

DRAYTON CHRONICLE



Photo: Leigh McKiernan

Chronicle Information



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

Issue:	Deadline for Contributions:		Printed Chronicles available on:
	<i>Adverts</i>	<i>Editor</i>	
May	12 th April	15 th April	26 th April
June	17 th May	20 th May	31 st May

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).

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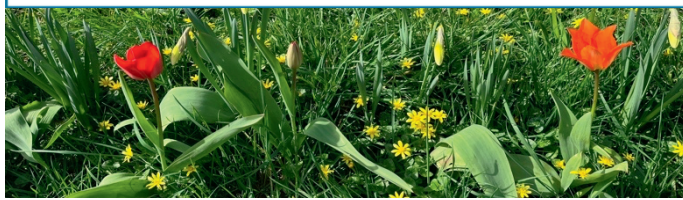
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Pro-Warden	Mrs Linda Johnson	lindajcw@gmail.com
Administrator	Alison Bampton	admin@damascusparish.org 01235 847179

The church is open daily, Sun-Sat 10.00 am- 4.00 pm
REGULAR SERVICES:
Sunday 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) on 3rd Sunday of the month only.
Sunday 9.30 am Regular Sunday Service
Thursday 9.45 am Holy Communion (1st and 3rd Thursdays), Celtic Morning Prayer (2nd and 4th Thursdays)
Everyone is welcome.

Date for your diary:
There will be a plant sale at St Peter's on Saturday 11th May 10.00 – 12.00. Do come and join us!
Cards and books and refreshments available. We look forward to seeing you.



REGULAR ACTIVITIES:
<u>Bellringing Practice</u> Every Monday evening 7:30pm
<u>Knit and Natter</u> - 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!
<u>Tuesday Connect</u> - 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.
<u>Pebbles Baby and Toddler Group</u> 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
<u>PARISH REGISTER</u> Funeral 22 nd February Dorothy Joy Ball

ST PETER'S LETTER

From the Ministry Team...

Dear Friends

Straight after Easter Day comes April Fools' Day – how unfortunate for Christians! Or is it helpful? The first accounts of the resurrection were greeted with scepticism and incredulity. The religious and Roman leaders would have taken the reports seriously, wanting to quell any threats to their grip on power. The reports from the soldiers on guard at the tomb must have been very unsettling for their masters and the soldiers likely fearful they would end up being the next occupants of the tomb they were guarding! Reports of fake and foolish news were rife after the first Easter day!

What we have in the gospels are not doctrinal statements about Jesus, the Church or resurrection. Raw shock and astonishment are the features of these accounts. The gift of these personal stories is to help us understand the journey into new birth through trusting in Jesus. The first members of the Christian community were not ashamed to share their struggle to fully trust in the gift of resurrection; they had been prepared for the Easter events by Jesus, but the reality of the previous four days had traumatised them. In their disorientation and fear, Jesus came to them gently and with infinite care; news of his resurrection and the gift of new life were not delivered with great pomp and ceremony but with the simple honesty of crucifixion scars and comforting words of peace.

The spirit of our age seeks signs, wisdom and power in order to believe. Resurrection may seem foolish to human wisdom however, it is not a theology to be debated or defended, it is God's sacrificial love to be received and lived out. Such love in action may be foolishness to the world but to those who receive His love, it is the strength and wisdom of God.

For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 1 Corinthians 1:24-25

Phil Sutton

Revd Philip Sutton
 Associate Minister, DAMASCUS Parish:
 Drayton | Appleford | Milton |
 Sutton Courtenay | Steventon
 Tel: 01235 635476 Mobile: 07507378737



YOU STAY WE PRAY APRIL 2024

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7 th – 13 th April	Lockway
14 th – 20 th April	Whitehorns Way
21 st – 27 th April	Corneville Rd; Crabtree Lane; Lesparre Close
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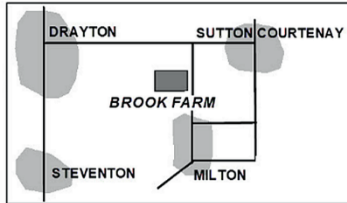


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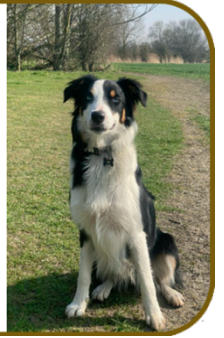
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GARD – GROUP AGAINST RESERVOIR DEVELOPMENT

GARD Newsletter for April 2024

Public Inquiry: Still no decision (as at 16th March) from the Secretary of State for DEFRA (Steve Barclay), either on GARD's call for a Public Inquiry, or on Thames Water's reservoir plans.

So, there is still time for you and our MPs to influence his decision.

