

Drayton Chronicle



December 2022

CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The next **Drayton Chronicle** will be the **February 2023** issue edited by: **Margaret Inger (07967 730735)**

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

NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

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

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

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

email to editor@draytonchronicle.net

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

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

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

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

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

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

Editor

Key dates for next Chronicles

Issue	Deadlines for contributions		Printed Chronicles available on:
	Adverts	Editor	
Feb.	13th Jan 23	16th Jan 23	27th Jan 23
Mar.	10th Feb 23	13th Feb 23	24th Feb 23

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

---- Number of Inserts ----

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

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

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

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

TUESDAY CONNECTIONS

Are you feeling lonely, isolated or in need of some friendly company? If so, join us for our monthly tea and chat afternoons in the Church. The meetings take place on the second Tuesday of the month 2-30 to 4-00pm. and you can be sure of a warm welcome. The next two meetings will be 13th Dec and 10th Jan. If you would like a chat with a friendly, sympathetic voice, or to join us, please call **Beryl** on **513379** or **Ros** on **535589**.

BAPTIST CHURCH

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



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

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

LOCAL METHODIST WORSHIP



High Street, Milton

Sunday Service: 10:30 am

Contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle. Tel: 531409

DAMASCUS Parish article

This year churches across the DAMASCUS Parish (Drayton, Appleford, Milton, Sutton Courtenay and Steventon) are inviting you to 'Follow the Star' to a church near you to experience once again the wonder of Christmas – the same wonder the shepherds experienced. Shepherds in first century Palestine would have been attuned to the wonders and ravages of nature: star-lit nights, cold and heat, storm and calm, and the unwelcome attention of predators. They would have been more aware than we of human dependency on the seasons, and more respectful than us of the precarious nature of existence. Fear, as well as appreciation, would have shaped their religious sensitivities. Some think the shepherds near Bethlehem may have been guarding sheep for the Jerusalem Temple, which used them as part of the sacrificial ritual.

Yet the kind of work shepherds did and the hours they had to keep barred them from orthodox religious observance; they were regarded as uncouth and untrustworthy and were not allowed to give testimony in law courts. It was typical of St Luke (the only New Testament writer to refer to the shepherds) to put them in the forefront of his narrative. Luke is the writer who favours the underdog: tax collectors, sinners, women, old and poor people and non-Jews all figure favourably in his account. Deliberately he sets before us shepherds as the first Christmas worshippers. They already knew how to *wonder*. William of St Thierry wrote: "A man who has lost his sense of wonder is a man dead." The 19th Century scientist Michael Faraday wrote: "Let us consider... how wonderfully we stand upon this world. Here it is that we are born, bred and live, and yet we view these things with an almost entire absence of wonder..." This is no plea for anti-intellectual faith, but rather for the discovery of an extra dimension. Wonder is the prime ingredient of worship, and we need to recover it and use it. It takes practice. The poet William Blake encouraged us to look into the ordinary and see the extraordinary:

"To see a World in a Grain of Sand,

And a Heaven in a Wild Flower:

Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand,

And eternity in an hour..."

The late Michael Mayne, Dean of Westminster wrote, "A sense of the sublime leads to a sense of awe, which is I suppose that combination of wonder and fearfulness you may feel in the presence of what takes your breath away. It is not afraid in the sense of feeling scared, but rather an awe-struck sense of amazement that the ordinary is rather more extraordinary than the extraordinary... it is not the rabbit out of the hat but the rabbit out of the rabbit that is so surprising..." So, in the astonishing story of heaven-come-to-earth in Bethlehem, of divinity in a cowshed, it is *shepherds* who receive the revelation. Not priests, not presidents, not philosophers. "An angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified." For all they knew it might have been bad news. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.'" The response of the shepherds was to go and see. Not to question or even to reason. The main constituent of their belief was already *wonder*. They were accustomed to marvelling, for they were surrounded by a world of marvels. So, they responded to the invitation and went to look. And as they looked, they marvelled. Later, they were to return "glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard."

With love and prayers,

The Reverend Helen Kendrick,
Rector of the DAMASCUS Parish



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

www.damascusparish.org.uk

Rector Revd Helen Kendrick rector@damascusparish.org.uk

Pro-Warden Mrs Linda Johnson or (admin@...)

