

# DRAYTON CHRONICLE



An Alternative View of the Reservoir -- at least, with a long list of unanswered questions, unproven technology, and that track record of failures, the more likely outcome?

Volume 47 No. 8

September 2024

Editor - Tony Holmes

# COMING CHRONICLES

The **October Chronicle** will be available for distribution on or about **Sept 27th**.

The Editor will be **Margaret Inger** (on 07967 730735). **Contributions** may be e-mailed (as below, best to 'editor@'), or placed in the Chronicle letter box, outside Vickery's store on Drayton Green, **DEADLINE = 5 pm, Monday, Sept 16th**.

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

**NB - ADVERTISERS - PLEASE note** that the ads deadline is **EARLIER, Friday Sept 13th** due to their preparation time.

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

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

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

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

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

2. An **email attachment**, in WORD please (NOT a PDF file!).
3. A good, **black typescript** on white A4 paper or smaller. **BUT** – IF you can type it, PLEASE see #1 & #2 above?! [Scanning is a real nuisance, and tends to create errors!]
4. **Hand-written? Preferably not PLEASE, if over maybe a para.** This is 2024, should be a way to type & send it?! (= fewer errors!).

## ADVERTISING RATES

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

- - - Number of Monthly Inserts - -

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

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

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

**This Month's Cover** – we've been bombarded with twee pictures of a 'reservoir', on leaflets, on supposedly factual information displays for the public, even via local TV News Bulletins showing what resembles a garden pond, with walls perhaps 2 feet high, not something the size of Gatwick Airport with 'bunds' as high as 3 houses!

As per the PC & GARD (p13), those 'artistic' pictures are highly optimistic, as TW – on all known evidence – couldn't build a rabbit hutch. Hence a more cynical view!

## DATES for FOLLOWING Chronicle

Issue for	Copy Deadlines :- to Editor by (& Ads on the Fri before these)	Chronicle published and available for distribution on Friday:-
<b>Nov</b>	Mon Oct 21st	Nov 1st

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## Local Groups & Clubs

### Drayton Wives (Lisa Lammiman)

Our July meeting was about **BRICKS**. A strange title, maybe sounded boring -- but it was very interesting!!!

Our speaker was a local man, **Martin Buckland**, with interests in all sorts of diverse topics. At the age of four he watched trains at Iwer with his Dad which got him interested in Industrial Archaeology. He then came to Abingdon fifty years ago and got involved with the new section of the Wilts and Berks canal.

For the last forty years he has volunteered at the **Didcot Railway Museum**, and also the **Abingdon Museum** in the Education dept. He also volunteers and raises money for BBONT, to which **he donated his speaker's fee**.

Bricks are perhaps the most ignored thing in modern life as they are just accepted as a normal construction item. Each part has a name, the most common is the 'stretcher' for the long side, the 'header' for the short side, and the 'frog' for the depression.

The London Brick Company has a 'Phorpres' brick (name originally from 'Four Press') - made in Bedfordshire - which is the **toughest brick**.

Some bricks are impressed with Royal dates such as 'Queen Elizabeth 1952-1992'. There are also **Electric bricks** (stamped to warn builders re cables), and **Rubber bricks**, which can be seen at the sea front in Torquay.

There was a **brick tax** (1784) which King George 3rd used to help raise money for wars in the American Colonies but manufacturers increased the size of the brick to get round this, and in 1850 the brick tax was abolished.

Modern bricks now can be made to accommodate **bats** and **swifts**.

The term BRICK is used in our language in many ways, in slang, songs, road names, pub names and many more. **See how often you hear the term Brick used in different ways?!**

**\*\* We are always on the lookout for new members.**

If you would like to join a **very friendly** daytime ladies group, we have a coffee morning once a month, a craft class once a month and then generally a speaker on the last Wednesday of most months.

If you would like to join **please contact me**.

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

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#### Letters to the Editor

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

### The Back Pain Centre

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### Rosie's Hair Lodge & in Drayton

I am open Monday to Friday 9.30 - 2.30.

Please ring or message me on **07842848784**

Or find me on Facebook

by searching for Rosie's Hair Lodge.

### Drayton Community Choir

Drayton Community Choir was originally started in 2014. After a break during Covid, **Kay Davies** took over as choir leader and has now been leading the choir for 2 years.

The choir sings a **wide variety of music**, and Kay is a member of the Natural Voice Network, which believes that it is everyone's right to sing, regardless of musical experience or ability.

You don't need to be able to read music to sing with us, you don't need to feel that you have a 'good voice' (whatever that means), and there are no auditions. We sing for fun, and the sheer joy of being with like-minded people. The choir sessions are pretty informal, everyone is very friendly, and we laugh a lot; all you need to do is **come along and give it a go**.



Drayton Community Choir

Singing in a group is **an uplifting, cathartic thing to do**. It doesn't matter how you feel when you arrive at the session – you always leave feeling happier and having been able to forget your worries for that hour.

We meet on the **2nd & 4th Thursdays** of the month in St Peter's Church Hall, Church Lane, Drayton OX14 4JS. After an August break, we re-start on Thursday Sept 12th at 7:30pm, and your first session is a **free taster sing**.

You can find out more via [www.kaydaviesmusic.co.uk](http://www.kaydaviesmusic.co.uk), and via email [drayton.community.choir@gmail.com](mailto:drayton.community.choir@gmail.com)

**Jackie O'Neill** (Choir member)

# ST PETER'S CHURCH



(part of the DAMASCUS Parish)

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

The DAMASCUS Parish  
Drayton | Appleford | Milton  
Sutton Courtenay | Stevenston

**Rector** Revd Helen Kendrick  
**Pro-warden** Mrs Linda Johnson  
**Administrator** Alison Bampton 01235 847179

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

**The church remains open daily {Sun – Sat, now 10 – 4pm}**

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

## REGULAR SERVICES

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

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Mondays	2.00 pm	<b>Knit &amp; Natter</b> (to 4pm – First Monday) And you don't have to be a Knitter for a Natter!
	7.30 pm	<b>Bellringing Practice</b> (each Monday)
Tuesday	2.30 pm	*** Tuesday Connect – ALL welcome for a cuppa & chat (*** now the FIRST Tuesday of each month) and that runs to 4pm
Weds	10.00 am	<b>Pebbles Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b> (term-time) For more information contact Katy or Cheryl <a href="mailto:Draytonpebbles@hotmail.com">Draytonpebbles@hotmail.com</a> (back on Sept 11th)

