

DRAYTON CHRONICLE



Chronicle Information



The next Drayton Chronicle will be the March issue edited by Tony Holmes 01235 531180

Key dates for next Chronicles:

Issue:	Deadline for Contributions:		Printed Chronicles available on:
	Adverts	Editor	
March	10 th Feb	13 th Feb	24 th February
April	17 th March	20 th March	31 st March

Notes for Contributors

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

Please send your contributions by email to: editor@draytonchronicle.net

Advertisement requests should be sent to: advertising@draytonchronicle.net

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

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

Advertising charges: for single Block Advert (approx. 9cm x 4.5 cm):-

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Double-sized adverts (approx. 9cm X 9cm) are charged at twice the above rates. All advertising MUST be paid for in advance, either electronically, in cash or by 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 advertising manager (advertising@draytonchronicle.net), or placed in the box at Vickery's. If you wish to discuss your requirements, please phone Stephen on 01235 531347. Note: deadline for ads is the Friday before the deadline for contributions (see top of page).

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Administrator	Alison Bampton	admin@damascusparish.org 01235 847179

The church is open daily, **Sunday-Saturday 10.00 am-3.00 pm**

REGULAR SERVICES:

Sunday 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) on 2nd Sunday of the month only.

Sunday 9.45 am Holy Communion, except 4th Sunday when a non-Eucharist Morning Praise is held

Thursday 9.45 am Holy Communion (1st and 3rd Thursdays), Celtic Morning Prayer (2nd and 4th Thursdays)

Everyone is welcome.

REGULAR EVENTS:

Pebbles Baby and Toddler Group.

Wednesday mornings 10.00a.m.– 11.30a.m

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.

Tuesday Connect.

We will start having tea, coffee and biscuit afternoons on the **second** Tuesday of the month now. In February, the meeting will be on Tuesday 14th, still from 2.30 – 4.00pm, as part of **Warm Spaces**. We look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible on that day!

Bell ringing practice –

every Monday evening 7:30pm

PARISH REGISTER

FUNERALS

14 th November 2022	Vivienne Eade
25 th November 2022	Jacqueline Newman
20 th December 2022	Deirdre Ferris
29 th December 2022	Jack Buckland

ST PETER'S LETTER

From the Ministry Team...

Valentine's Day reminds us of the importance of expressing our love to those close to us. But how can we go beyond simply offering flowers and a card? Jesus says: 'A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another' (John 13:34). How can we express love like Jesus in our everyday relationships to our partner, children, neighbours or work colleagues?

Listening

We need to listen to others, just as Jesus did. He asked questions of people and waited for them to process their answer. According to James, 'everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry' (James 1:19). How well do we listen to others? How often do we find ourselves already thinking of what we want to say before somebody's finished speaking? Listening takes time; don't rush it!

Touching

Jesus reached out to touch the untouchables in His world, including lepers, the sick and children. This was completely out of character for rabbis of His day. For us today, a warm handshake may be of value. Of course, it should always be an *appropriate* touch – helpful for the other person, not just for ourselves.

Speaking

Jesus' conversation was always full of grace and truth (John 1:14). Do we speak words of *grace*, by offering comfort, giving encouragement, or expressing care and concern? However, we should also be ready to speak words of *truth*, in asking for forgiveness, seeking reconciliation, or addressing conflict. As Paul urges us, don't avoid: '*speaking the truth in love*'.

Where is the challenge for us in expressing love this Valentine's Day?

With love and prayers,

The Reverend Helen Kendrick, Rector of the DAMASCUS Parish

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. All in the church room, Church Lane.

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 Refreshments, including Cuppa Soup and a Roll, hot drinks, squash. Toys provided.

12 - 2pm

Everyone is welcome; if you know anyone who would benefit, bring them along.

We look forward to seeing you.

