

# DRAYTON CHRONICLE



# COMING CHRONICLES

The **December Chronicle** will be available for distribution on or about **Friday December 1st**.

The Editor will be **Margaret Inger (on 07967 730735)**. **Contributions** may be e-mailed (as below, best to 'editor@'), or placed in the Chronicle letter box, outside Vickery's store on Drayton Green, **DEADLINE = 5 pm, Monday, Nov 20th**.

**After this deadline \*\*** items get **less precedence** for inclusion (No guarantees!), & need to reach us by the Wednesday.

**NB - ADVERTISERS - PLEASE note** that the ads deadline is **EARLIER, Friday Nov 17th**, due to their preparation time.

NB\*\* :- **Can we politely remind Contributors** that the above **deadlines** are exactly that; in general, **the later an item is received, the less precedence it gets**.

**NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS** (any doubts, ask the Editor!) All contributions to the Chronicle are most welcome. Be sure to **include the name, address and (in case clarification is necessary) telephone number of the author**. Contributions can be made :-

1. By **email** to the relevant editor (and please use a **meaningful title**, we get a lot called Chronicle!)

for the next editor → [editor@draytonchronicle.net](mailto:editor@draytonchronicle.net)

**Please remember to check** that you soon get a confirmation reply. We do occasionally have emails sent – and they just don't arrive!

2. **An email attachment**, in WORD please (NOT a PDF file!).
3. A good, **black typescript** on white A4 paper or smaller. **BUT** – IF you can type it, PLEASE see #1 & #2 above?! [Scanning is a real nuisance, and tends to create errors!]
4. **Hand-written? Preferably not PLEASE, if over maybe a para.** This is 2023, should be a way to type & send it?! (= fewer errors!).

## ADVERTISING RATES

For Block Advert (about 1/12<sup>th</sup> page)

- - - Number of Monthly Inserts - - -

Advertiser Category	1	3	6	12
Drayton Resident	£6.00	£16.00	£31.00	£60.00
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Half-size block adverts, normally for one or two inserts, are charged at half the above rates.

**All requests must be accompanied by cash or a cheque made payable to 'Drayton Chronicle'.**

They may be placed in the Chronicle Letter Box, outside Vickery's Hardware Store, Drayton Green, in shopping hours. OR send your requirements :- [advertising@draytonchronicle.net](mailto:advertising@draytonchronicle.net)

**This Month's Cover** – Remembrance time, so for more info re Drayton's 'Tommy' figures, a poppy display, and details of collections, etc, please see page 10.

## DATES for the FOLLOWING Chronicle

Issue for	Copy Deadlines :- to Editor by (& Ads on the Fri before these)	Chronicle published and available for distribution on Friday:-
<b>Jan/Feb</b>	Mon Jan 15th	Jan 12th
<b>March</b>	Mon Feb 19th	Feb 16th

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## Local Groups & Clubs

### Drayton Wives (Lisa Lammiman)

Our recent meeting was a bit different. Unfortunately our speaker had cancelled at the last minute so we were left scratching our heads on how to entertain our members!!!

However in the face of adversity our ladies rose to the challenge and we had a very interesting meeting talking about our future projects, which include our **Christmas outing to Winchester**, our **Christmas tea** and even as far as meetings for next year!!!

We then finished in the traditional way with tea and biscuits. Everyone enjoyed it and it was lovely just to take time to chat.

If you would like to come and join us the membership is only £15 a year, with meetings costing only £2 for tea and biscuits. The craft meeting is also only £2 but the walks are free although you have to buy your own lunch!

If you would like to join us please ring me.

**Lisa Lammiman** (Chair – 07949 275641)



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**Administrator** Alison Bampton 01235 847179

**Email contacts:-** rector@damascusparish.org.uk (or admin@ ) & for Linda:- lindajcw@gmail.com

**The church remains open daily {Sun – Sat, now 10 – 3pm}**

NB – all information is correct at time of going to press.

## REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday	8.00 am	<b>Holy Communion</b> (BCP – 3rd Sunday only);
	9.30 am	Regular Sunday service;
Thursday	9.45 am	<b>Holy Communion</b> (1st & 3rd Thurs) – or . . . <b>Celtic Morning Prayer</b> (2nd & 4th Thurs).

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Mondays	2.00 pm	<b>Knit &amp; Natter (to 4pm – First Monday)</b>
	7.30 pm	<b>Bellringing Practice (each Monday)</b>
Tuesday	2.30 pm	<b>*** Tuesday Connect – ALL welcome for a cuppa &amp; chat (***) now the FIRST Tuesday of each month) and that runs to 4pm</b>
Weds	10.00 am	<b>Pebbles Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b> (term-time) <b>For more information contact Katy or Cheryl</b> <a href="mailto:Draytonpebbles@hotmail.com">Draytonpebbles@hotmail.com</a>

**Please let us know** if you need help of any kind, so that prayer and practical support can be offered in a safe way.

**Christmas CRACKER, PLEASE SEE page 19**

## YOU STAY WE PRAY (November)

29th Oct – 4th Sutton Wick Lane; Greenacres; Newman Lane; Conifer Drive

5th – 11th Hilliat Fields; Lyford Close

12th – 18th Manor Close; The Green

19th – 25th High St; Chiers Drive; Cheers Farm; Halls Close

26th – Dec 2nd Friars Mews; Monk Close; Prior Drive; Abbot Crescent

## Remembrance Service Sunday 12th November 9.30 a.m



This year the Service of Remembrance will take place in St. Peter's church starting at 9.30 a.m. This will include the reading of names and placing of poppies. **All are**

**welcome** to join us as we remember those who laid down their lives for us.

## MISSED OUT ON YOUR CHRONICLE?

If by any chance your Agent is unable to deliver your Chronicle one month (or you need an extra one) you can collect a copy from Vickery's shop, they very kindly keep a small stock for us.

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## From the DAMASCUS Ministry Team

November - **the month of Remembrance** - may be especially poignant this year as we witness the violent conflict in the Holy Land and as Russia's invasion of Ukraine grinds on, and trouble between Azerbaijan and Armenia continues. Millions of people's lives are being turned upside down, with no hope of peace and security in sight. It is indeed a time for Christians everywhere to pray for peace, based on justice and mercy. It also a time to remember the victims of natural disasters - this year alone, we have seen the Libyan flood; the Moroccan and Afghanistan earthquakes; the wildfires in Greece, Spain, Canada, and the USA.