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

## PARISH EVENTS (Sept)

Sat 14th **Ride & Stride!** (see page 19 for more info)

## PARISH REGISTER

<b>Wedding</b>	Aug 3rd	<b>Graham Denny &amp; Martine Rhodes</b>
	Aug 10th	<b>Gary Matson &amp; Katie Sargison</b>
	Aug 17th	<b>Samuel Kinnaird &amp; Helen Hudson</b>
<b>Renewal of Vows Baptism</b>	Jul 20th	<b>Chloe &amp; Darren Martin</b>
	Jul 20th	<b>Cassian Wylde Martin</b>

## YOU STAY WE PRAY (Sept)

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



## St Peter's Church Drayton



Thank you to everyone who came along to the Children's Society Coffee Morning.  
£144 was raised and the raffle was won by Liz Kidd.



The Children's Society



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## From the DAMASCUS Ministry Team

**Dear Friends,** Despite it being three quarters of the way through the year, September can feel like a bit of a new start. A new school year and possibly a new school for children, maybe a return to busier schedules after the slightly quieter time of August, or perhaps a sigh of relief that the summer holidays are now over! There is also now a sense of calm after all the major sporting events we have had; the disappointment of the Euros final, the Britishness of Wimbledon and the thrills of the Olympics to name just a few.

For me, as a new resident, the newest member of the DAMASCUS parish ministry team and as a newly ordained minister, moving here and starting a new job has certainly been a new start. And what a great start it has been. Over the summer months I have had the privilege to meet lots of new people and to explore the area. **Thank you to everyone** I have met for being so welcoming and helpful.

Whenever I have experienced a new start, I am reminded of what **St Paul's wrote in the first century to the church in Corinth**. How in Christ we become a new creation; the old passes away and we become new. Paul is referring to the reconciliation we are offered with God, our creator, by what Jesus has done. I also think that this newness through God helps us to see each season in our lives, and even maybe each day, as an encouragement to keep going whatever challenges and disappointments we may face. (Even 58 years' worth for football fans!)

It is with this that I hope we can all embrace the start of autumn and the beginning or restart of many other things with eagerness and optimism. **If that doesn't feel possible, please do contact us** (on 01235 847179) or email us on:- [admin@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:admin@damascusparish.org.uk) if it would be helpful to speak to someone.

With prayers and best wishes,

**(Rev'd) Dov Whittle**

*(DAMASCUS Parish ministry team)*



# Local Groups & Clubs

## Drayton W.I.

Our visit from **Jack of Matthews and Sons** (our local family run florists from Sutton Courtenay), didn't disappoint. He laid out his flowers on the table and began to arrange a hand-tie, telling us the origins of the flowers he was using. The bunch got bigger and bigger and more beautiful as it grew. Finally tied and laid on the table, he moved to his next project. This was a table display arranged in 'Oasis' (green foam) for lasting power. He showed us how to **build the display from the back** with greenery and finishing with roses and carnations.

As he worked he told us the origins of the flowers and justified buying the roses etc from South America. They are grown naturally outside in the sun, cut and packed and shipped in the holds of passenger aircraft. Sadly, the flowers from Holland now need **three days to arrive thanks to Brexit!**

He also buys some **English flowers** but the season is short and unpredictable, that's English weather! Two members won the displays and went home very happy. **Thank you Jack**, see you again at Christmas.

Next month we will be endeavour to produce a master piece of **block printing**, should be great fun and very colourful results.

Our meetings are usually the 2nd Thursday each month, next time Sept 12th at 7.30pm, the Caudwell Centre in Gravel Lane. AND >>> **Don't forget the Craft Fair**, that's Nov 9th in Drayton Hall, **tables still available**. See posters around the village or ring **Georgina** on 01235 531923

**Ann Webb**



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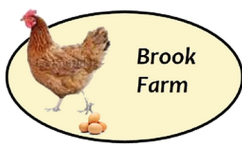
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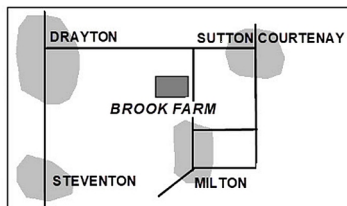
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(\*'Locally' – Didcot mkt has a wonderful fishmonger, up from Sussex, always sells well – little sea for fishing round here?! AND – that Didcot mkt has **MOVED**, it's now up on the Broadway)

**SEPT Dates** Ab'don (3rd Fri) 20th; Didcot (2nd Sat) 14th

TVFM news - ring 01235 227266 see website - [Tvfm.org.uk](http://Tvfm.org.uk)

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## Drayton Reading Group

If you enjoy discussing books you have read, why not consider joining our **reading group**? We meet at 7pm on the **third Tuesday evening** of the month. Meetings are held in **members' homes** and we take turns in choosing books and in hosting.



We often read contemporary fiction, for example *Trespasses* by Claire Fuller (a doomed love affair set amid the Troubles in Northern Ireland) or *Still Life* by Sarah Winman which is a feel-good story set mainly in Florence with larger than life characters.

Occasionally, we read non-fiction books, *Invisible Women* by Caroline Criado Perez which "*exposes data bias in a world designed for men*" was an eye-opener. We also read a moving memoir by a Palestinian doctor Izzeldin Abuellash called *I shall Not Hate*. We have enjoyed reading the odd classic novel and have revisited 20th-century writers, eg Iris Murdoch. Thrillers and historical novels have also been very popular choices.

**We are an informal group** and much of the evening involves picking up on issues arising from the books and generally discussing what interests us.

If you would like further information, or would like to come along for a no-obligation 'taster' session, please contact me by phone or text on **07708 635849**.

**Liz Branson**

## Next PC Meeting

Now **Tuesday** evenings (2nd of month – so next it's **Sept 10th**, in the Caudwell Day Centre (Gravel Lane), 7pm. **All residents are welcome to attend**, and raise issues within the public participation item early in the meeting.

The agenda is published on the PC website prior to meetings. NB Parking IS a bit limited near the CDC, so if you attend, & can walk or bike there, please do?!

