

DRAYTON CHRONICLE



Photo:
Stephen Fearnley

Chronicle Information



The next Drayton Chronicle will be the May issue edited by Maurice Puddick
Key dates for next Chronicles:

Issue:	Deadline for Contributions:		Printed Chronicles available on:
	Adverts	Editor	
May	14 th April	17 th April	28 th April
June	12 th May	15 th May	26 th May

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):-

Advertiser Category	1 insert	3 inserts	6 inserts	12 inserts
Drayton Resident	£6	£16	£31	£60
Non-Drayton Resident	£7	£19	£37	£72

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).

DISCLAIMER: This Journal is published in good faith and great care is taken in its completion. The organisers of the DRAYTON CHRONICLE, and its Agents, therefore accept no responsibility for OPINIONS EXPRESSED, nor for the validity of any ADVERTISEMENT, nor for any EFFECTS ARISING WHATSOEVER.



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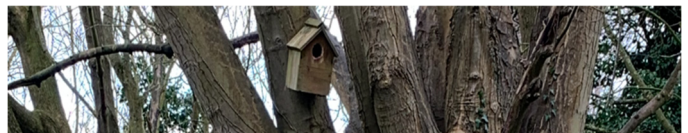
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Pro-Warden	Mrs Linda Johnson	lindajcw@gmail.com
Administrator	Alison Bampton	admin@damascusparish.org 01235 847179

The church is open daily, **Sunday-Saturday 10.00 am-4.00 pm**

REGULAR SERVICES:

Sunday 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) on 3rd Sunday of the month only.

Sunday 9.30 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.



Sunday 2nd April - Palm Sunday

9:30 am Holy Communion and dramatic reading of the Passion.

Thursday 6th April – Maundy Thursday

9:45 – Holy Communion.

7.00 pm DAMASCUS Parish service at Sutton Courtenay.

Friday 7th April – Good Friday

10:00 am Walk of witness, starting at the Baptist Church and ending at St Peter's for hot cross buns.

12.00 – 4.00 pm Stations of the Cross – prayer, quiet reflection and meditation

Sunday 9th April – Easter Day

9.30 am- Holy Communion

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

Happy Easter from all at St Peter's

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.

PARISH REGISTER

Baptism

Sunday 12th March **Stanley Henry Madley**

Funerals

Thursday 2nd March **Thomas Vernon Charles Acott**

Friday 17th March **Ronald Cook**

ST PETER'S LETTER

From the Ministry Team...

"Is it nothing to you?" (Lamentations 1:12)

In last month's issue, Reverend Phil Sutton wrote about using the theme of "failure" in our parish services and study groups, during the season of Lent. Reflecting on, thinking or talking about personal failure, is perhaps more difficult for us to do than talking about and remembering our successes. We would rather have the positives than the negatives in our daily lives. Yet everyday news broadcasts are of what is going wrong in the world, and the good news story, if there is one, is left to the final item. We hear so much of the negatives, of suffering, fear and poverty, of failures which are the minus sign of living.

So often the question comes, why believe and trust in God, and Jesus too, if He seems to do nothing at all? Jesus shows us God getting involved, getting his hands dirty. Jesus is crucified and has his hands nailed to that crossbeam of the cross...the minus sign.

The events which we now know as Easter, and everything thereafter, is of the positives, the good news. The story of Easter does not end with the crucifixion on Good Friday, because of the third day; then came the resurrection. On that first day of the new week, came a new start, a new creation. That is the heart of the good news. The negative of the crossbeam to the positive of resurrection : the sign of the cross.

"The end of the story is written by God, who knows what failure is and is not, and whose gracious love overwhelms our greatest failures....so take comfort in God's merciful and hope-filled judgement of each and everyone" (attributed Justin Welby)

With love and prayers,

The Reverend Rosie Bruce

N.B **Sunday 23rd April** , DAMASCUS Parish Confirmation Service at Sutton Courtenay. See our Facebook Page and church notice board for further details nearer the time. **NO SERVICES AT ST PETER'S ON THIS SUNDAY.**

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 (no need to be a knitter if you'd just like to natter)

2nd Tuesday of the month Tuesday Connect: 2:30 – 4pm (tea, coffee and biscuits!)

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

We look forward to seeing you.

Bell ringing practice –

every Monday evening 7:30pm

YOU STAY WE PRAY, FEBRUARY 2023

26 th Mar – 1 st April	Hilliat Fields; Lyford Close.
2 nd -8 th April	Manor Close; The Green
9 th – 15 th April	High Street; Chiers Drive; Cheers Farm; Halls Close
16 th -22 nd April	Friars Mews; Monk Close; Prior Drive; Abbot Crescent
23 rd – 29 th April	Chestnut Drive; Holly Lane; Walnut Way; Willow Way
30 th April – 6 th May	Furlongs; Plough Lane; Furrows End; Lammas Land; Virgate; Fallowfield Close

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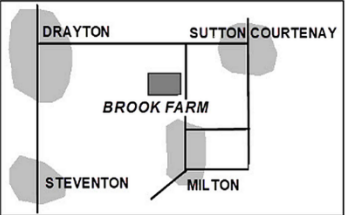


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DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT



Dear all,

Voting – Photo ID required from May onwards! **YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO VOTE WITHOUT PHOTO ID.**

As promised, I'm kicking off each article until the elections with this.

The Government have decided that your Polling Card is NOT sufficient. Whilst there have been no issues with stolen votes through this method in Great Britain to date, they say their reason is to make it look even safer.