In the season of Remembrance, which in the church covers All Souls', when we remember all those who have died; All Saints', when we remember and celebrate the lives of all the saints and of course, Remembrance Sunday, when we consider those who have heroically given their lives in war.

However, Jesus calls all of us to a radical heroism in our daily lives: 'You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.' (Matt 5:43-45).

**Love Your Enemies:-** For most of us our 'enemies' are rarely life-threatening; they can simply be impatient, judgmental, self-righteous or just plain disagreeable! Whether the conflict is with a family or church member, work colleague or neighbour, our attitude toward them should be one of love. We will naturally want to retaliate, but Jesus commands us to love.

**Pray for Your Persecutors:-** It's only when we are ready to pray for someone whom we find difficult, that God can soften our attitude towards them. Like us, they are those in need of God's forgiveness and grace. **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**, the German pastor executed by the Nazis at the end of WW2, wrote:- "This is the supreme demand. Through the medium of prayer, we go to our enemy, stand by his side, and plead for him to God. For if we pray for them, we are taking their distress and poverty, their guilt and perdition upon ourselves and pleading to God for them".

**Become More Like Jesus:-** When we start loving our enemies and praying for our persecutors, we become more like Jesus Himself. He willingly laid down His life for us, prayed for His persecutors and gives us the power to love our enemies as He did. At a time when we recognise that we all need heroes; how will **we** respond to this call to radical heroism in our own life?

**With love and prayers**

**(Rev'd) Helen Kendrick**

*(Rector - DAMASCUS Parish ministry team)*

# Local Groups & Clubs

## Drayton W.I.

At our October meeting we met a part-time maths teacher who is also a part-time **origami designer** and **maker** of the most amazing models all from one sheet of special paper.

He spoke about the history of the models even down to everyday items that we have all made in our lives. Have you ever made a paper plane or a fortune telling finger toy? All **origami**. He had some amazing models, some he had designed and some were ancient designs, but all very intricate, large ones taking days and small made in a few minutes.

Finally, you guessed it, **we all had a go**. Firstly we made a heart then we made a box and finally a swan. It was very tense and we were all very quiet in concentrated effort producing our models.

As his talk came to an end he showed us a book he had written on how to make Simple Christmas Decorations. Some were purchased so we wait to see these models made! They looked very intricate but very decorative, made from very clear instructions.

**Next month** we shall learn about the **Antarctic** from a village resident, just need a sprinkle of snow and he will be right at home.

Should be very interesting so **come and join us**, that's **Thursday Nov 9th at 7.30pm** in the Caudwell Centre in Gravel Lane, see you there. Our meetings are usually the 2nd Thursday each month. **Ann Webb**

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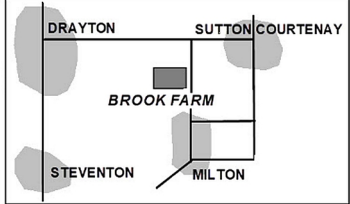
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## Letters to the Editor

The Editor reserves the right to shorten, clarify or reject any letter. Each letter must bear a legible name & address, and phone number (please) in case any text needs verification

**THAMES VALLEY FARMERS MARKETS** (8.30 to 1.30)  
Fresh, Quality produce, Locally\* produced, Competitive prices –  
(\*'Locally' – Didcot mkt has a wonderful fishmonger, up from Sussex, always sells well – little sea for fishing round here?! AND – that Didcot mkt has MOVED, it's now up on the Broadway)  
**NOV Dates** Ab'don (3rd Fri) 17th; Didcot (2nd Sat) 11th  
TVFM news - ring 01235 227266 see website - [Tvmf.org.uk](http://Tvmf.org.uk)

# PARISH COUNCIL

[www.DraytonPC.Org](http://www.DraytonPC.Org)

## Next PC Meeting

Now **Tuesday** evenings (2nd of month) so next it's **November 14th**, in the Caudwell Day Centre (Gravel Lane), 7pm. **All residents are welcome to attend**, and raise issues within the public participation item early in the meeting. NB Parking IS a bit limited near the CDC, so if you attend, & can walk or bike there, please do?!

The **latest Parish Council meeting** was held on Oct 10th, the main issues discussed were:-

### **Walnut Meadows**

Two further inspections of the sports pitch area were undertaken by members of the Parish Council (PC) on Sept 12th & 28th, following the **required remedial work by Miller Homes**. The **following issues** were identified:-

1) Lack of 100mm of topsoil across the site, 2) Significant debris present on the site, and 3) The bank at the southern end of the pitch area was higher than agreed levels.

Miller Homes imported an additional 10 tons of topsoil and undertook further remedial work. A further inspection of the site took place on October 5th and found that there is now sufficient topsoil, the amount of debris has been greatly reduced and the bank height at the southern end has been reduced. Subject to Miller Homes providing confirmation that the levels are now in accordance with planning permission and completing certain remedial works, replacement of trees/shrubs and cracked paving etc, **the site should be ready for handover to the Parish Council in the near future**.

The next step is for the PC to arrange the **archaeological excavation** in the north-west corner of the site, as required by the planning permission. A contractor has been appointed, with a view to this work starting in November. A **sports consultant** has also been approached to advise the PC on the work and costs that will be needed to successfully implement the sports pitches.

Once plans for the pavilion and costs for the work are available the **PC plans to hold a drop-in event for the village** to view the plans and for consultation to take place.

A huge amount of work has been done by the PC to even get to this point and it is only with dogged commitment from PC officials that we have got this far. Our experiences with Walnut Meadow and Manor Farm are that once houses are built it is extremely difficult to get developers to fulfil agreements for public spaces that were part of the original planning permissions!

The PC would like to express particular thanks to the Walnut Meadow residents for their continued patience with the attempts to get the sports area ready for handover to the PC.

### **The Abingdon Bridge**

**Gary Hibbins**, who grew up in Drayton and is now **CEO** of the Abingdon Bridge, attended the PC meeting and gave a summary of the incredibly valuable work being achieved by the project with young people aged 13 to 25. **The PC was happy to approve a grant** to support the work of the project.

### **Burial ground**

The PC contracted work to **clear vegetation** at the south side of the burial ground. We are aware that this work has been left unfinished and that there is a lot of **dead vegetation** now left in the burial ground. The **Deputy Clerk is chasing this**, hopefully it will have been **sorted out** by the time of Chronicle publication.



