane, Steventon OX13 6SS (Tel - 01235 832077)

*Please notify dietary needs. There will be vegetarian dishes – and Take-Away is available.

THE **ROYAL BRITISH LEGION** Steventon and District Branch **AGM** will be at 27 Stocks Lane Steventon, Mon Nov 21st

Kind Regards Brig. N H Thompson (CBE)

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!)

Village Hall Dates Antiques Fair, Sunday 6th; **Charity Craft Fair** (Kathy Head) Sat 26th. Both have great refreshments!



Community Choir

Dear Editor, via email

Actual or budding singers?! Drayton Community Choir meets on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays in the month, 7.30pm in the church room of St Peter's in Church Lane.

It is open to **any ladies** who simply enjoy singing with others. **First session is a free 'taster session'** - so why not come along and give it a go?!

We meet on the **2nd and 4th Thursday in the month.** You can message me via the village 'Families' F'book if you want to know more (you can search there for 'community choir').

Kind Regards Kay Davies

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Drayton's Fruity History?

Drayton's Apple Heritage

Drayton and its surrounding villages in north Berkshire (we only joined Oxfordshire in 1974) were once a **noted apple-growing area**. Indeed, some of the older gardens in the village have gnarled and ancient apple trees of unknown variety that are still productive. Many of the old varieties have an interesting history and they have been well catalogued. One such reference is www.pomiferous.com, an online encyclopaedia of over 7000 apples.

When Mike Habermehl drew up the original plan for the Millennium Green, he incorporated an apple orchard of **heritage varieties** that were once planted hereabouts, but which are now seldom seen. His schematic plan is reproduced below, but a few of the trees have failed since they were planted so reliance on the plan alone makes identification of the remainder difficult. A further problem is that fruit trees tend to become biennial, meaning that they crop on alternate years and this year, several of them have not produced any fruit at all.

Here is a list of the varieties originally planted on the Millennium Green, together with their locations on the plan:-

1. Rosemary Russet 2 & 3. Nutmeg
- 4, 5 & 6. Autumn Pearmain 7. Catshead
8. Keswick Codlin 9 & 10. King Charles's Pearmain
11. Lemon Pippin 12, 13 & 14. Egremont Russet
- 15 & 16. Gennet Moyle 17 & 18. Old Pearmain
19. Cackle Pippin 20 & 21. Golden Pippin
- 22 & 26. Oaken Pippin 23, 24 & 25. Charles Ross
- 27 & 28. Leathercoat Russet 29 & 30. English Codlin
31. Court Pendu Plat 32. Grenadier
- 33 & 34. Encore 35, 36 & 37. Winston
- 38, 40 & 41. Blenheim Orange 39. Deacon's Millenium
42. Isaac Newton 43 & 44. Reverend Wilks

(For a few photos, please see overleaf on p14)



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Pippin, as the name suggests, is an apple grown from a pip, probably resulting from random pollination. The grower would have to wait several years to determine whether its characteristics were worth preserving; if it was, the tree would be propagated by grafting cuttings onto an established rootstock. **Codlins** are soft-fleshed cookers which quickly simmer to a sweet and frothy mush and are the main ingredient in the traditional pudding of 'codlin cream'. **Russets** are so named for their rough, brownish skins, a common feature of older varieties; they often have an aromatic flavour.

There is evidence that **Pearmain apples** were under cultivation in the 12th century. The name does not imply an association with pears; it's actually derived from the Old French *parmaindre*, or **endurance**, reflecting their long shelf life. Quite a lot of our older varieties seem to have originated in France; indeed, the term **pomology**, or the study of fruit trees, is derived from the French for apple, pomme.

If, like me, you think we should fill the gaps in our heritage apple orchard, then please contact me via email at: andrew.bax@ntlworld.com. The project will take a bit of money and a bit of effort, but it will provide interest and apples for many generations to come. **Andrew Bax**

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More on Drayton Apples

(continued from p13) Andrew has supplied some pics of the apple varieties, but, one or two have identity questions?!



According to the plan these should be Court Pendu Plat, an old French cultivar, thought to have originated with the Romans. They look more like **Winston** to me. More research needed!!



Nutmeg Pippin, I think. This variety was first described in 1920 but it is thought to be much older. Or, do you think they're actually something different??



