



DRAYTON CHRONICLE



Season's Greetings to all our Readers!



Chronicle Information



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

Issue:	Deadline for Contributions:		Printed Chronicles available on:
	Adverts	Editor	
Jan/Feb	12 th Jan	15 th Jan	26 th Jan
March	16 th Feb	19 th Feb	1 st March

Notes for Contributors

Contributions to and advertisements in the Chronicle are **very welcome**. Please send us your letters, reports from village clubs and societies, articles, tips and advice, photos, suggestions etc. Please be sure always to include your name, address, and (in case clarification is needed) your phone number. Without names we will usually not print an item at all. The editor reserves the right to place, edit, shorten or even reject contributions as required.

Please send your contributions by email to: editor@draytonchronicle.net

Advertisement requests should be sent to: advertising@draytonchronicle.net

If email is not possible, please place your contribution, either typed or handwritten, in the Chronicle box outside Vickery's Hardware Store on Drayton Green, or post to Vickery's, 5 The Green, Drayton, Abingdon, Oxon. OX14 4JA.

After the deadlines, only urgent items will be considered for inclusion and then only if emailed, or delivered directly to the editor's house, by the Wednesday following the deadline.

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

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

Double-sized adverts (approx. 9cm X 9cm) are charged at twice the above rates. All advertising MUST be paid for in advance, either electronically, in cash or by cheque made payable to 'The Drayton Chronicle' and placed in the box at, or sent to, Vickery's. Requests for advertisements should (preferably) be emailed to Stephen Fearnley, the Chronicle advertising manager (advertising@draytonchronicle.net), or placed in the box at Vickery's. If you wish to discuss your requirements, please phone Stephen on 01235 531347. Note: deadline for ads is the Friday before the deadline for contributions (see top of page).

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

Drayton Players present

Away with the Fairies this Christmas
An adult Christmas comedy play by Sue Hadley
Fri 8th December at 8.00pm
Sat 9th December at 7.30pm
Steventon Village Hall
The Green, Steventon OX13 6RR
Tickets: £7.50 from
Vickerys Hardware Store, Drayton,
40 Castle St, Steventon, OX13 6SR
www.TryBooking.co.uk/CTER (+fees)
Tel **01235 821351** or on the door
Website: www.DraytonPlayers.org.uk

BAPTIST CHURCH

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



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

Look out for the Baptist Café with tea, coffee, cake and a chat – Thursdays 11.00am – 1pm in the Caudwell Day Centre.

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Sunday Service: 10.30 am
Local contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409



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ST PETER'S CHURCH, DRAYTON

ST PETER'S LETTER



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

The church is open daily, Sun-Sat 10.00 am- 3.00 pm
REGULAR SERVICES:
Sunday 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) on 3rd Sunday of the month only.
Sunday 9.30 am Regular Sunday Service
Thursday 9.45 am Holy Communion (1st and 3rd Thursdays), Celtic Morning Prayer (2nd and 4th Thursdays)
Everyone is welcome.

Christmas Services at St Peter's.
Sunday 17th December
 6.00p.m Nine Lessons and Carols Service at All Saints, Sutton Courtenay.
Saturday 24th December 11:30p.m – Midnight Communion
Sunday 25th December 9:30a.m – Family Morning Praise for Christmas Day.
Sunday 31st December 11.00am – DAMASCUS Parish service at All Saints, Sutton Courtenay
CHRISTINGLE SERVICE This service will take place on **28th January 2024 .**
BRING A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE!
 Would you like to remember a loved one at Christmas by writing their name on a star or a Christmas tag? These can be hung on the Christmas tree in St Peter's from Sunday 17th December.

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

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

Pebbles Baby and Toddler Group
Wednesday mornings 10.00a.m. – 11.30a.m (term-time only)
 If you have a baby or toddler, you would be so welcome to join us. We meet in Church. For more information please contact Katy or Cheryl draytonpebbles@hotmail.com

From the Ministry Team...

Dear Friends

This year I find myself thinking about Christmas every time I hear or see the news. Reports of terrible suffering bring a sober challenge to how the historical events around Bethlehem have been turned into a Festivitymas by consumer excess. News and images of young migrants forced to move from their place of birth with no secure abode once they arrive at their destination. Political and military threat surround the population: poverty in body and spirit are everywhere. Few have secure homes or places to stay. Infants are the most vulnerable, but the despised, the outsiders are hardly better off as they eke out a meagre existence in the wild, harsh hillsides.

To the world 2000+ years ago comes the same message as today: *'Do not be afraid, I bring you good news.'* The first to hear such news are the innocent, the vulnerable, the ordinary and the despised. The most precious word for this Christmas is the same as 2000 years ago; it is **Emmanuel** - God is with us. I pray that this Christmas we do not 'spend' Christmas or 'observe' Christmas but rather 'keep' it and 'share' it.

Christmas/sacred Christ/massacred – where do I draw the line?