You must bring one of the following documents to the polling station to be allowed to vote, and it must be the original version and not a photocopy (however, as long as it still looks like you, it does not need to be in date):

- Passport
- Driving licence (including provisional driving licence)
- Blue Badge
- Older Person's Bus Pass
- Disabled Person's Bus Pass
- PASS card (proof of age card issued by Proof of Age Standards Scheme)
- MOD Identity Card
- Biometric immigration document
- National ID card issued by an EEA state

If you do not have any of the above, you can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate at voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk or visit <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID>

The deadline to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate for the local elections in England on 4 May 2023 is **5pm on Tuesday 25 April**.

There are no changes to postal voting.

In addition, make sure you are registered to vote **BY MIDNIGHT ON 17th APRIL**. You can check by contacting Electoral Services on 01235 422528 or at elections@southandvale.gov.uk

If you are not registered, you can register on <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote> (or Electoral Services can help on the number above).

If you can't make it to the polling station on 4 May – you can apply to vote by post – the deadline for postal vote applications is 5pm on 18 April, or you can apply to allow someone else to vote on your behalf, this is known as a proxy vote. The deadline to apply for a proxy vote is 5pm on 25 April. To find out how to apply for a postal or proxy vote, visit whitehorsedc.gov.uk/localelections2023

Please don't lose your vote!

Planning

One of the key factors in whether or not the Planning Inspector will overrule our decisions is whether we have a "Five Year Land Supply." If we fall short of that, inspectors will typically overrule rejections (and have done so), regardless of the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans.

We have recently argued that our projected housing need should decrease from 1028 new houses per year over the Vale to 819 per year. This bolsters our five year land supply. Recently a developer challenged a refusal of planning permission on appeal saying our new method was wrong and we were right at the edge of a five year land supply. The Planning Inspector considered the case – and agreed with us, rejecting the appeal and saying we actually have close to a 6.3 year land supply. This very much strengthens the NDP and Local Plan.

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This is helped by the fact that over the past decade, we have been in the top three Local Authorities in England for rate of housing building (out of 310 Local Authorities). If the rest of the country had built at the rate of the Vale, there would be nearly three million more homes nationwide and no housing crisis. I think we can decrease our target by a little and still be doing our bit – and the Inspector has agreed with us.

Budget

This might come across as a bit boring, but it was a real concern back when I ran for election four years ago – the Council as it stood then was on track to break the financial limits, as had Northamptonshire County Council (which had just become the first council for a long time to effectively go bust).

Since then, we've not exactly had plain sailing – the covid crisis acted like a wrecking ball in the plans of a lot of councils, and the Cost of Living Crisis merely made it worse. Over the past few years, Slough, Northumberland, Pembrokeshire, and Copeland all went into Section 114. Thurrock went down just recently. Croydon just went down for the third time. Parliament had to approve an increase of 15% in their council tax.

Which means that our Budget showing us to be fully and with a considerably better forecast than we had four years ago is a massive win.

Cost of Living

As the Cost of Living crisis hasn't gone away, I'm once again putting in the contact details for 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

Thames Water Plan Consultation

This has just closed as I write. All the issues remain valid:

- Wrong (and excessive) population figures used in contravention of the most recent ONS figures.
- Inter-region water transfers should be done FIRST, as per the National Infrastructure Commission recommendation.
- The plan is far too inflexible, aiming to lock in an unnecessary, damaging, hugely expensive

environmentally damaging reservoir the size of sixteen Farmoors.

- It wouldn't provide a drop of water for at least a generation (assuming that unlike all other megaprojects, it DOES come in on time), unlike the Severn-Thames-Transfer option, which provides double the water, coming from the water-rich parts of the country into the water-stressed part, and can do so in a few years.

The Vale has responded strongly, pressing Thames Water on all of the above and pressing them to fix leakage as well (simply meeting the Government targets would slash the demand). It may be necessary to pressure the regulator, who has mandated these known inaccurate and excessive population figures.

Take care,

Andy

Andy.Cooke@whitehorsedc.gov.uk



PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION OPEN TO ALL

Would you like to see a photograph taken by you on the front cover of a Drayton Chronicle? Would you like the chance to win a £20.00 Amazon gift voucher? If the answer is yes to these two questions, please submit your photograph to editor@draytonchronicle.net

by the closing date of **14th April 2023**.

The rules are simple:

- the photo must be **portrait format** (to fit the Chronicle front cover) and
- the **subject must be somehow connected to Drayton village**, for example an interesting or unusual view, or maybe a scarecrow.

Please include your name, email address and phone number. The winner will be contacted after 14th April.

We look forward to receiving your entries 😊

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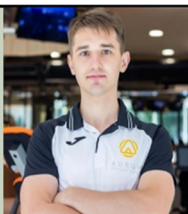
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Editor Appeal 😊

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*

Are you interested? Would you like to know more? Please email: editor@draytonchronicle.net

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COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT



Elections

This month's contribution is as non party political as I can make it. It confines itself to the elections process.

Spare a thought for the Councils, Council officers and residents who have some elections every year. West Oxfordshire elect one quarter of their councillors every year. In Cherwell, it is one third. Thankfully in SODC and VWHDC, it is an election every 4 years. County Elections, every 4 years, happen in between. It's a complicated system and can often seem to be an irritant to busy, working people. Add national elections which can happen anytime and it is not much wonder that many residents, already confused about what different councils actually do, are further confused over which elections are about to happen and who is standing for what. It does make one wonder if those countries that have all elections on the same day in a fixed cycle might have it right. In these countries, the fixed day is often made a public holiday with the result that turnout is higher. Democracy is said to come at a cost, but the system of a fixed day for all elections is certainly more cost effective and raises the status of elections in most people's minds.