Administrator Alison Bampton 01235 847179

The church remains open daily, Sunday – Saturday 10– 4.

(Note change in opening times)

REGULAR SERVICES.

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

Christmas services at St Peter's

Sunday 18th December 9:45a.m.–Carol Praise with Holy Communion

6.00p.m Carol Service at All Saints, Sutton Courtenay.

Saturday 24th December 11:30p.m – Midnight Communion

Sunday 25th December 9:45a.m – Family Morning Praise for Christmas Day.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE will take place in January 2023, not on Christmas Eve!

PARISH REGISTER

Baptism

Saturday 22nd October Aurora Ivy Collen

REGULAR EVENTS

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

If you have a baby or toddler you would be so welcome to join us. We meet in Church.

Please email: suedraytonpebbles@outlook.com for more information or visit our Drayton Pebbles Facebook Page.

Nativity and Christmas Party on Wednesday 7th December.

Bell ringing practice—every Monday 7:30 pm.

YOU STAY WE PRAY, DECEMBER 2022

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

4th – 10th Dec Hilliat Fields; Lyford Close

11th – 17th Dec Manor Close; The Green

18th – 24th Dec High Street; Chiers Drive;

Cheers Farm; Halls Close

25th – 31st Dec Friars Mews; Monk Close; Prior Drive; Abbot Crescent.

WARM SPACES.

The Damascus Parish are offering all sorts of initiatives to provide warm spaces for our communities. Here in St Peter's, we are doing the same. Each week, starting in November there will be an opportunity for older members of our community to meet together in the Church room for a few hours over a cuppa! This is what it looks like at present

1st Monday of the month *Knit and Natter*: 2pm – 4pm

2nd Tuesday of the month *Tuesday Connect*: 2:30 – 4pm

3rd & 4th Friday of the month *Come for a Cuppa Soup and a Roll*: 12 - 2pm



Christmas Cracker Event

**Saturday 3rd December
St Peter's Church, Drayton
10am to 12noon**



A sale of handcrafted and
homemade goods, cards, cakes,
chutney and much more.....
Mulled wine and mince pies!



Proceeds to church funds and CAP
(Christians against Poverty)



Getty Images

The Martin Lewis Money Show

Many households don't check the 'flow temperature' of their boiler.

This is the temperature your boiler will heat up water before sending it to the radiators and can be controlled by a dial.

This temperature should be set to 60 degrees, with most peoples boilers being set higher which is really inefficient.

You can turn this down, it won't affect the heat in your house, it'll still be the same temperature. Only it may take a little longer to get there.

This can cut £100 a year off your gas bill and is well worth everyone doing it.

Jigsaw Stage Productions

Presents



A Traditional Pantomime for ALL ages, by Ben Crocker

**Steventon Village Hall
The Green, Steventon, OX13 6RR
Sat 10th December at 5pm**

**Tickets £10 (£7 concessions)
Family £30 (2Adults + 2Children)
On-line or from 40 Castle St, Steventon
www.JigsawStageProductions.co.uk**

Join Aladdin for a fun-filled magical adventure from Old Peking to the desert sands of Arabia as he bids to save the beautiful Princess Jasmine from the clutches of the wicked Abanazar.

The poor Emperor hasn't a clue what is going on with his hapless police force Sergeant Ping and PC Pong.

The Genie of the Ring and Genie of the Lamp bring a touch of magic and mayhem to the story.

Expect all the traditional panto ingredients - toe tapping tunes, a laundry-full of laughs with Widow Twankey and Wishee Washee, loads of audience participation - and a very, very badly behaved panda! It's a genie-us of a pantomime!

This is a show to be enjoyed by all ages, with plenty of hearty laughs to lighten anyone's winter evenings.

Ben Crocker's traditional pantomime is based on the original Arabian Nights tale that has been lovingly re-invented by one of the wittiest and most inventive writers working in pantomime today.

