

# DRAYTON CHRONICLE



Photo credit:  
Selena Gardner-Morrison



# Chronicle Information

## KEY DATES

The next Drayton Chronicle will be the November issue edited by Tony Holmes. Tel.: 01235 531180

Issue	Deadline for contributions		Printed Chronicles available on:
	Advert	Editor	
November	13th Oct	16th Oct	27th Oct
December	10th Nov	13th Nov	1st Dec

## 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 always 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](mailto:editor@draytonchronicle.net)

Advertisement requests should be sent to: [advertising@draytonchronicle.net](mailto:advertising@draytonchronicle.net)

If email is impossible, please place your contribution, 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.

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

## ADVERTISING

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

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

Double-sized adverts (approx. 9cm X 9cm) are charged at twice the above rates. All advertising MUST be paid for in advance, either electronically, in cash or by cheque made payable to 'The Drayton Chronicle' and placed in the box at, or sent to, Vickery's.

Requests for advertisements should (preferably) be emailed to Stephen Fearnley, the Chronicle advertising manager ([advertising@draytonchronicle.net](mailto: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).



SATURDAY 28TH OCTOBER

# HALLOWEEN PARTY

AND DISCO

DRAYTON VILLAGE HALL  
7PM - MIDNIGHT

INDIVIDUAL ONE PERSON ENTRY £5	FANCY DRESS PRIZE	FAMILY 2 ADULTS 2 CHILDREN £10
--------------------------------------	-------------------------	--------------------------------------

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM  
THE WHEATSHEAF, DRAYTON  
OR  
07944 432811



# ST PETER'S CHURCH



**Rector: Revd Helen Kendrick**  
 rector@damascusparish.org.uk  
**Pro-warden: Mrs Linda Johnson**  
 lindajcw@gmail.com  
**Administrator: Alison Bampton**  
 admin@@damascusparish.org.uk  
 01235 847179

## SERVICES INFORMATION

Sunday	9:00am	<b>Regular Sunday service</b>
5th and 19th October	9:45am	<b>Holy Communion</b>
12th and 26th October	9:45am	<b>Celtic Morning Prayer</b>
22nd October	10:00am	<b>Holy Communion BCP</b>
29th October	3:00pm	<b>All Souls' Service</b>

**Please note:** On the 29th October, DAMASCUS Parish Service will be at St. Michael's and All Angels Steventon at 9.30a.m. There will be no morning service at St. Peter's.

## PARISH REGISTER

### Funeral

**Monday 21 August Byron Jones**

## YOU STAY WE PRAY

**1st - 7th Oct** Eastway; Eastway MHP  
**8th - 14th Oct** Church Lane; Henleys Lane; Caudwell Close; Gravel Lane  
**15th - 21st Oct** Abingdon Road; Oday Hill  
**22nd - 28th Oct** Binning Close; Haywards Road  
**29th Oct - 4th Nov** Sutton Wick Lane; Greenacres; Newman Lane; Conifer Drive

# ST PETER'S LETTER

This time last year I wrote to you about autumn being a season of beauty, of abundance, even a celebration of the earth, and it is also a season of preparation, of looking forward, as best we can, for the future. The harvest is gathered in, which seems earlier every year.

The subtle changes to the seasons and the not so subtle changes to our climate are progressively becoming more important in our daily lives. To help think about what a Christian approach to environmental issues might look like, there is a 5 week course running, called "**A Christian Look at the Environment**". Starting 18th October, in the River Room, Sutton Courtenay and online via zoom. Please register your interest at [admin@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:admin@damascusparish.org.uk).

Revd Phil Sutton, mentioned in the September issue that autumn is a time for making a new start; thinking particularly of the beginning of the school year and the starting again of leisure activities after the summer break. The New Year is not the only time for a new start or resolutions perhaps?

To mark the turn of the Millennium, a prayer was written by Revd Peter Trow as a Millennium Resolution which could be used by all faiths and those with none. Like many prayers, it is an earnest wish or hope. It begins with an environmental hope and ends with a resolution wish. It is simple and short with five gentle reminders to us of how the future could be.

**Let there be respect for the earth  
 Peace for its people  
 Love in our lives  
 Delight in the good  
 Forgiveness for past wrongs  
 And from now on a new start.**

Revd. Rosie Bruce

First Monday	14:00	<b>Knit &amp; Natter</b> No need to be a knitter, if you'd just like a natter.
Monday	19:30	<b>Bellringing practice</b>
First Tuesday	14:00	<b>First Tuesday Connections</b> All welcome for a cuppa & chat
Wednesday (term time)	10:00	<b>Pebbles Baby &amp; Toddler</b> For more information contact <a href="mailto:Draytonpebbles@hotmail.com">Draytonpebbles@hotmail.com</a>



## Piano for sale Drayton



Neindorf upright piano for sale  
Buyer to move and will need tuning after  
move.

£200 – reasonable offers considered

For more information:

Contact Craig or Carole on 01235 203459

## Local English Tutor

Hello, my name's Andrew and I'm a new English tutor in Drayton. An English teacher with years of experience in selective independent schools, an A Level examiner, PhD candidate and published author, I'd be delighted to help you with the following:

- 11+ and 13+ entrance exams
- GCSE, IB, and A Level
- Oxbridge preparation
- UCAS personal statements
- Adult learners and creative writers



I can offer enjoyable and engaging individual or group sessions, in-person or online, with all learning tailored to your needs.

For a free consultation please contact me:

[AndrewTheTutor100@gmail.com](mailto:AndrewTheTutor100@gmail.com) 07821417729

HAVE YOU TRIED OUR

FREE RANGE EGGS?

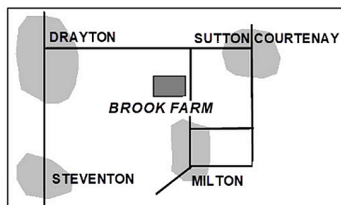


Brook Farm

Brook Farm, Milton Road  
OX14 4EZ

OPENING HOURS

Mon to Sat - 9.00am to 1.00pm Except Friday 9.00am to 6.00pm  
FREE RANGE EGGS, & POTATOES (if available)



## Meryl computer doctor & tutor

technical expertise with the human touch

**Setup** PC, Apple, tablet, phone, internet, printer

**Fix** technical & user problems, big or small

**Learn** getting started, new skills, better ways

**07794 656607**

info@computertutorabingdon.co.uk  
www.computertutorabingdon.co.uk



## A.L.VICKERY AND SON

Hardware and much more

Keys Cut while you wait,  
cookshop, housewares,  
tools, gardening...

...you'll save money, time  
And mileage when you try



Vickery's first!

5 The Green, Drayton,  
Abingdon OX14 4JA  
Telephone 01235 531497

Just park outside!

OPEN Monday to Saturday

9:30am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm. Lunch 1pm to 2pm

## K. L. YATES BUILDERS

FOR ALL YOUR BUILDING SERVICES

Extensions and Alterations

Property Maintenance

Kitchens and Bathrooms

Carpentry and Tiling



Call RICHARD for an estimate on

01235 531275 or mobile 07788 738248

## DANES/MACE STORE

Mon-Sat 5am-8pm – Sun & Bank Hols 6am-6pm

FOR ALL YOUR PAPERS, MAGAZINES,

GROCERIES, FROZEN FOODS,

CARDS, OFF LICENCE and

SAVOURY SNACKS.