Election "purdah"

For six weeks leading up to Election Day, there is a period of purdah. In this period, Councils are run by officers rather than elected politicians. This ensures that only non party political decisions and announcements can be made during purdah. Political leafleting can still go ahead (and does) in which each party makes its offer to the electorate and tries to explain why its opponents are wrong. There are rules about what can and cannot be said in leaflets and political organisers are adept at getting around them. However, the local District Office has powers to take action against those parties that transgress.

So please vote

If democracy is going to vote, it is vitally important that people vote. If you feel that all politicians are born of Satan, try ordering them in the order in which you hate them and vote for the one(s) at the bottom of your list. If the country is to be governed by those who most people want to govern them, please vote so there is some hope for the process.

Gentle reminder on new rules for voting at a polling station.

Remember to bring your photo ID with you as you will need to show this to the polling station staff before you vote. You do not need to bring your poll card with you to cast your ballot, however it may speed things up if you do. There is no dress code when visiting the polling station and it is OK to wear garments that might obscure your face: for instance, hoodies or the niqab, but please bear in mind that you will need to remove any face coverings so that staff can verify your identity as part of the requirements for Voter ID, however.

Richard Webber Cllr 07546571521
Richardwebber777@gmail.com

Date for your diary.

There will be a plant sale at St Peter's on Saturday 13th May 10.00 – 12.00. Do come and join us!

Cards and books and refreshments available. We look forward to seeing you.



Good Friday Procession

The **Good Friday Procession Following The Cross** will start at the Baptist Church at 10.00am. We will be there for about ten minutes for hymns and readings. Then we will go out onto the Village Green with the Abingdon Band. Everyone is most welcome to follow the Cross for a short walk round Village, ending up at St Peters Church for hot cross buns.

Best wishes,
Mrs Janet Strong



Unique Mosaic Designed Specially for Drayton

As part of the plan for art in Drayton, (walnuts and entrance signs having already been installed) we now come to the mosaic to be erected in the small hall in Drayton Village Hall.

Our artist, Clare Goodall, has designed a beautiful tableau of Drayton, with various images from around the village, framing the main picture of a stylised walnut tree.

The plan is to have a number of sessions with the community to help to create a wonderful picture for us all to enjoy for years to come. Some slots have been allocated to DAMASCUS and have already been arranged. We will announce further slots with the wider community, to be announced next month. In addition, two dates are planned with Drayton School, to involve the children, on 26th May, and 16th June.

In the meantime, we plan to have a drop-in session on Bank Holiday Monday 8th May during the Millennium Coronation Celebration. As well as running races for children attending the picnic lunch, DAMASCUS youth will be coming along to contribute to making the picture. We hope that everyone else will want to have a go too, both young and old, as this is an open session for the whole village. What's more, it's FREE!

So please come along and contribute to our beautiful image, and feel that you have helped to create a memorable piece of art for the entire community to enjoy.

Pervin Shahin
Drayton Parish Council

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LETTER FROM WESTMINSTER



Dear all

Whether you live in Wantage, Didcot, Wallingford, Faringdon or any of the 64 villages I represent, my constituency-wide survey on local health services is currently open. It's just 8 questions long and should only take about 5 minutes – no more than 10 – and you can complete it until 17th April on my website: <https://www.david-johnston.org.uk/health>.

Increasing our health services relative to the population growth we've had is one of the things I have campaigned on most since being elected 3 years ago – particularly the need for more GP surgeries. I've spoken about this in 19 debates in parliament and had numerous meetings with the local councils, local health leaders, ministers and local people about it. The more people who complete it, the stronger the message we can send.

I held a successful inaugural meeting of my Science and Technology Forum for the companies we have at Harwell, Milton Park and elsewhere which George Freeman, the Minister at the new Science Department, spoke at. He and I are very keen to promote what is going on here more as it is of both national and international significance – and we discussed some good ideas to do so. Watch this space!

I'll be holding an Apprenticeship Fair for local young people and employers across the constituency at Didcot Civic Hall on 24th April. I visit at least 1 school and at least 1 employer almost every week (and have been to 600 odd organisations overall since being elected) and I hear regularly that young people don't know the apprenticeships open to them and that employers struggle to recruit enough apprentices. I'm hopeful this fair will help.

My campaigning on behalf of the local AEAT Pensioners has been bearing fruit: the National Audit Office has published its report on the case following my request and Parliament's Public Accounts Committee recently held a hearing on it, with their own report to come.

A few highlights from many visits in the last month. It was good to be interviewed on Wallingford Radio which has been going great guns since it got its FM license. You can listen live on 107.3FM. I had a great visit to the new wedding dress shop in Wantage, About You Bridal, set up by Sharon to make the process of buying dresses, shoes and accessories as stress-free as possible. It's also home to Gallery Cakes, set up by Nicki, so that you can order your wedding cake too!