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,

When the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations,

To bring peace among brothers, to make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman's poem "The Work of Christmas"

Phil

Revd Philip Sutton

Associate Minister, DAMASCUS Parish:

Drayton | Appleford | Milton |

Sutton Courtenay | Steventon

Tel: 01235 635476 Mobile: 07507378737

You stay, we pray (December 2023)

26th Nov – 2nd Dec	Friars Mews; Monk Close; Prior Drive; Abbot Crescent
3rd – 9th Dec	Chestnut Drive; Holly Lane; Walnut Way; Willow Way
10th – 16th Dec	Furlongs; Plough Lane; Furrows End; Lammas Land; Virgate; Fallowfield Close
17th – 23rd Dec	Lockway
24th – 30th Dec	Whitehorns Way
31st Dec – 6th Jan	Corneville Rd; Crabtree Lane; Lesparre Close

Bell ringing practice –

every Monday evening 7:30pm

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Baptism

Sunday 19th November **Emily Juna Devenish**

Funeral

Tuesday 14th November **Barbara Jean Carter**

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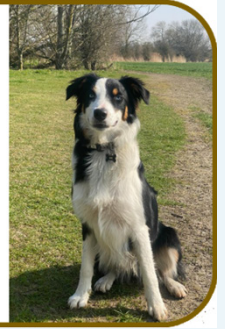
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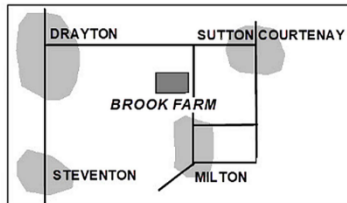
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OX14 4EZ

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GARD – GROUP AGAINST RESERVOIR DEVELOPMENT

Too BIG to be ignored:

- the surface area is 6.7km² (the area of Gatwick Airport)
- the height of the sides is 25m (the height of an 8-storey block of flats)

GARD Newsletter for December 2023

GARD has written to the Secretary of State for DEFRA (Steve Barclay) to ask him to confirm the timetable for his decision on the Thames Water plans, and particularly for the Mega-Reservoir. Our information on the grapevine is that this will be around the end of November. We will let all residents know his decision (Newsletter or Village website).

Until then, GARD will continue to send in our list of **Unresolved Issues** about the Reservoir plan, which Thames Water refuse to answer properly. Looking at TW's "Statement of Response", GARD finds that they did not actually answer criticisms properly. **If you feel that they have not answered complaints you made to Thames Water in the consultation, you can write to the Environment Agency and/or Ofwat and complain. This should be done as soon as possible, so it can inform the Secretary of State's decision.** Email your complaint to one of these and please **Copy** to your MP and to GARD :

- **Environmental and water quality issues:** water.resources@defra.gsi.gov.uk, and Water-Company-Plan@xn--environmentagency-0z2j.gov.uk
- **Costs to customers, leakage and water efficiency issues:** wrrmp@ofwat.gov.uk

In the meantime, Thames Water are on a 'charm offensive' trying to sell the Reservoir plans to local residents. They were met by protesters at their 'Drop-in event' at East Hanney Village Hall on 10th November, when Councillor Sally Povolotsky and Helen Marshall (Oxfordshire Director for CPRE) were interviewed by Press and TV. Thanks to all protesters, including other Vale and Parish Councillors from Steventon, East Hanney and East Hendred. Thames Water gave the usual PR-based presentation (not a bulldozer in sight on any of the posters, one assumes the work will be done by birds and butterflies). We are promised 'leisure facilities' (which we already have, and which they have no idea how they will provide, after devastating the area), but **our questions on disruption, pollution, flooding and safety of the structure were brushed aside.** **We must keep up the pressure for the Reservoir plans to be scrapped!**

Details for contacting your MP: make your voice count:

- David Johnston, Wantage david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk
- Layla Moran Abingdon layla.moran.mp@parliament.uk

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

Derek Stork, Chairman GARD

Thames Water's Conceptual Design of the Reservoir: it's HUGE



<https://thames-wrrmp.co.uk/document-library/>

Scroll down to SESRO documents where you will find the Information Brochure which was handed out at the Public Engagement events in East Hanney and Steventon



**Christmas
At The Red Lion**
Drayton's Christmas market at The Red Lion
Sat 2nd December from 12.00

Syn City Rockers live music
Sat 16th December 8pm-late

Brunch with Elsa Wed 20th December

Fizz Friday EVERY FRIDAY

Celebrate New Year's Eve with a pop and a boogie
& a free glass of bubbly at midnight!

& Why not have your Christmas party here with us at The Red Lion?
Find us on Facebook and Instagram to keep up
to date with all of our upcoming events.