**To contact** any members of the Parish Council, all enquiries should be directed to the **Parish Clerk**, and messages will be passed on. Any Drayton resident may also ask to be added to the Clerk's E-mailing list, so that they receive prior notice of meetings and any relevant documents. **Clerk@draytonpc.org**

All **Parish Council minutes** are now **archived** on the village website: <http://www.draytonvillage.co.uk/> which also has a link to **back copies of the Drayton Chronicle**, and details of other events in the village.

### **Traffic calming**

**20mph limits** - This is **an OCC county wide initiative**. In 2021 parish councils were invited to apply to be included in the 20mph scheme. **Drayton PC requested to be included** with the aim of promoting pedestrian and cyclist safety and improving quality of life within the village. OCC carried out a consultation earlier this year. The matter was considered at OCC Highways Management committee in July and deferred after receipt of comments from local residents and the Bus Company, then considered again on October 12th. The background reports and decision of this meeting can be found on the OCC website.

My understanding from looking at the decision is that **a 20mph limit will be introduced for all areas of the village except** on the B4017 between the north edge of the village and Newman Lane and on Steventon Road from the southern edge of the village up to Kiln Lane. **These two stretches will remain at 30 mph**.

This will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting. Meantime, **please contact your County Councillor Richard Webber** with further comments or queries.

A site meeting with PC members and OCC's highways contractors took place on September 27th to consider proposals submitted to OCC by the PC back in November 2021. The OCC officials walked through the village from Walnut Meadows to the High Street to look specifically at the Walnut Meadows junction and a pedestrian crossing for the High Street. Whilst in the village, the OCC officials expressed concern about the speed of traffic entering the village from Abingdon, the arrangement of the Walnut Meadow junction and also witnessed pedestrians waiting at the crossing by Manor Farm with cars not stopping! It was also noted that the speed indicator signs are inadequate.

OCC are developing a 'master plan' and aim to have this available before Christmas. The PC will be actively chasing this. Watch this space!

### **Conservation area**

An extension to the **Drayton Conservation Area** has been agreed by the Vale of White Horse. This had been proposed by the Parish Council several years ago and after some updating, was approved following an appraisal and public consultation by the Vale. Broadly, the area has been extended to include the Millennium Green, parts of Sutton Wick, houses and land to the east of Church Lane and a small area to the west of The Green in the centre of the village. Please see link for details and map >>

<http://democratic.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/documents/s58913/Report%20and%20Appendix%201.pdf>

### **Issues at the village hall**

The PC noted that there had been a recent party in the village that had got out of hand and led to **damage to the football pitch**.

We also noted the difficulties caused to the **Antiques Fair** by **destruction of their signs and dangerous hazards** left at the entrance to the Village Hall and around stallholders' cars. We empathise with the organisers and wish to reiterate that the Antiques Fair is very welcome in the village.

**Elaine Wade**

We've another **JEWELLERY VALUATION** day, Tuesday Nov 7th, 1pm to about 4pm. Last time he had a steady stream of customers, and I'm told offers very fair prices. That's all sorts of items, brooches, watches, (working or not!), rings, etc etc, he does a leaflet drop round the village a couple of days before the event, with far more details about items of interest.

We've a return of the **HAMSTER** show, Sat Nov 11th, I say hamsters, but they usually have a pet class section for assorted small rodents, as well as pet hamsters.

See <https://www.facebook.com/midlandhamsterclub/>

We've another **ANTIQUES Fair**, Sunday Nov 5th, that's with Kathy Head running her excellent value cafe for one of her good causes (lovely breakfast, or perhaps just a bacon sarnie!) -- and the mention of that hirer brings me to a **more serious topic**.

As Pervin's letter (p9) describes, they've had some serious vandalism, carried out by some of the brain-dead oxygen thieves we sadly have living amongst us.

Their latest activities, trying to sabotage cars, could have led to a serious accident, possibly fatal, and that has at least got the Police more interested. When whoever it is gets caught, they'll be looking at a hefty invoice, as well as the likelihood of criminal conviction.

What we're baffled about is WHY this is happening, so if anyone can give clues, PLEASE DO let us know! The C'tee has even considered offering a small reward for info leading to a successful prosecution.

See [www.draytonvh.co.uk](http://www.draytonvh.co.uk) for contact info.

Drayton Community Primary School has had a busy start to the school year and we want to share an update with you all!

This year has seen some changes to our school leadership team; **Miss Spencer**, Early Years lead and previous Reception teacher, is currently taking on the role of Interim Head, and **Mrs Cooper**, our inclusion lead is taking on the role of Interim Assistant Head during this time.

We have welcomed many new members of staff to our school team including early career teachers, an experienced teacher and new support staff across school. Please take a look at our website for more information:- [www.drayton-pri.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.drayton-pri.oxon.sch.uk)

On the third week of school we welcomed Ofsted in for a **two-day "Section 8" inspection**. School leaders and Governors are pleased with the outcome and feel it was a supportive and productive process, we look forward to sharing the report with the community when it has gone through the ratification process.

Children have settled into their new classes, and we are pleased to welcome a number of new children and families.

**Lots of learning** has taken place this term with children exploring various themes and concepts including colours; our topics have included The Great Barrier Reef, The United Kingdom, The Romans and Ancient Greece. Children have been learning about different artists including Mondrian, Kandinsky and Grayson Perry. Children in Early Years have enjoyed sharing their art pieces in an art gallery for parents and children and Blackbirds proudly spoke about their collage in the style of Grayson Perry in assembly. Children in Year 4 and 5 have been using clay to create coil pots and busts, linking to history learning.

As well as lots of exciting learning in class we have been focusing on our **whole school values**:- kindness, teamwork, the pursuit of knowledge, achievement, community and collaboration. We have explored these during assemblies and lessons in class. We have introduced values certificates to celebrate and acknowledge these values in our community.

On Sunday 24th September school hosted a '**big playground clean-up**' to spruce up the school grounds. Thank you to everyone that supported this with donations and their time on the day. We will be hosting another one soon, so keep your eyes peeled if you would like to pop up and help us.

This term has also seen the children in **Eagles** class head to PGL in Liddington for a **week-long residential**. They are currently having a great time taking part in activities including zip wire, trapeze, den building and archery.

We hosted two '**Community Stay and Plays**' this term, it has been wonderful to welcome younger members of our community into school. **If you have a child aged 0-4** keep your eyes peeled on the Drayton Facebook pages for details of the ones next term, we would love to welcome you into our school!

This term our **Governors** have elected a new Chair, **Rob Gilley**, and Vice-chair, **Lucy Cunningham**. Governors have also been busy supporting our Ofsted inspection and leading the **recruitment process for a new headteacher**.