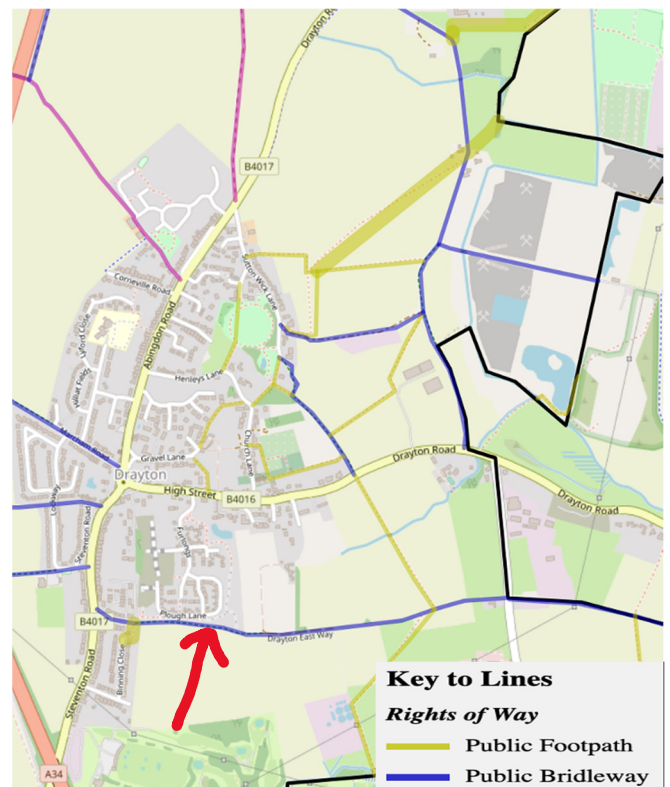
It was very good to see The Place in the Corn Exchange in Faringdon, having seen the space when it was just an idea, which supports parents and their children under 5. I also met Keith and Sue to talk about the Faringdon Day Centre and will be back to visit that soon. And I'm pleased to say Michael Gove was very impressed with the Greencore Construction houses I took him to see in Southmoor.

If I can help with anything, then do get in touch via: david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk

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LOCAL GROUPS and CLUBS



Dear Draytonians,

Like to learn a new skill and meet new people? Come along and play short mat bowls at the Village Hall.

All adults 20 years and above are **welcome**. We meet Monday and Thursday 2pm to 4pm, also Weds evening 7pm to 9.30. We enjoy a half time break for tea, coffee and biscuits!

Your First 3 trial sessions are FREE to see if you like it?

Woods are provided for your trial. Please come with flat bottom shoes, slippers or play in socks. We do have some spare pairs of shoes for your trial sessions, if needed.

We have other social events throughout the year to enjoy, such as meals at the Merry Miller and Skittles evenings, you could also enter competition matches if you want to, it might be just up your street!

Any questions or more info, please call Andy on **07434 273053**.
Andy Brooks

Abingdon Eco-Fair

Abingdon Eco-Fair

Exhibitors
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Activities

**Saturday
13th May
9am to 3pm**

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Market Place
& Guildhall

For more information
and to register please
go to www.abingdoneventspartnership.co.uk

Companies and
organisations in
the sustainability
sector should
apply to exhibit.

The Vale is supporting One Planet Abingdon to host the Abingdon Eco Fair, a one-day event to bring householders and businesses of Abingdon in close personal contact with providers of eco-solutions that are relevant to them. The main focus of the event will be the energy sector, with room for eco-focused organisations who tackle waste reduction, emissions reduction, food miles, plastic pollution and more. Taking place in the heart of the town, on the Market Place and in the Guildhall

W.I News

Our March meeting was again a great success helped along by the thought of all the sweet treats to come. What an amazing display of puddings we had. We did the official business and re-elected Teresa Prince as our president again - we were all very pleased she decided to stand again. The new committee is basically the same as the old one, so we all look forward so a new year. We also were sorry to accept the resignation of our treasurer. We have been so grateful to her for many years of loyalty to us and sorry she is giving up. We all thank you Sylvia for your hard work, ably assisted by your sister Cis.

Finally, we attacked the puddings. They were amazing and we did our best but couldn't demolish them all. Next month is the start of our year. We welcome back a speaker Lynn Carter we had last year: she described her family of rats that came into the garden before the land was built on. This time we will learn about her time in the development of medicines for the pharmaceutical industry. Anyone who suffers from cold sores will be eternally grateful to her for Zovirax one of her successes. Next meeting is Thursday 13th of April at 7.30 pm in the Caudwell Day Centre. Please come. **Ann Webb**

Drayton Wives

This month we had an excellent talk on fraud by Dominic and Jane from HSBC bank.

They started by describing the most well-known scams.

Smishing which is text fraud

Vishing which is telephone fraud. All those annoying phone calls from insurance companies asking you about a car crash!!

Phishing which is by email. Never click on any links

A bank will never ask you for your pin number, access to your bank details or online passwords and NEVER ask you to transfer money for safekeeping to another account. This could also be used by money laundering criminals!!!

You have the power to keep everything safe by not clicking on links replying to an email or just hang that phone up!!!

There is also something which is called Account takeover fraud when a criminal uses fraudulently obtained stolen personal information to take over an account.

So, don't complete online quizzes which includes giving out personal details. Ensure media profiles are set to personal. And always check bank and credits card statements for strange entries.

The most common one lately is saying that you have a parcel to be delivered when, actually, you have never ordered anything. It's a scam to get you to give them your details.

Another text scam is to say that you son or daughter has lost their money and could you send them some. DO NOT until you have made sure it is them.

Another major one is for anyone that does on-line dating. Lots of people that are on these sites are not real and are only after your money.

Always check sites are safe by looking for the padlock at the top of the web page.

So, after the excellent talk it is a bit worrying about what goes on with fraudsters. If you are not sure always check with the bank and never do anything in a rush - always take 5 minutes to have a think.

And remember the old saying: **If it looks too good to be true, it probably is too good to be true!!!!**

Lisa Lammiman

LETTERS and NOTICES

DRAYTON MILLENNIUM GREEN TRUST

We have **TWO** exciting events coming up and we hope you will join us and support the Millennium Green.

