

DRAYTON CHRONICLE



Photo credit:
Selena Gardner-Morrison

Chronicle Information



The next Drayton Chronicle will be the August issue edited by Tony Holmes Tel.: 01235 531180
Key dates for next Chronicles:

Issue:	Deadline for Contributions:		Printed Chronicles available on:
	<i>Adverts</i>	<i>Editor</i>	
August	14 th July	17 th July	28 th July
September	18 th August	21 st August	1 st September

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.

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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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Local contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409



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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 Regular Sunday Service

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

Everyone is welcome.

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

New leader

We have a new leader for Pebbles! From September, Cheryl Jarvis and her daughter, Katy Hoyle will lead the group. However, we are still looking for team members for this lovely, friendly group.

If you have time to volunteer and enjoy working with young children and their families, then this is for you!

For more information, please contact Sue 01235 532090
suedraytonpebbles@outlook.com



Saturday July 8th Children's Society coffee morning 10.00am to 12 noon.

All are welcome to enjoy a chat and a cup of tea or coffee and support the work of the Children's Society.

PARISH REGISTER

Baptism

Sunday 28th May **Mila Sarah Edmunds**

Funeral

Monday 12th June **Elsie Mona Weaver**

ST PETER'S LETTER

From the Ministry Team...

As I write this, today is a beautiful summer's day, with a clear blue sky and a fresh breeze. A calm June day after the recent dramatic thunderstorms. At this time of the year many of us will be trying to make the most of the great outdoors, and even taking some time to relax and enjoy the great British weather. We often take time off to do this, even take a holiday, a break, time for a change to the routine of daily life.

Jesus often took time to rest and get away from it all. On one occasion St Matthew (chapter 8: 23-27) tells us, that after preaching to large crowds, Jesus, along with his disciples, took a boat to go across the Sea of Galilee. They were going to the opposite shore to find some time and solitude to rest. As they were crossing, a furious storm broke. The worried disciples thought the boat was going to sink, and went to wake up a sleeping Jesus. He wakes up and asks them why they are afraid and then quickly subdues the wind and waves.

This story illustrates Jesus' calming effect. This you can take literally and also as an analogy for our lives. There are many storms around us at this time; political ones, the cost of living, wars and refugees, climate change, the list seems endless. However, we are reminded in Matthew's story, that God both permits storms and delivers us through them. Storms do end, and calm will come again.

The lyrics to Rock Me by Thomas A Dorsey might give you a little calmness too.

Make my journey brighter, make my burden lighter.

Help me to do good wherever I can.

Let thou presence thrill me, let thy holy spirit fill me

And just hold me in the hollow of your hand.

You just hide me in that bosom

'Til the storm of life is over

Rock me in the cradle of thy love.

Wishing a calm and peaceful summer,

Reverend Rosie Bruce

Bell ringing practice –

every Monday evening 7:30pm

Knit and Natter - All are welcome for our Knit and Natter on the **first Monday** of the month, 2 – 4 p.m. No need to be a knitter if you'd just like a natter!

Tuesday Connect - We have started having tea, coffee and biscuit afternoons on the **second Tuesday** of the month, still from 2.30 – 4.00 p.m.,. We look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible.

YOU STAY WE PRAY, FEBRUARY 2023

25 th June – 1 st July	Abingdon Rd; Oday Hill.
2 nd -8 th July	Binning Close; Haywards Rd
9 th – 15 th July	Sutton Wick Lane; Greenacres; Newman Lane; Conifer Drive
16 th -22 nd July	Hilliat Fields; Lyford Close
23 rd – 29 th July	Manor Close; The Green
30 th July – 5 th August	High St; Cheers Drive; Cheers Farm; Halls Close

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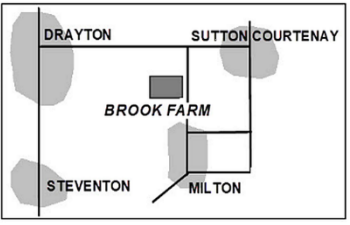



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DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT



Dear all,

Splash pads in Abbey Meadow in Abingdon and Memorial Park in Wantage

Both of the district's splash pads were turned on on Saturday 27 May and will be available to use every day until the start of September. A new fence along the river front was installed at Abbey Meadow last year to help keep young children safely in the park and aim to reduce the problem of geese causing havoc for park users.