After half term we'll be holding a whole school **Halloween fun run** to raise money for the school community, also we shall be hosting tours of the school next term for prospective families.

**Secondary school applications** must be made by Oct 31st.

The **application process** for a **Reception place** opens 1st November, and closes on the 15th January 2024.

More information on applying for school places can be found at [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place)

We'd like to say a **great big THANK YOU** to all members of our school community for a productive and successful first term!

**Miss Spencer & the Drayton School team**

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## Macmillan Coffee Morning



Dear Editor, via Email

**Thank you to everybody** who came and supported our Macmillan Coffee Morning, held recently, or made a donation.

The amount raised was £1,416.09 but this does not take into account the gift aid, so in real terms the total will be more! **Special thanks to Miriam and Jenny**, we could not have done it without your help.

Kind Regards Liz Kidd & Brenda Malin

[Ed's Note >> Ladies – FANTASTIC EFFORT, great sum!]

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## 50 Years of Vickery's!

Dear Editor, via email

**Congratulations Laurence.** I lived across the road from the shop for 42 years and used it on many many occasions. My first visits were probably for paraffin, no heating then and our first Drayton winter was 62/63, one to be remembered, so cold you can't believe. My son was under 6 months and wore more clothes in his crib than in the day by the fire.

In those days it was Bob and Nora Winter with Nora's sister Eddie, such a lovely trio, then there was a family from the Midlands but they didn't stay long.

Followed by **Arthur and Doris Vickery** and their young son **Laurence.** The shop was transformed in their era even more than before, so many things everywhere, an Aladdin's cave would not be an exaggeration?!

On one of my very early visits Laurence's sister was over from America to view the shop. I was there for a purchase, with my young daughters, when a **Polaroid camera** was produced and a photo taken of us standing at the counter being served by Laurence. It was like magic, this photo appeared before our eyes, I still have the photo and have shown it to Laurence, he was quite surprised it had survived.

Laurence for carrying on the shop that your mum and dad started, you have to be congratulated. So many memories of you, and them, with all the various dogs and the broken telephone on the shelf.

And of course all the ladies that have worked with you. It has made the shop a treasure, there are not many of them left any more. Well done!! **You are a local treasure.**

Kind Regards Ann Webb

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## Trees Wasting Their Oxygen Efforts?

Dear Editor, via email

Both I and many other people have been shocked by the **senseless acts** of vandalism and potentially property damaging actions of two individuals, seen in and around the village hall car park on Oct 8th.

Both last month and this, signs that were erected in Steventon and Drayton advertising the Antiques Fair, were **either ripped to pieces, or simply removed altogether.** As each of these signs cost around £200, the organisers of the fair are seriously thinking of pulling out of coming to Drayton at all in the future, which would be a very sad loss to the village. Many people come from a wide area to the fair, which is accredited by the Antiques Association, and registered on a national list. The fair brings employment to the caterers (proceeds to charity), also of course the dealers, to say nothing of the pleasure for visitors enjoying a Sunday 'potter'.

Worse than even this, leading to a call to the **police**, three planks that someone took the trouble to paint black so that they wouldn't be seen, and each studded with at least thirty three-inch nails, were laid on the ground leading into the hall car park just where the speed bump is, so that an unsuspecting motorist would drive over them and ruin their tyres.

Fortunately, the first dealer to arrive noticed them before driving over them, and removed them so that nobody would fall into the trap maliciously set to endanger property. This is when the police were called. After I left, more nails were scattered around the cars of the dealers, to cause further damage. Only the dealers mind. Not of the customers. So someone must have been hiding and lying in wait to see whose cars should be targeted. This happened after the police had left. As I said, the perpetrators were spotted, but of course nobody associated them with this vandalism at the time.

The lovely lady who runs the fair with her affable husband, is extremely upset, and **rightly asks WHY?** Why? Has someone got a grudge against the selling of antiques? Has someone got a vendetta out for trading on a Sunday? Does someone not want the village hall to receive income so that it can continue to serve the community? Has someone simply got nothing better to do than to target a completely innocent source of pleasure for a lot of people? Anyone would think the hall committee were running a gambling casino or a strip club! [Ed:- Sorry Pervin, enough to do as it is?!]

In conclusion, if anyone has **seen or heard anything suspicious**, **please contact** either the police directly, or the Clerk of the Parish Council. Let us try to keep this village the friendly and welcoming place it is known to be, and stop this malicious and shocking crime. **The perpetrators should be ashamed of themselves.**

Kind Regards Pervin Shahin (Drayton Parish Council)

[Ed's note:- Well, a nice thought, "ashamed", but they've already shown they're hardly sane, rational, and 'normal'?! Oh, and the points re those responsible are what is known, or supposed, at the time of going to print]

# MORE LETTERS (Remembrance)

## Tommy Display - 2023

Dear Editor, via email

The Tommy group will be displaying the two Tommys for the second year on the Green. This year we shall be adding a **flowing curtain of poppies to the display**. The poppies have all been hand-made by women of the Tommy's group, Drayton wives craft group and several other individuals. **Our most grateful thanks** go out to them all.

The poppies vary in size, they are bright and individual. The reason for this is that everyone lost was an individual, therefore, the poppies should reflect those differences.


The display will be situated on the Green and remain in place for approximately one week.

The wooden trough which also forms part of the display will be available to place personal poppies or crosses in.

We hope you are all able to visit and appreciate the display and the effort we have all put in to make Drayton one of many proud villages during our national time of remembrance.

Kind Regards Susan Baird (Drayton 'Tommy' group)





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## Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Dear Drayton Residents, via email

The appeal kicks off this year on **October 27th**. As with the last few years our 3 local shops, 2 Public Houses, St Peter's Church, and the Golf Club have kindly agreed to have Poppies / Crosses etc **on display for anyone wishing to donate**.

Also **Drayton Primary School** will again have more age appropriate items (I hear the wristbands are very popular!). We will also have our usual table on the village green on **Saturday Oct 28th** from 11am to 3pm (ish) with poppies and much more.

With thanks Sue & Harry Ash



## & 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 10.50hrs.

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) on **01235 832077** or e-mail [nickandmaryt@hotmail.com](mailto:nickandmaryt@hotmail.com).

Thank you, Ian Baird

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**Neighbourhood News** – we rarely hear now, since the Chronicle Agents don't need to sell tickets for the former Lottery game, of any folk moving in or out of the village. **But if you hear such news** (& the people are OK with it publicised of course!) then do please let us know!