LOTTERY TICKETS

Small bakery cakes, biscuits and

Fresh sandwiches

MOST MAJOR CREDIT CARDS TAKEN

NOW WITH PAYPOINT

TEL: 01235 554813

E: [danestores@gmail.com](mailto:danestores@gmail.com)



## KEYMINDERS

Serving Drayton and nearby villages  
and towns for over 30 years  
Professional yet personal care for your  
pets and home when you're away

info@keyminders.co.uk

[www.keyminders.co.uk](http://www.keyminders.co.uk)



# FIFTY YEARS OF VICKERY'S

In 1973 British Leyland launched the Austin Allegro, the UK joined the EEC, Pink Floyd released *The Dark Side of the Moon* and women were allowed into the Stock Exchange for the first time. It was also the year in which Arthur and Doris Vickery, together with 17-year old Laurence, came to Drayton to take over a failing hardware shop.

Arthur had been in the trade for many years and Laurence was following a similar path. They came from Bognor, so what brought them to Drayton? Apart from the business opportunity, one of its attractions was the nearby River Thames, perfect for mooring Arthur's 16-ft cabin cruiser (which he had built himself). Vickery & Son has been serving Drayton and the surrounding area with a vast range of products and friendly, practical advice ever since.

It was of course inevitable that Doris would find herself behind the counter along with Arthur and Laurence. She was involved not just in the shop, but in the wider community too. She was a member of the Women's Institute and Drayton Wives, and an active participant in Steventon Choral Society.

When I first came here, a mere 45 years ago, I was astonished to see no fewer than 11 different coal scuttles on display in Vickery's window. Moving with the times, though, the shop responded to the 1980s surge in DIY, attracting a younger customer base. Later, the wave of cooking programmes on television stimulated a demand for cookware and, according to the season, there has always been a good stock of gardening equipment. The key-cutting workshop at the back of the shop has always been Laurence's domain ever since he was trained up by Lewis Beadle, a master locksmith who used to live in Drayton.

Laurence's late partner, Debbie



There aren't many shops like Vickery's these days. You can get the same kind of products in the national chains that occupy most out-of-town shopping centres, but what you don't get with them is the depth of knowledge and experience that comes with old-fashioned personal service. As with any family business, the passage of time results in the demise of key members, and Laurence has had to cope with more than his share of losses, including his partner, Debbie; she, too, had become a crucial member of the team. Just when he needed it most, his uncle Bernard, formerly a professional musician and entertainer, stepped in to provide much-needed support. However, ever since he has been running the shop on his own, Laurence has had a series of local ladies helping him.

Vickery's is not just in the centre of the village; it has also been a central feature of village life for generations of Drayton residents. Before computerisation the Chronicle Box was the focal point for contributors and advertisers in the Drayton Chronicle and the shop still plays a role in the Chronicle's distribution.

Vickery's may be 50 years old but, I am glad to report that Laurence has no plans to retire in the foreseeable future.

Contributed by: Andrew Bax  
Photo credit: Caroline Green



Laurence's ladies (left to right): Jill Gimigliano 2018- (with Izzy 2015- ), Jean Caudle 2004-2020, Maureen Gibb 2002-2018, Peg Perry (1990-2002), Rachel Caudle (2020-2022), Julie Lester (2022- )







# Family-run automotive garage

MOTs, servicing, repairs & more

Unit 6, Station Yard, Steventon, Oxon, OX13 6RX

Tel - 01235 635330

Email - office@povallmechanics.com

Web - www.povallmechanics.com

## Sharman Roofing

GRP fibreglass flat-roofing specialist

tiling, slating, leadwork, guttering and fascias,  
new builds, re-roofs, extensions,  
maintenance & sheds

all work considered, call Mark on

07979 791075

msharmanroofing@gmail.com

## L H GOODWIN professional decorator.

Our services include both domestic and commercial painting and decorating. We are fully insured and all work guaranteed 25 years' experience – References available. For a free estimate please call Leigh on **07789873483** or visit my website

[www.lhgoodwin.co.uk](http://www.lhgoodwin.co.uk)

## The Back Pain Centre

Dr Amanda Learoyd

Dr Emily White

Dr Hayley Biddle

Chiropractic relief from:

- Back pain & sciatica
- Frozen shoulder
- Neck, shoulder & arm pain
- Tennis/golfer's elbow
- Headaches & migraines
- Knee & ankle pain
- Arthritis & postural problems
- Chronic pain



**FREE  
SPINAL  
ASSESSMENT**

Free Parking  
Sports Therapist  
Spinal Analysis Machine

Recognised by all health insurance Companies: BUPA - PPP - AXA  
4C Deanes Close Steventon OX13 6SZ  
[info@steventonbackpaincentre.co.uk](mailto:info@steventonbackpaincentre.co.uk)

[www.steventonbackpaincentre.co.uk](http://www.steventonbackpaincentre.co.uk) 01235 848008



A City and Guilds qualified Groomer based at Abingdon, Drayton & Cassington, fully insured, looking forward to meeting you and your dog!

Services offered

- Full groom
- Bath & blow dry
- Nails Clipped
- Puppy drop-in
- Puppy Spa
- Walking

Call James on 07359 631149

[Zendogz.groom@gmail.com](mailto:Zendogz.groom@gmail.com)

[www.zen-dogz.co.uk](http://www.zen-dogz.co.uk)



**MOSSINATOR®**  
ROOF CLEANING SYSTEMS  
Moss Removal & Roof Cleaning  
Brickwork Cleaning  
Patio & Driveway Cleaning  
Solar Panel & Skylight Cleaning  
Installation of Bird Protection

Enhance the appearance of your property with our quality assured, friendly service

01865 362797 - [info@mossinator.co.uk](mailto:info@mossinator.co.uk)



TEAM BUILDING

PARTIES

CORPORATE EVENTS



KEEPING THINGS FUN



[www.team-building-experiences.co.uk](http://www.team-building-experiences.co.uk)

01235 634744

[info@team-building-experiences.co.uk](mailto:info@team-building-experiences.co.uk)



Authentic Italian restaurant with a covered garden terrace & licensed Wedding venue

### Opening times

Monday-Saturday 5.30pm last orders 8.45pm  
Closed on Sundays (private function on request)

Wakes from 10 am Monday - Saturdays

Take aways available

Website [www.La-Fontana.co.uk](http://www.La-Fontana.co.uk)

Telephone 01235 868287

## ALBION WILLOW GARDENS

GARDEN MAINTENANCE AND CARE

07851 924 524

01235 416 090

[albionwillowgardens@outlook.com](mailto:albionwillowgardens@outlook.com)

# COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT



## A multitude of issues all across the Sutton Courtenay and Marcham Division

### OCC Children's Services

As you may have read in the Press, a recent Ofsted report listed Oxfordshire's Children's Services (along with others) requiring improvement. There is particular criticism of the lack of support given to children and parents of children with special needs. We have a number of families who have been affected by this. The Council has accepted the findings of the report in full and has already begun to take actions to rectify the problems including increased funding (with consequent pressure on the budget). I will give further details on the actions to be taken in my next report.