YOU STAY WE PRAY, FEBRUARY 2023

29 th Jan – 4 th Feb	Corneville rd; Crabtree Lane; Lesparre Close
5 th – 11 th Feb	Drayton rd; Milton rd; New Cut Mill; Fisher Close; Marcham rd; Meads Close; Rippington Court
12 th – 18 th Feb	Steventon Road; Kiln Lane; Mott Cottages; Barton Court
19 th – 26 th Feb	Eastway; Eastway MHP

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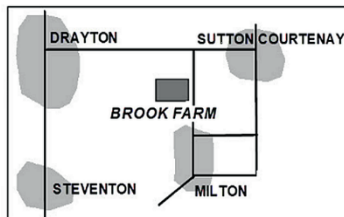


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DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT



Dear all,

Cost of Living

The Cost of Living crisis remains with us. I'm therefore opening this article again 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, the Vale can help. Whether it's for practical support or just advice, get in touch:

Tel: 01235 422600

Email: communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk

Website: whitehorsedc.gov.uk/costofliving

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

Low-income households to pay less council tax

At the December Council meeting, there was a motion by Councillor Hayleigh Gascoigne to remove restrictions requiring households on Council Tax Support (CTS) to make a contribution to their Council Tax Bill in order to help those households most in need during the Cost of Living crisis. This was supported cross-party and passed unanimously.

It means that, from April 2023 when the new tax year begins, households on CTS will no longer have to pay anything towards their Council Tax Bill (previously, they were required to pay a nominal 8.5%. For households with very little, this could still cause unnecessary hardship).

In addition, support was reintroduced for single households who have lost their single person discount due to an adult on a low income living with them.

For more information on Council Tax Support in the Vale, please visit whitehorsedc.gov.uk/ctrs

New Council Leader

Councillor Emily Smith has stood down as Leader of the Council, and her place has been taken by Councillor Bethia Thomas (formerly the Deputy Leader), chosen unopposed and unanimously during the vote at the December Council. The new Deputy Leader is Councillor Neil Fawcett.

I'd like to pay tribute to Emily, who had a personal work opportunity she couldn't turn down and which she felt would interfere with her paying the time and attention she felt was necessary to her responsibilities as Leader. Emily managed to keep us all in line (including me!) with tolerance and understanding and will leave big shoes for Bethia to fill – although I'm confident she can do so.

Joint Local Plan timetable

The timetable for the creation of the Vale of White Horse/South Oxfordshire Joint Local Plan has been agreed. The county-wide Oxfordshire Plan 2050, which would have set housing numbers and broad locations for larger-scale developments across Oxfordshire was recently halted (the five councils involved unable to reach agreement on a common approach to planning for future housing needs, although all have agreed to continue to co-operate outside of that framework). South and Vale have adjusted their Joint Local Plan timetable to fold in the work that would have been carried out in the county-wide plan.

Specifics are available here:

<https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/planning-and-development/local-plan-and-planning-policies/local-plan-2041/>

Preferred Options are being put together, and public consultation on these will be carried out in August and September 2023.

This may sound a bit boring and arcane, but the most crucial thing I've learned on planning matters is that Councils have very little discretion on planning applications when those are made.

The decisions are heavily fenced around with reams of interlocking legislation, which have grown up over decades. Failing to follow these rigorously means that developers can (and will) appeal any rejected decision that they can argue does not follow them, and repeatedly aim to reduce or remove conditions. The Government Inspector will uphold their appeal if they can demonstrate this.

THE LOCAL PLAN IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST INPUTS INTO THE LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS. It is THIS that can give legislative cover on approvals, conditions, and rejections – by the time applications are made, it's often too late to have any real power over the decision-making. The Local Plan isn't complete power (precedent and national policy can override it at times), and we don't have a completely free hand in creating it, but it does allow us to shape the future planning decisions to a significant degree. Personally, I believe that the entire way planning policy is carried out in this country is totally Upminster (the end of the line past Barking), but unless or until Central Government change this (and they know very few people base their vote in a General Election on planning policy), we have to play according to the rules they set.

Thames Water Plan and report from Water Summit on 30th November

I promised to report back from the Water Summit on the 30th of November at Oxford. This involved key stakeholders from all five District Councils, the County Council, the water companies (Thames Water and Affinity), the Met Office, the National Farmers Union, and key academics.

Summary:

- The current privatisation model is broken. The financial setup means debt is more attractive than equity, which gives perverse financial incentives to companies. They merely respond to this rationally (for them). This is not a judgement on whether or not privatisation could work (I have my own opinion on that!), merely that the model that was chosen at the time set us up for bad outcomes.
- The regulatory model of separating by companies should be replaced by a model based on water catchment areas.
- The old method of storage in vast reservoirs is bad for the environment and bad for resilience. Distributed smaller storage (many smaller tanks, which could be underground) is far preferable to few huge reservoirs.
- The use of "grey water" should be pursued – non-drinking water for cleaning, irrigation, and flushing that can be treated faster and easier ("It is mad that we flush our toilets and clean our cars with drinking water").
- Climate-wise, we are moving towards hot dry summers (with occasional extreme storms and flash flooding) and mild wet winters. Prolonged droughts will become more common.
- Population projections are providing lower figures for future populations than in the past.