EASTER EGG HUNT – MONDAY 10TH APRIL

At 10.30 am, the ever-popular Easter Egg Hunt. As on previous years, this is by cash donation, please, on the day and is suitable for children up to the age of about 11. To let us know how many children you are bringing along could you please either comment on the FB posting on Families in Drayton or Drayton Millennium Green or email events.DMGT@gmail.com (head your email EASTER). Nb Sorry – no dogs at this event!

THE BIG CORONATION LUNCH – MONDAY 8TH MAY

Monday 8th May from 12, Midday - we are hosting the Big Coronation Lunch! with the help of the Parish Council. More details will appear on the noticeboard on the Green, in Vickery's and also on Facebook. We will set up tables on the Green and provide you with plates, napkins and of course your own seat for a small reservation fee per person - this will allow us to cover costs but also ensure we're not oversubscribed. If we run out of chair space, there will be a small charge made for a blanket space.

The idea is you bring along a plate of sharing food, could be sandwiches, sausage rolls, perhaps a retro cheese and pineapple hedgehog or even some crisps to share with your neighbours on the adjoining tables. The Cat n Fiddle Band will be playing from 12-2pm. **If you'd like to dress in red, white or blue or all 3 please feel free! Royal-inspired fancy dress is also an option if you're feeling creative and there will be a prize for the best outfit.** We will be providing a basic bar selling Loose Cannon Beer, Pimms and Lemonade (for the non-drinkers) a cake stall to help top up your lunch, FODSA will be coming along and providing a tuck shop, Paula Harper with some lovely plants for your gardens and the Damascus group will be arranging some children's races. These groups will be raising money for their own charities.

There will be a mosaic-making session for anyone of any age to join in with. This mosaic is for the small hall as one of the Art Installations for the village (*Ed Note: see also letter from PC on page 7*)and don't worry, we have Port-a- Loos coming!

Please, once again, email us on events.DMGT@gmail.com , with the number of seats you require and we will reply with how to pay the reservation fee (please head your email BIG LUNCH).

Both of these events are to support the Millennium Green and its upkeep, I know that many people use and enjoy our Village hidden spot so please support us if you can. We do rely on fundraising and donations to meet our annual costs.

Finally I want to say the BIGGEST thank you to John Henderson of Gravel Lane. After a recent piece in the Chronicle John offered to help with the pruning of our apple trees. Well, he's spent many hours in both rain and shine and pruned them all! John, we so appreciate this and thank you sincerely for your hard work. Any questions on any of the above, please email me.

Jane Mcwhirter
chair.millenniumgreen@gmail.com



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NOTICEBOARD

SCS
Steventon Choral Society
Mozart Requiem
 & other sacred music
Sunday 2nd April 2023 at 7pm
 St Michael's Church, Steventon
 Guest Soloist: Leslie MacLeod-Miller

All welcome
 Tickets not required, instead we will be accepting donations on the door
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 Doors and bar at 7pm - Music at 7:40pm



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 Sat 20th May 2023

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Rosie's Hair Lodge

My name is Rosie
After 31 years I've decided to open my own hair lodge in the village of Drayton.
I am open from 9.30 - 2.30 Tuesday to Friday.
Please ring or message me on **07842848784** if you would like to book an appointment!
Find me on Facebook by searching Rosie's Hair Lodge.

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

GARD UPDATE

GARD's Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 2nd May at 7.30pm in the Millenium Room, Steventon Village Hall.

Thank you to everyone who made a response to the Water Resources SouthEast (WRSE) consultation and to Thames Water's draft Water Resource management Plan (dWRMP). We have been copied into at least 150 WRSE responses, with many more known to have been sent, an encouraging number. At time of going to press, the Thames Water responses are still being written, and many have been copied to GARD.

Where are we now with the proposals and responses?

This stage of the Reservoir proposal features a 'triple bill'. As well as the closed Water Resources South-East and Thames Water dWRMP consultations (the latter closed 20th March), there is the RAPID Gate 2 process on the individual Strategic Sources.

RAPID (Regulator Alliance for the Progressing of Infrastructure Development) will produce a draft decision on the Strategic Sources (eg Abingdon Reservoir and Severn Thames Transfer) on 30th March. Stakeholders (ie GARD, OCC, the Vale, Parish Councils) then have until 11th June to make representations. GARD will be making representations to RAPID, and we'll keep you informed.

The response of the Councils and of MPs has been very encouraging:

Layla Moran, MP for Oxford West and Abingdon, said in her WRSE response: 'Relying on large, expensive and time-consuming infrastructure projects has created a regional plan that is not adaptable to changing future conditions. True drought resilience must include more urgently tackling leakage and improving water efficiency.' Later she also says: 'I do not believe that consumers should be bearing the cost of constructing new water resources, when water companies are failing to fix their own existing infrastructure, resulting in significant waste of water.'

Councillor Pete Sudbury, Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment and spokes-person for the Reservoir issue said: "We have consistently opposed this reservoir proposal, which we believe could turn out to be a damaging white elephant that will not be resilient to the kind of multi-year droughts we are seeing in many parts of the world. The South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO) will have significant and potentially unacceptable environmental effects.

The WRSE regional plan should bring forward the Severn Thames Transfer (STT) earlier than indicated in this draft plan. ... Given the concerns, the SESRO **should be removed** from the WRSE regional plan and the company plans, and not pursued as a strategic resource option."