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Christmas Markets in and around the Cotswolds



Festive market at Cheltenham (Image: Cheltenham BID)

18th November - 19th December

BLenheim PALACE

The Christmas Market, which runs from November 18th, takes place in the Palace's Great Court and is open daily from 10am. It's free to enter with a pre-booked ticket, so you can wander through the boutique chalets filled with an assortment of irresistible gifts and tempting treats for foodies. With over 70 designer/maker craft traders, who will be housed in wooden chalets in the Great Court, their distinctive range of artisan products will make perfect treats and gifts this Christmas.

www.blenheimpalace.com/whats-on/events/christmas

1st - 18th December

OXFORD CHRISTMAS MARKET

The city of dreaming spires will again be filled with festive joy as the market returns to the heart of the city on beautiful and historic Broad Street on December 1st. With the sound of choirs singing Christmas carols, market traders offering unusual and handmade gifts, colourful decorations brightening wooden stalls and the aroma of mulled wine and cinnamon drifting in the air, a visit to the Oxford Christmas Market is a truly magical Christmas experience.

Broad Street, Oxford

www.oxfordchristmasmarket.co.uk



8th - 24th December

CHELTHENHAM CHRISTMAS MARKET

One of the highlights in Cheltenham's festive calendar is its Christmas Market. Around 80 market stalls will run along the pedestrianised Promenade and Long Gardens in front of the Municipal Office with roaming street entertainment during the weekends

www.visitcheltenham.com



8th - 11th December

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS MARKET

A themed event, with in excess of 300 stalls, with stall holders dressed in Victorian costumes. If you are looking for that unique Christmas gift or simply want to soak up the festive spirit, this is the place to be. There will be entertainment throughout the town; a stage in Rother Street will host a programme of performances. There will be a traditional funfair, which will include a carousel situated at the bottom of Wood Street and on the Rother Street market area.

ABINGDON CHRISTMAS EXCELLENCE MARKET

Saturday 3rd December 09:00-15:00



The Local Excellence brand of markets was invented in Abingdon over ten years ago as part of a drive to offer a better weekend shopping experience in the town centre.

Drayton Table Tennis Club
 The Didcot League Individual Championships took place late October. There are 4 divisions and each had its separate event held at Thameside School. Drayton Club had one winner and one runner up! In Division 2 Callum Richardson of Drayton Buzzards triumphed to take the trophy. In Division 4 Drayton Club secretary John Hyland of the Eagles team was the defeated finalist.



The entry levels were all very good, so both results are excellent.

We continue to get new members join the club and attend our coaching and practice sessions. This is reflective of the quality provided by Janet Quarry and Chris Blencowe our two club coaches. As I've stated before the club will continue to flourish as long as we can attract new blood. Some of us are a bit past our prime but thankfully are still enjoying playing. I foresee that we may well have a 6th team next season.

We are very happy with the welcome we have received following our move to Thameside. It is a shame there is no long-term facility on offer within the village but being only a mile or so along the road we are still able to maintain our village association. Hopefully one future day the club will move back to the village. Until that time, it seems we will continue to thrive.

Finally, in the Bidmead Cup, Drayton have been drawn at home to Sandford on Thames. The tie will be played on 4th January and I hope to report on a successful start to the campaign. This competition wasn't held in the past 2 seasons due to Covid concerns. The teams are made up of three players from teams in different division of the league depending on the number of teams in each club. With teams in all 4 divisions, our 3 players can come from any 3 of the 4 divisions. Captain Kevin Davies will get the strongest team possible based on the player's individual handicaps. No doubt Sandford will do the same. Fingers crossed and look out for a report next year.

John Gould

Census 2021

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) have released a large amount of 2021 Census data that can be viewed on a map base at <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps>.

You can search for individual postcodes or for district council areas. I think parishes will follow later.

The topics include all the questions that were asked in the Census, such as age, sex, country of birth, household size and derived data such as population density.

As an example, **14.2 %** of the Vale's population were born outside the UK compared with **35%** for Oxford.

Martin Blogg



Dear Drayton residents,

We, "the Tommy group", are looking for people to knit or crochet and donate poppies for the Tommy display next year.

Ideally we would then sew / fix them to a net and create a wave behind the Two Tommy's.

If any of you feel you would like to do this please contact me, **Susan Baird** on **01235 553775**.

Thanking you in advance.