If you have not yet done so, we urge you to follow GARD's example and write to the Secretary of State and demand a Public Inquiry. If you email water.resources@defra.gov.uk, label your email 'Public Inquiry into Thames Water's Water Resource Management Plan', and address your comments in the Email to Rt Hon Steve Barclay, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, then your comments will get through to Mr Barclay. **Don't forget to copy to your MP.**

Please sign our Petition: In the meantime, GARD and CPRE have launched an online petition, in collaboration with the organisation "38 Degrees", who specialise in environmentally oriented petitions. The petition which asks the Secretary of State to "Stop Thames Water's costly mega-reservoir – fix the leaks!" can be found at - <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/p/stopTWreservoir> - please sign and share as widely as possible.

Biodiversity and Habitat on the Reservoir Site: GARD has always maintained that Thames Water have deliberately sought to downgrade the natural habitats and biodiversity which would be lost when they first devastate, and then flood, the Reservoir site. They do this, of course, to try and maintain the fiction that they can 'create more diversity' on the site as part of the Reservoir project. However, they have not, after 25 years of proposal, yet managed to do an actual survey of the site, but rely instead on desk-based 'score-sheets' which tot up the general 'score' which can (according to the government) be given to, say, an acre of woodland, or arable field. No effort has been made to catalogue special features, such as 'red listed' bird species, quality of hedgerows, or even the special trees on the site ('Ancient', 'Veteran' and 'Notable' trees lost cannot just be traded for newly-planted trees a decade or so later when the site is 'restored').

GARD has started to investigate the true state of the nature in the area, with the co-operation and support of our farming members. We have started with trees – which, as they are large, one might have thought even Thames Water would have spotted in a quarter of a century. According to Thames Water, there is just **one** Ancient Tree on the entire 4 square mile site. In a couple of days, GARD has managed to catalogue (and get validated by the Woodland Trust) a total of 4 more Ancient Trees, 43 Veteran Trees and 6 Notable Trees! We haven't even looked in Drayton and Hutchins Copses yet. After this, the main farm north of Hanney Road will be sharing the results of their Hedgerow Survey with us.

So, helping to nail yet more of Thames Water's biased views, **if you have some knowledge or skill on the subject of**

Biodiversity, we are hoping that all this work can count towards the Public Inquiry, **please contact us (gard.chair@gmail.com) if you want to help.**

Details for contacting your MP

- If your MP is David Johnston, Wantage (covering Grove, Steventon, East and West Hanney, East and West Hendred, Ardington, Drayton, Garford, Milton, and Sutton Courtenay) you can contact him on david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk
- If you live in Abingdon, you can support your MP Layla Moran's opposition – and seek her support 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



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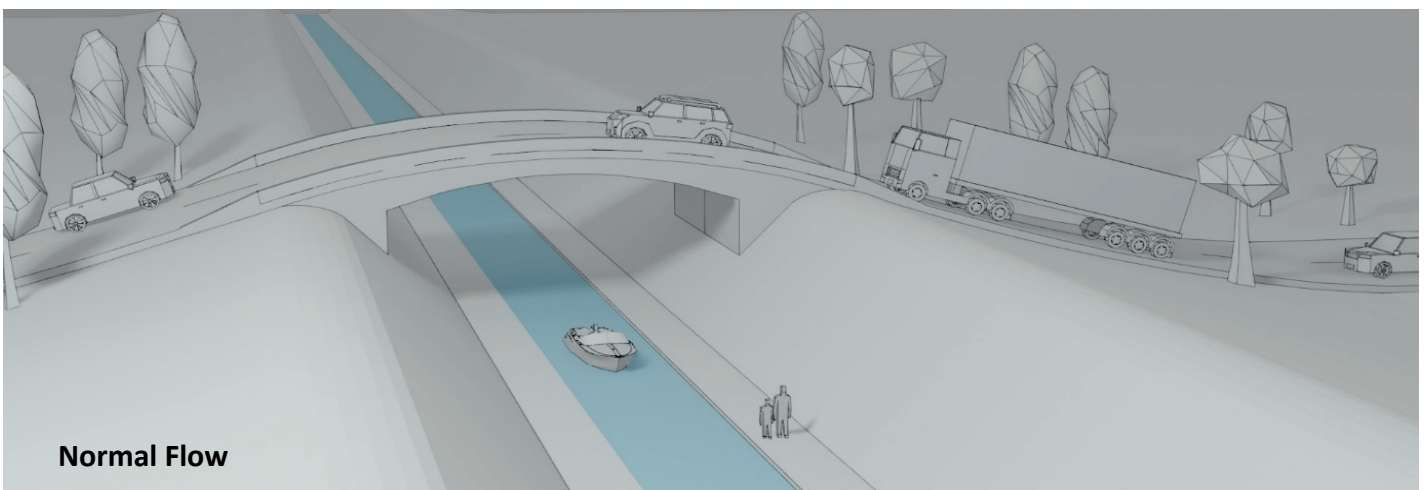
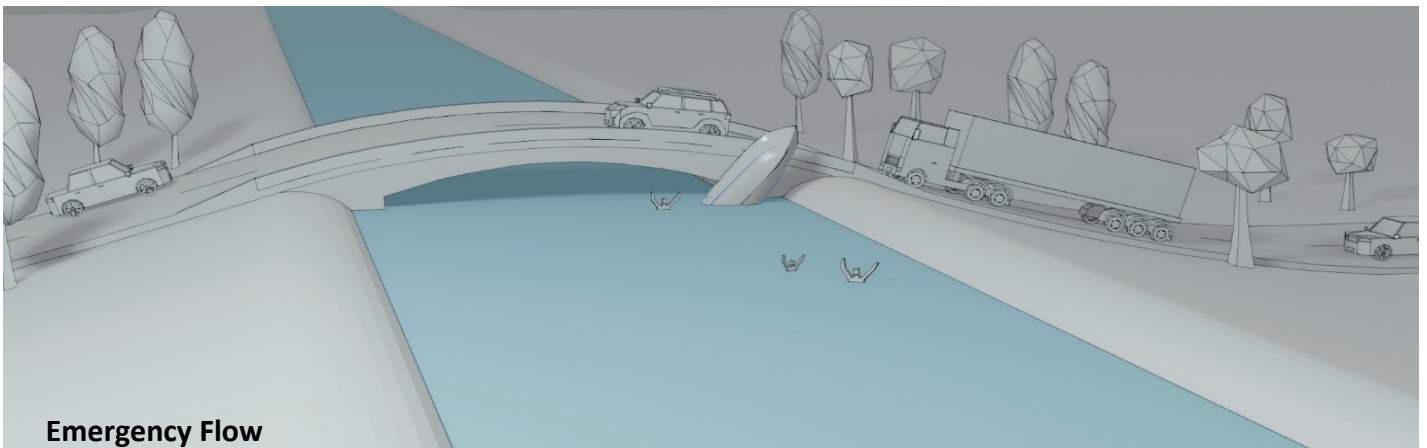