The Vale of White Horse District Council said, in a media release on 6th March, that water companies **should forget the reservoir** and focus on fixing leaks. They added that SESRO **should be removed from the plan** and is urging water companies and regulators to instead carry out further research into other water resources and to focus efforts on fixing leaks and improving water efficiency.

Clr Bethia Thomas, Leader of Vale of White Horse District Council, said: "Building a reservoir would cause permanent and irreversible harm to an enormous area of the Vale countryside and potentially result in a significant increase in carbon emissions. We should be doing all we can to tackle the climate emergency and much more attention must be placed on the climate impact of this proposal."

We look forward to seeing you at the **GARD AGM on Tuesday 2nd May** in the Millennium Room.

For further information: www.gard-oxon.org.uk, Facebook: @abingdonreservoir, Twitter @GARD_OXON



Bringing Local Food to Local People

Abingdon Farmers' Market Dates for 2023: (8.30am – 1.30pm, 3rd Friday of the month, Abingdon Market Square)

- 21st April
- 19th May
- 16th June
- 21st July
- 18th August
- 15th September
- 20th October
- 17th November
- 15th December



- *reduce your food miles*
- *cut down your packaging waste*
- *support local farmers and producers*

LETTERS and NOTICES

Obituary: Johnny McFarlane

Vale Johnny Mack (Ian McFarlane). Some of our readers may already be aware of the recent passing of long term Drayton resident Johnny Mack. As childhood friends growing up in Corneville Rd, he and I were close friends, or as we say in Aussie verbal technology 'good mates'. Though we ended going to different schools after leaving Drayton Primary (then located on the Drayton Green), we didn't grow apart. Subsequently however we did, Johnny to go on as a man of all skills working around the village and me off to Australia. We should all remember Johnny Mack - bit of a ragamuffin in his youth and a good family man. My condolences and best wishes to his family and friends. To Johnny - cheers. It was nice knowing you.

Ray Hutt. Australia.

*Kind regards,
Ray and Margaret Hutt
GISBORNE
Vic 3437
Australia*

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

A very warm welcome to Mr. & Mrs Adlys & Pedro Venancio and their three children who have moved into Church Lane from Brazil via Kennington.

from Susan Brooks
Agent 10 Church Lane



Dear Editor,
I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Daria, her son Leo, and friend Hanna to the village. They are from the Ukraine and came to England about a year ago.
Best Wishes, Stephen and Ruth Fearnley

Extra garden waste

Subscribers to the Vale's brown bin service can put extra garden waste out on your normal collection day **during the week beginning Monday 24th April.**



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(Waste Resources
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How not wasting food can help in the Cost of Living Crisis

Tips from www.wrap.org.uk (Waste Resources Action Programme):

- Planning to stay ahead: create a realistic flexible meal plan for the week. Reduce weekday evening stress by cooking ahead at the weekend and freezing.
- Think before you shop: what do you actually need? Check cupboards, fridge and freezer. Know what food you already have.
- Stay-in-control shopping: set your budget and take your shopping list
- Storing your food after shopping: most fruit and veg should be kept in the fridge (but not bananas or cut pineapples). Fridge temperature should be below minus 5 degrees.
- Keep an eye on fresh food – have an Eat Me First fridge shelf. Check the labels: Use By=food safety, Best Before= food quality
- Eat every edible morsel of food. No need to peel carrots and potatoes, or, if you do, simmer the peelings in water for 20 minutes, strain and freeze as stock.

As well as saving us money, 36 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions could be prevented by saving food from our bins in UK homes.



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FixMyStreet

Residents are able to use the FixMyStreet app, or go to www.fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk, to report any road, cycleway and pavement defects in the village.

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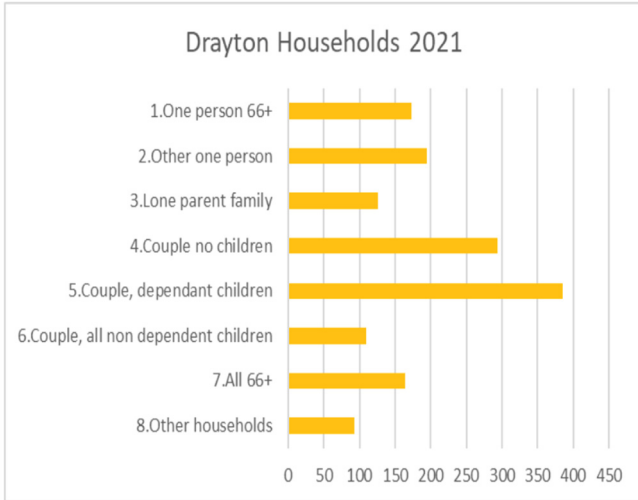
Established for over 30 years

2021 Census Data

From the series by Martin Blogg who has been looking at the data from the 2021 Census – Drayton Population

Statistics for parishes have arrived. The ‘usually resident’ population in 2021 is **3,769**, up **60%** in the 10 years since the last Census. Households have increased by **561** to **1,539**, as might be expected with three major housing developments in the village.

