

DRAYTON CHRONICLE



Chronicle Information



The next Drayton Chronicle will be the October issue edited by Bridget Pyne Tel. 07454 778211
Key dates for next Chronicles:

| Issue: | Deadline for Contributions: | | Printed Chronicles available on: |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | <i>Adverts</i> | <i>Editor</i> | |
| October | 15 th Sept | 18 th Sept | 29 th Sept |
| November | 13 th October | 16 th October | 27 th October |

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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Charity number: 100427

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

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

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| | | |
|---------------|---------------------|--|
| Rector | Revd Helen Kendrick | rector@damascusparish.org.uk |
| 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 10.00 a.m.– 11.30 a.m

If you have a baby or toddler, you would be so welcome to join us. We meet in Church. Please email suedraytonpebbles@outlook.com for more information or visit our Drayton Pebbles Facebook Page.

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

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!

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

Sunday 30th July **Elodie Grace Carr**
Monty Morgan Preece

Funeral

Friday 4th August **Iris Doreen Bentley**

ST PETER'S LETTER

From the Ministry Team...

Dear Friends

September heralds the start of new village activities as well as the commencement of learning courses of every description. September will also see our Parochial Church Council considering the life and work of our 5 village churches and how we best serve their communities. As custodians of old and historically important buildings, we face challenges and opportunities in how the church shows both a constancy and adaptability in the way it functions. Pandemic and recession have changed much in our church life, yet we are serving more villagers now than we have done in the last 50 years with the inevitable drop in income.

When I hear the word 'church' I think more of people than a religious building. The following three quotes have helped shape my understanding of the true nature of the life and work of the church:

"The Church is the Church only when it exists for others...not dominating but helping and serving." Dietrich Bonhoeffer German Lutheran minister, theologian and executed by the Nazis in 1945 for being an anti-Nazi dissident.

"The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members." Willian Temple Archbishop of Canterbury 1942-44

"It is a mistake to suppose that God is only, or even chiefly, concerned with religion."

R. V. C. Bodley *In Search of Serenity* (1955)

I am confident that our church buildings will remain standing whilst its people remain serving and caring. September heralds autumn with the prospect of the recession biting deeper however, our churches design and purpose is to show the light and love of God for the benefit of everyone. How do we do that? A good place to start is listening to the voices of those we serve, for in doing so we can hear the voice of God and his leading. As the church is here for the whole community, please tell us how we can best serve and how are buildings can assist us in these purposes.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Phil

Revd Philip Sutton

Associate Minister, DAMASCUS Parish:

Drayton | Appleford | Milton |

Sutton Courtenay | Steventon

Tel: 01235 635476 Mobile: 07507378737

YOU STAY WE PRAY (September 2023)

27th Aug – 2nd Sept Lockway

3rd – 9th Sept Whitehorns Way

10th – 16th Corneville Road; Crabtree Lane; Lesparre Close

17th – 23rd Drayton Rd; Milton Rd; New Cut Mill; Fisher Close
Marcham Rd; Meads Close; Rippington Court; Stone Hill

24th – 30th Steventon Rd; Kiln Lane; Mott Cottages; Barton Court

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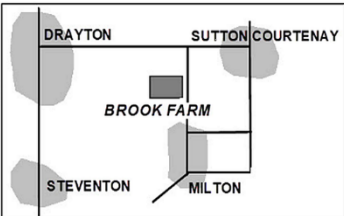
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MOSAIC CELEBRATION PARTY!

On Sunday 3rd September at 15:30
our village mosaic will be unveiled in the
small hall of Drayton Village Hall by

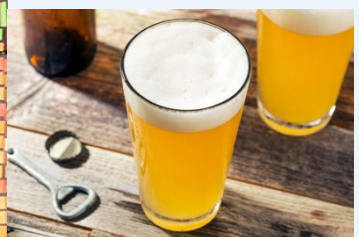
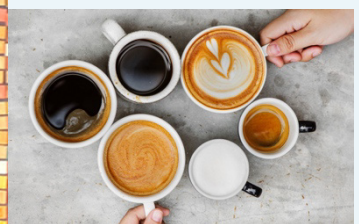
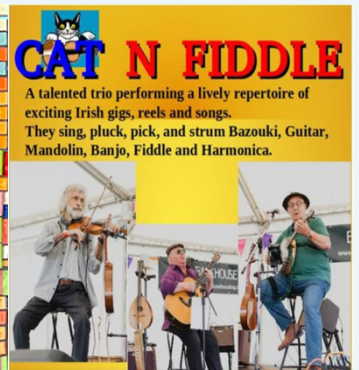
Paul Mayhew-Archer

All villagers are invited



There will be complimentary Tea & Cakes
A paid bar courtesy of Marco from The Wheatsheaf
and
Local band 'The Cat & Fiddle' playing live music

Please enter the small hall via the back door to the left due to another event in the main hall



The long-awaited event that we have all been looking forward to is about to take place in the small hall at Drayton Village Hall. After years of planning, and months of preparation, involving the whole community, the mosaic is ready at last. Be there to see the unveiling by our very own local Drayton celebrity, Paul Mayhew-Archer, at 3.30pm.