This year, the kiosk at Abbey Meadow will have a seating area for customers to enjoy their refreshments and make the most of the lovely surroundings.

The outdoor pool in Abbey Meadow will be open for 6 weeks during the school summer holidays.

£100,000 now available for community climate projects in Vale of White Horse

The Climate Action Fund has opened for applications from town and parish councils and local groups who have proposals which aim to tackle climate change. Grants of up to £5000 per application can be made available.

The fund will be open for applications until 14th July.

In the past, earlier versions of the Climate Action Fund have supported projects such as tree planting and solar panel installation, as well as projects such as a sustainable eating course, funded professional ecological advice to create a community woodland and a boardwalk at a nature site to allow visitors access without damaging important habitats. We want to encourage even more groups to come forward with innovative ideas on how to help fight climate change.

To apply, please go to our Climate Action Fund page: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/community-support/grants/climate-action-fund/>

Waste and Street Cleaning Survey

The District Council have launched a waste services survey. It should help identify aspects with which people are happy as well as areas which could be improved. It's at [southandvale.gov.uk/WasteSurvey](https://www.southandvale.gov.uk/WasteSurvey) and is open until 11.59pm on Monday 10th July 2023.

I've sometimes mentioned my frustration at the way responsibilities are split between County and District Councils (I strongly believe that Unitary Councils that cover all aspects make for a far more straightforward experience for residents, rather than having to work out which Council their issue falls under and where to go for help), and this is a perfect example. The District Council covers collection of the various bins (waste, recycling, food waste, and green bins) and recycling from there, bulky waste collection, and street cleaning services, but **not** the Household Recycling Centres, which are controlled by the County Council. This survey is **only** for areas covered by the District Council.

Reservoir Clay Compaction Trial

One of the issues with the Thames Water proposal of "let's build up a mega-sized reservoir the size of thirty-odd average reservoirs in one place and have it solely dependent on one of the most water-stressed rivers in the country, oh, and not do the far better solution of setting up the long-required water transfer network until after the decades-long megaproject is finished," is the lack of huge swathes of required engineering and project information. Instead, Thames Water have done brochures of marinas (despite the Intrusive Non-Native Species restrictions and possible security restrictions pointing to a prohibition on recreational use) and glossed over environmental and engineering information.

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At last, though, and nearly quarter of a century after first putting this mega-reservoir forward, they're proposing doing some of the necessary engineering testing. This will be carried out off the Hanney Road on land they already own, and will involve digging down into the clay floor of the Vale and building up smaller versions of the embankments on an area the size of a football field. They've given advance notice of the planning application they'll be putting in, and will be gathering information on this trial throughout 2024.

This does NOT mean they've got the go-ahead; merely that they're accumulating needed geological, civil engineering, and hydrological information for their application process. The fight against it continues, but at least they're finally looking at getting concrete data to put into the evaluation process.

Cost of Living

As the Cost of Living crisis is still ongoing, here once again are the contact details for support for individuals and families from the Community Hub.

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](https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/costofliving)

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

All the best,
Andy



Editor Appeal (again!)

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

Still looking.....

..... for a replacement editor to complete the team of three. Unfortunately, if we are unsuccessful in finding an editor, we will have to reduce the annual number of Chronicle issues per year, unless/until an additional volunteer editor comes forward.

It's not too late to volunteer!

Please feel free to email us for more information, or to ask for an informal, no-obligation chat - our email is:

editor@draytonchronicle.net

Tempted????? Please get in touch!



PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION WINNER

The winner is Linda Semmens for her submission of the photograph of the magnificent Sparrowhawk, which appeared on last month's front cover. The subject matter was unusual and the timing and sharp focus was impressive.

Thank you to everyone who submitted entries – we had a great response. Look out for more photography competitions in future issues.