Drayton has a diverse range of *household types* as the following table shows:



Martin Blogg

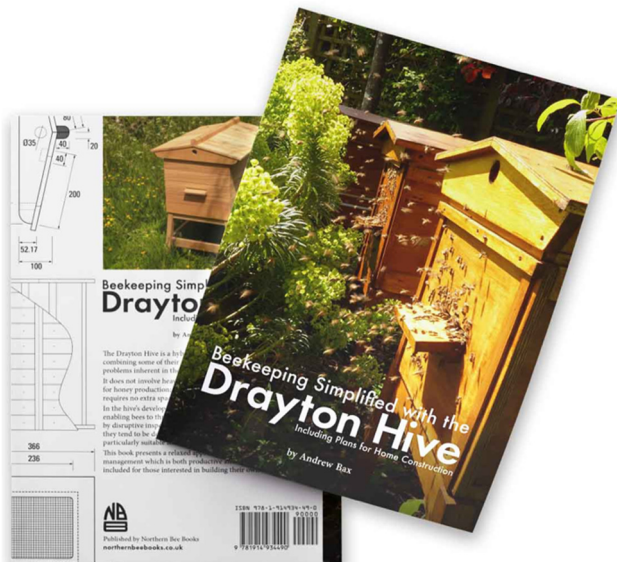
Bee-eautiful Bee Homes

Northern Bee Books has just published *Beekeeping Simplified with the Drayton Hive* by Drayton resident Andrew Bax, and copies are available from the publisher and bookshops, including Amazon. The hive also has its own website and has been in commercial production for a couple of years.



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Harcourt Arboretum

The Visitor and Learning Centre at Harcourt Arboretum – building a gateway to nature with local communities

Development funding of £191,420 has been awarded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund to help Harcourt Arboretum develop a new Visitor and Learning Centre. The project aims to unlock the site’s unique natural heritage, landscape and collection of threatened trees.

The project aims to build partnerships with local communities, and work with Oxford University’s Department of Psychiatry and social prescribing partnership to increase wellbeing from access to nature. The aim is to create new all-weather education facilities, café and shop and transform the visitor experience. A key benefit of the project will be an increased awareness of the importance of plants and biodiversity in addressing global challenges, heritage landscape, and crafts, through inspiring interpretation.



**From The Vale:-
We’re going to ‘Let It Bee’ this Spring**

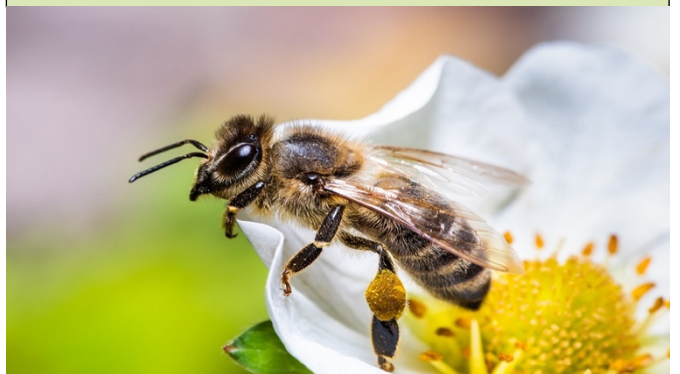
There’s a real buzz around our latest project to increase biodiversity in our area.

Let It Bee will see wildflowers and plants grow on specific council-owned sites.

This pilot project follows last year’s successful No Mow May trial on seven sites across the districts. This year we’re increasing that number to 17.

We’ve chosen locations which don’t impact on pedestrians or sightlines for drivers and are also near shorter grass areas and pathways for people wishing to exercise, play or relax.

There will be signs at the sites identifying the areas. For more information including locations see the Let It Bee webpages on www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk



LOCAL HISTORY

The 'Poor's Houses'

Andrew Bax

On 16 April 1780 fire broke out in a house next to the Wheatsheaf and a high wind caused it to sweep down High Street as the flames spread from one thatched roof to the next. To help those rendered homeless a nation-wide appeal was launched, raising the astonishing sum of £3066 (around £521,220 today), of which £344 was used for building the 'Poor's Houses', a terrace of five one-up, one-down dwellings on the site of the present almshouses in High Street. They were completed in 1806 and some of those who had been burned out of their homes were among the first tenants, paying an annual rent of 6/-.

The census records provide fascinating insight into who lived there. Those for 1871, for example, show that one was occupied by Phoebe Stone, a farm labourer, together with her two daughters, Sarah, aged 12 and Elizabeth, aged 8, described as scholars. At the other end of the terrace was Ann Cheer.

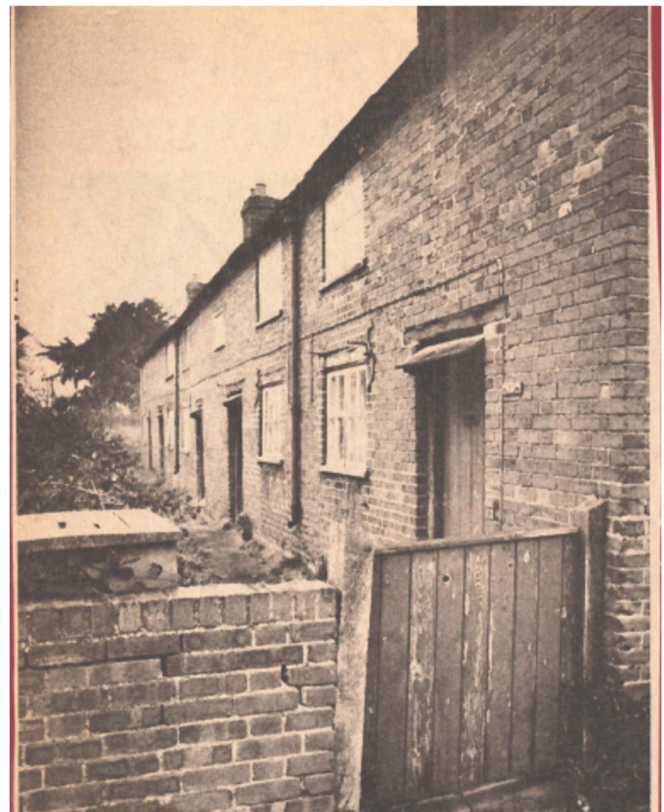
The accommodation they provided was probably typical for its time. There was no running water, of course, and lighting would have been by candle; however, each little house was fitted with a cast-iron range which provided both heating and basic cooking facilities. Access to the room upstairs was by way of a steep, narrow staircase in a cupboard. At the end of the terrace was a communal washroom with adjacent cesspool.