There will be something for everyone. Our local band, the Cat and Fiddle, will be there to entertain you afterwards, while tea and cake (soft drinks for the children) will be laid on free of charge, for your delectation. Marco from the Wheatsheaf has agreed to set up his stall, so bring some cash if you would like to sample his famous beer.

As most of you are aware, this mosaic has been created by the artist Clare Goodall, working with the community: DAMASCUS was given nine evening sessions, the school had two days, the Drayton Art Group had two afternoons, and there was a community afternoon during the Coronation celebration at the hall.

So do come and help make this event a real village celebration. If you are a newcomer and don't know many people in the village, this is your chance to join in and meet us all. Please come round to the back entrance of the hall, where everything will be happening, because the antique dealers will be packing up after their fair, and we don't want any priceless porcelain or mirrors smashed in the crush! See you there,

Pervin Shahin

Drayton Parish Council



Women's Health

Your Questions Answered

Join Dr Katie Barber, Dr Helen Kennedy and Dr Lara Walford, local Women's Health GPs and British Menopause Society Accredited Menopause Specialists for a friendly and informative evening covering periods, prolapse, bladder issues, menopause and much more, with time to ask your questions too.

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Found!!

We are *delighted* to announce that we have a new editor joining the very small Chronicle team. **Bridget Pyne** will be editing the October issue 😊 Please send in your articles, letters, photos etc by September 18th to editor@draytronchronicle.net



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COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT



HIF1 update

At the OCC Planning Committee meeting on the 17th and 18th July, the committee heard presentations from the applicant, OCC Highways and 23 other representatives. The Committee voted by a majority of 7 to 2 to reject the application on a number of grounds. The major concerns were 1. That the application took no account of the impact on Abingdon. 2. That no traffic modelling was available for scrutiny. 3. The potential environmental impacts were not sufficiently considered.

As a result of the above, the Secretary of State has “called in” the decision of the committee. This means that a Planning Inspector will be asked to check the reasons and procedures for the refusal. His/her report will be passed to the Secretary of State for a final decision.

The HIF1 scheme that was already badly behind schedule is further delayed. This results in uncertainty all around. District Councils are concerned over the impact on their Local Plans. County Council is concerned at the impact delay will have if they are penalised for late delivery. Local Parishes are dismayed at the continuing uncertainty. No one can be confident of where we go from here, but there are discussions going on between Government and Councils. Everyone accepts that a solution is needed to the lack of infrastructure following years of rapid development in Didcot and needed urgently.

The idea that the road between the Milton A34 interchange and Didcot should be treated as a stand-alone project deliverable quickly may well provide a first step, whilst alternatives to the rest of the scheme are reassessed.

There is sure to be more to come on this in the next few weeks.