### 20mph zones

I am disappointed that this issue is becoming a political football for a minority of residents. Just to make it clear, I was elected to take decisions some of which might be contentious. I repeat that the overwhelming number of people who have contacted me support the proposals. Rather than write separate emails to the 7 people who have contacted me opposing the initiative, I am restating my position here. 20mph zones are Parish Council proposals but I fully support them. There is mounting evidence that lives are saved and that the quality of life in our towns and villages is improved by 20mph zones – with or without enforcement.

### Hobbyhorse Lane Appeal

The third attempt to get this application (turned down by planning committee several times) approved is currently being heard by a planning inspector. As such, it would be improper for me to express an opinion here. There will be time for that later. However, I wanted to commend on behalf of all Sutton Courtenay residents, the enormous amount of effort over many months put in by the Parish Council, their advisors and many well known residents with particular knowledge and experience. Whatever the outcome, it has been a pleasure to work with them.

## Architectural Design Services

Over 40 years experience in the Building Industry. Plans and Specification prepared on Autocad for Planning Permission and Building Regulations Approval for all kinds of Building Work. Contact: Steve Lester [stevelesterads@gmail.com](mailto:stevelesterads@gmail.com) Mobile 07818-751526

## Accidents and the Young

With the recent tragic accident in Marcham involving young people in mind, I have signed up to a task and finish group of the Police and Crime Commissioner Scrutiny Committee. This will allow me to raise the issue of education of future young drivers in schools and colleges. Education in schools has made a considerable difference in the approach of young people to drugs, smoking and alcohol.

As a self confessed attendee of a speed awareness course, I am convinced that education is the most effective way of changing behaviour.

### HIFI

Leaving aside the fact that the country is divided on whether or not road building is a solution to congestion, a decision on the future of this project is now in the hands of the Secretary of State. He has "called in" the decision of the Planning Committee to refuse the application. We should hear the result in the early new year.

### MEPC

One of my roles as an elected councillor, is to Chair regular meetings of the. MEPC Liaison committee involving local parish councils and MEPC reps. Of all the meetings I have to attend, these are the most informative and constructive.

We are fortunate in this area to have such a successful and environmentally aware commercial operation in our midst. It is clearly a great place to work. I can recommend the bus services and the coffee. And, in case you are wondering, I do not have shares in the operation.

Richard Webber Cllr  
[richardwebber777@gmail.com](mailto:richardwebber777@gmail.com)  
07546571521

## Local House Removal and Clearance

**Please phone or email us for a  
FREE No Obligation quote –  
just a friendly chat**

We are a Family Run House Clearance Business

Email: [SpencerHathaway20@gmail.com](mailto:SpencerHathaway20@gmail.com)

24 Steventon Road, Drayton, OX14 4LE  
We cover all of Oxfordshire!

**Professional & Fully insured with Waste Licence**



House Clearances – 07889071810



## LETTER FROM WESTMINSTER



I was honoured last month to be appointed the Minister for Children, Families and Wellbeing.

It's particularly special for me to be placed in the Department for Education given my pre-politics career was spent running organisations for children and young people. It often surprises people when I tell them that, before I became an MP, I had never been in politics before, whether as a councillor, advisor, or candidate.

In my new role I have responsibility for a wide range of areas such as early years and childcare – including the delivery of the Government's new commitment to provide 30 hours a week free childcare from when a child is 9 months old until they start school - as well as Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), children in care, adoption and kinship care – vital areas that help support some of our most vulnerable young people - not to mention mental health. I am delighted to have the opportunity to work on giving children across the country the best start in life.

It was also a delight to attend the unveiling of the new Agatha Christie statue in Wallingford, a place she lived for 42 years. The architect has done a really great job and it was a pleasure to meet her grandson, Matthew, who did the actual unveiling. I recommend a visit to see it when you have time!

Some other recent visits made by me included meeting with a group of unpaid carers in Wallingford, facilitated by Val Wolsey and Carers Oxfordshire, to talk about their experiences and listen to their concerns, attending an Innovator Day at Harwell Campus where I gave a speech and talked to staff and investors about the world-leading work that Harwell is doing, and visiting SeeAbility in East Hagbourne who provide support services for people with learning disabilities, many of whom have sight loss.

I have been campaigning to see Grove Station re-opened since I was elected nearly 4 years ago and have now launched a petition of Parliament. This is something MPs can do on matters that are important to their constituents and I've done so to keep the pressure up. I am delighted that 1,750+ people have signed so far and the more signatures we collect, the stronger the message we send to the Department for Transport – so please do sign if you are able to and encourage your friends and family that live in the constituency to do so too. You can sign on my website at: [www.david-johnston.org.uk/GroveStation](http://www.david-johnston.org.uk/GroveStation).

As ever, if I can help with anything then do please get in touch via [david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk).



# SEAL

ENERGY GROUP

- Security
- Electrical
- Audio Visual
- Lighting

**W** [www.sealenergygroup.co.uk](http://www.sealenergygroup.co.uk)

**e** [info@sealenergygroup.co.uk](mailto:info@sealenergygroup.co.uk)

**t** 01235 376009



Fabulous themed picnic, teepee and bell tent sleepover parties

**Sarah Coombes**

07779 300054

[peony\\_parties@outlook.com](mailto:peony_parties@outlook.com)

[www.peonyparties.co.uk](http://www.peonyparties.co.uk)



### Volunteers needed: Parish Council

**Parish Councillors have an opportunity to make a real difference to their community, at a small cost in time and effort. Have you considered becoming a Parish Councillor? It may be easier and more rewarding than you think.**

**Find out more here:**

**<https://www.draytonvillage.co.uk/drayton-parish-council/join-us/>**

# MR. Guy's

Architectural Design

07762160547 [guy@mrguys.co.uk](mailto:guy@mrguys.co.uk) [www.mrguys.co.uk](http://www.mrguys.co.uk)  Architects Registration Board 

## PROFESSIONAL GARDEN SERVICES

**Stephen R. Matthews**

50 Witan Way Wantage, OX12 9HB

Tel: 01235 766412

Mobile: 07796 532356

[stephenmatthews.pgs@gmail.com](mailto:stephenmatthews.pgs@gmail.com)

All kinds of work undertaken, including:

- garden maintenance and restoration
- fruit tree, shrub and rose pruning
- hedge cutting, turfing
- fencing and landscaping.