PROPOSED RESERVOIR EMERGENCY DISCHARGE CHANNEL

When a new reservoir is created, it has to have an Emergency Discharge channel, or as Thames Water choose to call it, an 'Auxilliary Drawdown Channel'. **In the event of the failure of the embankment wall, or any other event which would endanger life in the vicinity, or even in the event of detection of a serious fault, Thames Water would be required to drop the water-level of the reservoir by 1 metre immediately.** Typically, the River Thames has a flow-rate of 26 tonnes per second; the flow-rate of any emergency discharge would be 80 tonnes per second for 24 hours, for 10 or more days, directing a huge mass of water back into the Thames.

To handle this discharge, **Thames Water propose to construct an open concrete levee which would have to be at least 6 metres wide and 4 metres high for the whole 5km route to the Thames, very close to Drayton at Oday Lane.** The levee would have to go under the A34 and then under B4017 and Thames Water propose to construct this at the same time as creating the reservoir.

To put the enormity of these projects into perspective, the size of the proposed reservoir is equivalent to the whole of the site of Gatwick Airport, a perimeter of 10km. The construction of this and the levee would have a huge impact on the countryside, and the water-flow energy involved in any emergency discharge would be enormous. A new bridge on the B4017 would have to be created to accommodate this channel; a visual image may help to portray the sheer scale of the problem:



Recently, it took 15 months to construct the passage under the A34 for the new roundabout at Milton, with all the disruption that that entailed. Thames Water have two preferred options: (1) to excavate under one carriageway of the A34 at a time whilst diverting traffic onto the other carriageway or (2) divert all traffic on the A34 to east or west. In either event, traffic would divert through Drayton and Steventon for the entirety of the construction programme, likely to be 21 months. Any new bridge on the B4017 cannot be built without the closure of the road, thus the only route in and out of the village would be via Sutton Courtenay.

Thames Water choose to downplay the impact of any discharge by stating that the river sees such flowrates during floods. But it typically takes 4 or more days to increase to this level, not immediately as would be required in any emergency to guarantee our safety. The rate of Emergency Discharge into the Thames exceeds the recorded flow for more than 80% of winter months, and more than 99% of summer months.

The site of the proposed reservoir is, in effect, a flood plain. If the reservoir was built, Thames Water now admit that the water table would rise by at least 1 metre around Steventon, East Hanney and Drayton. It is not hard to imagine what effect this rise would have on these villages with knock-on for Abingdon.

GARD (Group against Reservoir Development) have called for a Public Inquiry to examine the suitability of this proposal compared with other alternatives such as STT (Severn Thames Transfer). A previous proposal for a reservoir two thirds of the size of this one was rejected at a Public Inquiry in 2009

GARD needs your support. Please write to your MP, local, district and county councils, Secretary of State for the Environment, if you want to protect our environment and throw out this monstrosity (contact details on previous page).