Richard Webber Cllr 07546571521

Richardwebber777@gmail.com

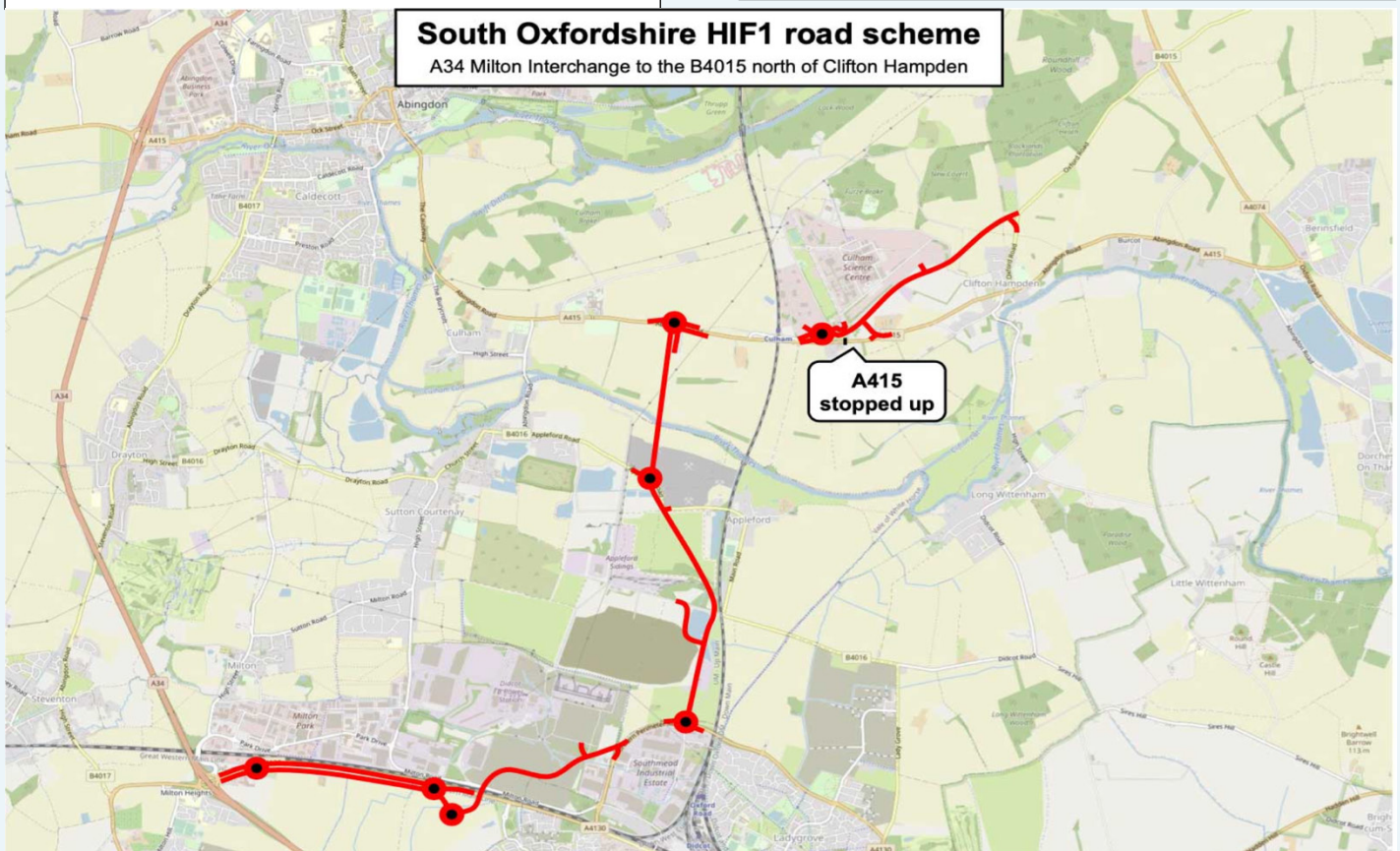


Background to HIF1 (source: Oxfordshire Roads Action Alliance ORAA)

Oxfordshire County Council have been planning the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF1) scheme for almost a decade. It is a 9 mile road from the A34 at Milton to the Oxford Road (B4015) near Nuneham Courtenay. The development comprises the following sections:

- A new dual carriageway from A34 at Milton to a new roundabout near Didcot
- A major bridge over the main Great Western rail line to Wales
- A section all along Didcot northern perimeter road
- A flyover over rail sidings close to Appleford
- A major new bridge over the Thames near Culham
- A new road – the Clifton Hampden bypass – along A415 diverting between Culham Science Center & Clifton Hampden
- Ending on the B4015 near Nuneham Courtenay (this is a B road which will struggle to take all the traffic) to connect to the A 4074 Oxford – Reading road.

This would be an arterial road to take commercial traffic from the A34 through Didcot towards east Oxford or the M40.



LETTER FROM WESTMINSTER



Dear all

After breakthroughs for the local AEAT Pensioners in recent weeks, I'm delighted to have just had another campaign success – this time with benefits that are national rather than local.

Part of my campaigning on the environment includes being chair of the Community Energy APPG and the lead sponsor of the Local Electricity Bill. In simple terms, this means I have been campaigning for some time to see more support for community energy – by which I mean clean, renewable energy that local people generate themselves in their local areas. At the moment the setup costs are just too high.

I've spent the past few months working with my Government colleagues to try and get the principles of the Local Electricity Bill into law and get some money behind community energy.

This has resulted in a new Community Energy Fund of £10 million being created, which the Government has just announced, and which will be open for applications in the Autumn. I'm really delighted with this as it has the potential to benefit many community energy groups in England and – I hope – Oxfordshire. There'll be further good news when the Energy Bill comes back to the House of Commons next month too – so watch this space!

On the 27th September, I will be holding a Pensioners' Fair for local pensioners – whether they live in Wantage, Didcot, Wallingford, Faringdon or any of our villages – at the Beacon in Wantage. I am doing this as a significant proportion of my casework involves trying to help pensioners access support or advice – whether about benefits they're entitled to, support with hearing and sight loss, or how to protect themselves against online scams. I'm therefore bringing together a lot of the key organisations that can provide guidance – together with some of the clubs that can keep people active and help guard against loneliness – in one place so that pensioners can drop in and talk to a range of organisations at the same time. Further details will be put on my website www.david-johnston.org.uk and do please spread the word.