## Larkmead VETS

Caring for pets, horses & farm animals throughout South Oxon

Didcot, Great Western Park  
& Sutton Courtenay: 01235 814991

Cholsey & Benson: 01491 651379

Horses & Farm Animals: 01491 651479

[www.larkmead.co.uk](http://www.larkmead.co.uk)   

## Suzy Willis & Associates

MCSP HCPC AACP

### CHARTERED PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

Old Lodge, Henleys Lane, Drayton,  
OX14 4HU

Tel: 01235 531269

*Please call for a face to face or remote consultation*



## REMLOC PLUMBING & HEATING LTD

Trading Standards Approved

Gas Safe & CIPHE Registered

- Central Heating Installation
- Boiler Servicing
- General Plumbing
- No Job too Small

• Free Estimates

01235 536345 / 07709 961 655

[www.remloc.co.uk](http://www.remloc.co.uk) / email: [info@remloc.co.uk](mailto:info@remloc.co.uk)

## EVERLAST ROOFING SERVICES

New Roofs • All Flat Roofs • Tiling & Slating

Demossing Chimney • Repairs & Pointing

Facias & Guttering • All Repairs • 24/7 Call Out

No job too small

01235 612576  07553 911258

[quote@everlastroofingservices.co.uk](mailto:quote@everlastroofingservices.co.uk)

## DRAYTON TELEVISION SERVICES

Digital TV aerials installed

Extra aerial points

Television Wall mounting

New TV Sales

Satellite Sky or Freesat

FREE ESTIMATES

TV tuning and programming

**Telephone: 01235 531451**



## The Old Farm Shop

Harwell, Abingdon  
Oxon, OX14 4DP  
01235 831247

- Local Vegetables and Veggie Box
- Free Range Poultry & Fresh Meat
- Dairy products
- Bread and Cakes
- Condiments
- Open from 8 am to 6 pm

Phone: 01235 831247

Email: [theoldfarmshop@aol.com](mailto:theoldfarmshop@aol.com)



**NEED A PLUMBER FOR THE SMALL JOBS?**

5 STAR SERVICE ★★★★★

**07526 304050**

[taps-toilets.co.uk](http://taps-toilets.co.uk)

## ANDY BRYAN BUILDERS

For all types of building work from a reliable local company

Extensions, Alterations, Kitchens & Bathrooms,  
Carpentry, Decorating, Patios, Plastering,  
Roofing, Brickwork and Plumbing

**MOB: 07905386150**



Fun and Imaginative Dance Classes  
for Children 2-16 years

*Book for a Free Taster Session!*

Thursdays @ Steventon Village Hall

Wednesdays @ Northcourt Centre, Abingdon

Email: [bettybloomdance@gmail.com](mailto:bettybloomdance@gmail.com)

Website for more information: [bettybloomdance.co.uk](http://bettybloomdance.co.uk)

Mobile: 07785 232862



# PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

## Walnut Meadows

Miller Homes have now completed removal of the buried waste as agreed by the District Council. They were asked to remove waste, re-level the site and spread 100mm of topsoil across the site. The Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Working Group inspected the site on 30th August and discovered that 100mm of topsoil was not present across the whole site and that some bricks and large stones remained. Subsequently a tractor and tine unit removed some bricks and stones, but a further inspection on 12th September revealed that large stones and rubbish can still be seen on the surface of the site. A parishioner who attended the PC meeting on 12th has also drawn attention to the levels of the site not being achieved satisfactorily. Clearly the site is still not in a fit state for the land to be transferred to the PC. Miller Homes has undertaken to resolve the issues. The PC is liaising with Miller Homes and has also communicated the issue to the District Council. If we cannot get a satisfactory resolution quickly the PC will be recommending to the District Council that enforcement action is taken against Miller Homes. This is a sad state of affairs, both for residents of Walnut Meadows who are having to put up with noise and disruption but also for the village, which is not getting what was promised in the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

## Traffic Calming

This is a 'hot topic'. Two parishioners attended the PC meeting this week and told the Council of their concerns about the junction at Walnut Meadows. There was a recent serious accident at the junction. The PC has told Oxfordshire County Council that its top two priorities are a review of the junction at Walnut Meadows and the provision of a pedestrian crossing on the High Street. Representatives from the PC have met with OCC officers on several occasions to press for action. Sadly, these meetings have not led to work being started, let alone completed. S.106 money for traffic calming projects was awarded to the village and has been transferred to OCC. The PC was told recently by OCC that they did not have resources to progress the work. The PC feels that this is completely unacceptable after all this time and are lobbying OCC and Cllr Webber hard. We have been informed that there is to be a further meeting next week with OCC. We know that there is speeding through the village, that the speed indicators are either not working, in the wrong place or ineffective and also that we are not getting what was promised in the Neighbourhood plan in terms of traffic calming. The PC will be putting up signs reminding drivers of the presence of children and will also be placing hedgehog warning signs around the north end of the village following a parishioners concern about the number of hedgehogs being killed on the road around Barrow Road. The PC will take any action we can to promote safety, but responsibility for the bigger projects, crossings, lights, speed limits, etc sits squarely with OCC.

## Manor Farm and the memorial stone

A parishioner attended the meeting to ask what had happened to the Edward Mott memorial stone. The Chair explained that the Parish Council had asked Cala Homes to remove the stone, which said that the area had been named in memory of Edward Mott. The Parish Council had not agreed to change the name of this area from Manor Farm to Edward Park. Historically, this piece of land has been called Manor Farm and provided produce to the Abingdon Abbey. No planning permission had been granted for the placement of this stone, and no agreement given for its maintenance. It is a shame that the bravery of Edward Mott has been caught up in this. The parishioner who attended the meeting will contact Cala Homes to find out where the stone is.

## Allotments

The decision has been taken to lock the allotment gates. There has been theft of produce and break into a shed. The PC will review this in a year.

## The role of Parish Councillors

I have been a parish councillor for about 3 months now. This is a completely voluntary role but I felt compelled to try and offer something back to the village. For some councillors, the role is taking many hours a week, primarily dealing with the aftermath of new developments in the village. There are 7 of us with 4 vacancies. I don't think any of us expect thanks, but it has been pretty hard recently to read Facebook comments that the PC are useless and do not achieve anything for the village. I have also read a couple of past comments suggesting a level of bribery and corruption. None of this is fair. Off the top of my head there have been so many recent initiatives by the PC:

- Provision of artwork (with money that could only be spent on artwork), Whatever you think of the walnuts, they have achieved the aim of protecting the grass on the green,
- Provision of allotment deer fencing and new water troughs,
- Upgrading and maintenance of footpaths around the village,
- Maintenance of the burial ground,
- Tireless liaison with Miller Homes and Cala to try to get land transferred to the village in a fit state (we are not there yet, but it is not for the want of trying),
- Lobbying of OCC to try to ensure the village gets what it was promised in the NDP,
- Financial support of local groups, including sports groups and Damascus Project.

We have achieved a lot of good things, but there is always more to do. Not everyone is going to agree with everything all the time, but all the parish councillors are united by a genuine wish to do the best we can for the village

We welcome feedback, requests and suggestions. You are welcome to attend PC meetings, raise issues within the public participation section of the meeting, or contact us via: [clerk@draytonpc.org](mailto:clerk@draytonpc.org). The next meeting will be held on 10th October in the Caudwell Day Centre at 7.30

Contributed by: Elain Wade

# LOCAL GROUPS AND CLUBS

## THE WI

For our August meeting, Chloe came and spoke to us about a subject dear to her heart - **“the Windrush generation and before”**. She highlighted that people of colour were a part of our history way before the Windrush docked so the people we had regarded as newcomers, weren't new at all.

In September, we had another visit from Jose Midwinter who has visited us many times to enthral us with her tales of her African visits. She recently returned there to meet Susan, who she befriended as a small child and is now a married lady with four children. Jose introduced them to the decorative side of Christmas. A tree branch was brought in and decorated, and presents were wrapped in pretty paper under the tree. The young ones enjoyed the paper by using the leftovers to wrap their own gifts. We will no doubt hear more of Susan and her family at another time. Next month we will be watching and no doubt having a go at **origami**. So come and fold paper with us on Thursday, **October 12th at 7.30pm** in the Caudwell Centre Gravel Lane.