Contact Deborah for any further information on
07939023983

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The Secretary to the Trustees
85 High Street
Drayton
OX14 4JW
Tel: 07717 846632
Email: sharonrosher@hotmail.co.uk

Please note this is not a warden assisted property and all residents must be able to live independently. The accommodation (bungalow) consists of a sitting room, kitchen, tiled bathroom with shower, double bedroom, gas heating, good storage, communal gardens. Very reasonable weekly charge (water rates included with this) and maintained by the Trustees

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COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT



Are we losing the ability to disagree constructively? For much of the past month, I have been fielding questions/concerns and sometimes abuse over transport and highway issues. From Oxford's LTN's (about which I can do very little) to 20mph zones (which I fully support) these issues provoke strong feelings. Of course they matter, but with our social services under evermore financial strain, and a cost of living crisis that will not go away, it is interesting, and a bit depressing, that potholes and restrictions on traffic speed seem to dominate the local agenda.

There has, however, been good news (most agree).

The delivery of the long-awaited Drayton Road Build out in Sutton Courtenay together with the new SID (speed indicator devices) will, we hope, go some way to improving the accident statistics and quality of life along that road - similar hopes for the new SID at Appleford Railway Bridge.

The completion of the Mill Road bridge in Marcham will allow greater access to the countryside for residents of Marcham and Drayton once the weather co-operates.

Work continues to resolve County and District planning issues in Drayton.

Work between District and County Councils on the Joint Vale and South Local Plan continues apace. New government allowing, we are hopeful that Housing delivery targets will be more modest than many we're expecting.

Whatever the numbers are, planning enforcement is in dire need of reform. Many councils do not have the resources to provide a decent service. Too few enforcement officers and a set of regulations lacking teeth, have steadily eroded public confidence in the planning system. Too often planning conditions side-stepped and even ignored, weak penalties for abuse, an endlessly forgiving system over retrospective planning applications and overlong time given to applicants to comply with conditions, have all resulted in a general perception that planning is entirely in the hands of developers rather than planning authorities. It is time for a wholesale revision of planning regulations to restore public confidence in the system.

The Thames Water plans for a Reservoir rumble on. Thames Water would now like the reservoir to be even larger. Most local residents would like the whole idea to be shelved. 2024 may well turn out to be decisive.

And finally, has anyone else noticed the enormous increase in the local squirrel population? We now have a family who have settled in under our eaves and are becoming increasingly assertive. There is one who looks back in through our window in the mornings, with a look of defiance on its face having spent the night chewing through the wire mesh, moth balls and polystyrene filler we have used to try to fill its access points. Using poison which birds and pets can pick up, we are told, is illegal and I don't own a blunderbus. We are now trying "pigeon spikes" – potentially turning the house into a prison camp. Are these squirrels just picking on us or are others having problems?

Richard Webber. Cllr
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Abingdon Library Regular Events

Weekly

Varying days of the week

- Digital helper
- AM and PM appointments*

Monday

- Lego Club
- 4:00 - 5:00 pm Drop-in

More events on our
website and Facebook page

Tuesday

- Language Café
- 10:00 am-12 noon Drop-in

Wednesday

- Rhyme Time
- 9:30 & 11:00 am Drop-in

Saturday

- Code Club
- 10:00-11:00 am*
- Storytime 2:30 pm Drop-in

Monthly

First Monday

- Mind (Mental Health)
- 10:00 am-12:00 pm Drop-in

Second Monday

- Stop for Life (Smoking)
- 9:00 am-12:00 pm Drop-in

Third Wednesday

- Adult reading group
- 5:30 - 6:30 pm*

*Please ask to register/
make an appointment

First Friday

- UCARE (Urology Cancer Research & Education)
- 9:30 am - 12:00 pm Drop-in
- Children's book club
- 3:30 - 4:15 pm*

Third Friday

- Teenage book club
- 3:30 - 4:15 pm*

Last Friday & Saturday

- Ex-stock book sale

Fourth Saturday

- Oxfordshire Family History PM appointments*



Abingdon Library, The Charter, Abingdon, OX14 3LY | 01235 520374 | abingdon.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk | www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries



LETTER FROM WESTMINSTER



Thank you very much to the 2,127 people who signed my petition to re-open Grove Station. It shows again the huge strength of feeling on this locally, and I will now be presenting it to the House of Commons and to the Department for Transport to make the case to them. Thanks too to Andy Holding of the Wantage and Grove Rail Supporters Group for his support. I will keep pushing for this station, which makes economic, social, and environmental sense.

We are the proud home of the 11 EOD and Search Regiment at Vauxhall Barracks in Didcot, and it was a pleasure to visit again and meet Lt Col Rob Swan and the team. Just this year they have so far responded to more than 1,800 requests in the UK to deal with explosive devices and I planted a remembrance stake in Parliament's Garden of Remembrance in their honour. I also, as ever, took part in poignant remembrance services and parades – this year in Wantage and Didcot. Thank you to everyone who made them happen.

UK Parliament Week takes place every November, and I was pleased to visit local schools and talk to different youth organisations about my role as an MP and how they can get involved in politics, including: Wallingford School, St Michael's CofE Primary School in Steventon, Brightwell Primary School, St Blaise Primary School, the 7th Abingdon Beavers, Chilton Explorer Scout Unit and Brightwell cum Sotwell Scouts.