I'm pleased that after my crime summits in Wantage and Wallingford, Thames Valley Police have taken a number of actions in this area – including following up with each individual who raised a case at the events and broader work to increase contact with local schools/community groups and make visits to places identified as problems – in response to what local people told them.

Far from being a holiday – though I will go away for a week or so – parliamentary recess is a good time to get all over the constituency on days other Friday-Sunday, given MPs have to be in Westminster Monday-Thursday most weeks. I've very much enjoyed being out and about, whether in Uffington, Wallingford, Didcot or Grove and it's been great to visit places I haven't been to before like Serica Smooth in Wantage and Harwell Bowls Club.

As ever, if I can help with anything then do please let me know via david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk

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DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT



Dear all,

Walnut Meadows – removal of buried rubble and site regrading

The removal of rubble and regrading of the land levels at Walnut Meadows is making good progress. The team there are targeting the 1st week in September to be shipping the spoil off the site. This means they're on schedule to be finished by October.

The Parish Council are continuing to watch over this closely. They've told me that the architect is progressing well on the Pavilion design, which is also encouraging.

HIF1 rejection – next steps

The County Council rejected the HIF1 transport scheme in July (A4130 Widening, Didcot Science Bridge, Didcot to Culham River Crossing, Clifton Hampden Bypass); this does have repercussions on us at the District Council (such as on our 5-year land supply, but not limited to that), but the story doesn't end here. On 25th July, the government 'called in' the application and will hold a public inquiry in due course before the Secretary of State determines the planning application.

Here is a breakdown of some of the key steps:

- The Secretary of State will appoint a Planning Inspector to carry out the public inquiry.
- The Planning Inspectorate will manage the process through Oxfordshire County Council, so the County will notify all interested parties that it's happening, dates for the inquiry, venue and various deadlines.
- The County Council will have to provide a raft of information to the inspector, including representations and consultation responses to the original planning application. This will include the VoWH DC and South Oxfordshire DC representation. (Note: our involvement at this stage is as a planning application statutory consultee as the Local Planning Authorities, and therefore any responses we provide need to reflect what are called "material planning considerations" under the relevant planning legislation).
- Parties who previously commented at the application stage can ask to speak at the public inquiry to present their written evidence and undergo cross-examination.
- The inspector may choose to call any of the interested parties to the inquiry, but that decision is a matter for them alone.
- Having considered all of the material submitted, the Planning Inspector makes a recommendation to the Secretary of State. This is then published along with the Secretary of State's decision – and that decision doesn't have to be what the Planning Inspector recommends.
- That decision is final, albeit there is a window to make an application for judicial review to the High Court based **only** on the legal validity of the Secretary of State's decision

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan

Following a prioritisation and intervention workshop on 25 July, the final draft plan is being prepared for the LCWIP Steering Group to consider at their meeting on 3 August, prior to four weeks of public consultation from 14 August.

New Council Headquarters in Didcot

The planned new shared headquarters (with South Oxfordshire) at the Didcot Gateway site has had the planning

application submitted and the plans are now available to view online and for people to leave their comments. SODC's Planning Department will determine the application, so the Planning Officers have had to be kept independent from council staff working on the project.

The design is intended to adhere to Garden Town principles and the Didcot Gateway masterplan. You can View the full plans and have your say before 31 August 2023 on the South Oxfordshire's Didcot Gateway webpage here: <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/about-the-council/our-new-headquarters/>

Cost of Living

I'm keeping the links for support with the cost of living in my report, because it hasn't gone away.

Whether it's for practical support or just advice, get in touch with the Community Hub: 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

All the best,

Andy

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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



The Council met on August 8th.

Walnut Meadows

As many of you will be aware, Miller Homes have commenced work to remove the buried waste, reduce the height and re-level the sports field site. This work is due to end in early September. The Parish Council's Programme Manager is liaising closely with Miller Homes to ensure that all work is completed as planned. Representatives of the Parish Council are working with an architect on designs for the pavilion. Plans will be shared with the village probably through a drop-in session.

Traffic Calming

This continues to progress very slowly. The Parish Council submitted traffic calming priorities to Oxfordshire County Council in late 2021 and have recently been told that the lack of progress has been due to slim resources within the County Council. The PC is now trying to deal directly with OCC's contractor Milestone. The 20mph speed limit was considered at the County Council committee in August and the decision was deferred until the next OCC meeting on September 8th. The Chair of the Parish Council has contacted OCC and our County Councillor Richard Webber, to try to ascertain what is going on. Frustratingly, at the time of writing despite several attempts, we have not been able to find out what OCC's plans are for 20mph limit in the village.

Football Club

We have agreed to support repairs to the clubhouse roof. However, so far it has been difficult to get quotes for the work. The PC will keep this on their meeting agenda.