Douglas J B Smith
www.gard-oxon.org.uk
gard.secretary@gmail.com

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT



HIF1 Appeal Hearing

The hearing is now having a three week break to give all involved a break and to gather more evidence. The meetings, held at the Bee House MEPC Milton Park, are open to the public. Having attended some of the sessions, in particular those where representatives of POETS (an organisation of Planning experts opposed to the road development), I have been struck by the level of hard work and commitment in answering the rigorous questions from the multitude of KCs involved on both sides. In summary, whilst we will not hear the Inspector's conclusions for many weeks, there are two questions which will have to be answered:

firstly, should this major project be delivered? This inquiry and the Inspector herself will eventually decide this when her recommendation is on the Secretary of State's desk in the autumn. The recommendation will also try to answer the second question – Can the project be delivered at an affordable cost? When the inquiry resumes, it will be considering the financial implications of the project and its affordability. The outcome will depend on negotiations between Homes England (the Government body with its hand on the purse strings) and OCC. We all owe considerable thanks to Cllr Greg O'Broin, representing the five most involved Parish Councils, who has been faithfully attending all sessions.

20mph zones

I sympathise with the retiring First Minister of Wales, when he expressed surprise at the strength of feeling on both sides of this issue. Evidence for the impact of 20mph policies has taken some time to accumulate but evidence from Wales is that in areas where these zones are instituted, average speeds reduce by 4-5mph. It may not seem much, but it equates to several lives saved every year.

Flooding

Water levels never cease to surprise us. Sometimes it is predictable. More often it behaves differently in each flooding event. Thankfully, water levels recede quickly if/when the rain stops, but the local impact on lives can be enormous. Milton village had a particularly bad time of it with deep water blocking roads and a number of people having to move upstairs as ground floors are inundated. All councils are well aware of the issue and are tightening policies to deal with the expectation that there will be an increasing frequency of serious flooding in the future. The behaviour of some drivers in flood and wet conditions has hit the headlines with abandoned cars and even the large digger that collapsed into the Ginge Brook in Sutton Courtenay.

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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 *

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LETTER FROM WESTMINSTER



Being an MP involves a lot of travel across the length and breadth of my constituency from my home in Didcot and this means I know first-hand that the state of the roads across our area is not good enough.

I launched my **Roads Survey** last year and I'm grateful to the almost 900 people who have filled it in. More than 80% of residents agreed that our roads are poor quality. Flooding on the A417 and safety issues on the A420 and A34 were frequently mentioned, and many people spoke about issues with congestion. I am meeting with the Roads Minister to share the findings with him.

From potholes to congestion to flooding and safety issues, it is clear that we need improvements. We do not need blanket 20mph zones across our area – and the Government is rightly making clear that these should be decided on a hyper-local basis with local consent. No-one objects to strict limits in areas near schools or other sensitive areas but are they required across an entire town? Constituents regularly say no and 71% of residents who filled in my Roads Survey agreed with the Government's policies here.

I have been taking action since I was elected and have raised every issue that has been reported to me with the County Council and the Highways Authorities, who are responsible for our roads. This has resulted in some issues being fixed but I think everyone can agree that it should not take an MP writing a letter for this to happen.

I have spoken about the need to improve our local roads in 13 separate debates, met with the Roads Minister about it, and led a debate in Parliament on safety issues on the A34 and A420.

It's not all about money, but the Government has also rightly given the County Council millions in funding to help improve our roads and fix our potholes - including a substantial increase of 30% for 2023/24. We need to see this used effectively.

I will keep campaigning on this, but please fill in my Roads Survey at www.david-johnston.org.uk/RoadsSurvey.

In other news, **Didcot Powerhouse Fund** celebrated their two-year anniversary, and I was pleased to attend the launch of their new Impact Report and meet some of the local people who have received funding from them – including great organisations like the Cornermen in South Moreton.

I also took senior managers from the Environment Agency to Stevenston to talk about our **flood defences** and what more can be done to prevent the flooding we have seen. Many constituents shared their thoughts with me ahead of this and I raised various issues on their behalf, including concerns about the proposed reservoir. I will remain in close contact with the Environment Agency and the Council.

Other highlights in recent weeks have included visiting Willowcroft School in Didcot, Williams Racing in Grove, the Happiness Horse Box in Uffington, and Quantum Detectors in Harwell as well as holding a Pop-Up Surgery at Tesco in Didcot.

Yours, David Johnston MP

david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk



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DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT



Dear all,

Garden waste service changes next year (brown bins)

The way the brown bin service is set up will change from April 2025 – we’re aiming to give plenty of notice of the change. The existing way of doing it has led to some issues – it can be a prolonged or even unsuccessful exercise in contacting people whose direct debits have failed, or even who have forgotten to cancel their service on moving out, and brown bins for cancelled services have been known to be left out in some areas and automatically collected (free-riding on those who have been paying).

Learning from successful changes elsewhere (such as in West Oxfordshire), we’re going to move to a permit sticker system. When customers sign up and pay for the scheme in 2025, they’ll be sent a tamper-proof garden waste permit sticker to put on their bin (or bins, if they’ve got multiple payments). This makes it very straightforward to identify the bins to pick up.

In addition, rather than direct debits, customers will pay annually by debit or credit card with a similar payment year from 1 April to 31 March each year. There will be an online account management system for customers to make it easier to manage and for customers to amend their details if needed – and to allow the Council to quickly contact people if there are any service disruptions (such as adverse weather).