I have been campaigning to improve our roads since I was elected and I have now launched my Local Roads Survey to give you the opportunity to tell me exactly where you are seeing issues on our roads that need to be resolved – including potholes, congestion, speeding and other safety concerns. I want to pull together a complete map of all the issues we are facing, and where, so that I can raise these with the road authorities. Fill it out at www.david-johnston.org.uk/RoadsSurvey.

Now that I am the Minister for Children, Families and Wellbeing, one of the things I have responsibility for is overseeing the Government's big new expansion in childcare for parents. Once it is completed in Autumn 2025, it will give working parents 30 hours of free childcare every week from when their child is 9 months old until they start school. It is great to be involved in delivering this exciting new policy and you can see exactly what you're eligible for at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

It is also great that the Prime Minister has successfully delivered on his promise to halve inflation by the end of the year. It involved hard decisions and discipline, but it is right that we focused on this as inflation eats away at the pound in your pocket and has had negative effects on both prices and interest rates.

I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As ever, if I can help with anything then do, please get in touch via johnston.mp@parliament.uk

Yours, David Johnston MP



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Please note that we will be closed on New Year's day and will taking a short break in January. Notices will be posted in the window at the time
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DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT



Dear all,

Free Christmas Parking days – Abingdon, Wantage, and Faringdon

In order to encourage people to visit the independent shops in our local towns for Christmas gifts and support local businesses, drivers can park for free in local car parks on the following Saturdays:

- Abingdon: 2, 9 and 16 December
- Faringdon: 2, 9 and 16 December
- Wantage: 9, 16 and 23 December

On the selected days there's no need to display a ticket, however maximum stay times still apply in specific car parks. The car park machines will also indicate free parking.

Waste vehicles

There have been some articles in local papers about South and Vale buying eight diesel bin lorries. I thought I should pass on what's happened.

The fleet of waste vehicles is reaching the end of life, and the contract for waste services with Biffa is up for negotiation/end/re-let/whatever the decision will be (obviously all commercial, so I don't necessarily know and if I did, wouldn't be in a position to say much). A small number of them needed replacement urgently. Electric vehicles would be the first choice, but after trials, they weren't suitable (other than for food waste, so that one IS electric).

The most cost-effective way forwards was for us to purchase these eight and Biffa are leasing them from us. This also gives us control over the replacement cycle so we can jump onto the options of using EVs or alternative fuels vehicles when they do become available/practical (albeit the chances of this within the life of these vehicles is unfortunately not high).

New Joint Local Plan

The second round of consultation is about to be launched on developing the new Joint Local Plan to 2041. Remember: this Plan provides the legislative underpinning for decisions on planning applications, sets out how and where new developments should happen, sets standards for carbon and energy efficiency, and guides infrastructure needs across both districts.

This consultation will ask for your thoughts on proposed approaches across a bunch of policy areas (including community infrastructure and transport needs, affordable housing, protecting and enhancing local heritage and landscapes, and nature recovery).

Proposals include reduction of the number of new houses needed each year (whilst rebalancing to *increase* the number of affordable houses), increase biodiversity, and improve minimum standards on water and energy efficiency, and more.)

The consultation will launch in January, but you can get a sneak preview of the materials, as they'll be put in front of Joint Scrutiny on the 27th of November (I'll be very interested, as I'm on this particular committee). Details are here:

<https://democratic.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=549&MIId=3182>

SESRO (Reservoir) Update

Thames Water have conducted a bunch of local "engagement sessions" recently, during which they appeared to imply things would be going faster and were more or less a done deal.*

This is not correct. When I pressed them during one such session, pointing out a swathe of answers yet to be given on floodplain encroachment, dam-breach analysis and risk details, costings, carbon calculations, microclimate issues (radiative fogs sweeping down over the A34), the effects of flexing 150 megatonnes of water on and off the clay floor of the Vale, no details on any way of mitigating their own flagged-up issues with Intrusive Non-Native Species that would otherwise require a total prohibition of any recreational use, etc), they then said it was very early days. That they would expect to address this later.

The Development Consent Order process they have mentioned in these sessions is not as straightforward as implied, either, and would require FULL answers before it could go ahead. There are a number of planning hurdles they have to jump that they have glossed over, and we will be acting upon these (without, of course, prejudging or prejudicing them, as that would render our interventions powerless). Should they manage to push a DCO through incorrectly, it would be subject to Judicial Review.

Their arguments against the Severn-Thames Transfer remain weak and inconsistent. It all seems down to the fact that they would not directly control the water coming into the region – an issue that can be simply addressed by stronger governance and regulation. That *is* something we can press on.

We are introducing a motion in the next Council meeting addressing our concerns (and including a request for an all-Party meeting with the Secretary of State to discuss our concerns and requesting a pause on the programme until addressed.) This may well, of course, be refused (although I've learned to be less cynical about such things over my time as Councillor, having seen more effectiveness than I'd previously assumed), but it will at the very least add to a body of material to be presented during the overall planning process and highlight the specifics above.