A good crop of **Blenheim Orange** on the Millennium Green. This variety was found as a seedling growing against the boundary wall of Blenheim Palace in 1740 by George Kempster, a basket weaver.

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Your County Councillor



Richard Webber - Oxon CC

Staying optimistic in an atmosphere of trickle down depression

Clearly, things are not going as well as anyone would want. More people are angry and anxious than I can ever remember. I will sidestep Westminster difficulties and stick to local government, which finds itself squeezed between the uncertainty trickling down from above with the state and prospects for the economy, and the desperate desire to do something for local residents arising from the cost of living crisis.

The demise of the Oxfordshire 2050 initiative and its ambitions to bring councils together on housing numbers and traffic has enormous implications for our future local economy.

With high inflation, the funding of the HIF1 Road, designed rightly or wrongly to address past shortages of infrastructure, is of increasing concern. If we want higher growth, we need new ideas on how to manage and fund our dated highway network.

Add to these concerns the other effects of the cost of living crisis and the urgent need to address the climate emergency and there are few grounds for optimism.

In short, it's all an unholy mess and there is a distinct shortage of ideas to sort it out. In an effort to resist growing depression, I am trying to focus on what I, as an individual, can actually do. Here is the list pinned to the kitchen fridge which reminds me and allows me to spend time on local government issues. The list keeps getting longer, but I hope some residents may find it useful...

Notes to self:-

Get out of car... when I complain about traffic, I am probably contributing to it.

Get on bike

Get on bus and train when possible.

Walk

Support local business.

Eat less

Wear warm clothing

Find reasons to be optimistic and share that message.

People with positive ideas and optimistic messages are needed more than ever!

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

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

I've been pleased with the response of local companies to my **work experience campaign.**

We've now got a great set of placements happening for over 30 sixth-formers at schools across the constituency, I'm very grateful to organisations from Oxford Sigma and Hachette UK, to Rebellion and Astroscale.

Work experience is really important to help young people understand the world of work, but **placements have dried up** due to Covid and lots more people working at home for at least part of their week, meaning **young people are not getting the opportunities others used to**, particularly disadvantaged ones. I'm hoping this will improve in the years to come.

We were given the shortest time limit for speeches I've ever had in my time as an MP - 90 seconds each! - in **a debate about sewage discharges**, secured by a Conservative colleague of mine. The reason was that there were 33 MPs present for just a 90 minute debate. It was still enough to make some key points: that we all agree too much sewage is released into our waters - it should be rare but water companies don't adhere to this - it is not a new problem and it can't be fixed overnight as the alternative is sewage backing up into people's homes instead.

It was also important to highlight that the claim MPs voted to allow it to happen have been shown by independent fact-checking organisation, Full Fact, to be false - whichever way the vote in question had gone the sewage would not have stopped. I welcomed the new legal duty the Govt has put on water companies to reduce this harm and the £56 billion that is being unlocked by its **Storm Overflows Plan** to tackle the problem. I particularly welcome that the Govt is increasing the maximum fine that can be levied from £250,000 to £250 million.

Sixteen-year-old Niamh from Wantage came to see me about **negative behaviour** she and her friends have been experiencing from boys and men, including rape 'jokes', which adults around them have dismissed as 'boys will boys'. She is keen to campaign on this area and I am going to help her - I am setting up for her to meet Sharon Gaffka, whose spiking campaign I have helped, and I raised the topic in the House of Commons the following week. As I have said before in Parliament, it seems pretty obvious that if we can ensure boys grow up respecting girls, **they're unlikely to become men who disrespect women.**

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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**, we'd not long had the 'Gangnam Style' craze, and **Adele** had been almost endlessly on TV and the airwaves with the Bond theme 'Skyfall'.

Back **20 years** – and **Ronan Keating** was 'featuring' **Lulu** on 'We've Got Tonight', and soon to be #1 were **Blue**, featuring **Elton John** on 'Sorry Seems to be the Hardest Word' – it had been HIS hit 30 years earlier!

Back to **1992** – that month was dominated by the wonderful #1 (from 'The Bodyguard' film) 'I Will Always Love You', and the incredible soaring vocals of the sadly ill-fated **Whitney Houston** (had originally been a 1974 Dolly Parton hit of course, though in a very different form).