# Your District Councillor



## **Walnut Meadows**

The Walnut Meadows sports fields **regrading and rubble removal** has reached a condition where I'm advised the Parish Council are willing to accept handover. I must emphasise that the Parish Council have been absolutely fundamental to all of the work here – with very limited resources in Planning Enforcement (albeit far higher than a few years ago), they've stepped up and been the driving force.

**Bear in mind that Parish Councillors are all unpaid volunteers** (and elected and sitting as non-partisan members). There are still a few hurdles to clear, but this is so much better than I've ever known it before.

There are **other enforcement cases** elsewhere in the village (such as on Dovecote) that are also still causing concern. Whilst the enforcement system has done a lot more in the last few years than before (when it had effectively stalled completely), this has been at the cost of much less communication (partly due to legal fears, and partly due to the fact that the very limited resource they used to have was almost entirely consumed just by answering questions). However, there are fears it's swung too far in the direction of not providing enough transparency and a review is under way, reporting in November.

### ***Housing provision for Afghan families***

A significant number of families who had put themselves at risk by working and fighting for the UK were forced to flee their home country when the Taliban regained control. Since then, many of them have spent a lot of time in hotel accommodation provided by the Home Office.

**A new arrangement** allows for currently unused MoD housing in Watchfield & Shrivenham as temp accommodation for these families – getting them out of hotels and into homes. These accommodations will be made available for 18-36 months, whilst we use the time to help them find and move into privately rented homes. Government grants are funding the accommodation and support. The Vale will act as landlords.

(As an ex-RAF Officer, I'm personally very pleased with this).



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## **Cost of Living**

As the Cost of Living crisis hasn't gone away, I'm once again putting in the contact details for support for individuals and families from the Community Hub.

**If you need help** because you are struggling financially or if you are just finding life difficult, **the Vale can help**. Whether it's for practical support or just advice, get in touch:-

**01235 422600** or [communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk)

Website: [whitehorsedc.gov.uk/costofliving](http://whitehorsedc.gov.uk/costofliving)

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

## **Thames Water's New Plans**

### ***– and how to lobby the Environment Agency***

Thames Water published their latest plan here: <https://thames-wrmp.co.uk/> As expected, it effectively **ignores the feedback** and even re-enlarges the scheme to 150 megatonnes (about **16 Farmoor reservoirs piled into one place**). The only step forward has been to increase leak reduction – but they've brushed off the complaints and kicked into touch the Severn-Thames Transfer alternative (far faster, far more water, alleviating stress on the Thames, providing the key link for the National Infrastructure Commission's long-recommended National Water Grid, and far less disruptive).

I've learned from **GARD** that the Environment Agency and Ofwat will be, as part of their review of the plans, accepting complaints about TW ignoring feedback. **An email to the Environment Agency and/or Ofwat** making clear what feedback has been ignored (such as relative costs of reservoir and STT, safety issues, floodplain encroachment, dam breach analysis, etc) could be very useful. Please see GARD's F'book at >> <https://www.facebook.com/abingdonreservoir> - also their latest article (page 13).

I had a brief interview with a journalist from Oxfordshire Live (see:- <https://www.oxfordshirelive.co.uk/news/oxfordshire-news/thames-water-reservoir-plans-abingdon-8816205> ) where I tried to make some of these issues clear.

### ***Electric-powered food waste collection trial***

A two week trial of an **electric powered food waste collection vehicle** took place in Aug/Sept 2023. The learning from this trial will help to influence short and medium term vehicle procurement. A previous trial of an electric waste truck last year ran into issues with the amount of range outside of the towns and the time taken to recharge, but the technology is moving forward every year.

### ***And – Apologies!***

Apologies for missing last month. It was our first major family holiday since before covid – we really needed it!

All the best,

**Andy Cooke**



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# WESTMINSTER VIEW



Our MP (Wantage/Didcot) is David Johnston (OBE, awarded for services to Social Mobility and Education).

I was really pleased with how my **Pensioners' Fair** in Wantage went. Lots of pensioners came and were able to get information and advice from a wide range of organisations that took stalls, including Vale Community Impact, Carers Oxfordshire, Thames Valley Police and Grove Day Centre. **My thanks again to Driving Miss Daisy** (Didcot) for sponsoring it.

In Sept, I officially opened Soha Housing's new building in Wallingford, **Frances Curtis Court**. It provides retirement living options and I was very impressed that they managed to build it on time and on budget despite the pandemic. It was particularly nice that Frances Curtis's Grandson was able to be there for the event, too.

**Andy Baker** is a local hero in Didcot and I am proud to be a patron of his charity, **Play2Give**. It was great to be able to be at his **2023 Gatsby Ball** last month, a really great event with 140 people in attendance. It celebrated his organisation having now raised more than £100,000 for Oxford Children's Hospital. Well done, Andy!

**Two things** for you and your families to participate in:- I've just launched my annual **Christmas Card Competition** for primary school children. It's open until **Nov 13th**, entries need to be **on an A4 page** – the winning design will go on the front of my card!

I've also opened a **survey** asking what you think about the PM's proposal to **increase the age you can buy cigarettes** by a year every year so that a 14-year-old today is never able to buy one. Find details about both on [www.david-johnston.org.uk](http://www.david-johnston.org.uk). Also **please sign my Grove Station Petition** while you're there if you haven't!

It's been a **very busy first few weeks** as **Minister for Children, Families and Wellbeing**. I've met with lots of individuals and charities that support work in the areas I'm now responsible for; helped to launch a new £70 million programme to improve the support children with **special educational needs** get; responded on behalf of the Govt in a debate about the role of **kinship carers** (family members who take children in who can't live with their parents); hosted visits by Ministers from Sweden and the Netherlands to share ideas; and launched more of the Government's work to reform children's social care.

There've been plenty of **visits**, too – including to nurseries, a family hub, a children's home and the Seashell Trust, a charity that supports children with learning disabilities and autism. There's lots to do – the **Special Educational Needs, Alternative Provision and Children's Social Care System** are all being significantly reformed simultaneously and, at the same time, the Government is making the single largest investment in childcare ever to dramatically **increase the free hours of childcare parents can claim**. This constituency will always be my primary focus but I'm very much enjoying my additional responsibilities so far.

As ever, see the website for all the latest info, that's at >> [www.david-johnston.org.uk](http://www.david-johnston.org.uk)

If you need to get in touch with our MP >>  
email [david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk)

# GARD

We still don't know what the government will say to Thames Water, so please continue to write to your MP (details below) asking them to campaign for their constituents about the proposed reservoir. The decision from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (currently Therese Coffey) will come after more deliberations by Ofwat and the Environment Agency. **Our information is that this will be after November 20th**, so until then it is still possible for our MPs to have influence.