There was a detailed multi-way conversation, where improved leakage reduction (to my surprise, a representative from the water companies suggested that more ambitious leakage reduction should be considered), greater smart-metering of water, and connection of the water supply across regions were strongly championed. The Severn-Thames Transfer was repeatedly emphasised as being important to bring forwards rather than the SESRO mega-reservoir. It could also be completed far sooner and at far lower risk of overrun and delay.

I did notice that the water companies appeared more open to consultation than before. This could be overoptimistic, but there were frequent quotes that they "want to be on the right side of history." We'll see. I'm not holding my breath.

Meanwhile, Thames Water finally released their draft Water Resources Management Plan (four weeks late) for public consultation, here: <https://thames-wrmp.co.uk/>. Consultation is open until 21st March; I urge you to have your say. GARD (here: <https://www.abingdonreservoir.org.uk/>) will be providing some guidance once more, but virtually everything that was valid as an objection before is valid still. I notice that the rationale for the

mega-reservoir has changed yet again. Not only is it not for any local use, or for significant drought resilience, it has ceased to be for provision of water to London, either. It is now mainly for selling water south to Portsmouth (following those financial incentives). I've also found out that the National Infrastructure Commission concluded that water transfers between regions were the only approach that had positive cost-benefit cases in all circumstances, enhanced resilience (as storage and supply could be provided in a wider range of places) and were lacking historically and in future plans. Their top-line recommendation was that there needs to be a national water network.

STT would be a key link in such a network and, in my view, needs to be created first and foremost. That it would likely destroy any case for the SESRO reservoir is tough luck for Thames Water's financial incentives, but that shouldn't be of any importance to the country as a whole.

Conservation Area - consultation

The Drayton Conservation Area has been reviewed and the Vale are proposing to extend it slightly. Public consultation on this will occur between 18th January and 15th February. Details aren't up as I write, but should be available from this page when you're reading this: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/planning-and-development/building-conservation-and-design/conservation-areas/>

Local Authorities must designate conservation areas ("areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character and appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance") and review them from time to time. The Parish Council initiated the latest review and identified areas of sufficient interest and significance to include in the new boundary. These include: adding the historic core of Sutton Wick and the Millennium Green to the north; add an area east of Church Lane; add a small area west of Abingdon Road, across from the High Street.

If the review agrees these revisions and they're formally adopted by Cabinet after consultation: extra control will be exercised over the demolition of buildings within the area; there will be controls to works to trees; planning applications within the area would have specific scrutiny applied to ensure the preservation or enhancement of the character or appearance of the area; dwellings within the proposed extensions would be required to apply for planning permission for certain works no longer benefitting from permitted development rights.

Happy New Year

I hope you all had a great Christmas, and your New Year has started out both healthy and prosperous for you all.

Take care,
Andy

Andy.Cooke@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT



Reservoir: your chance to respond....

Thames Water's draft WRMP (Water Resources Management Plan) was published mid-December, and consultation ends Tuesday 21st March.

The links to the responses are:
WRSE <https://wrse.uk.engagementhq.com/>
and you can see the draft Plan at
https://www.wrse.org.uk/media/va1bz21z/10306a_wrs_e-bv-plan-2022final_online.pdf
Thames Water: <https://thames-wrmp.co.uk/>
and you can see the draft Plan at
<https://thames-wrmp.co.uk/hearing-your-views/document-library/>

Traffic

It cannot be denied that our roads are becoming more and more congested. Even the rat runs are choked with rats. Whilst the pressure for more and more housing remains, and with it the pressure on County Highways to pass new developments, is it inevitable that things are going to get worse? The photographs attached show rush hour queues at Culham Bridge, Drayton Rd, and the A415 at Marcham. It would be only too easy to find many more. Have we already reached saturation point? The latest major housing development to be considered in our area is the Lioncourt development at Fyfield with 600+houses potentially spilling yet more cars on to the Frilford crossroads and Marcham. OCC Highways judge that the effect on Marcham will be marginal, but there are concerns that this argument must soon run out and the cumulative impact of several developments on the immediate and wider area must carry more weight. But spare a thought for OCC Highways and the District Councils. Under our current planning system, Districts have to offer up areas for thousands more houses in their Local Plans. OCC is then charged with trying to make our Highway network function properly and take all the resultant flak. Having just arrived back home from a photography session, having spent the best part of two hours driving a very few miles, I am struck by the irony of the damage we are causing to the environment, to our own physical and mental health and to the impact on local commerce.