Drayton Post Office

Mon - Fri 9 - 5.30 Sat 9 - 12.30

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Merry Christmas

and a

Happy New Year

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However, we will be closed from the 1st until the 10th January

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Lunches Wednesday to Friday by reservation only





CYCLING

Since the first lockdown, like many, I have been moved to use my bike to get around much more. Whenever possible, I cycle to my Council Offices for meetings. I am past the age of being a member of the Lycra brigade, and as a result of pressure from family and wiser colleagues,

I am now wearing my crash helmet. My car usage has dropped dramatically and I am becoming an expert on understanding how and why the X2 bus timetable behaves the way it does. Living in Drayton, I am fortunate to be close to a regular half hour bus service in most directions. Many people are not so lucky.

If/when the buses are late, it is almost always because they have been held up in car traffic.

It is all very well for the likes of me to bang in about encouraging people to use their cars much less, but so often the major obstacle to this is the unreliability of our public transport together with the safety of our cycle network. Here and there, we have stretches of well made, dedicated, safe and attractive routes for cyclists (Peepoday Lane being the classic example). Very few of these join up properly at present and the cyclist too often has to take his/her life in their hands as they try to negotiate busy roads and fast traffic.

Last Saturday, we decided to try a longer trip for a cup of coffee. Only about 20 miles + hills, but even after careful planning, it involved some stretches of busy roads. Most car drivers are very aware of the need to give cyclists (particularly those not in the flush of youth) plenty of room as per the new Highway Code. However, a significant number seem to find cyclists little more than an irritating obstruction. While we cannot afford to join up safe cycling routes as quickly as we would like, and so many of our roads are too narrow for dedicated cycle lanes, all of us – cyclists, pedestrians and car drivers have to accept the need for sharing the roads. In the past 30 years, the number of cars on our roads has doubled. That cannot be sustainable. Last Saturday, we decided to get off main roads wherever possible and explore usable by-ways. This involved carrying the bikes at various points and negotiating gates and even styles at one point.

On the way home, we took on the roads again and risked the traffic. Summing up our day, we agreed that it had been a beautiful day and we were fitter than when we started and we were still alive. But was it enjoyable? Nowhere near as enjoyable as it should have been. Having been overtaken by two electric cyclists, even older than us, shooting up Steventon Hill, we are seriously considering the latest electric adaptations to normal bikes – less than half the price of new electric bikes. We wonder if by going a little faster on shared roads might actually make us safer.

A recent VWHDC publication caught my eye recently.

“The councils intend to encourage sustainable active transport methods like walking and cycling, and to make maximum use of green spaces and the districts’ waterways as it’s widely recognised that spending time in the natural environment is beneficial for mental health and wellbeing.”

Meanwhile, OCC is heavily involved in a “Vision Zero Summit” on road and cycling safety. Bring it on.

Richard Webber Cllr 01235 534001

Richardwebber777@gmail.com



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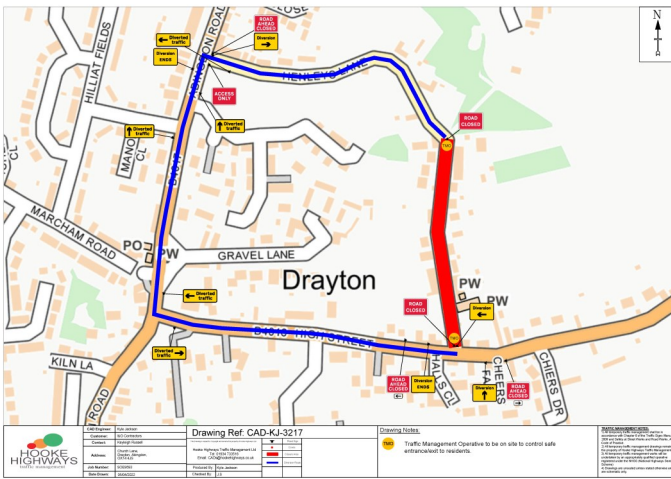
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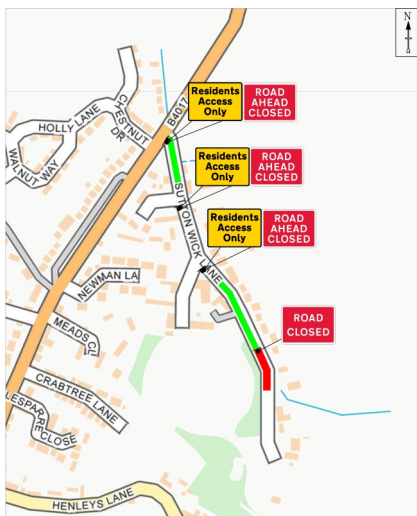
Temporary Traffic Regulation Order – S14 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

Temporary Road Closure at Drayton, Church Lane

A request has been received from I & G Contractors for a temporary road closure to apply to a section of Church Lane whilst essential gas main replacement works are carried out.

A Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) is being made to implement the temporary closure and will operate from **30 January 2023 up to and including 14 April 2023. This is a 24 hour road closure.**

(The maximum duration of a TTRO on a road is 18 months and on a footpath is 6 months, or until completion of the works, whichever is the earlier.)



Temporary Traffic Regulation Order – S14 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

Temporary Road Closure at Drayton, Sutton Wick Lane

A request has been received from I & G Contractors for a temporary road closure to apply to a section of Sutton Wick Lane whilst essential gas main replacement works are carried out.

A Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) is being made to implement the temporary closure and will operate from **09 January 2023 up to and including 24 February 2023. This is a 24 hour road closure.**

(The maximum duration of a TTRO on a road is 18 months and on a footpath is 6 months, or until completion of the works, whichever is the earlier.)

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The Queen's Green Canopy

We're approaching tree-planting season, which means people and businesses are planting them across right South Oxfordshire and the Vale as part of The Queen's Green Canopy.

If you're taking part, send us pictures of you doing so, or your planted trees to communications@southandvale.gov.uk along with information about where it is planted to help us create a record of this amazing legacy to Her Majesty.

Following the wishes of the King, The Queen's Green canopy initiative has been extended to the end of March 2023 to give people more time to plant their trees.

More information can be found at:

whitehorsedc.gov.uk/greencanopy

Cost of Living support information

If you're struggling with the increased cost of living, we've put together a [handy leaflet](#) that explains what support you can get from our councils and advice on other local and national organisations that may also be able to help.

There's more information on our website at

whitehorsedc.gov.uk/costofliving

Panto is back at The Beacon in Wantage this Christmas!

Join our hero Robin Hood as he fights to defeat the evil Sheriff of Nottingham.

With an action-packed fun story with songs, dancing and lots of audience participation, this is one Christmas show you don't want to miss!

Tickets are now on sale at The Beacon, for performances on Wednesday 21 December, with prices starting at £9.50. Shows start at 1pm and 5pm.

For more information and to book your tickets visit [The Beacon's website](#). <http://www.beaconwantage.co.uk/>

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INSPIRING WOMEN

We had a fantastic meeting with Shelley's chocolate, we had many visitors who came to taste the beautiful chocolate with us.

So many in fact we nearly ran out of chairs. We sampled a fruit and nut topped chocolate, a mint flavoured dark chocolate and finally a champagnes truffle.

When each person had tasted the samples the remainder was passed around for seconds, none were wasted.

We followed the tempering and forming of her wares and where they were obtained from and what they looked like on arrival. There was also a wonderful display of her wares which were available to buy for Christmas. Just wonder how many will survive that long?

Next month will be our Christmas party meeting. We each bring a plate of goodies of our choice and more importantly a gift for the Santa sack. This year we have upped the value of the gift to £5 and under so choosing a gift gives more scope.

The meeting will be on Thursday 8th December at 7.30 pm in the Day Centre. See you there. **Ann Webb**



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Artistic Installations in the Village

By the time you receive this edition of the Chronicle, the entrance signs will be erected, and Drayton will well and truly be a remarkable place of interest, I have received so much positive feedback about the walnut installation, from many sources, and expect that the entrance signs will be equally popular.

The mosaic project for the Small Hall is coming along well, and I expect to be able to give an update on this very soon. We are just waiting, as always, for the paperwork to be completed, and then it will be all systems go. No prosaic mosaic for us! Watch this space.

Just a little footnote, unrelated to the above, but I promised GARD that I would remind everyone about the meeting on Tuesday 29th November at 7.30 in the Large Hall. If you haven't been to one of their meetings already, please come and have your eyes opened to the reality of having a huge volume of water stored above ground level (the biggest in the Northern Hemisphere) between Steventon and Grove and the impact it will make both on the landscape and on traffic flow for years to come. You have been warned!