**The Council met on August 13th >>>**

### **Planned Reservoir**

A member of **GARD** attended the PC meeting. The Planning Committee met on 19th August to discuss the issue and to formulate a **response** to Thames Water's consultation (see **p13**).

### **Walnut Meadows**

The PC has appointed AgriPower to install the **sports pitches and drainage**. We are in the process of finalising the contract and agreeing a start date for the work. Meantime they have been on site to flail the weeds on the pitch area.

The architect appointed by the PC is in the process of submitting a planning application for the **MUGA, Pavilion and Car Park**. This is likely to take 3 months for approval so it is not clear that the work on the MUGA will be able to start until early 2025. A start date will be weather dependent. As part of the work the PC commissioned an **archaeological survey** which revealed interesting items (more on this next month).

### **Traffic Calming**

A further meeting has been held between PC representatives and Milestone (the County Council contractor). There has been a sharp increase in costs since the original planning for this work. Subsequently the PC has tailored its proposals to the:-

#### **Pedestrian crossing on the High Street**

**Pedestrian crossing and raised table** at entrance to Walnut Meadows

A **footpath on the south side of the High Street** between Halls Close to join the footpath outside Magpie Cottage.

Milestone are now drawing up plans for these 3 items and the PC will inform householders who are likely to be affected by this work. The **precise plans for the new crossings** can be seen on the Drayton Village website >>

**<https://www.draytonvillage.co.uk/traffic-calming-new-pedestrian-crossings/>**

### **Allotments**

The PC recently carried out an inspection of allotment plot usage. We identified **7 plots which were either not being used or very minimally**. The Parish Council will write to these plot-holders informing them that unless they have a good reason for not using their plots, they will be asked to vacate them at the end of the year. This may seem harsh but there are 16 people waiting for allotments and it is not acceptable for some plots not to have been worked for the whole of the season.

**ABBEY CINEMA --- <https://theabbey.ac/web>**

For **Andre Rieu fans** especially, they're showing the 2024 Maastricht show ('Power of Love') at the start of September. PLUS – later in the month, **Kate Winslet** in the acclaimed 'LEE' (an Oscar tip)



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

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

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## The Red Lion



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from our new pizza oven.

Fizz Friday every Friday for £14.95  
Free pool every Tuesday  
Free juke box every Sunday





We've another **JEWELLERY VALUATION** day, Monday Sept 9th, 1pm to about 4pm. Last time he had a steady stream of customers, and I'm told **offers very fair prices**. That's all sorts of items, brooches, watches, (working or not!), rings, chains, etc, he does a leaflet drop round the village ("Wanted – Gold & Silver") a couple of days before the event, with far more details about items of interest.

**GRATEFUL THANKS** to all those who bring clothes items to support the **Child Air Ambulance charity bin** – BUT --- if you find the bin is FULL, then PLEASE call the charity number (on the bin!!) and TELL THEM it's full!!

We've another **ANTIQUES Fair**, restarting after their break, **Sunday Sept 1st**, 9am to about 3pm, and a few new stalls apparently, that's plus Kathy Head running her excellent value cafe for one of her good causes (lovely breakfast, or perhaps just a bacon sarnie!).

Oh, and a bit of **bad news**, sadly the intended **Motown** evening at the end of the month has had to be cancelled, those well-known unforeseen circumstances!

Our **Bowls Club and Sequence Dancers** are always on the lookout for new members, the Bowlers are on Mon & Thursday afternoons, and Weds evenings if that suits you better. The Sequence Dancers are a friendly crowd, Thursday evenings, they also have a few Sat'day social events through the year.

Oh, 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" – to me just hitting that feathered thing was 'reasonable'!

I hear that the sessions of **KEEP FIT with FAYE**, (Fridays at 11am), have quite a crowd now, but still room for a few more, 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).

Sadly **Ashleigh's Irish Dancing** class (Tuesdays) will be leaving us soon, she needed more time and/or another day, and our schedule of clubs and classes just didn't have a suitable slot. But **thanks for their custom**, and the best of luck wherever they end up (ad on page 3).

Thanks to ALL of our delivery **AGENTS**, who bring your copy to your letterbox! BUT – **we need your help!**

If you have a spare copy or two, thank you for returning them to Vickery's, with that delivery bag, but can you **PLEASE let us know** how many spares you have?!

We're trying to get **the most accurate count we can**, so as to order the correct amount from the printer, and avoid needless waste. **Can you please email Kay** with any amended tally, and thanks in advance!

**Welcome** to TWO new team members, (Dr) **Jenny Williams**, who has actually already distributed the copies for one month (taking the order from the printer, splitting it, and delivering to the agents).

And our new editor, **Vicky Billingham**, who should be turning her keyboard red-hot for the November issue!

And **thanks to both of you** for coming forward!

## ABINGDON AIR AND COUNTRY SHOW SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup> 10.00 am - 5.00 pm



Abingdon Air & Country Show has lots to see and do, don't miss out on a great family day out. On the ground we have Ex-Military, classic vehicles, lorries and buses. Craft marquee with over 20 stalls, selling a wide range of products, over 50 Trade and Exhibitors stands including Garden ornaments and furniture. The ever-popular Husky dogs. Flight simulators and amusements, Zorbs, Mini go karts. Radio days Swing and Dance Band. Live music Lissie Allsopp 1940/60s music. Travellin Light plus friends. Caroline Priestly, Saxophonist. Flying displays including C17 Globemaster, Aircraft cockpits and simulator.

Onsite Caterers plus bar selling local Ales.

Free parking.

Tickets [www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk](http://www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk)

## HS2 Fiasco?!

You may have seen the news of this project's latest chronic failure.

The trains DO NOT MATCH the height of the station platforms!

Somewhere in Kensal Green cemetery (NW London), the remains of **Isambard Kingdom Brunel** are spinning in his grave!





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**The Chronicle** is printed on FSC certified paper, like many magazines. 'FSC' = 'Forest Stewardship Council', (<https://fsc.org/en> for more info), and they are aiming to maintain healthy resilient forests.



## DAMASCUS Fundraiser

Dear Editor, via email

On August 7th, **Pervin (Shahin) and family** warmly welcomed us into their amazing garden where she once again hosted the annual **Abingdon Art Society (NADFAS) Garden Party**, all proceeds going to **Damascus youth projects**.

