

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

A detailed illustration of a village at night, centered around a church with a tall, multi-tiered spire. The church is illuminated from within, and its light reflects on the surrounding rooftops. The village is composed of numerous houses with blue roofs and warm, glowing windows. A winding road leads through the village, and a large, dark, conical tree stands near the church. The sky is filled with a spectacular display of fireworks in shades of red, blue, and white, exploding against a dark, starry night sky. The overall atmosphere is festive and celebratory.

VOLUME 47 ISSUE 10
NOVEMBER 2024

EDITOR: VICKY BILLINGHAM

CHRONICLE INFORMATION

KEY DATES

The next Drayton Chronicle will be the December issue edited by Bridget Pyne.
Tel. **07454 778211**

Issue	Deadline for contributions		Printed Chronicles available on:
	Advert	Editor	
December	15th Nov	17th Nov	29th Nov

NOTES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

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

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

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

If email is impossible, please place your contribution, typed or handwritten, in the Chronicle box outside Vickery's Hardware Store on Drayton Green, or post to Vickery's, 5 The Green, Drayton, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4JA. After the deadlines, only urgent items will be considered for inclusion and then only if emailed, or delivered directly to the editor's house, by the Wednesday following the deadline.

Why not **join our team** of merry volunteers? The Chronicle team is actively seeking:

Agents to deliver the Chronicle (typically one street per Agent); the exercise bit!

A **Distribution Co-ordinator** who co-ordinates the distributors (who take delivery of the printed copies) and Agents; the organiser bit!

Editors who pull the articles and adverts together for printing; the creative bit!

If you'd like to get involved, contact
editor@draytonchronicle.net



ADVERTISING

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

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

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

Requests for advertisements should (preferably) be emailed to Stephen Fearnley, the Chronicle advertising manager (**advertising@draytonchronicle.net**), 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 table on left).

To all the volunteer Agents, Distributors, Editors and anyone involved in the production of the Chronicle in any way.....

we invite you and partners to Christmas drinks, mince pies and nibbles to thank you for another successful year.

Venue: Drayton Hall
On: Wednesday December 4th
At: 7:30pm

RSVP to:
editor@draytonchronicle.net

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

ST PETER'S CHURCH



Rector: Revd Helen Kendrick

rector@damascusparish.org.uk

Pro-warden: Mrs Linda Johnson

lindaajcw@gmail.com

Administrator: Alison Bampton

admin@@damascusparish.org.uk

01235 847179

The church remains open daily Sun-Sat, 10-3pm.
All information is correct at time of going to press.

SERVICES INFORMATION

Sunday	8:00am	Holy Communion BCP – 3rd Sunday only
Sunday	9:30am	Regular Sunday service
Thursday	9:45am	Holy Communion (1st & 3rd Thurs)
Thursday	9:45am	Celtic Morning Prayer (2nd & 4th Thurs)

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

YOU STAY WE PRAY

27th Oct - 2nd Nov Friars Mews; Monk Close; Prior Drive; Abbot Crescent.

3rd - 9th Nov Chestnut Drive; Holly Lane; Walnut Way; Willow Way

10th - 16th Nov Furlongs; Plough lane; Furrows End; Lammas Land; Virgate; Fallowfield Close

17th - 23rd Nov Lockway

24th - 30th Nov Whitehorns Way

Remembrance Service Sunday 10th November 9.30 a.m



This year the Service of Remembrance will take place in St. Peter's church starting at 9.30 a.m. This will include the reading of

names and placing of poppies and the two minutes silence at 11.00 a.m. **All are welcome** to join us as we remember those who laid down their lives for us.

Dear Friends,

The clocks have gone back and increasing darkness spreads its mantle over us as winter settles in. The darkness of conflict and loss has settled upon our world; a darkness that will last well past a winter's gloom. The solemn month of November, the month to remember not only the passing lives of those loved and known by each of us, but of the countless lives lost in the horrors of conflict. Is there a real hope of lasting peace and an ending to the world's darkness of grief and anguish?

I draw comfort and hope that Jesus wept at his friends' deaths, over Jerusalem and in the Garden of Gethsemane. The God in Christ weeping touches our tender spot; his tears brought comfort and eternal hope in the dark storms of life. At the times when Christ weeps, his great power is revealed; at the darkest times of human existence, Jesus reveals God's promise that death and the powers of darkness will be disarmed. We will continue to confront death and suffering in all its forms yet, we can live in the faith that the power of the presence of God's love and goodness is ultimately greater.

God is not a remote, unfeeling tyrant deity but immerses himself in human suffering; big enough, wide enough and high enough to be with us in our struggles and fear. God is our hope and strength, a very present help in trouble, therefore we will not fear though the earth be moved. Our earth is shaken by the violence of war. Please God help us.

Please join us on the 3rd and 10th November as we name and give thanks for those who have loved and shaped us, but we see no longer.

May the God of peace bring peace to your house this night and all nights.