Are our only solutions growth at all costs and ever more roads?



A lighter note - New Year Resolution

Determined as I am to get out of my car and on to my bicycle whenever possible, I decided a few days ago that the weather was warm enough for a shopping visit to Tesco by bicycle. Yes, it had been raining, but the forecast looked promising. As we approached via the Ock Valley cycle path, we passed a pedestrian coming the other way who kindly warned us that the path ahead was flooded but just about passable. My wife went first through what looked like six inches of muddy water steering her way through an 's' bend in the path. She managed to get through safely, so I followed. I could see that there was a short cut avoiding the s bend if I made straight for the dry path the other side. Older readers will know exactly what I mean when I say that my direct route went straight over a Dibley-scale pothole invisible under the mud. The bike suddenly disappeared underneath me and I fell in up to my waist. Unhurt but sodden, I picked myself up and squelched the last yards to Tesco to purchase new dry trousers and underwear. Having found great value replacements, I made my way to the checkout while my wife did the shopping.

However, I had forgotten the issue of the security tag firmly attached to my new trousers. It seemed that the machines that remove security tags are firmly mounted on top of the checkout conveyor belts. It took a Tesco manager and two members of staff to manoeuvre me into the correct angle to allow the tag to be removed – much to the amusement of the checkout queue.

And the moral and new year resolution? Never try to outsmart the wife by suggesting a better way of doing anything.

Richard Webber Cllr

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'MEGA-RESERVOIR' = AN ABOVE-GROUND WATER-TANK THE SIZE OF GATWICK AIRPORT. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND A CHANCE TO RESPOND TO THE PLANS, GO TO WWW.GARD-OXON.ORG.UK FOR THE LINKS.



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

MESSAGE FROM GARD to Thames Water: **Stop the Reservoir, fix the leaks, transfer new water from the Severn.** You have seen the banners – now you have a chance to make your own voice heard. **RESPOND NOW** to the Water Resources South-East (WRSE) plan and to Thames Water's Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) - see our website for links:

Draft plans for WRSE were published mid-November, consultation ends **Monday 20 February**. Thames Water's WRMP was published mid-December, consultation ends **Tuesday 21st March**. **Information and bullet points to help with the response are available now** on the GARD website. You can make a difference to the outcome, as you did in March 2022. NB if there are two householders, it is helpful if both submit a response. Oxfordshire County Council, the Vale of the White Horse District Council and your MPs remain strongly opposed to the plan and these democratic representatives would like to know you have responded. A list of MP and Council contacts is on the GARD website; please copy your response to them and to GARD.

Abingdon Reservoir is still central to the plans with construction starting ahead of the Severn Thames Transfer, for no good reason. If the reservoir plan goes through, you will have to pay for the reservoir through your water bill, even though that money is needed to increase sewage infrastructure and fix leaks, and even before a drop of water is supplied by the reservoir.

The reservoir is a solution looking for a problem. In the plan, it is no longer to provide water for Oxfordshire and Swindon (as in 2010), nor mainly for London (as in 2019). Now the plan is to sell most of the water out of the water-stressed Thames region by pipeline to Portsmouth, for simple profit. The planned reservoir is unnecessary (the population and reduced water abstraction figures are grossly exaggerated), ecologically disastrous (biodiversity cannot be restored and a huge amount of carbon is released in construction) and dangerous (pollution, general flood risk and risk of catastrophic inundation).

GARD is holding public meetings in February; so is **Thames Water**. Please come to ours for information and attend the Thames Water meetings to ask questions.