To try to make the changes as straightforward as possible, the Council is aiming to notify people as early as possible (it’ll be more than a year from now, for example).

Extra garden waste weeks

Looking at the current brown bin service - Residents who are subscribed can have extra garden waste collected on their normal collection day between 15 and 26 April. You will be able to put out a maximum of up to four additional sacks of garden waste, per brown bin subscription, next to your brown bin.

To be eligible for collection, the extra waste must go in standard sized (60L) sacks and should only contain natural garden waste such as cut grass, plants or branches (**not** rubble or builders’ waste bags – those won’t be collected). It can also be placed in boxes / containers totalling no more than a standard bin full.

Budget

I know it’s not exactly an exciting subject, but at the February meeting, we passed the latest Budget. I’m rather relieved to note that despite the projections before we took over in 2019 that the Council should go bust by 2024, we are **not** going bust and are, instead, in a position so we’ll remain solvent going forwards. As can be seen by Councils going bust around the country (one has gone insolvent three times in three years!) due to the unparalleled cuts in Council funding from Central Government, this isn’t something we could take for granted.

Whilst balancing the Budget, we’ve managed to boost funding for planning enforcement. I know there are complaints and unhappiness about lengthy enforcement cases – I’ve raised a few myself! – but the amount of resources going into enforcement has increased considerably in the past few years. I’d like to see more still going into this (together with massively increased power and authority for enforcement, but that needs to come from Westminster, unfortunately) and I think it’s somewhere we’ll need to continue increasing year-on-year – as long as we can. There’s also an increase in funding housing provision to

help deal with the still considerable pressures of the Cost of Living Crisis and the expected rise in homelessness.

High Street parking

The development behind Halls Close has caused a spike in parking on the High Street, especially close to the junction with Church Lane. I went down to speak with the site foreman to ask if they could do anything about it – unfortunately, the issue has continued. I’ve raised an enforcement case (noting that the approval forced through by the Inspector on appeal required the developer to provide on-site parking for workers, something that does not appear to be provided). I’ll update as and when I get any more on this.

Thames Water

In the same meeting, we passed a unanimous motion against Thames Water’s proposed huge price increases. Although we don’t have the power to block them ourselves, we’ve let Ofwat and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs know that we believe it’s utterly unacceptable to reward Thames Water’s incompetence in this area with extra money taken from the pockets of consumers who are already under considerable financial pressures. They need to sort out their own failures with sewerage provision, leak failures, and their own poor financial management rather than ask for a bail-out from all of us.

Family activities over Easter

In a cheerier vein, there are a bunch of activities across the Vale and South Oxfordshire for families.

The Beacon in Wantage: Stage show throughout Easter break – Cartoon Circus Live (clowns, slapstick comedy), plus circus-themed activities for children of all ages (including arts, craft, and “Monkey Mayhem”)

Leisure Centres – “Active Holiday Clubs,” including family swims, roller skating and soft play (details available at <https://www.better.org.uk/> and www.activeholidayclubs.co.uk and on the leisure centre Facebook pages)

More details on activities and how to book here: <http://www.southandvale.gov.uk/holidayactivities>

Retrofitting

There are new webpages to help residents who want to retrofit energy-saving measures to their properties but are unsure if they need planning permission. This specially created online guide offers information whether people want to add simple insulation, solar panels, air source heat pumps or cladding to their properties. They can be found at www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/retrofitting-rules

Cost of Living

I’ll continue to sign off with the details of cost of living support. If people need them, the Community Hub and other potential support or advice can be found below:

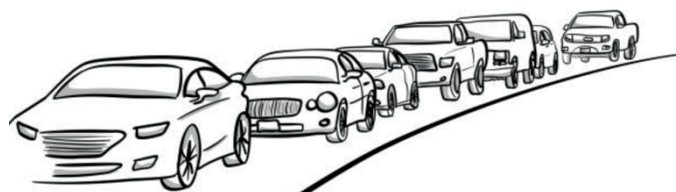
Tel: 01235 422600

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



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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



March 2024

Walnut Meadows

The land at Walnut Meadows has now been transferred to the Parish Council although it will be some time before Land Registry provide updated Title Deeds. We will be adding the relevant areas to the grass cutting contract and arranging for the bins (including the dog bin) to be emptied.

The MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) archeological excavation has started but has had to be temporarily halted due to weather.

The PC has agreed to go out to tender for the MUGA construction, and the contractor selected to provide the sports pitch and drainage design has started work.

A drop-in event was held in the Village Hall on 9th March. Although only a limited number of people attended, some very useful feedback was received.

The Project Manager for the PC is investigating grants for the pitch installation. Any grants received would of course, offset some of the costs to the PC.

The Dovecote

Bloor Homes are currently making bird and bat boxes available to residents of the Dovecote. Any spare boxes will be donated to the PC for use across the village.