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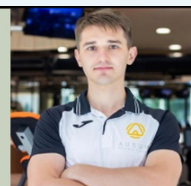
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COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT



Well, that serves me right for taking a holiday. We were very privileged to be taken by family – no, not a political perk - to Hawaii. I have been passionate about volcanoes for many years and this was a great opportunity to see some of the best examples in the world. Most of the dramatic pictures we see of lakes of red hot lava are taken at night and during the few days or weeks of eruptions that occur every few years. Solidified lava is very hard and can take many years to break down. The result is not beautiful but thousands of acres of piled up black rock are mighty impressive. In the months and years between eruptions, steam pours out from the craters but tourists are lucky to see any boiling red lava. We were not lucky but, as we left, a sizeable eruption began. However, whilst we missed the spectacle, it seems that we did bring home some spectacular tropical weather with us. Yesterday's thunder, torrential rain and high winds mixed in with hot sunshine in southern Oxfordshire matched anything in Hawaii. Meanwhile, local and national politics has been stormier than even the past two years have offered. The Reservoir issue rumbles on. Evermore contentious planning applications are in the pipeline. The HIF1 Road application is due to be heard at a two-day planning meeting in late June. By next month things will have progressed on all these issues.

Other updates include:

Mill Rd Bridge, Marcham – we expect work to begin on this long running issue very shortly.

Noise at Appleford sidings – An application to extend working hours was deferred by the OCC Planning Committee.

Grass cutting – budget cuts over the last decade have reduced the timetable to one cut per year. Visibility at many road junctions is a problem and is being steadily tackled under a priority scheme – major junctions first. We are getting there, but, in the meantime, please take extra care at junctions.

20mph limits. St Helens is now fully operational, and work has begun on Drayton.

And finally, a little good news. VWHDC Climate Action Fund and OCC Councillor Priority Fund are offering grants for worthy local causes. More details on the right, or Council's websites or from me.

Richard Webber Cllr 07546571521

Richardwebber777@gmail.com

Climate Action Fund 2023/2024

Info from VWHDC

This fund is now open – closing for applications midday 14 July.

Our Climate Action Fund has grants from £250 to £5,000 on offer per project to help tackle climate change, with a total of £100,000 available this year.

Which projects can the fund support?

You don't have to be a climate expert or established group to apply. We're just as keen to hear from communities who are starting their journey to take action to address the climate emergency.

HELPFUL TIPS

We held a webinar on 7 June which gave an overview and top tips on how to apply plus presentations from previous awardees – Hinksey Trail and Sustainable Botley about their applications.

You can view a [recording of the webinar](#) or view the presentation slides on

<https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/community-support/grants/climate-action-fund/>. Here are also links to some project ideas, with a look at the list of awards we have offered so far through the Fund; Funding Guidance for 2023/24, a list of useful resources and the application form.

How much is available and what for?

The funding is aimed at projects that help to tackle climate change and increase people's awareness and knowledge of the climate emergency. The work could focus on areas such as the natural environment, energy, waste and consumption, or transport and travel.

Organisations that receive funding will also have the opportunity to network with other grant recipients to share experiences and potentially collaborate on future projects.

Who can apply?

We would like to hear from non-profit community organisations whose primary purpose is to benefit the residents of Vale of White Horse. Town and parish councils may apply themselves, or can collaborate with local unconstituted groups to apply on their behalf.

Vale of White Horse Climate Action Plan 2022-2024

Tackling the climate emergency is one of our biggest priorities. The Climate Action Fund is part of our Climate Action Plan 2022-24 which outlines the steps the Vale will take to become a carbon neutral council by 2030, alongside how we will support local efforts to reduce carbon emissions across the district.

For more information, see our [climate action pages](#).

Equalities

We are committed to promoting equality and diversity and welcomes applications from organisations representing minority or vulnerable groups. We encourage all applicants to make their projects as inclusive and accessible to all as possible.

Get in touch

After reviewing our funding guidance you are very welcome to drop us an email at communityenablement@southandvale.gov.uk if you have any questions about the scheme and whether your project is eligible, or get in touch with the Climate Action team at climateaction@southandvale.gov.uk.