Cost of Living

Whilst the inflation rate has, thankfully, dropped somewhat, wages still have a long way to go to catch up with the (still inflating – albeit a bit slower) cost of living. As the cold weather bites, the Cost of Living crisis will bite harder.

Do not forget the Community Hub which is available for practical support or just advice. Details for this are below:

Tel: 01235 422600

Email: communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk

Website: whitehorsedc.gov.uk/costofliving

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

All the best,
Andy

***Ed note** (overheard at the Milton Hill Hotel Reservoir Public Engagement session): Why are all the images of the reservoir shown from above, and not from the side (which is what we will see)? What is the energy cost (and hence environmental cost) of pumping all this water to fill the reservoir, rather than using gravity at another location? When will residents see the risk analysis for dam breaches and sabotage? Why are Thames Water giving no information about changes to the local climate resulting from this body of water, e.g. fog? How much disruption to the Drayton Rd and National Cycle Route Number 5 is anticipated for the construction of the pipeline to and from the Thames?

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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



Parish Council Report

The Council met on 14th November

Walnut Meadows

This is a case of two steps forward and 1 and 3/4 steps back. Planning conditions require that the Parish Council (PC) undertake an archaeological survey of the strip of land on the site designated for the sports facilities. We had hoped that work on this would begin in November. However, despite repeated requests, Miller Homes have refused to allow access to the site before the land is transferred to the Parish Council. We are hoping that work will now commence in January. The transfer of the sports facility land to the PC has been delayed due to queries about potential liabilities relating to roads maintenance. Some key roads, including Chestnut Drive are due to be adopted by Oxfordshire County Council, however further work is required by Miller Homes to bring these roads up to standard. Progress on this appears to have stalled as OCC Highways have no staff to progress the matter with no officer currently assigned to the project.

The PC has requested that Miller Homes complete the landscaping work on the sports pitch area and have been assured that this will be completed before Christmas.

Manor Farm

The PC have chased CALA for an update on the remedial issues required to be undertaken on the public open space following our meeting with them in July. We will continue to try to get this work completed.

Traffic calming

As reported last month, we are awaiting a report from OCC on their recommendations for traffic calming measures as set out in the Neighbourhood Development plan.

You can tell from the tone of this that a lot of time is currently being spent chasing OCC and housing developers!

Burial ground

A notice board is to be erected in the burial ground. This will contain information about the rules and regulations for the site. Please note that no plastic, (including plastic flowers) are allowed in the burial ground.

We have had some of the area to the south of the burial ground cleared, but there is still some further work to clear stumps from the ground. This will be done by the village caretaker

Defibrillator

The PC is exploring possible locations in the centre of the village for a 2nd defibrillator to be installed.

Next Meeting

Note that the next Parish Council meeting will take place on 5th December starting at 7:00pm and will be held at the Village Hall.

Please contact the PC (clerk@draytonpc.org) if you have any queries or issues, or feel free to attend the meeting.

Elaine Wade

Happy Christmas and New Year.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on December 5th at 7.00pm in Drayton Village Hall (small hall).

Elaine Wade
Drayton Parish Council
clerk@draytonpc.org

For further Parish Council info.....

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

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

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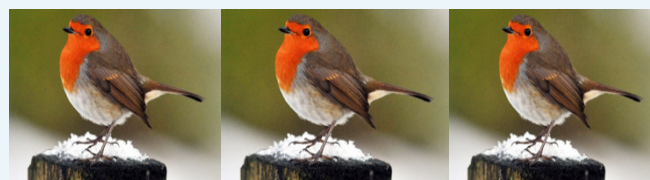
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LOCAL GROUPS and CLUBS

Drayton Table Tennis Club

Our teams are approaching 1/3 of the way through the current season. Five of the six are doing very well in their respective divisions which is a very promising outlook as we head towards Christmas. In Division One the Artisans are in 3rd place having won five of their eight matches played to date. Captain Matt Davies has won 21 of his 24 matches and returning player Karl Bushell has won 11 of his 12. In Division Two, Buzzards and Corinthians lie first and second at the time of writing having played eight matches. Unfortunately, Dingos are third from bottom but with the signing of Ricky Giblin, another returning player, they hope to move away from that area very soon.

We have two teams in Division Three, where Flamingos are in 3rd place and Eagles are in 5th having played two matches fewer than most of the teams, due to suffering from a couple of postponements.

The draw for this season's Bidmead Cup competition Has taken place. We were runners up last season and hope too at least do as well. Kevin Davies has agreed to continue as captain and our first-round match is at Wallingford on the 2nd of January 2024. It is a straight knockout competition so we need to hit the ground running.

Our Monday night practise and coaching sessions continue to operate at Thameside School from 7:00 PM each week. We are happy to receive new members both children and adults aged 9 to 90 will find a friendly environment and a warm welcome.