GARD:

Grove: Friday 27 January – [WaGCG](http://www.wagcg.org.uk) and GARD, Old Mill Hall, Grove 7.30pm
Steventon: Tuesday 14 February - [GARD Steventon Millenium Room](http://www.gard-steventon.org.uk), 7.30pm
Abingdon: Thursday 16 February - [GARD Preston Rd Community Centre](http://www.gard-abingdon.org.uk), Abingdon

THAMES WATER:

Abingdon: Friday 20 January - Thames Water, Trinity Church Abingdon, drop-in
Oxford: Wednesday 1 February - Thames Water, Westgate pop-up
[Steventon](http://www.gard-steventon.org.uk): Saturday 18 February - Thames Water, [Steventon Village Hall](http://www.steventonvillagehall.org.uk), drop-in

The Oxfordshire County Council Water Summit took place on 30th November and provided a useful airing of the issues. GARD made a keynote presentation, giving our version of a feasible regional plan without any mega-Reservoir, and there were also presentations from WRSE, the Met Office, the National Farmers [Union](http://www.nfau.org.uk) and experts in water-saving in building design. Thames Water declined to give a presentation – claiming they were not ready! ([but](#) still sent along the largest single delegation).

For updates, contact details or to join GARD visit: www.gard-oxon.org.uk or email gard.secretary@gmail.com / gard.membership@gmail.com
Facebook: @abingdonreservoir Twitter: @GARD_OXON

LETTER FROM WESTMINSTER



Dear all

If you haven't heard from me since last year, then Happy New Year.

Just before Christmas we had the sad news that a key community figure in Didcot, Hasnath Miah, died at the age of just 49 after a stroke. Hasnath had been homeless for part of his life and had been helped by local people, including through free meals, to get back on his feet. He swore if he was ever in a position to help others, he would do so. He developed a successful restaurant called Indian Dream, and in the pandemic began giving free meals to key workers, the homeless and young carers, just in the way he had been given food. In total he gave away more than 10,000 free meals.

I paid tribute to Hasnath in the House of Commons the following week, in a speech including a number of local matters. I included my campaigns to see more GP surgeries here and to reopen Grove Station. I updated people on the Local Electricity Bill that I am the lead sponsor of, which aims to remove the barriers to community energy being created by local communities and sold to it.

And I talked about a couple of the things that have come out of activities I ran for the first time last year: firstly the crime summit, where antisocial behaviour was a recurring theme – something my boss in the Department for Levelling Up, Michael Gove, is now tasked with working up a strategy on – and my work experience campaign for local young people. Many employers have got out of the habit of providing work experience with so many staff now working from home, yet it's a vital way for young people without connections to learn about the workplace.

Work experience is of course a familiar theme from my pre-politics career working on social mobility, a topic I used for a PMQ I was drawn for in the first week back of the new year. You're 24 times more likely to become a doctor if a parent is one – only 6% of doctors come from a working class background – and 17 times more likely to become a lawyer. And as I wrote in a recent article, it's not just the responsibility of the Government or schools.

In brief: the Thames Water Resources Management Plan is currently open to consultation. Make sure you take part on their website at thames-wrmp.co.uk as it includes the reservoir proposal. You can respond to the Draft Regional Plan for the South East on the WRSE's website at wrse.uk.engagementhq.com/our-consultation. I know there have been Royal Mail problems again, so I've been highlighting these once more in parliament and with the company. And congratulations to both Grove and Southmoor Kebab Vans on being nominated for the Kebab Van of the Year Award.

As ever, if I can help with anything then do please contact me via david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk
DAVID JOHNSTON MP david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk
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David



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Drayton Village Signs ☺

For those of us who keep tabs on these things, you will remember that we were expecting the signs to be erected at the end of November, but owing to a bereavement, the artists, Julie and Ron from Planet Art were delayed in the last stages of construction. However, we made it before the end of the year as promised, and squeaked in just before Christmas. Now that that project has been **signed** off so to speak, the next one is in the initial stages of development.

Mosaic for the small hall

Our next project is in the final stages of completion, and we will have more details in next month's issue. The project will include workshops with the school, with DAMASCUS and with the community, when everyone can come together and create a beautiful mosaic with our artist Clare Goodall. The subject will be, guess what? A walnut tree! It will include pastiches of the village round the edge. and will look totally stunning. The interior of the small hall **wall nut** ever be the same!

Pervin Shahin
Drayton PC



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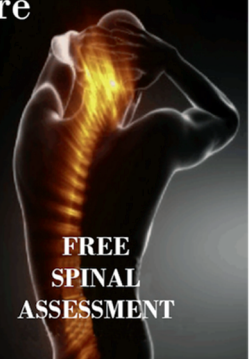
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LOCAL GROUPS AND CLUBS

Drayton Table Tennis Club

Great news to report that our Bidmead team triumphed over Sandford Club in their 1st round tie. Starting some 82 points in arrears they won by a margin of 17 points. The team was Matt Davies (Artisans), Daniel Gifford (Buzzards) and John Hyland (Eagles).