Contact us - Community Enablement - on 01235 422405 or communityenablement@southandvale.gov.uk or

Vale of White Horse District Council
Abbey House
Abbey Close
Abingdon
OX14 3JE



LETTER FROM WESTMINSTER



Dear all

Thank you to everyone who completed my health services survey. In total, 2,838 people did so, 77% of whom said they had had difficulty getting a GP appointment in the last year (44% said they had had difficulty accessing an appointment with a dentist). Unsurprisingly, 97% of people felt we do not have enough GPs for the number of people we have locally and 98% felt we do not have enough dentists. I completely agree and have been banging the drum on our health services since I was elected. Not long after the survey closed, I secured a debate in parliament about our health services and intend to keep banging heads together until we get the services we need.

I was pleased to take the Children's Minister, Claire Coutinho, to a local nursery recently to meet staff and children. The Government is making the largest single investment in childcare in history, which will give parents 30 free hours of childcare per week from when their child is 9 months old until they start school, which will be very welcome to the parents who raise childcare with me when I knock on their doors. I have launched a childcare survey on my website which is designed to let parents (and grandparents) talk about their experience of accessing childcare and say what they'd like to see. It is open until the 12th July at www.david-johnston.org.uk/childcare

Sticking with education and children for a minute, I was drawn to ask a question at Prime Minister's Questions and used it to highlight the great news that English primary school children have just been ranked the best readers in the Western World – better than all other countries in Europe as well as America and Canada – and the fourth best globally. This is in large part testament to teachers and the Government's focus on phonics, which was resisted by some at the time but is clearing bearing fruit.

Depending on when you read this, you'll either just still have time to attend my 3rd Annual Climate Summit for constituents on Zoom on 4 July or it will have happened and you'll be able to watch a recording of it on my website or Facebook page. I was pleased that Grant Shapps, Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, agreed to give the keynote speech – and, as ever, local and national experts agreed to take part.

This year, I have been hosting at least one local young person for work experience every month including Anastasiia, who is originally from Ukraine. I first met her with the family she is kindly hosted by in North Moreton. It was good to have her with us in Parliament.

I've enjoyed getting into the swing of the summer events happening across the constituency, including the Hagbourne Church Fete and Uffington Fun Day. Do get in touch if you're involved in organising something you'd like me to come to, or indeed if I can help with anything else via david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk

DAVID JOHNSTON MP

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR WANTAGE



STOP PRESS from David Johnston MP. My third annual Wantage and Didcot Climate Summit will be taking place on Tuesday 4th July from 1:45pm to 5pm on Zoom. You can register to attend on my website (see below). This year, Grant Shapps, Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, will be giving the keynote speech and taking your questions. There will also be the usual mix of local and national experts discussing key issues.

I hope to see you there!

Best wishes,
David

**DAVID JOHNSTON OBE MP's
3RD ANNUAL WANTAGE AND DIDCOT
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With keynote speaker
**Grant Shapps, Secretary of State
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on
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An inspirational community hub run by volunteers, for the benefit of the people and the planet.
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For further information including forthcoming events, see <https://oneplanetabingdon.org/events/>

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07821417729

THE FODSA DRAYTON VILLAGE SUMMER FETE



Photos from the Summer Fete held on Saturday 10th June (see also front cover). An amazing £6,475 was raised by FODSA (Friends of Drayton School Association) which will go towards supporting the children in the village primary school by enhancing, enriching and advancing their education.

Photo credit: Selena Gardner-Morrison

SUMMER FETE CONTINUED...



The fun-packed programme included inflatables, climbing wall, falconry display, balloon modelling, Spider Man & Elsa, brass band, choir, class performances, Irish dancers, street dancers, tug of war, penalty shoot-out, stalls, bar, hot food, tombola, games, Bake-Off competition and much, much more. A huge amount of work for the organisers and a fabulous event for all, in mostly glorious sunshine (apart from a torrential downpour!) A memorable and fun day for all.