Finally, I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

John Gould
Chairman

W.I. Report

This month we all listened to Terry Mason, a villager of many years, on and off, here and there but one of us. He told us about how he met Doreen and promptly left her for two years while he went on a work venture to the Falklands and islands to the south around the Cape. The slides were amazing but mainly white! The team of eight took readings of many natural happenings, wind, temperatures, snow depth and much more. They travelled to various stations around by dog sled. Dog language had to be learned but the lead dog of five was female because they were more intelligent (we knew that didn't we!) Meals were cooked by all in rotation and many and varied in content including some of the wildlife on hand. What wasn't palatable was fed to the dogs. The wildlife around them was mainly penguins, from small ones in flocks to very large ones to be avoided as their tempers didn't like visitors invading their space. There were also seals around. All these creatures provide a meal of varying palatability, some made very tasty roasts some went to the dogs, they weren't so fussy. Temperatures varied from minus forty ish to a balmy minus 10. Not my idea of fun. So interesting and spectacular. Thank you Terry!

Next month is our Christmas meeting - if you are a member and want to attend, please bring your Santa sack gift. In Day Centre at 7.30 pm on 14th December, a Wreath-making demonstration will be given and equipment will be available to purchase.

Ann Webb

Chronicle Christmas Gathering

To everyone involved in the production and distribution of the Chronicle in any way,
thank you!!!!

Please join us for Christmas Drinks and Mince Pies

**When: Wednesday 6th December
at 7.30pm**

**Where: the bar area at the
Village Hall.**

Please RSVP to:

editor@draytonchronicle.net

**We look forward to seeing you
there!**

Drayton Wives

A great opportunity has arisen for new members to join Drayton Wives. This local group has been about for at least 60 years when it provided a place for the wives of Drayton to meet.

So, if you are looking for a lovely lively group to join (unfortunately it is restricted to ladies) come and meet us.

Our programme consists of monthly meetings with speakers who talk about a myriad of topics. These we have on a Wednesday which is usually the last Wednesday of the month at 2.00pm in The Drayton Village hall.

There is a coffee morning once a month on a Monday morning which is the second Monday of the month. And for those who love crafts there is also a craft meeting in The Caudwell centre on the 3rd Monday of the month.

The entry for this is only £2 per session where you can also enjoy a tea or coffee and a biscuit!!!!

We also run two coach outings every year, one in the summer and one in the autumn both of which are reasonably priced. This year we went to the Black Country Museum at Dudley and this Christmas we are off to Winchester.

And I nearly forgot to mention our walks once a month which are free if you join and typically end in a pub lunch!!!!

So if you would like to join us and become part of the best group in Drayton we only charge a subscription of £15.00 a year which is very reasonable!!!

Do get in touch or come to one of our meetings.

Lisa Lammiman

Chairman

07449275641

Candlelight Carol Service



**Drayton Hall at 7.00pm
Sunday 3rd December**

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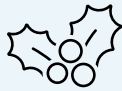
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 Saturday 20th January | 2:30pm
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Christmas Joy with Oxford Gospel Choir

Saturday 9 Dec 2023



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ATTEND



CORNERSTONE arts entertainment culture

Heart Of Winter

Monday 18 Dec 2023 to Sunday 24 Dec 2023



Ticket Information

Prices: £17, £15.30 Concessions, £10 Under 16s

Age recommendation: suitable for ages 3-8 and their families

Running time approximately 90 min including interval

Relaxed & signed performances on Thursday 21 December!

CORNERSTONE arts entertainment culture

Jingle Bell Jazz

Friday 15 Dec 2023 5:00pm

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DRAYTON VILLAGE NEWS

Post Office

Following recent closure for a full refurbishment by the new owners, the Post Office and Village Store has recently reopened, complete with Beer Cave. The bright, new interior has a much broader product range, and the walk-in chilled Beer Cave is the first of its kind in Oxfordshire. The opening hours are now Monday – Saturday 7.00am to 10.00pm, Sunday 8.00am to 10.00pm. Post Office opening hours are 9.00am to 6.00pm.



The original Post Office (other side of The Wheatsheaf)

The Red Lion

The Red Lion is an eighteenth-century former Coaching Inn, dating back to the days of horse-drawn carriages when Drayton was a stop on journeys from Oxford south towards Newbury and Winchester (no A34 in those days!)

Under the new management of Deborah and team since September, the interior of the Red Lion has already been refreshed, and Drayton residents may also have noticed that The Happy Plaice Fish and Chip Van and Soleluna Neapolitan Pizza Van have appeared in the carpark, on Sunday and Friday evenings respectively. Pick up your food and enjoy it in The Red Lion with a refreshing drink.

Future plans include freshly-cooked food, improvements to the large rear garden, and more events. See their advert on page 6 for details of December events.



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- Postal vote staff – Abingdon, 22 April to 2 May (various shifts available)

To register your interest, simply email electionstaff@southandvale.gov.uk. Our Elections team will send all the information and ask you to confirm your availability for the various roles.