Allotments

There have been several incidents of theft from the allotments and a shed broken into. The PC has been asked to consider providing locks to the allotment gates. This will be discussed at the September meeting.

Burial ground

We have agreed a quote for clearance and tidy up along the south fence line of the burial ground. This will involve removal of dead vegetation and brambles and will enable better access along the footpath towards the gate to the fields.

Mosaic

The grand unveiling for the mosaic will be held on September 3rd at the Village Hall at 3.30 pm. Everyone is invited to attend. Tea and cake will be provided. There will also be a beer tent and entertainment from the Cat and Fiddle band. The mosaic has been completed by young people from Damascus and local art groups. It represents aspects of Drayton life and is beautiful.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on September 12th at 7.00pm in Caudwell Day Centre.

Elaine Wade
Drayton Parish Council
clerk@draytonpc.org

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.

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 12 th September | Parish Council Meeting |
| 10 th October | Parish Council Meeting |
| 14 th November | Parish Council Meeting |
| 12 th December | Parish Council Meeting |

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.

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Drayton Hall (Management C'tee)

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Email to :- treasurer@draytonvh.co.uk

or please call Fred Stevens (Hall Chair) on

01235 200350



Abingdon Farmers' Market Dates for 2023:

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

15th September

20th October

17th November

15th December

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



LOCAL GROUPS and CLUBS

Drayton Wives

This month we had pleasure in welcoming Emily from the Emergency Planning Office of Oxfordshire County Council.

Emily is based at Kidlington and is part of a team of six that organizes the local Authority side of responses to local disasters and emergencies. They also work with Community Resilience groups who are voluntary and groups such as the Red Cross.

They have to plan for floods, traffic accidents which we have a lot down the A34 and more unusual disasters such as reservoir breaches, infectious diseases, chemical explosives and major utility failures. Because of where we are we can be in the middle of any of these things!!!!

Now for some examples:

In 2013 on Christmas eve in Bicester a shopping trolley got stuck on the estuary gates. This blocked everything and the road flooded. People living nearby had to move to hotels and the emergency planning team worked with supermarkets to give the elderly a Christmas.

One man had a hobby of metal detecting and sold finds on eBay. He had over 2,000 pieces some of which were live! The street had to be closed and also the nearby railway line.

In January 2015 a man had a grudge against the council and targeted three separate places: a scrapyards, a funeral parlour and the SODC offices. All of which caught fire at nearly the same time. A village hall was set up as an emergency centre.

One of the more memorable disasters was of course Didcot Power Station where four lives were lost. There was a void under the building which caved in. Again, the disaster team were involved.

In Drayton in 2022 a WW2 bomb was found in a field by the farmer who was digging. The disposal team was called out but there was no explosive inside. Luckily!!!

So - what can we do to help?

- Take note of the phone number in case of a power cut – 105 - a free number.
- Don't drive through floods!!
- And if you see an incident Run Away, Hide, and Tell someone when safe to do so.

So, an interesting talk about behind the scenes of some disasters

Lisa Lammiman

From Vale News (South Oxon District Council):

Steel monument to honour local heroes at Abbey Meadow

A local historian, Mienneke Cox, has been honoured in the grounds of Abbey Meadows thanks to the cycling charity, Sustrans.

The local heroes, including Mienneke, were chosen by the community and have been immortalised in steel portraits for their contribution to the town's past, present and future.

Another portrait represents the many local volunteers and community group members active in Abingdon, looking after the local environment for everyone to enjoy.

We're really pleased to have supported this project by granting permission for Sustrans to home the monuments at this location.

This is part of a series of portrait benches installed in recognition of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee year.

Find out more on the Sustrans website.

DRAYTON SHORT MAT BOWLS

Dear Draytonians,

With Our Grateful Thanks to the Parish Council for a Grant, we have new mats that weigh about half of the old ones. This makes it much easier to lift and roll out for each session. We disposed of the old mats, two mats plus fenders have gone to another club who go out to schools to show and promote the game to children as a social pastime and learn a new skill. The pictures below show the two new mats - they are shorter ones.

Would you like to learn a new skill and meet new people?

Come along and play Short Mat Bowls at Drayton Village Hall.

All Adults 20 years and over are welcome.

We meet Monday and Thursday 1400hrs to 1600hrs also Wednesday evening 1900hrs to 2130 hrs. We enjoy a half time break for tea/ coffee and biscuits.

FREE 3 trial sessions 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 you wish to borrow some, please just ask.

We have other social events throughout the year to enjoy, such as meals at the Merry Miller and a Skittles evening plus meal.

You can enter competition matches, if you want to, it might be just up your street! Any questions or more information call Andy on 07434273053.

Thanks to everyone who came to the Merry Miller for the Summer meal. it was very good and the food was excellent, thanks to everyone who made this possible. We do appreciate all the hard work that goes into organising this event.