**Rita Atkinson**, the original founder of Damascus gave an opening speech, followed by **Abigail Brown**, the VWHDC Arts Officer.

Pervin and two of her pupils gave a harp recital before Pervin enthralled us with a solo performance.

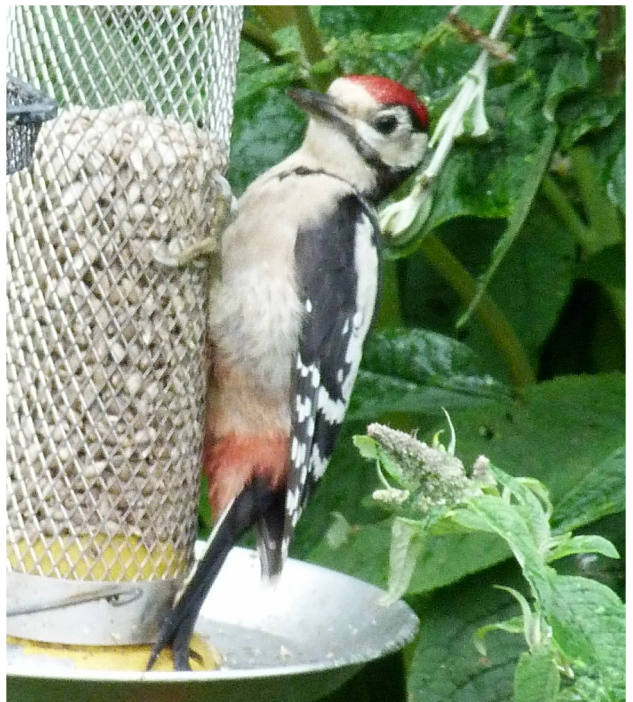
This was followed by a **wonderful afternoon tea**. The variety of delicious cakes made you realize the amount of hard work a host of supporters put in, to make it a very special afternoon. The fine weather also contributed!

There must have been an attendance of around 55 guests, mingling and enjoying the beautiful surroundings and above all contributing to a grand total of **£1135** which will go towards **two art projects in Abingdon**.

**A big THANK YOU to Pervin and all her support team.**

Kind Regards Shirley Thomas

[ED:- Thanks Shirley – though we only had room for just one of the photos you kindly sent]



{A recent shot of a Spotted Woodpecker – maybe not that often seen on a bird-feeder? – from Linda Semmens}

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

## Thames Water - Keeping Up Tradition?

Dear Editor, via email

Whether it's because of outbreaks of the gruesome intestinal disease "crypto", or **untreated sewage** being released into rivers and reservoirs in unprecedented amounts, most people agree Britain has **a serious water problem**.

As **one chief medical officer wrote**:- "The colossal power of life and death wielded by a water company ... is something for which, till recently, there has been no precedent in the history of the world. Such a power ought most sedulously to be guarded against abuse".

**Except** --- those words were written in **1867**, following the cholera epidemic that killed thousands in London's East End!!

Readers might consider that in 1867 the water company execs couldn't pay themselves huge bonuses for, well, what, just turning up two days a month?!

Regards, P. Sternbroke  
{ with credit to 'The Conversation' for that quote! }



[Pervin may have just dropped a cake?!]



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## Daria Stimpson

Dear Editor, via email

**Daria Stimpson** died in June, at the grand age of **95**. She had been living in a retirement flat in Abingdon and latterly suffered from dementia, but had remained her typical cheerful and positive self. Daria was always interested in what was happening in Drayton and would insist that I read out the Drayton Chronicle to her, when Jean Caudle delivered it every month.

Born in 1929, Daria grew up in the Black Horse pub in Gozzards Ford, where her grandparents and then parents were the landlords. As soon as she was old enough, she worked as an unpaid barmaid, together with her two sisters. Having won a scholarship at St Helens School, she began playing the violin and later went on to perform in various local orchestras, until her eyesight deteriorated badly when she was in her forties.

At the age of twenty **Daria married Norman** and moved into Abingdon to live above their grocery shop. The family came to a new bungalow in High Street, Drayton in 1958 and Daria quickly became involved in village activities. She was a founder member of the **Young Wives** in the early 1960's and if there were things to be done at village fetes or feasts, helping at youth clubs, running fund-raising events, etc, she would get stuck in. When it came to raising money to build the village hall, Daria worked on the production of the early editions of **Hall News** (the predecessor to the Chronicle).

Daria worked as the Primary School Secretary in the 1970's, before moving on to a job with Oxfam. She was keen on sport and having played tennis as a youngster, became one of the founder members of the women's section at **Abingdon Bowling Club**. Local history was another interest and she became involved in the **Drayton History Group**, through which she published a book of photographs of village life, to mark the turning of the Millenium.

In 2005, Daria and Norman moved back to Abingdon. Nevertheless, she kept in touch with her many friends and loved coming back to walk around the village. **Drayton was very much a part of Daria's long and happy life.**

Michael Stimpson



[Daria Stimpson]

[Ed:- we had a follow-up note, from her son, may be of interest to some readers :- ]

**Sorting through Daria's belongings**, we have found a lot of paperwork about the history of Drayton, and some photo-copies of old maps. Do you know of **anyone who might be interested in this material?**

We also have copies of the early editions of **Hall News** (the predecessor to the Chronicle), if anybody would be interested in them? Also we have a few copies of the **photo book of Drayton** that Daria produced to mark the turning of the **Millennium**, if anyone would like one?

Regards

Mike Stimpson (07484 284431)

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## Margaret Long

Dear Editor, via email

The garage sale at Mum's (August 11th) was very successful so thank you again for your support.

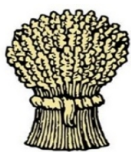
**Thank you to everyone** who came to the Garage Sale in Chiers Drive. **We raised £518.10 for local charities** – and we've decided to divide the money between the Caudwell Centre and the Primary school.

Many Thanks

Cathy Long

## SPARE CHRONICLES

If you should need an extra copy, you can collect one from Vickery's. Lawrence has very kindly agreed to keep a few spares.



## THE WHEATSHEAF

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## ***New Govt changes to Planning legislation & housing targets***

The draft details have only just been sent to the Council; officers are going through them to work out full implications. **There are some positive elements in them:-**

1) Greater flexibilities in the use of Right to Buy receipts.