Contributed by: Ann Webb

## THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION REMEMBRANCE

This year's **Poppy Appeal** will take place from **Wednesday 25 October until Sunday 12 November**.

On Saturday 11 November 2023 (Armistice Day) there will be the traditional short ceremony at Steventon War Memorial commencing at 1050hrs.

Steventon and District Royal British Legion will be holding their annual lunch at Steventon Village Hall on Remembrance Sunday (12 November), the cost will be £16 a head with children under 12 free.

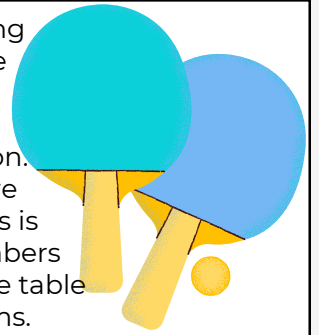
Please contact the Branch Chairman:

Brig Nick Thompson Rtd  
01235 832077  
nickandmaryt@hotmail.com



## DRAYTON TABLE TENNIS CLUB

The club Pre-season meeting was held on 28th July at the Caudwell Centre. The main point was to select our teams for the coming season. Captains for each team were also agreed. The good news is we have enough **new** members join who wish to play league table tennis to increase to 6 teams. This is only one less than pre Covid!



Following on from the club meeting, the Didcot League Pre-Season meeting had to decide on the make up of the league and divisions. There were 36 team 'bids' to play this coming season. So that left a number of options open to the membership. Last season some players were unhappy that they played too few matches in the 4-divisions arrangement. It was thereby decided to reduce the divisions to 3 thereby each having 12 teams. So, our **6** teams will each play **22** league matches, plus cup games. Players will also be able to enter their respective division's individual championships. This will leave little room for re-arrangements but the players will get their wish to play more!

We returned to club coaching and practice on 4th September and this will continue through till next May or June. Fees remain unaltered. Janet & Chris will continue to coach plus we have Christian Elrick who offers to assist them with some one-to-one coaching. **New members will be welcome from ages 9 upwards**. No upper age limit – we have plenty of Septuagenarians!

John Gould  
Chairman

## HALLS GARAGE

Established 60 years – Servicing and repairs

- MOT's
  - Batteries
  - Diagnostic Facilities
  - Vehicle Collection Service
  - All Makes and Models
- (Milton Park, Drayton, Steventon, Culham, Appleford, Sutton Courtenay)

The High Street, Sutton Courtenay, ABINGDON, OX14 4AH

Tel: 01235 848236 • Mobile 07767165072

[mothallsgarage@gmail.com](mailto:mothallsgarage@gmail.com)

Open 06:30 to 18:00 Mon-Fri



## St. Peter's Church

All Souls' Service, 29th October at 3pm

A time to remember loved ones who are no longer with us and light a candle in remembrance of them.

If you would like a loved one's name to be read out at this service, there is a sheet on the welcome desk in Church to add their details (or contact Linda Johnson, email [lindajcw@gmail.com](mailto:lindajcw@gmail.com))



## YOUR LOCAL GARAGE

Servicing all makes and models of vehicles,  
Diagnostics, General Repairs,  
Tyres, Exhaust, Air Conditioning, MOT's

# AUTO-CHECK OXFORD LTD

[www.autocheckoxfordltd.com](http://www.autocheckoxfordltd.com)

autocheckoxfordltd@gmail.com

Unit 3, Cuebar Court, Lashford Lane, Dry  
Sandford,  
OX13 6EB.

01865 730011

Courtesy cars available  
Free collect and delivery service



**TEL: 01235 239631**

flat roofing specialists. tile repairs. Fascias, moss  
removal, guttering, leadwork, felt roofs. 10,15,20,  
year guarantees supplied with all roofing works  
GET IN CONTACT FOR YOUR FREE QUOTATION

TEL: 01235 239631

EMAIL: [abingdonfeltroofing@outlook.com](mailto:abingdonfeltroofing@outlook.com)

Web: [Abingdonfeltroofing.co.uk](http://Abingdonfeltroofing.co.uk)

Proud members of

**Checkatrade.com**  
Where reputation matters



## Town Furlong Cattery

Kingston Road, Frilford

01865 391864

[www.townfurlong.co.uk](http://www.townfurlong.co.uk)

## A. GIBBARD

HIGH QUALITY INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR  
PAINTING AND DECORATING

TEL: 01235 528342 MOBILE 07759 842388  
78 STEVENTON ROAD, DRAYTON

## Electrical Problems? Call

# ROBERTS ELECTRICAL



Domestic • Commercial • Industrial

- Electrical Hard Wire Testing
- Domestic Electrical Reports
- Landlords Certificates
- Portable Appliance Testing
- Re-wires Full or Part
- Extra Power or Lighting Points
- Electrical Showers Complete
- Security Lighting, Fire & Intruder Alarms
- LED & Low Energy Lighting Installations
- Data & Telephone Wiring
- TV & Home Entertainment Installations
- Heating Controls and Wiring

We are able to Part P/Building Control our electrical works

Office: 01235 528800 Mobile: 07786 930463

Windy Ridge Court, Milton Road, Drayton, Abingdon OX14 4EZ

**FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTATIONS**



## Tonks Brothers Funeral Directors

158 Ock Street, Abingdon OX14 5DT

Tel 01235 539444

166 Kennington Rd, Kennington OX1 5PG

Tel 01865 736144

Day or Night

[www.tonksbrothers.com](http://www.tonksbrothers.com)

*'Proud to be a family business'*

## griffin interiors

...soft furnishing solutions...

Interiors and soft furnishings workroom located in  
Appleford making quality handmade curtains,  
pelmet, blinds, cushions, alterations.

Headboards, loose-covers and upholstery.  
Poles, tracks and fitting service.

Design studio with extensive library of  
fabrics and trimmings.

Fabrics and curtain making materials available  
for home curtain makers.

20 years experience. Off street parking.  
Flexible opening hours.

01235 847135/07808 762626

[griffin.interiors.oxford@gmail.com](mailto:griffin.interiors.oxford@gmail.com)

[www.griffininteriorsoxford.co.uk](http://www.griffininteriorsoxford.co.uk)



# MOSAIC UNVEILING

"I'm so glad to have gone to the opening of the beautiful mosaic in the Village Hall. It was a lovely occasion, well attended by people of all ages from all around the village, gathered for a community celebration, appreciated by everyone.

The mosaic is the latest project to be finished, and was directed by Pervin Shahin, the PC Councillor responsible for arts installations in the village. This project was voted for in the early meeting that was held with residents just before Covid struck, and was a popular decision.

Now that the artwork is finished, we can all see why so much effort was put into its construction. The artist, Clare Goodall, said that around 700 people were involved in making it, from young people in the school, and in DAMASCUS, to elderly residents in the art group. This is why Pervin chose a mosaic as the best medium for the picture.

The opening day was kicked off with Paul Mayhew Archer ('Vicar of Dibley' fame, among other things) giving a very funny speech before the unveiling. Pervin pointed out that he had raised £100,000 for research into Parkinson's with his stand-up shows throughout the country, which was greeted with a huge ovation.

Then it was over to the band, the Cat 'n Fiddle, and tea and cake. The weather held good and as I left there were lots of people sitting outside enjoying the day.