Revd Phil Sutton

Associate Minister

DAMASCUS Parish

First Monday	14:00	Knit & Natter No need to be a knitter, if you'd just like a natter
Monday	19:30	Bellringing practice
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Wednesday (term time)	10:00	Pebbles Baby & Toddler For more information contact: Draytonpebbles@hotmail.com

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REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY: 10th November



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

This year's poppy appeal kicks off on **October 26th**. As with the last few years our local shops, public house, St. Peter's Church and Golf club have kindly agreed to have poppies, crosses and pins on display for anyone wishing to donate.

Drayton Primary School will again have more age-appropriate items such as the ever-popular snap bands, pencils etc .

This year we will NOT be on the village green with our poppy table as the weather is so unpredictable, but Jackie who runs the Antique Fair at Drayton Village Hall has kindly agreed to us having our table just inside the village hall on **3rd November**.

We hope you will come along and support the Royal British Legion.

Susan Ash



Thank you to Susan A Baird for this poem and photograph.

The poem is her original work, and will be part of the Tommy group's display of remembrance for November, along with the large poppy cross.

The Tommy group will be presenting their annual display in November on the green opposite Vickery's Hardware Store.

The actual memorial plaque is located in the village church and names of the fallen are repeated over the church gate.

Service

It's the act of commitment
Of absolute belief in one's role
It enables an individual to be greater than themselves
It sets one aside from many
The oath to become part of a bigger community
A fellowship that spans across all nations
It supports its weakest members
It cares for their families and the fallen
They will never fade through time
Their memories will always endure
Service above self.
Veterans bound for ever.
Thank you for your service.

Susan A Baird 2024, Author & Veteran

Oxfordshire Military Museum Fundraiser: Finding Lieutenant Wordsworth

In a talk and fundraiser for the Oxfordshire Military Museum, to take place at **Faringdon's Buscot Park on 14 November 2024**, Ingram Murray will tell the story of the search for the identity of an unknown soldier killed in action during the **First World War**.

The talk details the search in which Ingram himself played a key role, alongside other museum volunteers, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), Ministry of Defence and Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC).

The story began in 2013 when a local farmer, digging in his private garden in the village of Hénin-sur-Cojeul, discovered the remains of a body which dated from the Great War. Based on objects found with these remains, it became clear the soldier had been an officer of the county regiment, The Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. The artefacts found with him were transferred to the Museum so that volunteers could continue their research to try and identify the soldier. The unknown officer was reburied 'Known Unto God' in 2015 alongside comrades in arms at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's H. A. C. Cemetery at Écoust-St.-Mein, a village near Arras.

There was further mystery surrounding the officer, as his body was nine kilometres from the battlefield. But in mid-2017, one volunteer discovered that an officer serving in the Machine Gun Corps had transferred from the Oxon & Bucks LI before he was killed, and was buried by his men in Hénin-sur-Cojeul, one week before his division had established a formal burial location outside the village. The volunteer's thesis was that the young officer may have continued to wear his original Oxon & Bucks LI uniform.

That officer was **Osmond Bartle Wordsworth**, a collateral descendant of the poet. In late 2018, the Museum had the artefacts on display and as luck would have it, a visitor advised staff that he knew Wordsworth, and contact was made with the family. A DNA comparison with a relative has resulted in a positive match with the remains.

Tickets are available from the museum in Woodstock and their website. Proceeds will support Soldiers of Oxfordshire Trust, preserving the county's military heritage, and sharing Oxfordshire's wartime stories.

<https://www.sofo.org.uk>

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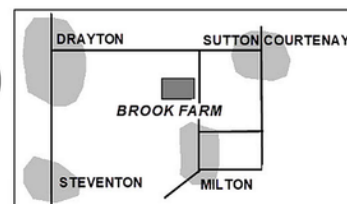


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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



The Parish Council met on 8th October.

Walnut Meadows

The planning application for the Sports Pavilion, MUGA and Car Park has now been registered with the District Council and an officer assigned. The target date for the determination of the application is 30th December. This means that work on the construction of The MUGA will not commence until 2025.

The contractor appointed to construct the sports pitches has removed some of the further unauthorised waste buried by Miller Homes. This was supposed to have been removed as a condition to their planning permission. This has been raised with the Vale as removal will cost the Parish Council a further £9,000 unless enforcement action is taken against Miller Homes.

Manor Farm

Cala Homes have agreed to remediate the outstanding defects within the public open space at Manor Farm. This includes repairing the perimeter path and sorting out areas of the playground where the membrane is showing through. Once these actions are complete the Vale will sign off the Certificate of Practical Completion (scheduled for 7th November). The Parish Council will then take over responsibility for the public open space. We intend to operate a more environmentally friendly approach to dealing with further emergence of hemlock and will be considering how we promote biodiversity in the areas surrounding the open space. It will be good to see the Heras fencing removed!

Footpaths

The PC has met with a contractor with a view to improving Bridleway 8 (Gypsy Lane). The path alongside the old scrapyard has already been renovated and is in good shape but we now want to improve the rest of the path towards Gypsy Lane and the section of Gypsy Lane to where it joins the concrete road. This would help those walking or cycling into Abingdon along the back ways.