Manor Farm

The PC has contacted Cala Homes to advise of the poor condition of the hedgerow between Manor Farm and Henleys Lane, which is of course in a Conservation Area. We have also expressed concern that Cala's agreement to review the growth of Hemlock and undertake hand pulling has not taken place. Instead, Cala have again sprayed the area. The PC is well aware of the environmental effects of this. The VOWH has opened an enforcement case against Cala as they have not built part of the circular path around the public open space to the required quality. The PC cannot take over the area of public open space until these issues are resolved.

Footpaths

Currently many paths are waterlogged and difficult to navigate. The PC is considering extending the resurfacing of the footpath that runs alongside the old scapyard, towards where it joins Gypsy Lane.

Please let the PC know of any issues with footpaths. We think we know where the main issues are but always welcome feedback from villagers.

Traffic Calming

A further meeting between the PC and Milestone (OCC's highway's contractor) is to be held in March to agree the first priorities. The PC is particularly concerned about the lack of a pedestrian crossing on the High Street, the poor visibility at the junction of Walnut Meadows and the crossing by Manor Farm (many cars not stopping).

Traffic on the High Street

The number of vehicles parked along the road and the parking by Church Lane continues to be a problem. These vehicles are from the development at Halls Close. This is a clear violation of the original planning agreement which was for parking on site. Andy Cooke, District Councillor, is liaising with the Vale enforcement team, but the PC has been told that it is unlikely that any action will be taken in the near future!

Dog Poo

The poo bins are being emptied on a regular basis but please, if the bin is full, do not add to it or throw your bags on the ground. Please take the waste home and dispose of it in your black bin or place it in any other waste bin. Currently most of these bins are being emptied by the PC caretaker and it is a task and a half for him to pick up every bag that has been thrown onto the floor around the bin.

continued...

Defibrillator

We are almost there with the installation of an additional defibrillator in the centre of the village. The plan is to install this on the side of the Red Lion pub.

The next PC meeting will be held at

7pm at the Caudwell Day Centre on 9th April.

If you have any concerns or comments, please contact clerk@DraytonPC.org

Elaine Wade

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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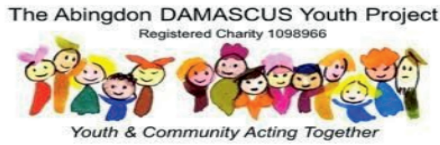
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LOCAL GROUPS and CLUBS



Hi, my name is **Alfie**, and I'm proud to be a young leader for ADYP. Previously, I've been a beneficiary of the project for over 6 years as a young person. One of my best memories was supporting the elderly, by playing doorstep bingo during COVID lockdown. I'm passionate about helping young people overcome the challenges they face and make sure every young person can achieve their full potential in school, at home and in the community.

In Drayton, I run the Monday evening sessions alongside Jess. Last month we said a fond farewell to Daisy as she left us to go and explore the world – we hope she will keep us informed with all her exciting journeys which we will post on the ADYP website. Daisy has been a valuable member of the ADYP staff team, and we thank her for all her work.



This month in Drayton we have been doing lots of things including talking about issues around mental health as well as understanding the different between bullying and banter. We've also had lots of fun playing lots of games including corn throw and card games.

As the clocks change and the evenings become lighter, we will also be starting outdoor activities. If you are interested in joining our Drayton session it is on a Monday from 7:15pm to 8:15pm at the village hall. Please feel free to come down and say hello, (Ages 10+ are welcome with a £1 Entry).

We hope to see you all soon!
Alfie

W.I. Report

The Annual meeting was a very well organised event mainly because we had another visit from Tracy Strain who is very high in the county officials. We were all well behaved and everything was done properly. We have retained our president, thank you Teresa; we have a new treasurer, Julie, brave lady. Thank you, Sylvia, for many years of looking after our money, ably assisted by Cis - thank you as well. We were given a glimpse of what's to come, sounds very exciting so why not join us? Finally, business done, we were allowed to sample the puddings. What a display we had, puds of many flavours and not much left when the sampling was done. Before our guest left, she thanked us for a lovely evening, adding how she enjoyed coming to see us. That was a lovely end to a meeting that is very official. Next meeting is on April 11 at 7.30 pm in the Caudwell day centre, Gravel Lane. Come and see what we do.

Ann Webb

Drayton Wives

This month we welcomed a speaker from the History Group of Long Wittenham.

Janet Haylett is the secretary and archivist for the group which started in 1984 and researches, collects, studies and shares all aspects of local history.

Long Wittenham was originally known as Earls Wittenham, West Wittenham and Great Wittenham.

Stone age tools have been found and there is a bronze age barrow at Dorchester. A Wittenham shield and sword is displayed in the Ashmolean in Oxford.

In 635AD Bishop Birinus came to Wittenham and preached to the village by the stone cross; he then went to Dorchester Abbey.

At the time English Counties were divided into shires and hundreds which remained intact until 1974. Long Wittenham was in Berkshire first in Sutton Hundred and later in Ock Hundred.

The king had the ultimate authority to collect taxes and maintain law, then a manor-based society took over. A manor was an area of agriculture land.

Alfred the Great was born in 849AD in Wantage. He was a man of learning and built towns across Wessex including Watlington to defend against the Vikings.