Photo credit: Selena Gardner-Morrison

LOCAL GROUPS and CLUBS

W.I News

At our last meeting we listened to and watched a **professional organiser**. Her house must be amazing. Puts mine in context, full of treasures and memories that she suggested we should remove and keep them in your heart. As I look round my memories, I don't think my heart is big enough. We were shown how to fold and store clothes after laundering, how to fold sheets and towels. It looked so easy if you lived a conventional lifestyle. I never have but I can dream. If I parted with all the things I have collected over the years, there would be no memories for the family to look through and laugh at their parents as children. Next month we will be entertaining ourselves because the holiday season is upon us, and we don't need a speaker when our numbers are lower. So it's Beetle Drive time, it always is great fun and the throw of the dice is not always with us. Come and join in on Thursday 13th of July at 7.30 pm in the Caudwell Centre, Gravel Lane

Ann Webb

Drayton Wives

Our meeting this month was a talk by John Orchard on the life of Sir Alan Charles Lawrence Whistler.

Sir Alan Whistler was a renowned poet and glass engraver whose work John was completely in awe of when he saw it in St Nicholas Church Moreton Dorchester.

Sir Alan was born in 1912 in South East London and attended Stowe School from 1923-1930. He then came to Baliol College and did a degree in Arts.

He wrote a book of poems which was illustrated by his brother Rex. Because of this he gained the 1st Kings Gold medal for poetry at the suggestion of the poet John Masefield.

Brother Rex was expelled from the Royal Academy and went to the Slade school of Art where he excelled at murals and portraits and mixed with the likes of Noel Coward and Cecil Beaton. Some of the murals now hang in the Tate Modern Restaurant.

Sir Alan and his brother were close but unfortunately Rex died in the war at Caen in 1944 aged 35yrs old going to the aid of his men.

Sir Alan then decided he would continue with his engraving and also some poetry. He married his first wife Jill Furze in 1939 and lived near Bideford where they had a child called Simon who also became an engraver.

His greatest work was engraving 12 windows in Moreton church with a 13th one to come later. The windows replaced the old stained-glass ones which were destroyed by a bomb in 1940. At first, they were just plain glass which was not liked by the congregation, so Whistler was commissioned to provide engraved glass replacements. The 13th window was designed with a theme of forgiveness featuring Judas but was at first declined to be put in the church and the in 2014 it was installed on the outside of the church.

The church also has Lawrence of Arabia buried there. A fellow of All Souls College.

There is a Whistler window in the music block at Radley college dedicated to George Butterworth a composer.

One of his other great engravings is in Salisbury cathedral which is called the Rex Prism. He died in Oxford in 2000 and had his funeral at Ewelme church although he is not buried there he is in a tomb in Salisbury cathedral.

It was a very interesting talk and I have seen the windows in Moreton church which is worth a visit if you are in Dorset.

Lisa Lammiman

Almost 21 million reports have been made to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS), resulting in the removal of over **235,000 malicious websites**.

SERS was launched by the [National Cyber Security Centre](#) (NCSC) and the City of London Police in April 2020 to enable the public to forward suspicious emails to an automated system that scans them for malicious links. Since its launch, almost 21 million reports have been made to the service.

Mobile phone providers also offer a service that allows customers to report suspicious text messages, by forwarding them to the number **7726**. The service is free of charge and enables providers to takedown malicious websites and block malicious texts from being sent across their network.

As of 31 May 2023, **54,000 text message scams have been removed** as a result of suspicious texts forwarded to the 7726 service.

How to protect yourself from scam emails and texts

Received an email or text that seems suspicious? Report it. Your reports enable us to remove the emails and websites criminals use to commit fraud and cyber crime.

1: Forward suspicious emails to report@phishing.gov.uk . Send emails to this address that feel suspicious, even if you're not certain they're a scam - we can check.

2: Forward suspicious text messages to 7726 (it's free of charge). Your provider can find out where the text came from and block or ban the sender.

3 - If you've lost money or provided personal information as a result of a phishing scam, notify your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040. In Scotland, call Police Scotland on 101.

Please note: Sometimes a forwarded email may not reach us because it is already recognised by spam detection services. You can also take a screenshot of the email and send it to report@phishing.gov.uk



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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.