2) Commitment to consult on wider reforms to Right To Buy eligibility and discounts.

3) Commitment to future announcements on bigger investment in affordable housing and on rent stability for social housing.

**However, there are some alarm bells ringing.** The key one of these is that housing targets are considerably increased. I haven't got full details yet, but for Vale as a whole, we're likely looking at an increase from 633 per year to around 940 per year.

The main concern in that is the power it can hand to developers, who can – if the “five year land supply” against housing targets is not deemed to be met - force through speculative developments against planning advice on appeal. Vale has met targets at that level before, but it may be challenging. I'll bring more information as I get it.

We're looking closely at our evolving Local Plan as these changes are bound to have an effect on it, and looking at legal implications.

## ***Devolution – Unitary Authority?***

In addition to the planning legislation, the new Government have contacted all councils informing them that they wish to encourage **further devolution of powers**. This is overall a welcome step, but there are some concerns over what devolution may be on offer.

The key concern is that there may be pressure to create a single huge unitary structure for Oxfordshire, one that would give Oxford City the freedom to push all of its unmet housing need into the districts (worsening the traffic into and out of Oxford itself, above and beyond the implications for the districts themselves, who could be treated as simply adjuncts to a single dominant city).

Huge Unitaries pull power away from the people as the sole council is more remote from the residents. **Original guidance** on unitaries was that they should be around the 300K to 400K population range (with some exceptions) and the average size of new unitaries since 2006 has been 380,000; the largest ever is North Yorkshire at just over 600,000.

Oxfordshire is rapidly approaching 750,000 residents - more than several US states (Vermont, Alaska & Wyoming). **Two unitaries for Oxfordshire would be strongly indicated**, in my mind – as long as that is accepted by Government.

My personal view is that South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse already are very closely enmeshed. West Oxfordshire has similar needs to us; South-Vale-West would come in at 410,200 population, which is quite large enough (leaving City-and-Cherwell at 327,500).

All of this, though, is pure speculation until the Government clarifies things more. However, that two-unitary solution above would also simplify the division of powers between District and County, something that confuses many (myself included, at times).



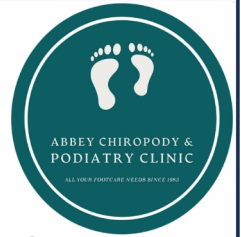
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## ***Cost of Living***

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

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

**01235 422600** or **[communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk)**  
Website: **[whitehorsedc.gov.uk/costofliving](http://whitehorsedc.gov.uk/costofliving)**

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

## ***Reservoir***

We have yet to hear back from the Secretary of State following our writing to him a few weeks ago, requesting an immediate pause in the 'RAPID' process and a **full reassessment of the need for the solutions presented in Thames Water's Water Resources Management Plan** (a plan that the Environment Agency recommended against accepting in its current guise).

Specifically, we strongly recommended that the reservoir option be removed and replaced with the **Severn Thames Transfer option** as part of a larger initiative to institute the National Water Grid that was recommended by the National Infrastructure Commission. In conjunction with this, a Water Transfer Authority should be set up, addressing the commercial concerns of water companies who do not trust each other.

**Solutions should reflect the needs of the country, not the commercial needs of near-bankrupt companies.**

We have also responded to Thames Water's informal consultation. The much-repeated message in our response was **that the need had not been made**, and that the proposals were immature and superficial, providing far insufficient information to respond against (given the many years and many millions spent on the proposal to date, this is embarrassingly poor from Thames Water); however we gave indicative responses against what could be seen of the intent.

Much of that appeared to be token attempts to promise implausible “benefits,” which TW could rapidly walk back on if their plan was accepted (they have already gone back on the suggestion of a canal link to the Thames for the public to use – something that was never going to happen).

**It isn't plausible** to have an open waterway always with water for boat use – as it would need to operate between zero net flow at normal operations, and a flow of water **triple** the average flow rate of the Thames in emergencies, just how deep would it need to be, and how low would it normally operate? You'd be able to base-jump onto the boats...). {cont'd overleaf >>}

## **Halls Close**

I mentioned a couple of months ago that the developers building behind Halls Close put in **an application to vary the condition regarding drainage**, to permit early occupation. I called it in to the Planning Committee as I was unhappy with anything that could look like playing fast and loose with drainage, given the problems we've had with the drains down the High Street in the past.

As I expected, it had to be approved. I don't hold it against the Planning Committee; they had no options when **the key statutory consultee – Thames Water – responded to say there would be no problems** [Ed's Note:- and with their long history of expertise and accuracy, nor the slightest hint of a broken promise, why would anyone doubt THEM?!]. Without any defensible reason to overrule them, it had to be passed.

Nevertheless, I have now officially got it on record that I don't believe Thames Water's casual claim that it will all be fine. If and when problems arise, I'll be asking for the minuted discussion to be used against them if possible.

## **Ward Boundaries Review consultation**

**A reminder** that the Local Govt Boundary Commission (LGBC) is carrying out **a review of ward boundaries and councillor numbers** in the Vale of White Horse District Council following population growth.

Details (including their recommendations report, a relevant map, and a summary of their recommendations) are available at this website link:-

<https://localgovernmentboundarycommissionforengland.cmail20.com/t/j-l-gjydh-d-hltydywiu-y/>

The consultation closes on September 16th 2024 and all are welcome to give feedback to them.

## **Cost of Living**

I've included the details of cost of living support, as some people do still need that help.

All the best,

**Andy Cooke**



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## **VALE NEWS**

### ***Free courses in Green Skills and Care***

More than 80 fully funded places are available on eco-friendly home improvement courses for people based in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse districts.

We have partnered with Abingdon & Witney College, OxLEP (Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership) and education charity SOFEA to upskill local residents and businesses. The councils have funded 82 places for 'green' building and construction courses from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. These courses at Abingdon and Witney College, include Installation and Maintenance of Heat Pumps, Understanding Domestic Retrofit and general awareness courses.

For more info, PLEASE SEE the website :-

<https://abingdon-witney.ac.uk/free-courses-in-green-skills-and-care>

You can also call Ab'don & Witney College (01235 555585).