Events like this don't happen without a lot of hard work from start to finish and I feel a big THANK YOU must go to Pervin for commissioning the mosaic, (which by the way is well worth seeing) and for organising the Grand Opening."

Contributed by: Shirley Thomas  
Photo credit: Caroline Green



Top: A snapshot of attendees

Middle: The TASA supporters

Bottom: The long-awaited village mosaic

Photo credit: Derek Pooley





# VALE NEWS

## VOTER REGISTRATION CHECKS

This month, all households should have received a letter requiring you to check the voter registration details of everyone over the age of 16 living there.

We have to send this letter to all homes each year to ensure the electoral register is up to date.



When you receive it, please read the letter carefully and, if you are required to either confirm or update your details, please do so as quickly as possible – this will help to ensure we won't need to contact you again to confirm the information.

## PLEASE CHECK IT BEFORE YOU CHUCK IT!

Keep an eye out for a sticker which will appear on your recycling bin soon encouraging you to 'Check it before you chuck it.'

Every week thousands of the wrong items end up in our recycling bins by mistake. It can be very difficult to remove non-recyclable items and, if it's food waste or other messy items then it could result in whole truckloads of recycling being contaminated and rejected.

We all need an occasional reminder to ensure we get it right, so we're encouraging everyone to check our website before you throw things away.

By ensuring you only put the correct items in your recycling bin, you will play your part in helping to keep us among the top recyclers in the country!



## COULD YOU BECOME A TREE GUARDIAN?

Oxfordshire County Council is planning to plant thousands of trees on public land across Oxfordshire with hundreds having already been planted. Now they need help to take care of the young trees, which need daily watering and regular weeding in spring and summer to help them establish and thrive. To find out about becoming a tree guardian for a community tree near you visit: [climateactionoxfordshire.org.uk/](http://climateactionoxfordshire.org.uk/).

## WANTED: NEW COMMUNITY WALK GROUP LEADER

Fancy a sociable and physically active volunteer role? We're looking for a new community walk group leader for Kennington.

The group leader would work alongside our community walks lead for the Vale to communicate any messages for those attending the walks, organise the volunteer rota, manage attendance figures and liaise with the parish council about access for the walks that take place.

If you or someone you know is interested in taking on this volunteer role email [active.communities@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:active.communities@southandvale.gov.uk) to find out more.

## DRAYTON CENSUS

The last Census, in 2021, recorded **1,976** persons in employment in Drayton. Not surprisingly, the top recorded 'Industry' was Education with 232 employees. Those industries with 100 or more employees were:

- P: Education - **232**
- C: Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles - **220**
- Q: Human health and social work - **209**
- F: Construction - **203**
- J: Information and communication - **181**
- C: Manufacturing - **148**
- O: Public administration and defence; compulsory social security - **126**
- N: Administrative and support service - **100**
- Agriculture - **10**
- Other industries - **337**

Contribution by:  
Martin Blogg

## STEVE WOODLEY GENERAL HANDYMAN

**STEVE WOODLEY**

**T:01235 533486**

**WOODERS1964@ICLOUD.COM**

**M: 07871 619028**





We undertake projects of all shapes and sizes. We specialise in:

### R & R Landscaping

Richard and Ryan Seamark  
randrlandscaping12@outlook.com  
07565421637 / 07498399521  
Call or email us today!  
42 Abingdon Road, Drayton

- Garden Maintenance
- Garden Clearance
- Turf Laying
- Patios
- Fencing
- And much more



## COOMBES

Home Improvements

ELECTRICAL • KITCHENS • BATHROOMS

**m 07827 258818**

**e dean@coombeshomeimprovements.co.uk**

**www.coombeshomeimprovements.co.uk**

## CPPM LOCKSMITHS

Locked Out  
Key Snapped  
Keys Lost  
Faulty Locks  
Lock Upgrades  
UPVC Locks



Emergency Locksmith – 24 Hour Service

[www.cppm.org.uk](http://www.cppm.org.uk)

email: [colinpizzie@btinternet.com](mailto:colinpizzie@btinternet.com)

**Tel: 01235 239068 Mob: 07760 537147**



## KOGELS of Abingdon Limited

HOME EXTENSION SPECIALISTS  
AND GENERAL BUILDING CONTRACTORS

72 Steventon Road  
Drayton

Tel: Abingdon (01235) 531200 Abingdon  
Email: [kogelsofabingdon@btconnect.com](mailto:kogelsofabingdon@btconnect.com) Oxon  
[www.kogelsofabingdon.co.uk](http://www.kogelsofabingdon.co.uk) OX14 4LD

## Electrical Problems? Call

# ROBERTS ELECTRICAL



Domestic • Commercial • Industrial

- Electrical Hard Wire Testing
- Domestic Electrical Reports
- Landlords Certificates
- Portable Appliance Testing
- Re-wires Full or Part
- Extra Power or Lighting Points
- Electrical Showers Complete
- Security Lighting, Fire & Intruder Alarms
- LED & Low Energy Lighting Installations
- Data & Telephone Wiring
- TV & Home Entertainment Installations
- Heating Controls and Wiring

We are able to Part P/Building Control our electrical works

Office: 01235 528800 Mobile: 07786 930463

Windy Ridge Court, Milton Road, Drayton, Abingdon OX14 4EZ

**FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTATIONS**

## Oxfordshire's best source of reclaimed wood

*We care for our environment and transform lives*



One stop wood shop for your DIY projects.  
Good quality hard and soft wood in many  
sizes. Scaffold boards, pallet wood, plywood,  
live edges and fabulous range of reclaimed  
wood furniture.



Find us at 4 Suffolk Way, Abingdon, OX14 5JX

Tel: 01235 861 228

[www.oxfordwoodrecycling.org.uk](http://www.oxfordwoodrecycling.org.uk)



## Milton Garden Machinery Ltd

Delivery & Collection service available

*Please call or email for a quotation*

We repair all types of petrol driven machinery.

Main dealers for: Alko, Atco, Briggs Stratton, Countax,  
Cub Cadet, Echo, Efco, Hayter, Lawnflite, Mitox,  
MTD, Murray, Toro, Westwood, Wheelhorse.

We repair Stihl and Honda machines too.

Windyridge Farm, Milton Road, Drayton, Abingdon,

OX14 4EZ **Tel: 01235 555115**

Email: [paul@miltongardenmachinery.co.uk](mailto:paul@miltongardenmachinery.co.uk)

[www.miltongardenmachinery.co.uk](http://www.miltongardenmachinery.co.uk)

*Established for over 30 years*



# GARD NEWSLETTER

# EVENTS

Thames Water finally published their Water Resource Management Plan on August 30th. It is not good news. The saga of the Reservoir has been going on so long now that people may feel like giving up – PLEASE DON'T! It has never been more important to act. Thames Water has decided to go ahead with the 'Abingdon Reservoir' – with key developments:

- although we were all consulted on their 100 billion Litre proposal, they have enlarged this to 150 billion Litres - that's 150 million tonnes of water sitting above us, with no apparent room for flood mitigation
- They have ruled out the quicker, we believe cheaper and more environmentally adaptive Severn Thames Transfer, designed to bring fresh water from the Northwest to the more drought-prone Southeast
- Southern Water, planned beneficiary of 2/3 of the reservoir capacity, is challenging the cost and logic of the water transfer scheme from the reservoir
- Thames Water has essentially rejected GARD's and probably your objections too, including the need to challenge the inaccurate population forecasts say they are forced to use

The Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, could agree for Thames Water to proceed within weeks with no further consultation necessary. However, with Thames Water now accused of illegal sewage dumping and their own financial health in doubt, everybody should take action!