Yours Andy (Vice Chair)





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by searching for Rosie's Hair Lodge.

ABINGDON HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Abingdon's Heritage Open Days are a highlight of the late summer. This year the main events are on **Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 September**; the theme is "Creativity unlocked." You can discover the artistic influence of the town. From Hollywood icons, internationally renowned painters, rockstars, top comedians and actors, Abingdon has been part of all their lives.

There are exhibitions about the historic Abingdon missal, plus a local artist, Oswald Couldrey. You can also be taught some painting techniques and try your hand at lacemaking. There will be the usual exhibitions, open historic buildings, walks, talks and trails.



Heritage Walks (GUIDED)



All-Weekend Information Stall

The Heritage Weekend Information Stall will be in the centre of the Market Place for you to register for walks and talks, pick up trail leaflets and find out more about Open Properties and displays around the town.

10am-4pm Saturday 16th September

10am-3pm Sunday 17th September



Abingdon Missal Exhibition

Like many monasteries, Abingdon Abbey had a library: 40 of the original books have been identified, but there may still be more to be found. The books which have been identified date from the C12th to the C16th and one of the most beautiful to survive is the Abingdon Missal, which is in the Bodleian Library, Oxford. Written and illustrated by the monks, what could be more appropriate for an exhibition on this year's theme of "Creativity Unwrapped"? With kind permission from the Bodleian and Trinity College Library, Oxford we will display images from the Missal, together with information about its context and history. A modern-day calligrapher will be present demonstrating this lovely art form and there will be opportunities for children to colour in their own bit of illuminated manuscript.

The Exhibition will be in the Lower Hall, one of the remaining domestic buildings from the Abbey. The remainder of the buildings will be open to explore at your leisure or with a guide. More information on the Open Properties page. (Link below)

Don't miss the film show "70 Years of Drama" in the Unicorn Theatre which is part of this property.

Open Saturday 16th 10am - 4pm
and Sunday 17th 10am - 4pm



Couldrey's Abingdon

The Heritage Weekend team present some of the work of Lauren Gale who has spent several years researching Oswald Couldrey and his studies of Abingdon.

The exhibition will be at the Guildhall.

Saturday 16th September 10am - 4pm

Sunday 17th September 10am - 4pm



Meet our Creatives

Local authors will be speaking about their work and explaining how to structure plots and create exciting stories and illustrations – for adults and children – and local animator Geoff Dunbar will be showcasing his works including the animation for Sir Paul McCartney's Bafta award winning Frogs Chorus.

In the Guildhall. Saturday 16th September.

Timetable tbc.

You can find the full programme at <https://www.abingdonheritage.org.uk/festivalprogramme>

LETTERS and NOTICES

Dear Editor

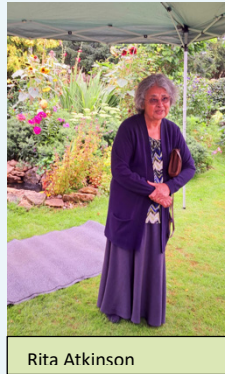
We thought your readers might like to know about a most enjoyable garden party we attended in the village last week. It was in aid of Clear Sky, a local children's charity and DAMASCUS.

It was one of two fund raising events this August, held in Pervin Shahin's magical garden, with wonderful plants, tea, cake, fantastic ceramics and beautiful harp music. We all had a lovely time.

The events were organised in collaboration with the Abingdon Arts Society, and we understand that £950 was raised thanks to the generosity of those who attended, which will be shared by the two charities.

Rita Atkinson, the founding member of DAMASCUS, was there on the second afternoon when we attended, and gave an inspiring talk about the wonderful work they do with youth in our area. Some of the funds raised have also gone towards the creation of the mosaic in the village hall.

Barbara and Richard Winter



Rita Atkinson

Persistence Pays Off

It is now over a decade since Drayton 2020 was established to oversee Drayton's Neighbourhood Development Plan. Our purpose was to take advantage of the opportunities it presented to exert some control over new housing while, at the same time, to enhance the amenities available to current and future generations of Drayton residents. During the next few years over 70 people were to become involved in the process.

One of the Plan's highlights was to be the provision of new sporting facilities as part of the Walnut Meadow development. However, Miller Homes chose to ignore the stipulation that the land designated to be playing fields should be levelled and drained. Instead, they used it to bury concrete and other rubble, and dump excessive topsoil from its other sites, leaving it a weed-ridden eyesore.

All those people who so willingly gave their time, energies and vision in producing the Plan will therefore be delighted by the work now going on to rectify the situation. All of us, I am sure, will also want to applaud the many parish councillors, district councillors and council officers whose persistence over the years has finally forced Miller Homes to fulfil their obligations.