### ***New Energy Saver App***

**Reduce your energy bills** with help from the Energy Saver App from OCC. This free mobile app uses technology to analyse your home energy usage data, the app provides you with personalised insights to help you use less energy, save money on your bills and reduce your emissions. For more info, and to download, visit <https://energysaverapp.com>



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# Parish Council / GARD – Reservoir Consultation Response

## Drayton PC Consultation Response (Thames Water Ab'don Reservoir) >>>>

### Pre DCO Informal Consultation on SESRO

The GARD local group have produced a comprehensive and **professionally accredited** resume of the issues regarding this, and **Drayton Parish Council agrees with their concerns**. In particular **we support their view** on the following:-

**Proof of the Need:** The need & functional case for the reservoir are not adequately proven. The Water Resource Management Plans (WRMP) have still not been approved by Govt, and the EA and Ofwat have expressed concerns.

**Viable Alternatives:** As the need appears to have been **volumetrically over stated**, we feel that alternatives providing adequate supply at lower cost / lower environmental impact, and earlier completion, have not been given sufficient consideration. Perhaps the Severn Thames transfer?

**Design Strategy:** The civil engineering design principles for the reservoir wall have been widely called into question as **flawed and unproven**. Similar projects have shown problems of inadequacy even during construction and not under final loading.

**Competence:** A real concern is Thames Water's **historic inability** to address mains supply leakage and sewage containment. This does NOT inspire confidence for the community, and neither does their widely reported financial situation as a viable business. A particular concern since large infrastructure projects of this type routinely suffer from flawed briefing and end up over-time and over-budget. →>

[Ed's Note:- In addition to the varied critical points re this horribly flawed project – designed to rescue TW's assets list at our expense – I'd nominate their reluctance to discuss the affect on the local WATER TABLE, already sensitive to heavy rainfall, evidenced by local flooding]



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**Environmental impact/Biodiversity:** TW's 'fact sheet' on the 'Environmental Impact Assessment' provides no confidence that the environment will be enriched by the reservoir. The glossy pictures provided **bear no resemblance to the actual landscape**. The current environment is one of flat pastureland, with arable fields divided by ancient hedgerows, streams and brooks, all rich in diversity of vegetation, insect, bird and animal life.

Vegetation is characterised by very old Willow trees and streams with steep banks which are rich habitats for wildlife. The area often floods in winter, providing a habitat for birds. Currently the area is well used by the local population for walking, running and riding on the bridleways that cross the landscape. It provides a significant green space for animals and people.

Given **the lack of an environmental assessment** by Thames Water, plus the lack of any relevant detail about the current biodiversity of the area, there is no evidence at all that the proposed design of a 'bund' contained reservoir would improve on the current level of environmental diversity.

**Drayton Parish Council is not convinced by this flawed project**, and supports a **Public Enquiry**, as demanded by GARD and many local MPs, Councils, and campaign groups.

**Graham Webb** (Vice Chair, Drayton PC, August 2024)

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**Reminder :- November 2024 will see the start of OCC's Traffic Filter scheme in OXFORD** so if you're obliged to drive or deliver there, best BE PREPARED?!

Six major roads will be affected, but you may be able to get an exemption, depending on your needs to be there?

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/connecting-oxfordshire/oxford-traffic-filters> has all the relevant info.

## GUITAR CLASSES?? Oxfordshire Music School

are coming back to Abingdon this September! Our weekly guitar classes are a great way to **learn an instrument, meet new people** and have a whole heap of fun whilst doing so! Classes are held at The **Loose Cannon Brewery** every Saturday morning (School term time only). Spaces are limited, see >> <https://www.oxfordshiremusicschool.co.uk/location/abingdon>



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(PLEASE check the Church noticeboard for info re services)

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# WESTMINSTER VIEW



Our (new) MP (Didcot & Wantage) is Olly Glover (Lib Dem).

He hasn't yet sent us a missive, but I expect he's been pretty busy. The text below is an extract from his maiden Commons speech, July 22nd.

I start by paying tribute to my predecessor, David Johnston. I admire the fact that Mr Johnston entered politics because of his passion for social mobility. I have met constituents who have been personally helped by him, and I aspire to follow his lead. I was pleased that the first email in my parliamentary mailbox came from **Lord Ed Vaizey** of Didcot, Member for the predecessor seat of Wantage between 2005 and 2019, offering his congratulations, a warm and encouraging gesture. **I arrive in Parliament following a career on the railway**, serving the public, and I hope to apply my knowledge and experience to working with others to advance both rail infrastructure and public services here.

[ED:- He then referred to a number of aspects of the towns & village he now represents, and added that he lives in Milton. He also name-checked:- “organisations such as Didcot TRAIN, the DAMASCUS youth project and Sustainable Wantage illustrate the strong culture of public service and volunteering”.

**He referred to his experiences when campaigning** on doorsteps, and suggested that his **liking for cats** might have gained a few votes >>> “Many a local party volunteer has come to tire of my **frequent canvassing of cats** as well as humans. On occasion, this has helped my cause: while I was in conversation with one voter, his cat, Matthew, intervened. Matthew took a strong liking to me, with a great deal of leg-rubbing, even sitting on my lap on the pavement. The voter, astonished, told me that Matthew hates nearly everyone, and that his favourable verdict on me would be taken into account”].

Turning to the subject of today's debate, my constituency shares many of the same challenges as the wider country. **Access to GP appointments** is often difficult, particularly in Didcot, which continues to yearn for a new GP surgery in Great Western Park. **NHS dentistry** barely exists, and **sewage dumping** in our waterways is a great concern, as are proposals for a **large reservoir** near Steventon and the Hanneys. Many residents desire to walk and cycle more, but need pleasant and safe routes and paths in order to do so, and while the constituency benefits from fast railway connections, **the reliability and capacity of the service provided can be somewhat patchy**, and we continue to lack a railway station serving Grove and Wantage.

Perhaps the greatest issue on constituents' minds is the cost of housing and recent, very substantial increases in the numbers of houses. I commend the Govt on their commitment to **genuinely affordable housing**, but ask them to bear in mind that residents would be more supportive of housing growth were **the health, education, and transport facilities needed to support it** delivered in parallel. I promise to work tirelessly for my constituents in the pursuit of progress on these issues, and thank them again for the opportunity to serve. It is a genuine honour to be stood here, and I look forward to working with Members from across the House to achieve those aims.