GROUP AGAINST RESERVOIR DEVELOPMENT

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

GARD UPDATE

Responses: Water Resources SouthEast (WRSE), Thames Water, Affinity Water and Southern Water are all delaying their response to the submitted comments on their schemes from the end of June to the end of August. This means that we cannot know where we stand until early September at the earliest, but there is clearly something significant going on with the South-East companies. If we hear anything we will let Stakeholders and residents know.

Reservoir planning: there is some news about the proposed reservoir: Thames have filed a Planning Application to build a test model dam embankment on Cow Common (halfway along the Steventon-Hanney Road). GARD welcomes the trial build but is puzzled that it is rather small, only three metres high and not very long. Will this be useful?

RAPID: we are expecting RAPID to deliver its Gate 2 decisions at the end of June. We have been requesting a meeting with RAPID to urge on them the importance of early, independent evaluations of the Reservoir safety, flooding Impact and true costs. They have agreed to meet, but we do not yet have a date. It is possible that RAPID will delay its decisions as well, in line with the water companies.

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

Deborah Bennett
GARD



The Proposed Above-Ground Mega-Reservoir, capacity 150 million cubic metres



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Abingdon Farmers' Market Dates for 2023:

(8.30am – 1.30pm, 3rd Friday of the month, Abingdon Market Square)

- 21st July
- 18th August
- 15th September
- 20th October
- 17th November
- 15th December



- *reduce your food miles*
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- *support local farmers and producers*

LETTERS and NOTICES

Dear Ed

It might be none of my business but, having moved out of the village after 45 happy years, I continue to read the Drayton Chronicle and noticed that there were 5 vacancies on the Parish Council. During the ten years that I was on the PC there were only occasional vacancies.

From memory there were around 900 houses and about 2500 residents. Since then, the village has grown by a third while those prepared to serve on the PC has nearly halved! Drayton is blessed with many clubs and societies that enrich village life but it is sad that, with all this new blood, there are so few prepared to occupy the bottom rung of this country's democracy. And for its chair the Council is relying on the public spirit of Richard Wade who had already performed that role many years ago.

But, conversely, congratulations to Lewis and the football club that seems to have flourished since I left.

Daniel Scharf

Dear Editor

Drastic action appears to have been taken once again on the Green at Edward Park to rid the area of a toxic plant. I would make a few observations. First, the topsoil on the site was presumably earth moved from within the site by the developers, so it follows that the seeds for this weed were already present in the soil, and the weed in question must have been growing there before the developers moved in - so, this weed is not new to the area. Second, there are plenty of toxic plants all over the village already, such as laburnum, oxalis, deadly nightshade and a host of fungi. Let's hope no-one tries to protect us all from all of these species.

Apart from anything else, can't we have something more ecologically friendly rather than this weedkiller attack? In a time when we are supposed to be re-wilding, providing insect homes and more, why are we laying to waste what was a large green space? What does the run-off from this weedkiller do when it reaches watercourses, or even the line of wells in the older part of the village? What is the impact on local beekeepers?

Thanks in advance for some answers.

Simon Inger



Discovery - Oxfordshire Museum open art competition

Submission deadline 9am, Monday 21 August 2023

Exhibition 16 September – 5 November 2023

The Oxfordshire Museum is holding its first open art competition. Any Oxfordshire resident, 11 years and older, is welcome to enter. You do not need to create a new artwork especially for the competition, it could be an existing piece, but it must fulfil the theme of 'Discovery'. 50 works will then be selected for an autumn exhibition at the Museum. Follow this link for details and to submit your application:

oxfordshire.gov.uk/artcompetition

Oxfordshire County Council
Oxfordshire Museum Service
Fletcher's House, Fletcher's House
Woodstock, Oxfordshire OX201SN

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Monday Closed
Tuesday - Friday 10am - 5pm
Saturday 10am - 5pm
Sunday 2pm - 5pm

Last admission 4.45pm

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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



The Parish Council met on 13th June. Here are some of the main issues discussed:

- **Walnut Meadows:** After many frustrating years it appears progress is finally being made with the sports facilities at Walnut Meadows that were a key part of the Drayton Neighbourhood Development Plan. As most residents are no doubt aware by now, Miller Homes buried unauthorised waste on the site, which in turn raised the level of the site compared to neighbouring houses. They also obliterated the former Barrow or burial mound. It has taken many years, but they have now agreed to remove the buried waste and re-level the site to restore it to something akin to the original level. There is a legal agreement in place between Miller Homes and the District Council that the work must start before the end of July and be completed before the end of October. Following completion of the work, the land will be transferred to the Parish Council. The Parish Council is now required to undertake an archaeological survey.