Pervin Shahin
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Dear all,

Cost of Living

The Cost of Living crisis remains with us. I'm therefore opening with the links to support for individuals and families from the Community Hub.

If you need help because you are struggling financially or if you are just finding life difficult, we can help. Whether it's practical support or just advice, get in touch: Tel: 01235 422600

Email: communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk

Office hours are 8.30am-5pm Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-4.30pm on Fridays

£3.6 million awarded to help local business.

Using the government's Covid-19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF), to help organisations that were unable to receive previous government Covid-19 grants despite having been badly affected by the pandemic, we managed to reduce the business rates of 1,089 local businesses, saving them a total of £3,630,660. Given the Cost of Living crisis and how it's hitting local businesses, every little helps, and this is arguably more than a little.

Flu and Covid vaccinations

It's looking like a bad flu season, and whilst covid has become endemic rather than epidemic, it's still unpleasant for many and even with immunity (which does wane) can be dangerous for the vulnerable. The vulnerable are those who have been invited for boosters. I'm eligible from February (I turn 50 then), so I can't get mine until then, but I can get my flu shot before then.

We're encouraging anyone who is eligible for the flu and Covid-19 vaccinations to book theirs as soon as possible to help boost their immunity ahead of the winter.

Flu vaccine information: nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine

And more information on how to get a Covid-19 booster here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/how-to-get-a-coronavirus-vaccine/how-to-get-a-booster-dose/>

Water Supply Summit on 30th November

To look at the WRSE management plans and anticipated arguments for Thames Water's commercial mega-reservoir, the County Council is holding their long-awaited Water Supply Summit. I've been invited and will report back on it. Meanwhile, Water Resources South East (aka the commercial water companies of South East England and London) have published their latest plan for consultation: <https://wrse.uk.engagemthq.com/our-draft-best-value-regional-plan>

Thames Water are doing exactly what they did in the 2019 attempt and saying "Okay, we'll have a one hundred megaton reservoir, look, we're compromising." It's still unnecessary, mega-expensive (seriously, haven't they noticed there's a financial crisis going on?), environmentally damaging, and they're still using it to delay an actual solution to bring in new water: the Severn Thames Transfer (which they'll consider working on in the 2050s. Probably).

I've since done some analysis on their strange population projections and realised where they got them from: they're glossing over the ONS latest estimates in favour of older, higher ones. As the up-to-date figures mean that their commercial reservoir is completely unnecessary, that feels really dodgy to me.

Solar farm public consultation

A developer has launched a public consultation for proposals for a large solar farm in the Vale, West Oxfordshire and Cherwell.

The developer proposing the Botley West Solar Farm advise that it is large enough to be considered a 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project', which means it will be determined by a government appointed Planning Inspector (rather than our Planning department).

We'll be responding to the consultation and local residents and parish councils should do the same.

Personally, given:

- 1 – The need for energy independence and renewable energy:
- 2 – The fact that farmers aren't stupid and would put their least productive land to this (and you can still graze sheep and/or grow some crops around these)
- 3 – That it's rather hard to build housing developments on land under solar farms

I'm feeling favourably inclined myself. I'll be looking in further depth as more info is available.

Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year

I'll close by wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a very happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

All the best, Andy

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David Johnston MP for Wantage and South Oxfordshire

My work experience campaign has been a great success and I'm very grateful to all of the employers who offered placements to local young people this year. I visited a number of the young people participating while they were on their placements and

they had all enjoyed their time. They found the workplaces friendly and felt they had learned new things. The whole point of this campaign was that work experience placements had dried up as a result of Covid and lots of people working from home – but they remain a vital way for young people to learn the skills the workplace needs.

It was standing room only in Westminster for the first meeting of the Community Energy All Party Parliamentary Group, which I chair and which is sponsored by Power for People. As readers know, I am the lead sponsor of the Local Electricity Bill, which is designed to remove the barriers to local generators of renewable energy selling that energy to local people.

The bill now has support from 311 MPs, within touching distance of half of the House of Commons. There was a great atmosphere in the room with people having come from as far as Scotland to attend! The bill has changed significantly as a result of conversations between the campaign team and civil servants and we remain hopeful of seeing it incorporated into other legislation.