Lobby your MP: we have support of the Vale of White Horse and Oxford County Councils, and we lobby within the industry, but you can still help:

- If your MP is David Johnston, Wantage (covering Grove, Steventon, East and West Hanney, East and West Hendred, Ardington, Drayton, Garford, Milton, and Sutton Courtenay) you can contact him on [david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk) It is important to ensure that he actively opposes the reservoir and lobbies Thérèse Coffey
- If you live in Abingdon, you can support your MP Layla Moran's opposition – and seek her support [layla.moran.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:layla.moran.mp@parliament.uk)

Please copy [gard.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:gard.secretary@gmail.com) into any correspondence and see the website for developments  
<https://www.abingdonreservoir.org.uk/>

Derek Stork

Chairman GARD

## THE OXFORD SCIENCE AND IDEAS FESTIVAL

**16 – 29th October**

IF Oxford is organised by Oxfordshire Science Festival Trustees and a small team work year-round to develop and produce the annual Festival which began in 1992. IF Oxford captures interest in 'science and ideas' topics through educational projects and its quality October Festival. Events and long-term community programmes develop meaningful skills while sharing the positive impacts of innovation. **Find out what to expect here:**  
[www.if-oxford.com/events/](http://www.if-oxford.com/events/)



## THE OXFORD HALF MARATHON

**15th October**

The course begins at Broad Street, near Trinity College. Along the way, participants will be treated to plenty of Oxford's stunning architecture and live entertainment. A flat course, this is a great opportunity to chase down a new PB. Runners breeze past the River Cherwell and Lady Margaret Hall among others, and will end their race on Park Road. **To sign up, visit here: [www.letsdothis.com](http://www.letsdothis.com)**





# THE Oxford WINDOW REPAIR COMPANY

## The Wooden Window Renovation Specialists

Flaking paint and cracked putty on your wooden windows and cills?

We specialise in repair and renovation to give your windows a new lease of life!

We cut out rotten wood and replace with new timber.

We replace failed single/double glazing

Combined with modern & traditional paint solutions to give an excellent finish inside and out

We are accredited suppliers and installers of Fineo© Vacuum Glazing

We also specialise in wood treatments, oils, stains and varnishes

Maintenance contracts & references are also available for peace of mind

All work guaranteed

Call us for your free estimate 07880 560 403  
[www.oxfordwindowrepair.com](http://www.oxfordwindowrepair.com)

## Rosie's Hair Lodge & in Drayton

I am open Monday to Friday 9.30 - 2.30.

Please ring or message me on **07842848784**

Or find me on Facebook

by searching for Rosie's Hair Lodge.



- Scarification
- Hollow Tining
- Lawn Aeration
- Over seeding
- Top-Dressing
- Removal Weeds
- Moss Control
- Professional Service

**NO CONTRACT**

Contact Steve

01865331501/07894983801

Email: [cotswolds@greensleeves-uk.com](mailto:cotswolds@greensleeves-uk.com)

## Local Dog Walking

I will walk and feed your dog while you are out

Instagram: [pawsome\\_walkiesx](https://www.instagram.com/pawsome_walkiesx)

Email: [pawsomewalkies5@gmail.com](mailto:pawsomewalkies5@gmail.com)

Phone: 07493830191



## El-Gibbor PA Services

You are a part of our Family

### Personal Care & Services

El-Gibbor PA Services offer quality transformative support in our local community. We are committed to providing exceptional service to help meet your daily living needs.

### Services include:

- ✓ Personal Care
- ✓ Medication Administration
- ✓ Escort to GP & Hospital Appointments
- ✓ Social trips & Companionship
- ✓ Live in 24-hour care
- ✓ Cleaning & Gardening

AM Thomas-Barnaby on:

07754 860773/07714 425339/07508 074618

[el.gibbor2019@gmail.com](mailto:el.gibbor2019@gmail.com)



Providing care services in Oxfordshire and beyond!



**DOJANG X**  
MARTIAL ARTS & FITNESS

**FREE  
TRIAL  
CLASS!**

**FRIDAYS | DRAYTON VILLAGE HALL**

4.30pm - 5pm : Little Ninjas (4-5 yrs old)

5.15pm - 6pm : Kids karate class (6 - 12 yrs old)

6pm - 7pm : Family karate class (6+ including adults)

Contact Sabrina to book: [dojangx@gmail.com](mailto:dojangx@gmail.com)

**DOJANGX.COM**

## Martin Hudson Flooring

[Hudsonmartin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Hudsonmartin@hotmail.co.uk) | 07590192298

**Martin Hudson**

*Floor Layer*

Carpet, Vinyl, Lino & Luxury Vinyl Tiles





# AUTUMNAL RECIPES

## Pumpkin pie



8 servings



1 hour 30 minutes

### INGREDIENTS

- 750g/1lb 10oz pumpkin or butternut squash, peeled, deseeded and cut into chunks
- 350g sweet shortcrust pastry
- plain flour, for dusting
- 140g caster sugar
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp fresh nutmeg, grated
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 25g butter, melted
- 175ml milk
- 1 tbsp icing sugar

### Method

- Place the pumpkin in a large saucepan, cover with water and bring to the boil. Cover with a lid and simmer for 15 mins or until tender. Drain pumpkin; let cool.
- Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Roll out the pastry on a lightly floured surface and use it to line a 22cm loose-bottomed tart tin. Chill for 15 mins. Line the pastry with baking parchment and baking beans, then bake for 15 mins. Remove the beans and paper, and cook for a further 10 mins until the base is pale golden and biscuity. Remove from the oven and allow to cool slightly.
- Increase oven to 220C/200C fan/gas 7. Push the cooled pumpkin through a sieve into a large bowl. In a separate bowl, combine the sugar, salt, nutmeg and half the cinnamon. Mix in the beaten eggs, melted butter and milk, then add to the pumpkin purée and stir to combine. Pour into the tart shell and cook for 10 mins, then reduce the temperature to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Continue to bake for 35-40 mins until the filling has just set.
- Leave to cool, then remove the pie from the tin. Mix the remaining cinnamon with the icing sugar and dust over the pie. Serve chilled.

## Pumpkin curry



4 servings



40 minutes

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 tbsp sunflower oil
- 3 tbsp Thai yellow curry paste, or vegetarian alternative
- 2 onions, finely chopped
- 3 large stalks lemongrass, bashed with the back of a knife
- 6 cardamom pods
- 1 tbsp mustard seed
- 1 piece pumpkin or a small squash (about 1kg)
- 250ml vegetable stock
- 400ml can reduced-fat coconut milk
- 400g can chickpea, drained and rinsed
- 2 limes
- large handful mint leaves
- naan bread, to serve

### Method

- Heat the oil in a sauté pan, then gently fry the curry paste with the onions, lemongrass, cardamom and mustard seed for 2-3 mins until fragrant. Stir the pumpkin or squash into the pan and coat in the paste, then pour in the stock and coconut milk. Bring everything to a simmer, add the chickpeas, then cook for about 10 mins until the pumpkin is tender. The curry can now be cooled and frozen for up to 1 month.
- Squeeze the juice of one lime into the curry, then cut the other lime into wedges to serve alongside. Just before serving, tear over mint leaves, then bring to the table with the lime wedges and warm naan breads.