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

## AGE UK

As I'm sure you can imagine, amongst older people there is a significant 'digital divide'. 40% of those 75+, and 12% of those 65-74 are **not online**, meaning that there are **over 25,000 local older people** who we cannot reach through online channels.



We're hoping to reach some of those **local older people** by listing our organisation in village magazines.

We already have the services and teams in place to support older people within your community, so we would love to ensure that they are benefiting from our support!

Age UK Oxfordshire is a local independent charity supporting older people in Oxfordshire. We have a variety of services available to help you to live independently and live life to the full.

Our services range from support at home to helping link you into your community, from foot care clinics to exercise classes.

We offer a free information and advice helpline, as well as one-to-one support if you have been a victim of a scam.

To find out more about how we can support you, please visit [www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire), call 0345 450 1276 or email [contactus@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:contactus@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk)

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So, for this occasional venture back into **Pop Chart history**, who was charting **THIS TIME OF YEAR**, going back through time? **Remember any of these?** >>

In 2004, **Natasha Bedingfield** was at #1 with 'These Words', over **Three of a Kind** and 'Baby Cakes' (about rusks? – do they still have them?!).

Back to 1994 – **Kylie** wanted you to 'Confide in Me', and **Cyndi Lauper** was in the top-5 with 'Hey Now, Girls Just Want to Have Fun'. **Whigfield** would soon be at #1, with 'Saturday Night'.

**40 years ago** (is it REALLY so long?!) and we had **Hazell Dean** in the top-5 with 'Whatever I do (Wherever I go)', and an iconic #1 from **George Michael** ('Careless Whisper'), his solo debut (& a million seller!) following on from all his hits with **Wham**. Later that month **Ray Parker, Jr** was held at #2 with 'Ghostbusters', by **Stevie Wonder** and his 'I Just called to say I Love You'.

**FIFTY years ago** (for real old-timers), we'd just had **Paul McCartney & Wings** ('Band on the Run') with the wonderful **Three Degrees** at #1 ('When Will I See You Again'), just edging out **The Stylistics** ('You Make Me Feel Brand New') – "IF ONLY" cried by arthritis sufferers everywhere?!

Also high in the charts were **Stephanie De Sykes** ('Born With a Smile on my Face'), and the **Hues Corporation** ('Rock The Boat'). We then had three very different #1 hits in quick time:- **John Denver** ('Annie's Song'), **Carl Douglas** and 'Kung Fu Fighting', & the **Osmonds** ('Love Me for a Reason').

Anyone recall 1964?! Let me help:- a terrific few months, we'd just had **Dusty Springfield** ('I Just Don't Know what to do with Myself'), the **Stones** ('It's All Over Now'), the **Beach Boys** ('I Get Around'), & the **Nashville Teens** ('Tobacco Road'), with at #1 'A Hard Day's Night' (**Beatles** of course, from the film), **Manfred Mann** ('Do Wah Diddy Diddy'), and the **Honeycombs** ('Have I the Right').

**We had a further great few weeks** with the **Kinks** ('You Really Got Me'), **Herman's Hermits** ('I'm Into Something Good'), and the fabulous **Roy Orbison** ('Pretty Woman') all at #1, with just below them the likes of **Dave Berry** ('The Crying Game', possibly brought on by hearing **Julie Rogers** and her gruesome 'The Wedding'?!), the **Four Seasons** (their iconic 'Rag Doll'), the fantastic **Supremes** ('Where Did Our Love Go'), and another terrific group from that era, perhaps forgotten these days, that's **The Searchers**, this time with 'When You walk in the Room'.

Perhaps a few readers can recall 1954? **Sinatra** at #1 ('Three Coins in the Fountain'), **Nat King Cole** at #2 ('Smile'), and one **Max Bygraves** just below them, with (sorry!) 'Gilly Gilly Ossenfeffer Katzenellen Bogen By The Sea'. . . jolly good luck with that (catchy for Karaoke?!)

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**This month in 2014** -- started on a grim note, as **ISIL** (Islamic State), began its genocidal attacks in Iraq against the **YAZIDIS**, a harmless regional ethnic group that far predates Islam. And the **US military** moved into Iraq to combat ISIL's activities. In the UK, **Kate Bush** had her first live show since 1979 (& soon she'd be the first female to have 8 albums in the charts at the same time!). **Peter Capaldi** became the new **Doctor Who**, and **Match of the Day** had its 50th birthday!

Sadly we lost **Richard Attenborough**, also **James Alexander Gordon**, famous for many years as the voice of the football results on Radio 2's **Sports Report**.

**TWENTY years ago** **Boscastle** (N Cornwall) was the site of a massive flash-flood, buildings destroyed and cars washed right out into the sea! Something called **Google** became a publicly traded company (whatever became of them?). We lost **Bernard Levin**, (fame on *That Was The Week That Was*), and **Elmer Bernstein** (composed the **Magnificent Seven** & **Great Escape** music, etc).

**This month in 1994** – **Pizza Hut** became the first restaurant to offer **online food ordering** (in California) – little did they know what they were starting?! The **Russian Army** left **Estonia & Latvia**, the last Soviet occupations in Eastern Europe. And the **Sunday Trading Act** came into force, changing shopping habits forever!

Sadly we lost actor **Peter Cushing**, and would soon lose **Roy Castle** and former England captain **Billy Wright**.

**FORTY years ago** the **Space Shuttle Discovery** was setting off on its maiden flight, and **Zola Budd & Mary Decker** collided and fell in their Olympic final. And we lost acting legend **Richard Burton**.

**This month in 1974** – **Richard Nixon** resigned (due to the **Watergate** scandal); the first US President to do so. We lost **Charles Lindbergh**, famous for the first solo trans-Atlantic flight (1927). Coming into the world that year were **Emilia Fox**, **Tim Henman** & **Gok Wan** (Happy 50ths all?!). On TV, BBC started showing **Kojak**, **Porridge** (after a 1973 'pilot'), and **Roobarb** (the dog, + **Custard the cat**!), ITV launched **Rising Damp**, and started showing **Planet of the Apes**, and **The Six-Million Dollar Man**.

## More Notices & Other Local Churches

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

**Bridge Players??** Alternate Fridays (1st & 3rd) at All Saints (Sutton Courtenay) from 2pm to 5pm, £5 (includes tea & cake!)