Long Wittenham is mentioned in the Domesday book in the hundred of Sutton

The owner tenant-in-chief was Walter Gifford. Walter Gifford 3rd commissioned a new church in the village in 1120 AD. It has a Norman Arch and a rare lead font which was later encased in wood to protect it from desecration during the civil war and to stop it being melted down to make musket balls.

It also has the smallest monument in England: a stone effigy of Gilbert de Clare, the Earl of Gloucester, who was a Lord of the Manor. The effigy is just 26inches tall.

For a small village it has a lot of history so is well worth investigating with a walk round in the Spring.

Lisa Lammiman
Chairman

NOTICE: ABINGDON BANKS

Lloyds Bank is closing its Abingdon branch (8 Ock Street) on July 24th. This follows the closure of Barclays Bank on February 15th. NatWest and HSBC remain open - Lloyds Bank said in a statement: "Before we close any branch, we look at how our customers are managing their money and using the branch. Most customers are now using our mobile app, internet banking or calling us instead, which means they are using branches, including the Abingdon branch, much less."

After the branch closes, a 'Community Banker' will be available to support customers in the area one day a week. When the branch closes, customers will be encouraged to contact bank staff on 0345 300 0000, or use a mobile phone app, or internet banking. The Lloyds Bank group, which includes Halifax and Bank of Scotland, will close 166 branches in 2024 and 10 next year.



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Nb as @March 24, pre-book online due to limited carparking (flooding)

LETTERS

The Chronicle front page photo (March issue) brings back some memories of the day when the RAF Beverly crashed on Sutton Wick. I was attending Drayton primary and we were on morning break and a number of us saw the plane go down. A calamitous day for those directly involved whether on board the aircraft or on the ground where the 'plane hit. Later that day one of my classmates was taken away (I think by his father) as his mother had been killed in the incident. It was also to a large degree a calamitous day for the village as a whole as it was obviously quite a shock to have something like the crash occur along with subsequent events. The Memorial is an apt reminder of that day. I know it has been there for a few short years but well done to those who sought to have it placed.

Kind regards
Ray and Margaret Hutt
6/49 Brooking Rd
GISBORNE
Vic 3437



Photo: Susan Baird

Dear Editor

In regard to the letter from Hayley Charles of memories of Mrs Judy Henman's stories of Philip and the Witch. I have seen the books for sale in the Book Store in the precinct in Abingdon - this was a while ago! (15 Bury St, Tel: 01235 539200) Failing this I do possess 2 of Mrs Henman's books which I am happy to lend Hayley.
Kind regards
Trish Gurdev

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What is the digital phone switchover?

The UK's telephone network is changing. Between now and 2025 most telephone providers will be moving their customers from old analogue landlines over to new upgraded landline services using digital technology.

This means services that rely on the old landline system such as home phones and healthcare devices will be switched over.

How will it affect me/what do I need to do?

The good news is – your landline isn't going anywhere and for most consumers and businesses, this change will be straightforward. In fact, many customers are already making the switch when they upgrade to full fibre broadband.

Your telecoms provider such as Virgin Media O2 or BT should contact you before the switchover to check in and discuss what you need to do to make sure your service isn't affected. However, we're encouraging everyone to know what to expect.

If you have an internet connection, the change may be as simple as plugging your phone into your broadband router rather than the socket on the wall.



Your telecoms provider should contact you before the switchover to let you know if you'll be affected.



In an emergency

Digital landlines cannot carry a power connection, so in the event of a power cut they will not work. If you have a mobile phone this can still be used, but if you've no other means of calling the emergency services your telecoms provider will offer a solution to allow calls to be made to emergency services.

You should tell your telecoms provider now if you have no other way of making emergency calls.




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NOTICEBOARD

AmEgos Theatre
production of

THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME

Music by Alan Menken
Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz
Book by Peter Parnell

Based on the Victor Hugo novel and songs from the Disney film
Originally developed by Disney Theatrical Productions

4th - 6th April 2024
WANTAGE PARISH CHURCH
Church Street OX12 8AQ

Tickets and info from:
AmEgosTheatre.com

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International. All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI www.mtinet.com

CORNERSTONE arts entertainment culture

There was an old lady who swallowed a fly

50 years

There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed A Fly

Friday 12 Apr 2024 2:30pm

A new food festival for Oxfordshire
Sunday 2nd June 2024 10am - 7pm
Rye Farm Meadow, Abingdon-on-Thames

TASTE the FLAVOURS
Food Festival

local artisan producers - chef demonstrations
street food - tastings - beer tent
afternoon tea masterclass
live music