Andrew Bax

Former Chair. Drayton 2020

Craft Fair

Charity craft fair, supporting Thames Valley Air Ambulance.

30th September 11am - 3pm

Village Hall

Lots of lovely stall, cakes, tombola, raffle and the cafe will be open. Please support us.

KATHY HEAD



BRYAN (BRYN) JONES

It is with great sadness Drayton Short Mat Bowls Club (DSMBC) has to announce that Byron (Bryn) Jones passed away Sunday 30th July the day before his 94th Birthday. He had been a member of the Bowls club for 35 years. Absolutely no doubt he was the best bowler in the club, winning every trophy except "The Never Won". He played for the County in his younger days. He won many Competitions at Warner's Holiday Resorts with his wife Doreen (RIP) his good friends Jean and Tony Mullins of Drayton (RIP) and with his good friend June Hyde of Abingdon. He organised a lot of the competitions in the club and was always helping new bowlers. He was a very kind person and fun to be with, he had a great sense of humour. He had stopped bowling in the last couple of years due to ill health but still kept an interest in the club. We presented him last year with a photograph of him holding one of his many trophies. A few months ago he visited the club and actually bowled straight onto the jack, he never lost his touch. We will miss him very much, he was a lovely man, our condolences to his family and friends.

Val Locke (Chair DSMBC)



Clockwise from left: June, Barry, Val & Bryn



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OTHER DRAYTONS

from our series compiled by Andrew Bax

Fenny Drayton, Leicestershire

Fenny Drayton folk have long thought that their village nestles in the heart of England's Green and Pleasant land. In 2002 The Ordnance Survey agreed with them when it determined that Lindley Hall Farm on the outskirts of the village was the geographical centre of England. Alas the centre is not open to the public but some years ago the farmer did allow a village walk to view the monument that has been erected to point to the precise Centre of England which is in the middle of one of his fields.

Fenny Drayton was formally known as Drayton-in-the Clay. It is divided by an old Roman road and the excavations for the foundations of house extensions often throw up Roman coins. The oldest building in the village and its focal point is the Church of St Michael and All Angels. The church was originally built in the 12th century and is of Gothic design with Norman features. It is surrounded by a circle of 28 yew trees thought to be one of the oldest yew circles in the country. The church has been upgraded through the centuries, the most recent addition being a small community room/kitchen and loo. These most modern of facilities mean that in addition to the usual church services the church is used for rock concerts, banquets and talks on all manner of subjects from the history of the trumpet to fly mating rituals. The medieval banquet and Harry Potter Murder Mystery Evening had the unintended consequence of traffic calming as speeding motorists rubbernecked villagers walking to church in a wide variety of costumes. The older ladies have coffee mornings and those of us of a certain age meet once a month for 'Friday with Friends'. There is a different food theme each month and we enjoy a glass or two of our favourite tippie and put the world to rights.

There are approximately 220 houses in the main village settlement and several outlying farms. There are a few Victorian cottages, but the architectural style of the homes reflects every era of the 20th century. Like most small villages the school, pub and shop are now part of village history and although the occasional bus laden with school children passes through even the bus shelter is no longer used. The only other village amenity is the children's playing field; this is again used for village gatherings and a Summer Festival. The farmer who owns the adjacent field organised beacons as part of the national chains to commemorate the late Queen's Jubilees in 2012 and 2022 and the centenary of the end of World War 1 in 2018. Many villagers worked from home even before the pandemic; the only visible businesses are those associated with diversification by the local farmers.

Fenny Drayton's most famous son is George Fox (1624-1691), the founder of the Quakers. Quakers from all over the world come here, including an annual visit in August from students of the Quaker School in Tokyo. Many of the road names reflect the Quaker heritage. There is a memorial obelisk and interpretation board and a stand of trees planted to commemorate the 300th anniversary of George Fox's death in 1991. In June the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire and the Chair of Leicestershire County Council unveiled a prestigious green plaque on the church wall in recognition of George Fox's achievements.



Reproduced with kind permission of Leicestershire County Council

Historians debate the precise location of The Battle of Bosworth Field and whether it was actually in Bosworth. Like most of the neighbouring villages we have an historian who thinks it took place in our village. Fenny Drayton is just South of Bosworth Field and Richard III's cortege passed along the road adjacent to the village. Fenny Drayton received one of the highest reparation payments after the battle but whether this was because one of the armies was based at the village or for crops and damage is still matter of debate.