# DRAYTON HALL NEWS

## October Events

Some readers may have already seen – via the local F'book – an ad for a **HALLOWEEN Party**, being organised by **Marco & Simone**, our new bar managers (that many of you will know if you're Wheatsheaf patrons).

**Sat Oct 28th**, 7pm to midnight, they say £10 for a FAMILY ticket (2 + 2), Disco, a Fancy Dress prize (best of luck to the judge?!), and apply to the **Wheatsheaf** for tickets. Doubtless more F'book ads will appear!

Now, our monthly **ANTIQUES Fair**, (9am to 3pm), is USUALLY on the FIRST Sunday of each month, BUT in October (and indeed next April) they are here on the **SECOND Sunday** (Oct 8th) due to one of our dog shows, who had to book up years in advance because of the Kennel Club's rules, they picked the first Sunday.

They'll still have Kathy Head running her **excellent café** (proceeds to a good charitable cause) with assorted snacks, a great-value b'fast, even a light lunch if you get in before they're all gone?!

Oh, **ADVANCE NOTICE** :- some readers will have in the past attended the **Abingdon Quilter's Exhibition**, which next year (April 20th & 21st) will be HERE in Hall, so make a note of that one, very well attended I gather? Speaking as one for whom merely threading a pesky needle is quite a challenge, you can but admire their efforts?!

## Some of our groups :-

Now, the class for **Irish Dancing**, intended for 4-y-olds and upwards, is BACK, after their Autumn 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!

Though quite a NEW group to us, **extra classes** are being put on by **Dojang X, the County's 'Soo Bahk Do' martial arts club**, who run on Friday (late afternoon & early evening). It's a traditional Korean martial art with similarities to Japanese **Karate**.

Their **'LITTLE NINJAS'** class (just 4 to 5 yrs!!) is from 4.30 to 5pm, and a **KIDS** class from 5.15 to 6pm. PARENTS, got any Little Ninjas who could join in?!

Their 'open age' classes are from 6 - 7pm and all classes offer a **free trial session!**

It's a **great club for families** to train together - although **any age is welcome** to train by themselves! The club is led by **Sabrina Mistry**, a certified fitness professional - - **Contact Sabrina** to book your free class, that's to **dojangx@gmail.com**

[Oh, NB, they're NOT IN on Oct 20th!]

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?! They have several sessions, Mon & Thurs afternoons, + Weds evenings.

Also our **SEQUENCE Dancers** (Thurs evenings) - and so too (seeks new talent) is one of our **BADMINTON** groups, the one on Weds afternoons. Just the same sentiments apply – friendly, and the tea and bikkies breaktime!

Contributed by: Tony Holmes

## OUR NEW EDITOR

### Dear Readers,

As the newest co-editor for our beloved local chronicle, I find myself wanting to introduce myself to those I've not had the pleasure of meeting.

So to begin, hello! A bit about me, I've lived in Drayton for three years. In this short time Drayton, with its vibrant community spirit, has become home. You may see me out and about with my rascal of a dog, Frank the French bulldog, or trying to wrangle my toddler into walking nicely - on both occasions there is likely to be chaos but do stop and say hi. I'm excited to start this new journey and to continue respecting the tradition of our paper while also bringing a fresh perspective.

But why? Because whether you're a long-time resident or a newcomer to our community, The Drayton Chronicle is our window into the heartbeat of our village

Bridget Pyne

## McGahan Lees Irish Dance Academy

TRADITIONAL IRISH DANCE LESSONS  
CONTACT ASHLEIGH 07375878445

CHILDREN 4+ WELCOME  
FREE TASTER SESSIONS  
AVAILABLE

[WWW.MCGAHANLEES.CO.UK](http://WWW.MCGAHANLEES.CO.UK)





# DRAYTON DIARIES

(MOSTLY) HALL DIARY

## (Mostly) Hall Diary for October

All events held in Drayton Hall unless otherwise stated

To book the Hall :- [bookings@draytonvh.co.uk](mailto:bookings@draytonvh.co.uk) or call Tony Holmes on (01235) 531180; see the website :- [www.draytonvh.co.uk](http://www.draytonvh.co.uk)

(for other regular events, see the R-H column >>>)

Sun	1	9.00am	Private Function (dog show)
Sat	7	9.30am	Private Function (child's party)
Sun	8	9.00am	ANTIQUES FAIR (to 3pm)
Tues	10	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting <i>Caudwell DC</i>
Sun	15	1.00pm	Private Function (child's party)
Mon	16	5.00pm	CHRONICLE DEADLINE (p2)
Sat	21		Private Function
Sat	28		Halloween Party (see local ads)
Sun	29	1.00pm	Private Function (child's party)

# ProClean

## Housekeeping & Ironing Services

Sue Oliver



Fully Insured & all Staff are DBS checked.

All equipment & cleaning products supplied.

Call now or email for a quotation

East Way, Drayton, Abingdon - Tel: (01235) 468402

Email: [sue@hsoliver.co.uk](mailto:sue@hsoliver.co.uk)

POST OFFICE

## Drayton Post Office

Mon - Fri 9 - 5.30 Sat 9 - 12.30

### & CONVENIENCE STORE

Open All Week 8 am - 10 pm

9, The Green, Drayton, OX14 4JA

01235 531359

Printed on FSC paper in Kingston  
Bagpuize by: Artisan

T. 01865 820088

## REGULAR EVENTS

### REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

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

#### MONDAYS [## = Small Hall in Village Hall]

- 2.00 pm Short Mat Bowling Club Session
- 6.00 pm Damascus Youth ##
- 7.15 pm Badminton (Private Group)
- 7.45 pm Bell-ringing (for 1½ hours) *St Peter's*

#### TUESDAYS

- 9.30 am Pilates (via Alexandra Merson 07788 248925)
- 1.45 pm Drayton Art Group (until 4 pm) *Caudwell Day Centre*
- 2.30 pm Tuesday Connect (back to 1st Tuesday!) *Church*
- 5.30 pm Irish Dancing (Ashleigh - 07375 878445)

#### WEDNESDAYS

- 10.00 am Pebbles (Baby, Toddler, Carer group) *Church*
- 1.30 pm Whist Drive *Caudwell DC*
- 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 (\*\*) *St Peter's Lady Chapel*
- 11.00 am Baptist Café (to 1pm) NOW IN >> *Caudwell DC*
- 2.00 pm Short Mat Bowling Club Session
- 2.00 pm Crafts Group (2nd Thursday - run by U3A, but it's simple to join. Call Kate for info 01235 550486) ##
- 5.30 pm Rainbows (girls 5 to 7 yrs) ##
- 7.30 pm Sequence Dancing (Brian - 01235 531701)
- 7.30 pm Women's Institute Meeting (2nd Thurs) *Caudwell DC*
- 7.30 pm 'Community Choir' (2nd/4th Thurs) *Church Room*

#### FRIDAYS

- 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 *Baptist Church*



Drayton, 2020

artisan  
print & sign solutions