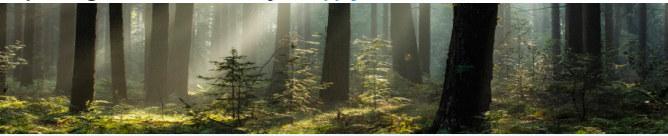
What to do if our waste collections are affected by bad weather

As winter begins to set in - if we get bad snow or ice in the district - it may not be safe for our trucks and crews to make their usual rounds. If we don't manage to empty your bins on your scheduled day, please leave them out for two more days and we'll do our best to come back. If after three days we haven't managed to empty them please bring them back in and we'll empty them next time they're due – if this happens, you'll be able to leave extra waste out beside your bin.

For the latest information on any disruptions and what to do please visit our website, call the Biffa call centre on 03000 610 610 or follow our social media channels.

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The Woodland Trust is giving FREE trees to schools and communities. The Trust is currently taking applications for tree packs to be delivered in March 2024. Applications are expected to close in January, or sooner depending on stock availability. [To apply see their website.](#)



OBITUARY - Barbara Carter

It is with sadness we announce the death of Barabara Carter/ née Gibbens, who passed away peacefully at home on October 27th 2023.

Barbara moved into a brand new build in Lockway, Drayton some 60 years ago. During the '60s Barbara was a popular lunchtime supervisor at Drayton Primary School, and would escort pupils from the old School in the High Street to the modern School with a kitchen, in Hilliat Fields for lunch.

Being a member of Drayton wives club when it was first established, it enabled Barbara to be an active member of the village community & warmly welcoming newcomers to the village.

Sadly, Barbara's first husband passed away at a young age but after her children grew older she married again at Drayton Baptist Church and continued to enjoy attending services at both the Baptist Church and St Peter's Church, embracing the friendly coffee mornings.

Always a pleasure never a chore, Barbara would always have time for those who needed a little company or a friendly chat whilst delivering the Drayton Chronicle. Always so excited when someone on her round won a prize!

She was a keen & successful member of Drayton Short Mat bowling club, taking part in competitions both at home and away and winning many trophies! She also enjoyed attending the Caudwell Day Centre for company of friends and a game of whist.

During the last years of her life, she suffered from dementia. This, however, didn't affect her knowing family, friends and continuing to be warm & welcoming towards people she just met. Dementia didn't take away her wicked sense of humour and still with a twinkle in her eyes.

We celebrated Barbara's life at St Peters Church on 14th November.
Julie Quigley (daughter)

Family Christmas Numbers

Quiz with a PRIZE!

The answer to each question is a number.

Simply work out the total 😊

1. How many letters are in the French word for Christmas?
2. How many reindeer are in the poem A Visit from St Nicholas, aka 'Twas the Night before Christmas?
3. How many gifts are in the 12 Days of Christmas song in total?
4. How many times does the number 1 appear on an advent calendar with 24 doors?
5. On his first Christmas at Hogwarts, what was the measly gift that Harry Potter received from the Dursleys?
6. In how many different ways can the letters in the word XMAS be rearranged?
7. The Christmas Story refers to Three Wise Men. If 3 Wise = 27, what is $Y^2 - 10$?
8. How many ghosts appear in The Christmas Carol?
9. How many sizes does the Grinch's heart grow by on Christmas Day?
10. When was the film *White Christmas* released?

To enter the competition, we just need the total of the answers to the above ten questions, together with your name, address and phone number, placed in the Chronicle Box outside Vickery's Hardware Shop at The Green, Drayton.

The first correct entry opened on December 20th will win the prize of a £20 voucher for a popular local shop.



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NOTICEBOARD 2



Candlelight Carols
Drayton Village Hall
 6.45 for 7.00pm
Sunday Dec. 3rd
 Carols – Readings
 Handbell Ringers
 Abingdon Town Band
 Drayton School Children
 Free Refreshments ~ Free Admission
 Collection for Charity

All Saints' Singers
 Sutton Courtenay
 Music Director Sebastian Thomson
CHRISTMAS CONCERT
 HAYDN St. Nicholas Mass
 CHILCOTT On Christmas Night
 Plus Audience Participation Carols
 Sunday 10th December 2023
 7:30 pm
 All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay
 *Tickets £15 - to include programme - from:
 chairman@allsaintssingers.org or 07870 506774,
 Hari & Esha's in Sutton Courtenay or
 the Bookstore, Bury Street, Abingdon or
 from www.trybooking.com/uk/CSES
 More information at allsaintssingers.org

Swing into Christmas
 Featuring **THE BOB CUTTING BIG BAND** and guests
SUNDAY 10th December ★ 7:30PM
DRAYTON VILLAGE HALL
 Tickets: www.bobcuttingbigband.uk
 on the door or at Vickery's Store, Drayton | £12 adults, under 16s free

The Snowman Live with Wantage Band
 10th DECEMBER 2023

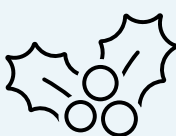


Amey Theatre,
 Abingdon School

ROH Live: The Nutcracker 2023
 10TH DECEMBER 2023
 THE ROYAL BALLET
THE NUTCRACKER
 Tuesday 12th December, 7.15pm