The charity that managed the 'Poor's Houses' records that in the 1930s a tender from C.S. Winter & Son was accepted to 'put them in a thorough state of repair' at a cost of £32 10s; the cesspool was renovated and, in 1939, a communal water tap was installed. Electric light was introduced 'only in each living room', extended a few years later to the bedrooms, but it was not until 1954 that they were equipped with a power point. By 1958 the local Sanitary Authority was demanding improvements; an Elsan system was discussed along with the desirability of flushing toilets but, since there was still no sewer in the High Street, the matter was deferred.

Teresa Taylor has lived in the village for most of her life and remembers visiting Lotty Harris, a tenant who was a friend of her mother's. Apart from the range and a basket next to it for logs, she remembers the downstairs room being simply furnished with a small round table, a rocking chair and a dresser, on which Lotty displayed her collection of glass ornaments. There was not much room for anything else – no sink or the other amenities we take for granted. Outside, each dwelling was provided with a narrow strip of garden, parallel to the High Street, in which to grow vegetables.

In 1969 and at the ripe old age of 91, Lotty died. She remained a tenant of the 'Poor's Houses' until the last and was never heard to complain about the conditions under which she lived. Most of the other tenants were there for life, too, but it must have been a struggle as they became increasingly old and infirm. Still, theirs was a generation that had survived two world wars and a depression and had no use for modern conveniences.

In 1964 the Rural District Council declared that the 'Poor's Houses' were unfit for human habitation, but they continued to be occupied for some years yet. Eventually, after 170 years, it was decided to replace them as reported in the accompanying cutting from the Oxford Mail (reproduced with kind permission). After much wrangling over planning permission, finance and with the owners of the adjacent property, the new almshouses were opened on 12 December 1980.



Almshouses face axe

PLANS ARE in hand to demolish these 18th century almshouses at Drayton, near Abingdon, and build six old people's bungalows on the site.

The almshouses, in High Street, have not been lived in for many years. They have no kitchens and the lavatories are in a separate block nearby.

Berkshire County Council gave permission

for their demolition in 1971, but the following year they were included in the list of buildings of architectural or historic interest.

The Drayton Parish Charities are now asking the Vale of White Horse District Council for permission to pull down the dilapidated buildings and build six one-bedroom bungalows in red-brown brick with a roof of similar colour.

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DRAYTON HALL NEWS



First off, **ADVANCE WARNING**, Thursday **May 4th** is a local election day, so the Hall will be in use as a **Polling Station**. PLUS, further apologies to our 'regulars', but the Hall will be **CLOSED** during the week of **April 17th**, for essential maintenance. Open again on 24th (we hope!).

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. It MIGHT suit someone getting more book-keeping experience as they study for Accountancy Exams? Please see advert on page 8.

GRATEFUL thanks to Tamsin for all her efforts for us, though hopefully we've got her for a little while yet?!

Our **Bowls Club** (indoor – obviously!) have a few spaces for **NEW MEMBERS** (or returning ones?), it's a skilful game, but easy to learn the basics, just nominal fees, plus they're **very big on the essential tea & bikkies!** They're a friendly bunch, why not give it a try?!

We've another **ANTIQUES Fair**, Sunday April 9th, (yes, that's the 2nd Sunday, not the usual first!!), that's with Kathy Head running her **excellent value cafe** for one of her good causes (lovely breakfast, or perhaps just a bacon sarnie!).

Also returning soon is hirer '**Little City**', two Weds morning bookings, May 10th & June 7th. Her 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!"

Much more info at:- www.littlecityuk.com

I hear the class for **Irish Dancing**, intended for 4-year-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!

Now, anyone walking with a new limp, or do you know someone that is? Or perhaps keeps falling over? All possible consequences, as we've gained a **walking stick** that someone seems to have mislaid?!

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?

One more thing, anyone know a decent **ODD JOB MAN** (or Woman of course!!) as we have a couple of repairs or revamps that are getting overdue, all external. One of them would need some scaffolding, so it's rather more than putting up a shelf or two! See www.draytonvh.co.uk for contact info.

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) <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>
1.45 pm	U3A Science/Tech, 1st Weds (07890 385931) ##
2.00 pm	Drayton Wives (Last Wednesday, most months) ##
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' (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), PLEASE see our St Peter's Church page	
6.00 pm	Evening Service <i>Baptist Church</i>

(Mostly) Hall Diary for April

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	1	Dog Show (Private group)
Sun	2	Dog Show (Private group)
Sat	8 10.00am	Private Function (child's party)
Sun	9 9.00am	ANTIQUES FAIR (to 3pm)
Tues	11 7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting ??Caudwell DC
Sat	15	Dog Show (Private group)
Mon	17 ***	Hall CLOSED (ALL WEEK!!)
Mon	17 5.00pm	CHRONICLE DEADLINE (p2)
Sat	29 11.30am	Private Function (child's party)
Sat	30 1.00pm	Private Function (child's party)

PLEASE NOTE – For years PC meetings have been monthly, in Caudwell Day Centre. April's meeting should be there too, we just heard, after a couple of recent PC meetings in the Village Hall. TH



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