**Meeting with the Environment Agency and RAPID:** David Johnston (MP) helped to arrange a meeting for GARD with the EA and RAPID on Oct 13th. We discussed GARD's view that the Reservoir would not be as resilient to drought as the Severn-Thames Water Transfer; also, the fact that the reservoir water would be undrinkable in severe drought, contaminated by algal blooms because the emergency reserve planned by Thames Water is too shallow. The EA are going to look further at the issue. We made a strong representation that Thames Water had not answered our criticisms on this (and many other points) in their Statement of Response.

**Thames Water's Statement of Response:** do you feel that Thames Water have answered the points you made in your consultation response? As far as GARD can see in looking at TW's "Statement of Response", they did not actually answer any criticisms properly. To get your point across before Nov 20th, you can write to the Environment Agency and/or Ofwat and complain about TW's attitude. Here are the contact details (copy to your MP):

**Environmental and water quality issues:-**  
[water.resources@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:water.resources@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

**Customer costs, leakage and water efficiency issues:-**  
[wrrmp@ofwat.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:wrrmp@ofwat.gsi.gov.uk)

**Details for contacting 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, E & W Hanney, E & W Hendred, Ardington, Drayton, Garford, Milton, and Sutton Courtenay) you can contact him on [david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk)

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)

# William Johnson



This picture has been submitted by ex-Drayton resident Adrian Smith. It shows his maternal great grandfather, William Johnson and an unknown lady driving a horse and carriage during the **1953 Coronation Carnival Procession** which was held on what is now known as the Millennium Green. The carriage bears a sign advertising the **Darby & Joan Club** and the Women's Voluntary Service (with the Royal prefix being added in 1966)

It is fitting that William is shown driving the carriage at this **Remembrance time** because he had worked on a farm looking after horses before enlisting in the 5th Ox & Bucks Light Infantry in the First World War. He wore a white braid on his uniform signifying that he was qualified to look after horses and mules, a key part of the British Expeditionary Force.

William was awarded the **Military Medal** for attempting to save a wounded officer while under fire after a battle in Sept 1915 at Hooge (near Ypres). The wounded officer, Lt Woods, was trapped in a shell hole so William, under fire in daylight, crawled out of his trench and tried to get Lt Woods to safety.

Although William reached the Officer, he got hit by an exploding bullet injuring his right knee so was unable to drag both of them back to relative safety. The Officer was later rescued but sadly died of his wounds soon after. William was awarded the **Military Medal** for his bravery, received a Citation from King George V for his 'Act of Bravery' and letters from the C.O. of the 14th Light Div and the Colonel in charge of the 5th Ox & Bucks Light Regiment.

After a period of recuperation, William rejoined the war effort serving in the Labour Corps until the end of the War. He married Daisy and they eventually settled in 33 High Street, Drayton.

William died in 1961 (aged 71) and is **buried in Drayton Churchyard along with Daisy**. "We Will Remember Them"

With thanks to my uncle Tony Jackson for his research.

Adrian Smith (Abbeymead, Gloucester)



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In passing, (see the GARD piece on p13) I see that WELSH WATER (as per BBC's website, Oct 20th) have admitted illegally spilling untreated sewage at dozens of 'treatment plants' (!) for many years. One of the worst plants is at Cardigan Bay, spills for over 200 days per year, at a supposedly environmentally protected site known for otters and one of Europe's major populations of bottlenose dolphins. The 'regulator' (Natural Resources Wales) said they had known of the problems for EIGHT YEARS and issued 'enforcement notices', but NO FINES. "Regulator"?!

**VAPERS?** >> The present Govt has plans to restrict marketing and sale of vapes aimed at children (they mean teens too). Labour Party has also stated they would attack vaping companies pushing flavours like "rainbow burst" at young people. This follows rocketing numbers of this age group with severe problems in America, and a similar trend is starting here too.



## Richard Webber - Oxon CC

### ***My least favourite road?***

There are some issues that just never seem to go away. The **A415 between Abingdon and Marcham** has been a concern for many years. Fairly straight, not very wide, very busy but with little housing on either side, there have been safety issues all that time involving pedestrians, cyclists, private cars and HGVs. It took far too long to get the road reduced to 50mph. Increasing traffic levels and the narrowness of the shared pedestrian and cycle path on one side are prompting more calls for a further reduction to 40mph.

The section of the A415 between the A34 and Abingdon Town centre is suffering from the same traffic increase. This leads to congestion all around the immediate area – congestion that affects bus timetabling and makes the delivery of a 4way interchange at Lodge Hill ever more urgent.

It is the same A415 between Abingdon and Dorchester that is now ever more in the spotlight. The SODC local plan is for several thousand more homes at Culham. If and when the Didcot HIF1 Road is completed, it will deliver yet more traffic on this section of the A415.

**One wonders what the congestion is going to be like during the construction of all these projects. Roll on autonomous cars and buses.**

### ***Drayton 20mph plans***

**20mph limits through our towns and villages** are great for general health and a sense of well-being. As Drayton has discovered, the bus companies, understandably concerned about anything that interferes with their timetabling, have raised objections to some new 20mph zones. It has now been agreed that a new 20mph will be put in place in the High St and in the central section of Abingdon Rd., together with all the minor roads. Decisions on Steventon Rd and the northern end of Abingdon Rd will be negotiated when the long-awaited Neighbourhood Plan improvements are delivered. Some good news here, as we expect a firm timetable of delivery for these improvements in the New Year.

Meanwhile, it will help the argument for increasing the 20mph zone throughout the whole village, **if more of us use our bus services.** The sight of endless queues of single occupancy cars on the Drayton Rd is depressing.

### ***Mill Rd Bridge, Marcham***

As I write, a grand formal opening event is being planned. This is great news for Marcham, but also Drayton residents, walkers and cyclists. → →

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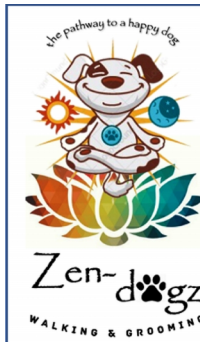
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### ***HIF1, Sutton Courtenay and Appleford***

With the final decision now in the hands of Mr Gove, the Secretary of State, and in expectation that the needs of District Councils to protect their Local Plans will take precedence, it makes sense to prepare arguments for every possible mitigation to be in place to minimise the impact of the new road on local residents. Such mitigation must include measures to sort out the noise issued in Appleford and the odour issues in Sutton Courtenay.