Another issue I have campaigned on is anti-social behaviour. In my first couple of years, most of the complaints I received were about anti-social behaviour from unauthorised traveller camps. This is something I raised in the House of Commons as it was frequently accompanied by local people being subjected to abuse, theft and damage to their properties.

In the past few months, I have received increasing complaints about broader anti-social behaviour and crime, including drug dealing and business burglaries. I have made visits to businesses that have been burgled – sometimes repeatedly – and I held a crime summit in Wantage for local people to raise the experiences they've been having directly with Thames Valley Police. See my Facebook page (www.facebook.com/davidjohnston4wantage) for updates about the outcomes of this.

We also saw Back British Farming Day this month. I am a regular visitor to the constituency's first-rate farms – and a regular consumer of their meat and dairy products! – and I see first-hand how hard our farmers work. We should do all we can to support them, not least by buying local wherever possible.

I've continued my visits to every kind of organisation we have in the constituency – including sports clubs. I am a big sports fan and have recently been to both Grove Rugby Club and Wantage Town FC games. We have lots of sports clubs in the constituency. They are almost all run by volunteers and act as a great resource for the community – do visit the ones near you when you can.

If I can help with anything then do please contact me via:-

david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk

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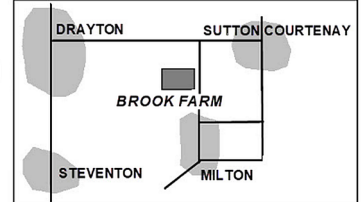
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Hall Report

If this issue gets to you in time, there's a bumper **CRAFT FAIR** (run by Kathy Head) on Sat Nov 26th (10am, proceeds for one of her charitable good causes),

The next **ANTIQUES FAIR** is on Sunday Dec 4th (9 to 3pm), a varied set of stalls, and a terrific cafe, get a great value toasted sarnie! Oh, and following what turned out to be a very well attended show in October. This same evening, **The Carols Concert** is back!

The Bob Cuttings Band and guests are performing in the Hall on the 11th Dec. (See page 12 for details).

Our **Sequence Dance group** (Thursday evenings) tell me they could do with another couple or two to glide round the dance floor – that's Brian on 01235 531701.

The **Badminton group** (Monday evening) could do with a new player or two. They're mostly ladies, but have had a couple of chaps playing in the last year or two! I believe they prefer a 'decent playing standard', but I never could play that game so if that could be YOU, let me know and I'll put you in touch? Contact info in the Hall Diary.

The **Irish Dancing** class (Tuesdays, 5.30pm for an hour) has also been doing well, so if your child wants to try and look like 'Riverdance', give Ashleigh a shout, 07375 878445.

Thanks to all our **regular groups and clubs**, who've been very understanding about the fee increases that the C'tee finally (after about ten years!) felt they had to introduce.

Oh, and a note for the New Year, the recent 'Little City' trial run went very well it seems, and she (Sam) hopes to run monthly 'role-play' sessions for little people, Weds mornings, dates to be decided so look out on the local F'book pages. Email Sam via sam@littlecityuk.com - or see the website <https://www.littlecityuk.com> then hit 'Find Your City' and spot the link for South Oxfordshire.

Tony Holmes

REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

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

MONDAYS [## = 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 DC*
- 2.30 pm Tuesday Connect (now 2nd Tuesday) *Church*
- 5.30 pm Irish Dancing (via Ashleigh - 07375 878445)

WEDNESDAYS

- 10.00 am Pebbles (Baby, Toddler, Carergroup) *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

- 9.30 am Parent & Toddler Group (Now back on 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*
- 7.30 pm 'Community Choir' (2nd/4th Thurs) *Church Room*

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**

NOV 29	7.30pm	GARD (reservoir) Public Meeting
Sat	3 11.30am	Private Function
Sun	4 9.00am	ANTIQUES FAIR (to 3pm)
	7.00pm	Carols Concert
Sat	10	Private Function
Sun	11 10.00am	Private Function (child's party)
	7.00pm	Bob Cutting Big Band!
Tues	13 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting <i>Caudwell DC</i>
		(Planning C'tee – 7pm)
Sat	17 10.00am	Private Function (child's party)
	6.00pm	Private Function
Sun	18 1.00pm	Private Function (child's party)
Sat	24	Private Function

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