Sunday 3rd December, 1.30pm
 Tickets:
<https://www.abingdon.org.uk/sports-and-leisure/amey-theatre/box-office-booking/>

Drayton Players present
Away with the Fairies this Christmas
 An adult Christmas comedy play by Sue Hadley
Fri 8th December at 8.00pm
Sat 9th December at 7.30pm
Steventon Village Hall
 The Green, Steventon OX13 6RR
 Tickets: £7.50 from
 Vickerys Hardware Store, Drayton,
 40 Castle St, Steventon, OX13 6SR
www.TryBooking.co.uk/CTER (+fees)
 Tel 01235 821351 or on the door
 Website: www.DraytonPlayers.org.uk



2nd December
 2:30pm to 5pm
Christmas Sing-along at The Abbey
 Come and join us!
 Enjoy an afternoon of Christmas singing with Claire Cecil from Heart-Light and Harmony Inspires, our local ladies barbershop chorus, who will share their Christmas carol favourites in our beautiful Great Hall. Let's explore together the true meaning of Christmas spirit: a time for giving and sharing. We will also have refreshments available from the popular Abbey Cafe.
 Please book for this event on our website: www.theabbey.co.uk
 Tickets: 7.50 (includes refreshments)
 More information:
www.theabbey.co.uk
 Follow us:
 @theabbeycourtenay
 The Abbey Sutton Courtenay



A Jazzy Christmas Evening at Dorchester Abbey with Jo Harrop and Paul Edis

Dorchester Abbey

Sunday 3rd December 2023
 7.30 – 9.30pm

'Jo Harrop is a very fine jazz singer. When she sings, she moves me.' Iggy Pop – BBC 6 Music

Tickets:
<https://www.bishopscourtfarm.com>

DRAYTON HALL NEWS



We've another **ANTIQUES Fair**, Sunday Dec 3rd, 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, as last month, to a **more serious topic**.

They'd suffered several vandalism attacks, including trying to sabotage cars, and that could have led to a serious accident, possibly fatal, and that has at least got the Police more interested.

Last month there was a further attack, but as a result a **camera caught an interesting image**. At the time of going to press I haven't heard back from the Police, apart from that image relating to someone 'local', but I'll give updates if and when I hear more.

The organisers and the Hall C'tee have received a **number of messages expressing support** -- and **thank you for all those**. Villagers and visitors are baffled about the motivation for the attacks, and frankly have expressed doubts about the sanity of those behind them. Several of the emails expressed feelings way stronger than that, but I shouldn't include them as, 1) this is a publication for families, and 2) it seems that we (those not committing anti-social acts) have to consider the feelings and possible mental health issues of those that do? It's the modern way. 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 for contact info.

In other news (!) :- the **JEWELLERY VALUATION** day, in early Nov, was very well attended, and he (Lee) will be BACK on **Tuesday Jan 9th**, 1pm to about 4pm. He does a leaflet drop round the village a couple of days before the event, with far more details about items of interest.

This month we have the **Bob Cutting Big Band** "Swing into Christmas" (& likely a guest or two?!) and that's on **SUNday Dec 10th**. See the local F'book ads for ticketing info, & **Vickery's**.

Sat 30th, it's an acclaimed tribute act, **DANNY GRACELAND** (go on, try and guess who to?!) showtime 8.30pm. That one is being promoted by the **Wheatsheaf**, again, see their local F'book ads re tickets.

Oh, and nearly forgot, also Dec 3rd, but 7pm, (after the Antiques Fair) it's the annual **CAROLS CONCERT**. And **FoDSA** have a private party, parents & children, 20th.

We've another **new hirer**, started in Nov, **WELLNESS WARRIORS**, Tuesdays, 7.30. Run by **Sabrina**, she says "exercises inspired by Pilates, Yoga & traditional martial arts" -- more info on **07938 537310**.

Our **Bowls Club and Sequence Dancers** are always on the lookout for new members, and we also have two **BADMINTON** groups on a similar quest, one on Weds afternoons, the other one is Monday evenings, the latter has traditionally been for Ladies (but does accept Gents, come on lads, don't be shy!) and they say they're to a "reasonable standard" -- but I was always so bad at that game that a reasonable standard to me was just being able to hit that irritating feathered thing at all?!!
Tony Holmes

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(Mostly) Hall Diary for December

All events held in Drayton Hall unless otherwise stated

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

Sat	2	12.30pm	Private Function (child's party)
Sun	3	9.00am	ANTIQUES FAIR (to 3pm)
		7.00pm	CAROLS Concert
Tues	5	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting (change - Hall)
Sat	9		Private Function (all day)
Sun	10	7.30pm	Bob Cutting BIG BAND!
Sat	16	10.00am	Private Function (child's party)
Sun	17	2.00pm	Private Function (child's party)
Mon	25		MERRY CHRISTMAS
Tues	26		Off to the Sales?!
Sat	30	8.30pm.	Danny Graceland (tribute, tickets W'sheaf)

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)
7.30 pm	(new) WELLNESS Warriors (Sabrina	07938 537310)
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	(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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