### ***VAS (Vehicle Activated Signs)***

The new signs are now in place on the B4016 together with mounting poles in various positions between Drayton and Sutton Courtenay. With Parish Councils' ability to move the signs between the poles, we hope to get around the issue of drivers ignoring the speed signs through over-familiarity.

### ***Party Political Conferences***

Now that the season is over [Ed's note:- HURRAY!], it is becoming ever clearer that, whoever is in power at the next election, England is going to be taking many more houses in the next few years. As one of the few parts of the country that is a net contributor to the national economy, we can expect continuous pressure to build more in our area. Hopefully, we can get the infrastructure that this housing will need. How we absorb this pressure, on top of the pressure from past lack of infrastructure provision and, of course, how we pay for it, will be the top major challenge for the new government.

***Richard Webber***

**If you have feelings on any County issues you would like me to hear, please contact me:- 07546 571521 or email [richardwebber777@gmail.com](mailto:richardwebber777@gmail.com)**

***Richard Webber***

(OCC Cllr, Sutton Courtenay & Marcham Division)

# Dovecote Controversy – (<http://dovecotedrayton.co.uk>)

[Ed's Note:- we received an article from the Residents' Association of the Dovecote, unfortunately too large for this issue – several items had to be deferred this time.

A brief summary follows, but I'll place the full article on the village website, probably in the Chronicle section, look for a piece called something like 'Dovecote Extra'?



Vale of White Horse District Council has broken a commitment to the residents of The Dovecote, the Bloor Homes development, by signing off their freehold development without involving the most important stakeholder affected, the residents themselves.

Up until March 2022, the Residents' Association had been working closely with the council's planning team re preparations for handing over the public open space, BUT since then the Vale has been holding inspection meetings with the developer without engaging with residents.

The RA says:- "We hope to avoid slipping into the clutches of a developer-imposed estate management company called FirstPort, with the inherent risk of escalating year-on-year charges for servicing the large public open space. Luckily, we have a knowledgeable community, able to argue the legal case that the developer is responsible for all costs prior to full handover. Residents have now successfully recovered FirstPort-imposed expenses from Bloor Homes and that precedent has now been established."

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So, for this occasional venture back into the Pop Chart annals, who was charting THIS time of year, going back through time? Remember these? >>

In **2013**, **Sam Bailey** was building up to be Xmas #1 with 'Skyscraper' – originally by Demi Lovato – and she is still recording and in assorted shows.

Back **20 years** & **Sophie Ellis-Bextor** had been in a 'Mixed Up World', **Blue** were 'Guilty', **Liberty X** were 'Jumpin', and **Girls Aloud** wanted people to 'Jump'!

Back to **1993** – this marked the final chart appearance of **Frank Sinatra** (with Bono) and '**I've Got You Under My Skin**'. From from the sublime to the ridiculous, THIS WAS the year that **Mr Blobby** was the Xmas #1. And Noel Edmonds wants to make a come-back . . . . .

**40 years ago** (is it REALLY so long?!) and we had **Madness** (just going out, if not already, on their millionth tour?!) in the top-5 with 'The Sun and the Rain', with just behind them **Kenny Rogers** (RIP) and **Dolly Parton** ('Islands in the Stream'). **Paul Young** just missed #1 with 'Love of the Common People', but the **Flying Pickets** made history as the first 'acapella' song to top the charts with their 'Only You'.

**FIFTY years ago** (for real old-timers), we'd just had the **Osmonds** charting ('Let Me In'), also **Slade** with one of their lesser known tracks ('My Friend Stan') - and the #1 that month was **David Cassidy** ('Daydreamer').

In November itself both **Donny & Marie Osmond** had big hits ('When I Fall in Love' & 'Paper Roses'), as did **Alvin Stardust**, with the iconic 'My Coo-Ca-Choo'. Alvin was really one Bernard William Jewry, and had an earlier success as the lead in **Shane Fenton & the Fentones**, in which he'd replaced the REAL Shane Fenton, who'd sadly died quite young as the band were about to get famous.

The #1 that month was by the **New Seekers** ('You Won't Find Another Fool Like Me'), and coming up behind them were the big Xmas hits that year, **Wizzard** with 'I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day' – really?!) and **Slade** with the #1 'Merry Xmas Everybody'. As my ears hurt after typing those few words, I'll mention that the rather more melodic **Andy Williams** was in the top-5 with 'Solitaire'.

Anyone recall **1963**?! Let me help:- this was a terrific three months, in the top-5 had been the wonderful **Ronettes** ('Be My Baby') with **Gerry & the Pacemakers** at #1 with 'You'll Never Walk Alone'.

**November's** hits had the incredible voice of **Kathy Kirby** ('Secret Love'), the wildly irritating (to watch) **Freddie & the Dreamers** ('You Were Made For Me'), one of the greatest ever female singers, **Dusty Springfield** ('I Only Want to be With You'), all topped at #1 by the **Dave Clark Five**, who were 'Glad All Over'.

Coming up just behind them was the Xmas #1, the **Beatles** and 'I Want to Hold Your Hand' (they'd have the Xmas #1 in 64 and 65 too, with 'I Feel Fine' and 'Day Tripper'). Just behind them was another Mersey group, the **Swinging Blue Jeans** with 'Hippy Hippy Shake' (still doing shows I hear – but NO original guys!), and **Gene Pitney's** eerie voice was '24 Hours From Tulsa'.

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**This month in 2013** The **50th** anniversary of **Doctor Who** was marked with both a broadcast, and cinema screenings, of 'The Day of the Doctor'. In **Scotland**, First Minister **Alex Salmond** and **Nicola Sturgeon** (whatever happened to them?) launched their Gov't's White Paper with their vision for an **Independent Scotland**.

Sadly, we lost **Grace Jones** (NOT the singer, but the last person born in the 1800s), also broadcaster **John Cole**, **Bill Foulkes** (a 'Busby Babes' survivor of the Munich air crash, 4th on the Man Utd appearances list), and **Lewis Collins** (actor of 'Professionals' fame).

**TWENTY years ago** the term "**binge-watch**" got into the English Dictionary, and this month was the last ever flight for **Concorde**, back to Filton (Bristol) aerodrome. It was also the last outing for '**Brookside**', and we (UK) won the Rugby Union World Cup, beating Australia (hurray!).