**All Welcome.**

**Abingdon LIBRARY** has masses more events than you might expect from a mere library!

See their full list at

<https://www.facebook.com/AbingdonLibrary>

But DO SEE their ex-stock **Book Sales**, last Friday & Saturday of each month



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### Milton Methodist Church News

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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# NOTICE BOARD

## VALE of WH District Council

If you feel you need any help, PLEASE don't hesitate to contact our Community Hub -- details are on **page 11**.

### YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL CONTACTS :-

Parish (Clerk) **Anita James** (clerk@draytonpc.org)  
District (VofWH) **Andy Cooke** (07507 602911)  
& Oxfordshire County **Peter Stevens** via email >>  
peter.stevens@oxfordshire.gov.uk

## FOSTER CARERS NEEDED

**Could YOU foster?** The demand hasn't gone away with Lockdown! We need **short term and long term** foster carers as well as carers who can just help out for weekends and school holidays for children of all ages from babies to teenagers.

Foster carers receive a comprehensive training and support package along with financial support. **We need a diverse range of people** with different skills and qualities so that more children are placed in the right home, first time.

The package has recently been **improved**, now has a wide range of benefits, their website has comprehensive info:-

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/children-education-and-families/fostering](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/children-education-and-families/fostering) or please call **0800 783 5724**. Types of placements are both short & long term and include sibling groups. And you can check for updates on their Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/FosteringinOxfordshire/](https://www.facebook.com/FosteringinOxfordshire/)

**There's a range of different fostering schemes, and YOU just might make a big difference to someone's life?**

### TUESDAY CONNECT >>

**HAS MOVED! Now back on the FIRST Tuesday** (As on page 4 - monthly tea & chat afternoons in Church).

And the **Baptist Cafe** is on **Thursdays** - each week - but is NOW occurring in the Caudwell Day Centre, 11am to 1pm, more tea and cake, and **you can be sure of a warm welcome**.

## **Suzy Willis & Associates**

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## LISTINGS

**Jewellery Valuation** Drayton Village Hall, Monday **Sept 9th** (1pm to about 4pm). Lee is back again after successful recent visits, look out for house leaflets and F'book ads.

### DRAYTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY

In a cabinet outside **49 Whitehorns Way**, a carried stock of books (some for children), donate or borrow, check it out!

### RIDE AND STRIDE

For anyone interested in a challenge **Ride & Stride** is running again on **14th September!** It's a chance to **raise funds for both St. Peter's and other historic churches** in Oxfordshire.

Participants can travel by bicycle, horse riding, mobility aid, scooter etc. to try to visit as many churches in Oxfordshire as possible in one day! Or there are other sponsored activities e.g. bell-ringing and being a welcomer at participating churches.

The St. Peter's team will be variously welcoming participants or walking. **Anyone wanting to join us would be welcome!**

For more info see >> [www.ohct.org.uk/ride-stride](http://www.ohct.org.uk/ride-stride)

If you'd like to take part in support of St Peter's and other historic Oxfordshire churches, please contact the Parish Office: [admin@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:admin@damascusparish.org.uk)

**Antiques Fair** - In the Village Hall - Sunday **Sept 1st** (& Oct 6th too) from 9am (to about 3pm). Varied stalls, just £1 entry, and the chance of an ace bacon sarnie, toasties, etc!

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

**FIRE BRIGADE (60th Anniversary) OPEN DAY** It's on Sat **Sept 28th** - 11am to 3pm, Abingdon Oct Street Fire Station, many attractions, see their F'book listings!

**New safer cycling map for Oxfordshire** -- Cycling UK has recently launched the Oxfordshire Online Cycling Map, showing the best routes for new or inexperienced cyclists.

The map was created by campaign groups and experienced cyclists, aiming to encourage less confident, novice, and young cyclists to understand how they can cycle safely around their towns, villages, and to give more experienced cyclists possible routes to get between them.

<https://cyclingukoxfordshire.org/oxmap/>

### Diamond Light Source Public Open Days

The next '**Inside Diamond**' event will take place on **Saturday Oct 26th** and the **ballot** for this event is open **now**. These events are very popular and we have a limit on the number of visitors we can accommodate so we operate a ballot system to offer a fair allocation of spaces. **The ballot will remain open until Sunday Sept 22nd** (23:59). **BUT ENTER NOW!!**

These events offer the chance for members of the public to visit the facility and see **inside** our **particle accelerator and experimental laboratories**. You will also meet some of the scientists that use Diamond and can ask them about their work, everything from viral proteins to engine parts and ancient texts.

<https://www.diamond.ac.uk/Public/VisitUs.html>

**Abingdon AIR & COUNTRY Show** - Sept 21st - see their ad on page 7 for full details of all the attractions!

# DRAYTON DIARIES

## (Mostly) Hall Diary for Sept

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	1	9.00am	ANTIQUES FAIR (to 3pm)
Sat	7	11.00am	Private Function (child's party)
Sun	8	10.00am	Private Function (child's party)
Mon	9	1.00pm	<b>Jewellery Valuation</b> (to 4pm)
Tues	10	7.00pm	<b>Parish Council Meeting</b> (Caudwell DC)
Sat	14	9.00am	Private Function
Sun	15	11.30am	Private Function (child's party)
Mon	16	5.00pm	<b>Chronicle Deadline</b>
Tues	17	1.30pm	Bowls (League Match)
Sat	21	10.00am	Private Function
		11.45am	Private Function (child's party)
Sun	22	9.00am	Private Function (child's party)
Weds	25	1.30pm	Drayton Wives



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**CAT Microchipping** is NOW **MANDATORY** in the UK (since June) - Owners must ensure their cat is microchipped before they reach the age of 20 weeks (puss, not owner with their contact details stored and kept up to date (!) in an approved pet microchipping database. Oh, and that does  STILL apply to cats that are generally indoor moggies!

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'Regular Events' - IF an error, DO PLEASE tell us!

## 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
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	<b>Drayton Community Choir</b> (2nd/4th Thurs)	
	-- Call Kay for info 01235 204187	Church Room

### FRIDAYS

11.00 am	<b>Keep Fit with FAYE (07815 583591)</b>
4.15 pm	Karate/'Dojang X' sessions (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*

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