In the league we're at the halfway stage. The Buzzards are faring the best of our 5 teams, currently lying 2nd in Division 2. This after a poor start! They beat our other Div 2 team Corinthians in a close pre-Christmas encounter 6-4 so have bragging rights as things stand!

The Artisans in Division 1 are also having a good season. Currently 4th of 10 teams they look to be safe from any relegation battles and possibly could challenge near the top. However, the Handicap Shield competition has started by the time you read these notes and the Artisans will hope to do well. One hurdle will be our division 3 team Dingos, as the **two** of them are drawn into the same group of 4 teams. With two teams progressing there is hope for both teams to progress. Luckily our other 3 teams won't meet each other on the groups, so fingers crossed that all get to the knockout rounds.

John Gould

Drayton Short Mat Bowls

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our members, hope you had a good one. Trust you all enjoyed our Christmas lunch at the Merry Miller. The food and service were up to usual standard: Brilliant. Thanks to all who worked to make this possible.

Thanks also to everyone who gave for the Raffle, for the nibbles on the day and who came to this event - there were about 20 of us there. Photos were taken - these hopefully might appear on the notice board.

Are you fed up with home and would like to meet other people? At the same time have some fun learning to play indoor short mat bowls? It's easy to pick up! Why not come along to one of our sessions and have a go you might like it. **New members are always welcome.** We meet on a Monday and Thursday 2pm to 4.30pm with a tea and biscuit break mid-way, and on a Wednesday evening 7pm to 9.30pm, again with a break. We would love to see some new faces, so do come and join. There's lots more to find out if you come along. ALL AGES WELCOME, BE YOU YOUNG OR OLD-ISH.

Yours, Andy (member Wednesday night)

Time to get walking again!

With Spring on its way, we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks? **Walking in Oxfordshire** <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/oxfordshire> has loads of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place. There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Oxfordshire (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you. With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

John Harris

www.walkinginengland.co.uk

john@walkinginengland.co.uk

Steventon Cricket Club - Cricket for all

A New year and a new challenge? I know you have heard it before but this one comes with lots of new friends, a beautiful village green and a bar! Things have been changing at SCC and we have built on the well-established Senior Men's teams who play in the Cherwell League and we now have Ladies Softball and Hardball teams, Junior Mixed and Junior Girls teams from Under 11 to Under 15. In addition, we run All Stars and Dynamos Cricket sessions during the summer for 5 to 11-year-olds so there really is something for everyone!

We are welcoming players in all sections and it really doesn't matter if you haven't played before as we provide support from our team of ECB qualified coaches. This year we have received a grant from the FCC Communities Foundation which means by the start of the season we will have a new two lane net facility built to ECB Standards to provide state of the art facilities for our members.

Our Indoor training sessions are running from January and March with sessions for Boys, girls, ladies and men. So whatever your age, sex or ability, whether you are an experienced player or completely new to the game please get in touch by emailing mike.day@covesion.com or call/send me a message on 07929 043733.

It's great fun, in a fabulous setting and it would be great to see you, oh and did I mention there is a bar!

Mike Day



Drayton Almshouses

Please can you help to support a vital local service.....

Can you spare a couple of hours per month to help us?

The Drayton Almshouses were founded in 1818 by four benefactors to benefit those of pensionable age, able to live independently. The six original Almshouses were demolished and rebuilt in 1980. There are six self-contained bungalows with communal gardens that are beautifully tended by one of the residents.

The Drayton Almshouses are managed by a group of Trustees who volunteer their time to manage the requirements of the properties and visit the residents. The Trustees live locally to the village and give their time to help support this vital local service.

Your time would be spent visiting with the residents and joining the other Trustees for no more than 3 or 4 meetings per year to discuss any matters relating to the management of the properties. No specialist skills are required and it's a great opportunity to get to know a new bunch of people and to give something back to the local community.

If you would be interested in volunteering as a Trustee please contact Sharon Rosher on 07717 846632 or by email to sharonrosher@hotmail.co.uk.