Some villagers claim to have heard the ghosts of Dick Turpin and Black Bess riding through the village even though he was hanged in York. Dick Turpin used to hold up stagecoaches on the nearby Watling Street (now the A5) and hide his horse Black Bess in the cellar of The Cock Inn at Sibson, 3 miles north of the village. Our remaining 'village' pub, The Royal Redgate, half a mile south of the village is where most village teenagers get their first job. Unfortunately, it is only accessible by car as there is no footpath. It is famous for its pies and according to legend earned the Royal part of its title when Queen Adelaide, wife of William IV, stopped at the Royal Redgate Inn as she travelled from Warwick Castle to Gopsall Hall in Leicestershire in the 1830s. The pub has a less salubrious past; in the early 1800s, it did a brisk trade while hosting bare knuckle fights. Because the pub is directly on the Leicestershire/Warwickshire border if the constable from Nuneaton turned up to break up the fight the pugilists and spectators would step over into Leicestershire where the constable had no jurisdiction.

It is said the best things come in small packages. Fenny Drayton is a small village; indeed the local council deem it a rural hamlet, but it has a strong identity and a vibrant community spirit. Pay us a visit.

Ann Wright

Resident of Fenny Drayton since 1997



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Are Houseplants the New Pets?

Houseplants are booming in popularity – which should you go for?



Watermelon Peperomia: leaves look like the fruit! (Although unrelated) Likes a weekly misting and a position that enjoys both full sun and some shade throughout the day.



Calathea like a warm, bright, humid spot with indirect sunlight (otherwise leaf markings could fade)



Boston Fern: likes damp humid conditions. Happy in a bathroom



String of Hearts: likes warmth, a light watering and brightness but not direct light



Spider Plant: almost unkillable. Thrives in full sunlight. Thrives also happier in gloomier positions. Produce spider babies.



Chinese Money Plant: likes a bright position, out of direct sunlight. Only needs watering when the soil feels dry. May bring good luck.



Orchids: like bright, indirect light, and do not like over-watering which can lead to root rot.

DRAYTON HALL NEWS



Firstly some nice news

DO try to get along to the UNVEILING ceremony for the Mosaic (Mural), Sunday Sept 3rd.

This has been written about elsewhere in this issue, with some glowing praise for those involved, and they've got **Paul Mayhew-Archer** doing the 'ribbon' honours.

And let's give a 'shout-out' for local Councillor **Pervin Shahin** too, as she's been driving the project along for quite a while!

That Sunday IS actually the same day as our monthly **ANTIQUES Fair**, but that's 9am to 3pm, in Main Hall, with Kathy Head running her **excellent value cafe** for one of her good causes (lovely breakfast, or perhaps just a bacon sarnie!).

The opening ceremony is in the **Small Hall**, after the Fair has finished.

LOOK OUT TOO for Kathy Head running her Autumn **CRAFT FAIR** (this time in aid of the Thames Valley Air Ambulance) – that's **Sat Sept 30th**, 11am to 3pm, just 50p entry for that great cause.

Some of our groups :-

Now, the class for **Irish Dancing**, intended for 4-y-olds and upwards, is BACK this month, after their August break. They run on Tuesdays, at 5.30, their leader Ashleigh is on **07375 878445**, please ask her for all queries on what they do, as I can't dance a step!

An even newer group to the Hall is **Dojang X**, Oxfordshire's only **Soo Bahk Do** martial arts club, this caters for beginners and is a mixed aged class, accepting students from 6+ years old. It's a **great club for families to train together** - although **any age is welcome** to train with us by themselves!

The club is led by **Sabrina Mistry**, a certified fitness professional and 2nd Dan in **Soo Bahk Do**, which is a traditional Korean martial art with similarities to Japanese **Karate**. Classes are on **Fridays 6 - 7pm** and offer a **free trial session!** **Contact Sabrina** to book your free class, that's to **dojangx@gmail.com**

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. This role **MIGHT** suit someone **STUDYING** for an **Accounts Qualification?** **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!) are looking for a few new members, 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?! So too (seeks new talent) is one of our **BADMINTON** groups, the one that meets on Weds afternoons. Just the same sentiments apply – friendly, and the tea and bikkies breaktime!

Tony Holmes

(Mostly) Hall Diary for September

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 | 2 | 10.00am | Private Function (child's party) |
| Sun | 3 | 9.00am | ANTIQUES FAIR (to 3pm) |
| | | 4.00pm | 'Mosaic Unveiling' (see inside pages) |
| Sat | 9 | 9.30am | Private Function (child's party) |
| Tues | 12 | 7.00pm | Parish Council Meeting <i>Caudwell DC</i> |
| Sun | 17 | 10.00am | Private Function (child's party) |
| Mon | 18 | 5.00pm | CHRONICLE DEADLINE (p2) |
| Sun | 23 | | Private Function (evening) |
| Sat | 30 | 11.00am | CRAFT FAIR |

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 (back to 1st Tuesday!) | <i>Church</i> |
| 5.30 pm | Irish Dancing (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 | | |
| 6.00 pm | Karate/'Dojang X' (Sabrina – 2nd Dan : 07938 537310) | |
| 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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