Sadly, we lost **Bobby Hatfield** (one half of the 'Righteous Brothers'), and actor **Art Carney**.

**This month in 1993** the **Maastricht Treaty** took effect, establishing the EU in its present form. Also the Govt passed the Railways Act, privatising **British Rail**, which had become a loss-maker with awful old trains. Oh, and the **Civil Service** had a 1-day strike (nobody noticed).

We lost director **Gerald Thomas** (loads of 'Carry On' films!) and by an odd coincidence, also **Kenneth Connor** (of 'Carry On' and 'Allo Allo' fame).

**FORTY years ago** the world of **Organ Transplants** was revolutionised, when 'cyclosporine' was approved – a breakthrough with immuno-suppressants. The **Walton** sextuplets were born (goodness – all those nappies, then cards and presents?!), and it was the year of the **Brinks-Mat** gold bullion robbery. That year was also the first of the **Terry Pratchett** 'Discworld' books (any fans? – not for me!), and sadly we lost iconic actor **John Le Mesurier**.

**This month in 1973** - **Last Of The Summer Wine** first aired (ran to 2010, world's longest running sitcom!) **Princess Anne** married (Capt) Mark Phillips, & **Ryan Giggs** was born (would set Man Utd's matches record).

## More Notices

You are warmly invited to the **AGM** of the **Abingdon Damascus Youth Project**  
To be held on **Nov 14th** (7.30pm), in the **Sutton Courtenay Village Hall**  
**All Welcome.**

**Abingdon LIBRARY** has masses more events than you might expect from a mere library!  
See their full list at  
<https://www.facebook.com/AbingdonLibrary>  
But **DO SEE** their ex-stock **Book Sales**, last Friday & Saturday of each month

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## Other Local Churches

**Catholic Churches** – Didcot (English Martyrs)  
- Abingdon (Our Lady & St Edmund)

### Milton Methodist Church News

**Services** start at 10.30am, and last about an hour.

**We are always pleased to welcome visitors.**

(for those unaware, the Church is on Milton High St, a few doors down from School Lane, parking on site)

**Knit and Natter**, 4th Tuesday of the month:-

**Sessions run from 10am - 12 noon** cost £2 including refreshments (& wool as available). Come and join us if you enjoy knitting and/or nattering! **(01235 763321)**

**Lunch Club** (First Tuesday), 12.30pm

**Art Group** 2 to 4pm, Fridays

As seen on the 'Love Cats' website – cat owners will be well aware of the daft things they do, & places got into! [this one may be propagating some bulbs?!]



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[Ed's note:- At time of going to print, 3 weeks into Oct, the Post Office has not yet reopened after its refurb - but they may well have done by the time you read this!]

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## LISTINGS

**CHRISTMAS CRACKER Event** St Peter's Church, Sat Nov 25th (10am to Noon, don't be late!!) - a sale of handcrafted and home-made goods, cards, cakes, etc, Children's Corner, Lucky Dip, Mulled Wine & yes, Mince Pies (already!). Proceeds to the **Church Fabric Fund**.

**MATRIX Arts Centre (Sutton Courtenay)** Latest in their Music events, Sunday Nov 19th, 4 to 5pm, String Quartet OXUS present a varied set of works, tickets £15/£7. For more info see >> [www.matrixartscentre.org.uk](http://www.matrixartscentre.org.uk)

**The Abingdon Cinema** has lots of forthcoming films (& they do a **great milkshake!**), I did see these two:- Nov 7th 10am and 2pm **Dr Zhivago** (a classic!), & Dec 2nd (7.30) and 3rd (1pm), Andre Rieu's dazzling (and melodic!) **White Christmas** (check with cinema if they're OK with any waltzing in the aisles?!)

**Antiques Fair - In the Village Hall - Sunday Nov 5th (& Dec 3rd too)** from 9am (to about 3pm). Varied stalls, just £1 entry, and the chance of an ace bacon sarnie, toasties, etc!

**The Oxford Vaccine Group**, and the Jenner Institute, are frequently looking for volunteers to test new vaccines, you need to be 18 to 55, and they usually pay for your time (sometimes very well). <https://trials.ovg.ox.ac.uk/trials/>

**The ART of British War Comics** A new exhibition showing the history of such comics (goes back 130 years!) with some rare and original artwork. In partnership with REBELLION Publishing (Oxford) a major publisher of such titles (& Roy of the Rovers!). **Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum**, Park Street, Woodstock, it's from Oct 1st (runs to April 30th). Tues to Sat, 11am to 5pm, Sundays 2 to 5pm, see [www.sofa.org.uk](http://www.sofa.org.uk)

**And ALSO at the Woodstock (Oxfordshire) Museum** - the **Oxfordshire Craft Guild** have their annual pre-Xmas exhibition, **Nov 18th** (to Dec 31st) with a wide range of jewellery, ceramics and other crafts, ideal for that slightly out of the ordinary gift. (they're closed on Mondays though)

**Henley Christmas Craft Fair (actually at Stonor Park)** has a huge collection of stalls, Nov 23rd to 26th.

**READERS - Got a Spare Book or 2?** - IF so, why not pop along to the **Community LIBRARY** (outside 49 Whitehorns Way), drop it/them off, do a swap perhaps (they've a fair stock).

### VALE of WH District Council

If you need any help, or feel you may need it, even post-lockdown, PLEASE don't hesitate to contact our Community Hub -- details are on [page 11 of this issue](#).

# DRAYTONDIARIES

## (Mostly) Hall Diary for November

All events held in Drayton Hall unless otherwise stated  
To book the Hall :- bookings@draytonvh.co.uk or call Tony Holmes on  
(01235) 531180; see the website :- www.draytonvh.co.uk  
(for other regular events, see the R-H column >>>)

Sat	4	11.00am	Private Function (child's party)
Sun	5	9.00am	ANTIQUES FAIR (to 3pm)
Tues	7	1.00pm	Jewellery Valuation
Sat	11	9.00am	HAMSTER Show (see p7)
Sun	12	9.00am	Private Function (dog show)
Tues	14	7.00pm	<b>Parish Council Meeting</b> <i>Caudwell DC</i>
Sat	18		Private Function (all day)
Mon	20	5.00pm	<b>CHRONICLE DEADLINE (p2)</b>
Sat	25		Private Function (all day)
Sun	26	10.00pm	Private Function (child's party)



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Here's the 'Regular Events' diary, IF we've missed something, or one is wrong, DO PLEASE let us know!

## 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

- 4.15 pm Karate/'Dojang X' sessions (Ad p10 : 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*

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