**Sharon Rosher,
Secretary to the Trustees**

WI News

Christmas seems a long time ago now, but it was the last time we were together - January was full of coughs and flu so we stayed home.

Our February meeting is going to be very interesting for us, we are having a village gentleman who wants to find out about Drayton and its history. Will need to brush off the cobwebs to remember the village in past times. Will be amazing so join us in the Caudwell Centre, 7.30pm Thursday 9th February. **Ann**

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LETTERS AND NOTICES

Happy New Year!



A new year seems an opportune time to invite you to take a moment and think about what “youth work” means to you. We would love to hear from you (contact details below).

For us, at its core, “youth work” is about understanding and validating the experiences of young people, but equally about challenging and educating, albeit informally, to deepen their experiences.

Youth work did not develop to “keep kids off the streets” or to keep them entertained with “something to do”. We do not see ourselves as the ‘providers’, but the ‘enablers’ of communities and their young people; and we challenge the notion that youth work is only about providing tangible youth activities in isolation from the rest of the community.

It is said that “there is no one way of doing youth work”. However, it is accepted by all practitioners, that whatever the approach, we work towards the same values and principles of positive youth development – the six Cs:

Character, Compassion, Competency, Confidence, Connection and Contribution

For us, a lot of the work in addressing the six Cs happens in encounters at bus stops, shops, parks, street corners where we engage with young people and find they are eager to be heard. We engage with young people to help them to feel valued and motivate them to become active members of their community through social action. And this is where the wider community has to play its part – “*it takes a village to raise a child*”.

Going forward, our work will focus much more on making those community connections, with youth advocacy & leadership in the community at its heart. A sustainable win-win for everyone in our growing community.

In addition to the one-to-one bespoke support we give to young people and our detached work meeting young people wherever they are out in the community, we also run weekly in-building sessions. Our plan is to theme the in-building sessions on a monthly rotating basis as follows:

Drop in – A safe & welcoming space for all young people to feel ownership and responsibility towards. Games, music, chat & chill.

Mind and Body Gym – Keeping active through sport & brain games, empowering young people to make informed decisions and widen horizons.

Dare2Be –A space for young people to express themselves experimenting with different modes of creativity (e.g. art, music, storytelling).

Village Youth Voice and Community Action – Youth-led conversations on the burning questions of the day. A space for young people to be heard & seen and develop leadership skills in order to become contributing members of their communities and plan social action.

We believe young people are fully capable and able of solving their own issues with appropriate support and we are excited re-claim the roots of meaningful youth work & support young people to be the change makers in the communities they live!

Let us know what “youth work” means to you & If you have any questions regarding the information above, or you would like to support the project in any way, please get in touch with jamesq.ycat@gmail.com

James Quartermain & ADYP Team

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Walnut Information Plaque



A big thank you to Stefan and Abingdon Stone and Marble for doing such a wonderful job fabricating and installing the new walnut information plaque on the Village Green. And also thank you to Pervin (Public Art Chairperson).

Let's hope this one lasts longer than the last one.

Chris Price
Parish Council

Drayton Players

I would just like to say, on behalf of Drayton Players, a big thank you to everyone who supported us for our two, one-act plays in November.

We hope you enjoyed watching our plays as much as we did performing them.

There are so many people to thank, back stage, front of house, bar staff, Drayton Art Group to name but a few. We could not have put on these plays without you all. Thank you!! Please keep an eye on the Chronicle! There may be more to come!

It's amazing how many people we need just to put on a play. If you feel that you would like to be involved, please contact me (07999 890947).

Thank you to everyone for making this possible. Also, we are pleased to announce a healthy £500 donation to Dementia UK.

Happy New Year to you all. Xx
Georgia Alston, Drayton Players

Drayton Conservation Area Appraisal

The Drayton consultation went live on 18th January, and all the information and links to the comment form can be found here: whitehorsedc.gov.uk/draytonconservation **Paper copies of the information and comments forms will also be available at Abingdon Library and Drayton Village Hall.**

The new Drayton Conservation Area Appraisal will run for four weeks 18th January – 15th February.

Boris van der Ree

Conservation Enquiries Officer

South Oxon and VWHDC

boris.vanderree@southandvale.gov.uk

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(Ed Note: see page 6 for further details)

Editor Appeal 😊

One of your three volunteer Chronicle editors has recently relocated, and we are now seeking a replacement. Very many thanks to Maurice (Mo) Puddick for his editing over the last few years.