Supporting Maymessy CIC

Early Bird ticket £10
Online advance ticket £12
Gate price on the day £14
65+ over: prices always £1 off
Children 5-17yrs 50% of current adult price
Children under 5 free

tastetheflavours.org.uk

THE FRIENDS OF ABINGDON AND THE LOOSE CANNON BRASS BAND
CONTINUE AN ABINGDON ABBEY TRADITION AND PRESENT

ABINGDON BEER FESTIVAL

FRIDAY 26th APRIL | 6PM - 11PM
SATURDAY 27th APRIL | 6PM - 11PM
SUNDAY 28th APRIL | 1PM - 4PM

ABINGDON ABBEY BUILDINGS, CHECKER WALK, ABINGDON, OX14 3JB

ENTRY WITH FESTIVAL BEER MUG

BEER TOKENS AVAILABLE AT THE FESTIVAL

EXPERIENCE THE STUNNING MEDIEVAL ABBEY BUILDINGS & HELP SUPPORT THEIR UPKEEP + SUPPORT OTHER LOCAL CHARITIES

FANTASTIC FESTIVAL FOOD

GREAT MUSIC FROM LOCAL BANDS

LOOSE CANNON BRASS BAND

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CHIC - EARTH WIND & FIRE - GLORIA GAYNOR - CHAKA KHAN - BEE GEES - KOOL & THE GANG - SISTER SLEDGE - DONNA SUMMER - STEVIE WONDER - JACKSON 5 - AND MANY MORE!

Saturday 6 Apr 2024 7:30pm

ABINGDON AIR & COUNTRY SHOW
SATURDAY 18TH MAY 2024

FLYING DISPLAYS & STATIC AIRCRAFT
GROUND ATTRACTIONS - FREE CAR PARKING
DOGS ON A LEAD ARE WELCOME

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM OUR WEBSITE:

ADULTS (16+)
£21 IN ADVANCE
£11 IN ADVANCE
CHILDREN (5-15)
£7 IN ADVANCE
UNDER 5s FREE

CAR PARKS ARE OPEN 7:30AM - SNOWGROUND OPENS AT 10AM
SHOW CLOSES 5:30PM - AIRFIELD CLOSES 7PM

ABINGDON AIRFIELD, DALTON BARRACKS, OXFORDSHIRE

From the A34, take the Hinksey Hill junction & head towards Boars Hill.
Follow the A4 signs to Honeybottom Lane. Please remember to purchase a ticket online.

www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk

Charcellars

NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME
Garden Open For Charity

Lime Close

35 Henleys Lane, Drayton,
Abingdon, OX14 4HU

Sunday 21 April
2 - 5pm

DRAYTON HALL NEWS



LADIES, your attention please – and let's not be sexist, doubtless some gents too! – a **FIRST** for the Hall (at least in recent times), in April the **ABINGDON QUILTING Exhibition** is running, Sat & Sun, 20th & 21st, intended to be 9am to 6pm both days. Refreshments available, and they usually get good crowds.

This one isn't a 'first', (he's a regular lately!) we've another **JEWELLERY VALUATION** day, but **THIS TIME** a Monday, April 8th, same time though, 1pm to about 4pm. He (Lee) gets 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.

And we've another **ANTIQUES Fair**, BUT -- PLEASE NOTE this one is the **SECOND SUNDAY** (14th) due to a long prebooked event which had grabbed the first one. AND that's with Kathy Head running her **excellent value cafe** for one of her good causes (lovely breakfast, or perhaps just a bacon sarnie!). In May the Fair is ALSO on the second Sunday, (12th), again due to an event booked a very long time ago!

Early notice of an **ABBA Tribute evening**, May 31st (that's a Friday).

Now, we have two **BADMINTON** groups on a quest for some new players, 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" – to me just hitting that feathered thing was 'reasonable'!

Plus -- **PARENTS** -- if your children might like to try **Irish Dancing** (think 'Riverdance' perhaps?) **Ashleigh** has her class on Tuesday (early) evening waiting for you? And Sabrina's **Karate class** ('DojangX' variety) has now expanded for more sessions, she has some just for kids, but ALSO a 'Family' class. Free trials I gather, for both. Ads in this issue for those.

Plus we've now had the first few sessions of **KEEP FIT with FAYE**, (Fridays at 11am), they're aimed at the 'more mature' customer, so seated if you prefer, they're **just £6** per class and get **great reviews** (she runs them at several other local halls). I hear the numbers for that class are building up nicely.
Tony Holmes

(Mostly) Hall Diary for April

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 >>)

Sun	7	9.30am	Private Function (Main Hall)
Mon	8	1.00pm	Jewellery VALUATION (to 4pm)
Tues	9	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting (Caudwell DC)
Sat	13	1.00pm	Private Function (child's party)
Sun	14	9.00am	ANTIQUES FAIR (to 3pm)
Mon	15	5.00pm	Chronicle Deadline
Sat	20	9.00am	Ab'don QUILTING Exhibition (to 6pm)
Sun	21	9.00am	Ab'don QUILTING Exhibition (to 6pm)
Sun	28	10.00am	Private Function

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)	
6.45 pm	Karate/'Dojang X' session (Sabrina 07938 537310)	
7.45 pm	Beginner's YOGA (ditto)	
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	
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		
11.00 am	(NEW) Keep Fit with FAYE (07815 583591)	
4.15 pm	Karate/'Dojang X' sessions, see ad (07938 537310)	
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



Town Furlong Cattery

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