We have engaged an architect to produce a design for the new pavilion and prepare a planning application for both the pavilion and the MUGA (multi-use games area). As part of the planning process the Parish Council will be required to undertake a further archaeological survey.

We are in the process of updating the Business Plan to ensure the proposal is financially viable whilst investigating grant funding sources.

We will be undertaking consultations with the village to share our plans for the site and update you all on the new facilities.

- In other planning matters, we will be responding to the proposed plans for an 80-house development on the Drayton side of Steventon. We will be opposing the development on the grounds that it would constitute additional development outside of the village on a rural site, which would be contrary to the Vale's planning policies given that the Vale can demonstrate that they have a 5 year land supply for development.

- The **Village Caretaker** has recently cut back a number of grass verges so that residents can get in and out of sideroads safely! Whilst the Parish Council will do its best to try and ensure safety for the village our resources are limited. The grass verges are the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council. Please report any issues to FixMyStreet.com.

-The **Eastway footpath** improvements are now complete, and the surface seems to be holding up well.

- We now have 7 councillors, leaving **4 vacancies**. *If you are concerned about housing and development, traffic and road safety, footpaths and open spaces, recreation and sport or the proposed reservoir, you could help make a difference by joining the Parish Council.* If you are interested, please contact clerk@draytonpc.org or come along to a meeting.

Elaine Wade
Drayton Parish Council
clerk@draytonpc.org

For further info.....

.....please see www.DraytonVillage.co.uk for Agendas, Minutes and Papers for the Parish Council, as well as details of current PC Committees and Working Groups.

Here you will also find archives of The Drayton Chronicle, History of Drayton, Village Information, photographs and more.

2023 Drayton Parish Council Meeting Dates

Parish Council Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the in the Caudwell Day Centre, Gravel Lane, Drayton.

11 th July	Parish Council Meeting
8 th August	Parish Council Meeting
12 th September	Parish Council Meeting
10 th October	Parish Council Meeting
14 th November	Parish Council Meeting
12 th December	Parish Council Meeting

From Martin Blogg:

2021 Census Data: Journey to work

The 2021 Census asked how people travelled to work. Of the 1,976 people in employment **895** or 45% of them were working from home – WFH in the jargon of the time. Not surprising given that WFH guidance was still in place for Covid.

Almost as many, **853** or 43% travelled by car or van, taking **70** passengers between them,

Other methods were many fewer:

TRAIN	9
BUS	35
MOTORCYCLE	7
BICYCLE	38
ON FOOT	48
OTHER METHOD	20



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.

TREASURER Wanted!

Drayton Hall (Management C'tee)

Might (?) suit someone gaining book-keeping experience leading to Accountancy Exams?

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or please call Fred Stevens (Hall Chair) on
01235 200350



Race for Life is Cancer Research UK's biggest series of fundraising events. Taking place across the UK, the events include 3k, 5k and 10k routes as well as the Pretty Muddy obstacle events.

Race for Life started 30 years ago as a women-only event. The first event was held in Battersea, in 1994, where 750 participants raised £48,000. Since that point, Race for Life has grown into a series of hundreds of events across the country, raising over £940 million towards beating cancer over the last quarter of a century.

Who can take part?

The Race for Life is open to everyone, no matter their fitness level, background, or gender. In 2019, for the first time, the Race for Life opened its doors to men to participate too, making it a truly inclusive event. Cancer doesn't care who you are, Participants come from different backgrounds, with different stories, but with one thing in common - the determination to help beat cancer.

Where do the funds raised go?

All Race For Life sponsorship goes towards Cancer Research UK's lifesaving work, funding laboratories, tests and treatments of all 200 types of cancer.