What is needed for the role?

- Sense of humour
- Average IT skills
- Interest in Drayton village current affairs
- Availability for approximately 10-20 hours *once every three months*

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DRAYTON HALL NEWS



Volunteer Please?!! The recent Hall C'tee meeting heard, sadly, that our Treasurer (Tamsin) intends to give up the role in due course, due to increased work & family commitments. Tamsin has been a Parish Councillor, has been Hall Treasurer for some years, and is a valued Chronicle agent, so certainly 'does her bit' for the village! SO, if there's anyone out there who can volunteer to take over that role, we'd love to hear from you, means keeping track of Hall hirer payments in, and paying those naughty bills going out, and keeping relevant records. Once in a while, some Hall accounts need to be produced. GRATEFUL thanks to Tamsin for all her efforts for us, though hopefully we've got her for a few more months just yet?!

Electric Organ?? The Hall has one, been there for ages it seems, but sadly not used for a very long time (likely a bit dusty inside by now?!). So, we think it could go to a new home where it might be appreciated (& used!) a bit more. If you think you could use it, let us know, come and check it over? See www.draytonvh.co.uk for contact info.

Damage - Sadly, this happens now and again, we'd LOVE to know more about the shelf in the Small Hall which got mutilated, back in early December, we think the evening of the Carols Concert?

Mural - thanks to the efforts of Pervin Shahin, local Parish Councillor, discussions are now ongoing for a new Mural, to be placed in Hall, with participation in its construction likely to come from Drayton Primary School, and the local Damascus Youth Group. Funding is coming from the local 'S106' housing contribution Pervin has also arranged some extra funding from her own charity efforts, so well done there! The design will it seems somewhat resemble the new Village entry signs (also largely due to Pervin's drive & enthusiasm), though the artist concerned will be working with the youth groups on that.

Bookings - A surge of bookings just before and after Xmas means that there are very few weekend slots available until the end of April, though it's always worth checking to see if there's been a cancellation. We're also hoping to get a much-needed revamp of the Main Hall floor (a 'sprung' wooden surface) implemented, we're just liaising with the firm concerned to get a mutually acceptable date, that could be in April, but more next time on that. PLEASE NOTE the regular ANTIQUES FAIR bookings (monthly Sundays), next ones Feb 5th & March 5th, 9am to 3pm, and always a good cafe with them, run by Kathy Head to aid her constant fund-raising for good causes, an excellent good value breakfast to be had there!

Tony Holmes

(Mostly) Hall Diary for February

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	4	10.00am	Private Function (child's party)
Sun	5	9.00am	ANTIQUES FAIR (to 3pm)
Sat	11		Dog Show (Private group)
Sun	12	11.30am	Private Function (child's party)
Mon	13	5.00pm	CHRONICLE DEADLINE (p2)
Tues	14	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting Caudwell DC (Planning C'tee - 7pm)
Sat	18		Dog Show (Private group)
Sun	19	11.00am	Private Function (child's party)
Sat	25	10.30am	Private Function (child's party)
Sun	26	1.00pm	Private Function (child's party)

REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

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

MONDAYS		### = Small Hall in Village Hall
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session	
6.00 pm	Damascus Youth	##
7.15 pm	Badminton (Private Group)	
7.45 pm	Bell-ringing (for 1½ hours)	St Peter's
TUESDAYS		
9.30 am	Pilates (via Alexandra Merson 07788 248925)	
1.45 pm	Drayton Art Group (until 4 pm)	Caudwell Day Centre
2.30 pm	Tuesday Connect (now 2nd Tuesday)	Church
5.30 pm	Irish Dancing (via Ashleigh - 07375 878445)	
WEDNESDAYS		
10.00 am	Pebbles (Baby, Toddler, Carer group)	Church
1.30 pm	Whist Drive	Caudwell DC
2.00 pm	Drayton Wives (Last Wednesday in the month)	##
2.15 pm	Badminton	
6.30 pm	Brownies (term-time / Laura 07916 459435)	##
7.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session	
THURSDAYS		
9.30 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		
6.00 pm	Evening Service	Baptist Church

MR. Guy's
Architectural Design

07762160547 guy@mrguys.co.uk www.mrguys.co.uk   



Town Furlong
Cattery

Kingston Road, Frilford
01865 391864

www.townfurlong.co.uk

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