40 years ago (is it REALLY so long?!) and we'd just had **Tears for Fears** charting with 'Mad World', also the very stylish **Kid Creole & the Coconuts** ('Annie, I'm not your Daddy'), plus **Daryl Hall & John Oates** ('Maneater'), with a famous #1 by **Renee & Renato** 'Save Your Love'. Also in the top 10 were **Clannad** with the haunting 'Theme from Harry's Game', and **Madness**, with 'Our House', one of the most played and performed tracks ever since?!

FIFTY years ago (for real old-timers), we had **Elton John** with 'Crocodile Rock', & **The Osmonds** 'Crazy Horses', with a 'novelty' #1 by **Little Jimmy Osmond** ('Long Haired Lover from Liverpool'), which surprisingly he survived to perform more than once! Coming up in the charts were the far more memorable 'Jean Genie' (**David Bowie**), & 'You're So Vain' (**Carly Simon**).

Can anyone recall **1962**?! **Let me help:-** In just a few weeks, an **incredible set of records charted**, **Chris Montez** and his iconic 'Let's Dance', with **Mark Wynter's** 'Venus in Blue Jeans', & **Frank Ifield** too ('Lovesick Blues'). A certain **Elvis Presley** would soon be #1, ('Return to Sender'), with just behind him **Brenda Lee** ('Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree' – another big voice!). Another hit then was 'Island of Dreams', by the incredibly popular **Springfields**, though **Dusty** would soon split off for her amazing solo career. Her brother **Tom** (actually Dion O'brien) went on to write several hits for the New Seekers, including 'Georgy Girl', which he co-wrote with one **Jim Dale**, perhaps more famous in umpteen Carry On films!

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This month in 2012 we'd just had Felix Baumgartner become the first person to break the sound barrier (without machine assistance) jumping from a balloon at 128,000 feet up. More down to earth, **Barack Obama** won his 2nd term as US President, few if any realised what a Chump his successor would be?! And, sadly, we lost **Larry Hagman** ('JR' in Dallas), and would soon lose **Sir Patrick Moore**, & **Dave Brubeck**, the jazz pianist.

TWENTY years ago **Girls Aloud** were formed, and would soon have the Xmas #1, (with 'Sound of the Underground'), on TV **Sir Winston Churchill** was voted the greatest ever Briton, and **Shane Ritchie** made his debut as Alfie Moon (Eastenders).

In **1992** a chap called **Bill Clinton** became President, and the **C of E** voted to allow women to become priests, whilst in central Europe, the **Czech Republic & Slovakia** were about to be created, from the former single country. And (quite topical) **Prince Charles & Diana, Princess of Wales** were about to publicly announce their separation.

FORTY years ago the **Mary Rose** had just been raised from the Solent, and **Michael Jackson** was releasing 'Thriller' (to become the greatest selling album). We sadly lost screen comic **Marty Feldman**, also **Leonid Brezhnev**, and legendary filmmaker **Jacques Tati**. On TV, **Channel4** started broadcasting (**Countdown** was the first show!), the **Young Ones** sitcom first aired, & **Only Fools and Horses** showed the classic episode with the crashing chandelier!

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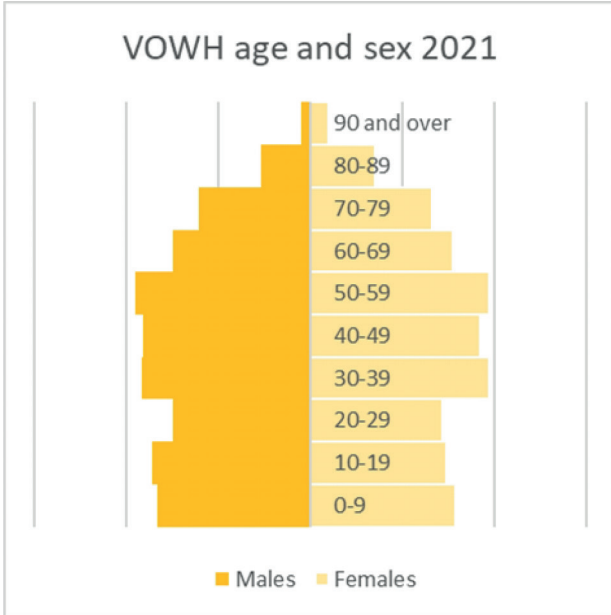
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2021 Census

Age pyramid for that 2021 census:-

More results from the first release of 2021 Census data. This diagram shows the age and sex of usual residents in the **Vale of White Horse** in 10-year age bands.