Events in our area in 2023:

- Oxford 10k 2023 2 Jul 2023 09:30
- Oxford 5k 2023 2 Jul 2023 10:30
- Reading Pretty Muddy Kids 2023 15 Jul 2023 09:45
- Reading Pretty Muddy 5k 2023 15 Jul 2023 10:30
- Reading 10k 2023 16 Jul 2023 09:30
- Reading 3k 2023 16 Jul 2023 11:00
- Reading 5k 2023 16 Jul 2023 11:00
- High Wycombe 10k 2023 23 Jul 2023 10:00
- High Wycombe 5k 2023 23 Jul 2023 11:00
- High Wycombe 3k 2023 23 Jul 2023 11:00

Dates for 2024 are already on the website:
<https://raceforlife.cancerresearchuk.org/>



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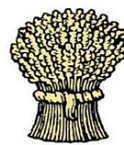
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DRAYTON HALL NEWS



Firstly, a massive well-done to the FoDSA crew for organising the Fete in June, a terrific result to help the School despite that naughty storm later in the afternoon!

Villagers who enjoyed that might like to come along on **July 15th for a charity football match and 'funday'**, in aid of men's mental health, and to remember Luke Venn in particular.

A variety of **stalls and bouncy castle** too, I gather, but DO PLEASE see the local F'book ads nearer the time for more news on the planned attractions.

On to our regular clubs and groups, our **Badminton class on Monday evenings** has had a few injuries lately, I'm told, so could do with a couple of new players. They're mostly Ladies, (but a couple of guys have played too!), and though it's a game I struggle with, they tell me they're at a decent club standard. IF you're available in the afternoons (or at least Weds in this case) – then that social Badminton group would also love a bit of new blood. They've very big on the tea and bikkies side too!

It's been a while since I mentioned our U3A groups, a well-established **CRAFTS** group, they meet on a Thursday afternoon (2nd of month), and a newer set who have **Science & Tech lectures**, first Weds afternoon of the month.

And finally I hear that a few people were wondering about the coach we had parked overnight for a few weeks in the Hall car-park. Well, the firm asked permission, and paid for the privilege, they were part of the rail-replacement bus scheme for a while (the crumbling bridge was being repaired) – and parking here was convenient for the driver, a local resident.

Tony Holmes

Report from the Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee given out at the 2023 AGM

The Hall has had a good year, I believe, lots of changes but the old guard is coming back, and we have solid bookings for the rest of the year. Deep clean of the kitchen, toilets, and passage took place by Pro-Clean. It was an excellent job, but it did show up the age of the Village Hall and the need for refurbishment. The kitchen is well-used and must be kept to a good standard of cleanliness. The main hall floor has been refurbished and it was good to see the line markings reinstated. Drayton Players made a successful return, putting on a production; the Antiques Fair seems well-established, plus dog shows and the craft fair all make regular bookings. Our stalwart users, the bowls club, badminton club and sequence dancers have, I believe, had a good year and our thanks to them for their continuing support.

Major updating of the hall has made a small step forward but still has a long way to go. The football club has had an ace season, retaining the North Berks Cup – and congratulations to them. Hopefully improvements to the club house will proceed in time for next season.

Thanks to all involved with the Hall – especially our Treasurer Tamsin Meredith and Tony Holmes, our Bookings Secretary, and our Cleaner, Helen, who keeps the hall in good order; their efforts are appreciated. We still need more people to serve on the Committee and, definitely, a volunteer for the Treasurer's post. Our hope is that the Hall will continue to be an asset to the Community of Drayton.

Fred Stevens,
Chairman, Village Hall Management Committee

(Mostly) Hall Diary for July

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	10.00am	Private Function (child's party)
Sun	2	9.00am	ANTIQUES FAIR (to 3pm)
Sat	8	10.00am	Private Function (child's party)
Tues	11	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting <i>Caudwell DC</i>
Sat	15		Charity Event (see local ads)
Sun	16	1.00pm	Private Function (child's party)
Mon	17	5.00pm	CHRONICLE DEADLINE (p2)
Sat	22	1.00pm	Private Function (child's party)
Sat	29		Private Function (all day)

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>



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