The largest age group is the 50-59, the tail end of the baby boomer generation and the start of Gen X. Lower numbers in the younger age bands reflect generally decreasing family sizes.



Females on average live longer. There are some 1,300 more females than males aged 80 or over. At the other end of the age scale, there are more boys than girls, probably reflecting the presence of boys' boarding schools in the Vale.

NB:- the Census question for sex was "What is your sex?" - answer Male or Female (there was a separate gender question).

Similar data for Drayton is likely to be available early in 2023.
Martin Blogg

Other Local News

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Milton Methodist Church News

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, 4th Tuesday of the month:-
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)
Lunch Club (First Tuesday), 12.30pm
Art Group 2 to 4pm, Fridays

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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

Cost of living – domestic support

We've also been looking at whatever we can do for people in their own homes. The Community Hub got a lot of experience during covid, so we're repurposing it to help. It offers advice and signposts useful services, and it's always worth trying as a first port of call if you're struggling:- Office hours: **8.30am-5pm Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-4.30pm on Fridays.**

In addition, we're looking at making Council spaces open and available to residents in the cold months as "warm, welcoming spaces." As well as a warm environment, these can be used to meet people. Updates to follow as more planning solidifies.

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

Suspicious Email Reporting Service

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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

TUESDAY CONNECT >>

HAS MOVED! Now on the **SECOND Tuesday** (As on page 4 - monthly tea & chat afternoons in Church).


And the **Baptist Cafe** is on Thursdays – each week – but is NOW occurring in the Caudwell Day Centre, 11am to 1pm, more tea and cake, and **you can be sure of a warm welcome.**

LISTINGS

Antiques Fair – In the Village Hall - Sunday Nov 6th (and Dec 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/>

Stamps? Are very expensive (!), and the present ones will be invalid after Jan 31st, when barcoded ones are needed. Use up any stamps you have, OR, swap them, see the website:- <https://www.royalmail.com/barcodedstamps>



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DRAYTONDIARIES

(Mostly) Hall Diary for November

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 >>>)

Sat	5	11.00am	Private Function (meeting) 'Poppy' pop-up stall <i>Village Green</i>
Sun	6	9.00am	ANTIQUES FAIR (to 3pm)
Tues	8	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting <i>Caudwell DC</i> (Planning C'tee - 7pm)
Weds	9	9.00am	New Hirer (Little City, see p7)
		4.00pm	Developer & Residents 'seminar'?? (p7)
Fri	11		Players' Rehearsals (& weekend)
Mon	14	5.00pm	CHRONICLE DEADLINE (see p2) (NB Adverts by Friday 11th please!)
Fri	18	7.30pm	(& Sat) Players SHOW (see ad p5)
Sat	26		CRAFT FAIR
Sat	27	9.00am	Dog Show (private club)

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Here's the 'Regular Events' diary, just about back to normal, post-Covid. IF we've missed something, DO PLEASE let us know!

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) <i>St Peter's</i>
TUESDAYS	
9.30 am	Pilates (via Alexandra Merson 07788 248925)
1.45 pm	Drayton Art Group (until 4 pm) <i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
2.30 pm	Tuesday Connect (now 2nd Tuesday) <i>Church</i>
5.30 pm	Irish Dancing (via Ashleigh - 07375 878445)
WEDNESDAYS	
10.00 am	Pebbles (Baby, Toddler, Carer group) <i>Church</i>
1.30 pm	Whist Drive <i>Caudwell DC</i>
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	
9.30 am	Parent & Toddler Group (Now back on Thursdays!)
9.45 am	Holy Communion (**) <i>St Peter's Lady Chapel</i>
11.00 am	Baptist Café (to 1pm) NOW IN >> <i>Caudwell DC</i>
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) <i>Caudwell DC</i>
7.30 pm	'Community Choir' (p12, 2nd/4th Thurs) <i>Church Room</i>
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), <u>PLEASE see our St Peter's Church page</u>	
6.00 pm	Evening Service <i>Baptist Church</i>

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GARD (Group Against Reservoir Development) >>

DO LOOK OUT for notices re a public meeting to discuss, and respond to, the new Thames Water WRMP (Water Resource Management Plan) which is due out in mid-November, then we can arrange a Hall Date.