Given the recent rainfall we are probably in for a wet and muddy winter. Please let a member of the Parish Council know of any problems with other footpaths as winter progresses.

Sutton Wick Pond

We are in the process of sourcing quotes from specialist pond companies who could dredge and restore this pond.

Traffic Calming Measures

The business case for these measures (crossings at Walnut Meadows and High Street and work on the junction at Walnut Meadows) is due to be approved by Oxfordshire County Council any time now. OCC will then run a statutory consultation on the proposals with a view to work starting in 2025.

Defibrillator

Work on getting a second defibrillator has been held up by the change in our County Councillor. We have now asked for funding for a solar-powered defibrillator from the County Councillor's priority fund.

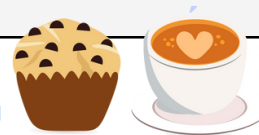
Kiln Lane

We understand that work has started on this development.

The next PC meeting will be held on 12th November in the Caudwell Day Centre at 7pm

Elaine Wade

Macmillan Coffee Morning



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

The amount raised was £1,386.92 but this does not take into account the gift aid, so in real terms the total will be more!

Special thanks to Miriam and Jenny; we could not have done it without your help.

Liz Kidd & Brenda Malin

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Reservoir

I make no apology for leading off on the mega-reservoir proposal yet again. We already know just how bad the flooding situation is already, and the changing climate on its own would make that worse. A **megareservoir**, which raises groundwater flooding by a metre or more, would be completely unpalatable.

Thames Water have hurriedly put together their **"Environmental Impact Assessment"** scoping proposal, in which they propose to "scope out" swathes of problematic areas such as the emergency drawdown method, or a Dam Break assessment; their argument being that they'd just design it so well that none of that would be necessary, and even if it was, we should only ask for it after the design is completed.

The design, they say, won't be completed until about half way through the construction of the reservoir(!), and actually they only really need to provide a Dam Break assessment and evacuation plan prior to filling the damn thing.

Unsurprisingly, it's raised our hackles considerably. We're going to lobby the **Secretary of State** on this and have been exploring options to force these into the official assessment. My personal suspicion is that it may be literally impossible to provide an acceptable Dam Break assessment, emergency drawdown plan, and evacuation plan given the staggering scale of the proposal and the unparalleled weight of water in a raised bunded reservoir (the **draft suggestion** of pumping into the Thames over seventy cubic metres of water per second from it (around triple the average flow of the Thames here) for a period of three weeks is simultaneously ridiculously fast in terms of the water being forced downstream and ridiculously slow in terms of an "emergency" drawdown). Deferring these until the sunk costs are truly sunk would pressure the various agencies involved to give a more "optimistic" appraisal of whatever's presented, and there's no way we're going to sit by and let them try that.

We've already got **Ollie, our new MP**, fully on board, and Layla Moran as well. I'll update as more information comes available.

The fact that this stupid proposal is totally unnecessary in any case is even more galling. We've known the solution for ages: transfer water from the wet areas on this rainy island to the water-stressed and drier areas. **The Romans knew this!**

[Editor's Note: see pages 10 and 11]

Brown Bins

Coming back to the immediately practical - Residents who are subscribed to the brown bin garden waste service can have extra garden waste collected for free, on their normal collection day only, between **28 October and 8 November**.

You can 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 contain only natural garden waste, such as cut grass, plants or branches and be placed in standard sized (60L) black refuse-style sacks or in boxes / containers totalling no more than a standard bin full.

Please DO NOT use tonne builders' waste bags - the crews will not collect any garden waste from these.

Have your say - council tax on empty properties

Recent changes in council tax legislation now allow councils to reduce the minimum time of two years for a domestic property to remain unoccupied and substantially unfurnished before an additional, long-term empty council tax 'premium' charge is incurred, to just one year.

The long-term aim of the proposal is to see as many homes brought back into use as soon as possible.

You can have your say online here:

<https://theconversation.southandvale.gov.uk/finance/vowh-council-tax-premium-on-lte-properties> until **Tuesday 26 November** 2024.

Leisure Centre refurbishments and new gym equipment purchases

White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre in Abingdon is receiving funds for decarbonisation (solar panels and heat pumps), a refurbished reception and a modern automated gated entry system. We've also had approval to replace the ageing gym equipment at the Abingdon, Wantage and Faringdon Leisure Centres. Much of the funding has come through developer infrastructure contributions which were agreed before housing could be built (it's good to see some of the promised improvements start to materialise).

Community Hub - support

If you need support or advice, you can contact the Community Hub here:

Tel: 01235 422600

Email: communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk

Website: whitehorsedc.gov.uk/costofliving



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THAMES WATER UPDATE



Thanks to everyone who participated in our summer 2024 public consultation on the new reservoir proposals. We received 1,500 responses and more than 1,200 people joined our community events.

In August 2024, we secured government approval for our Water Resource Management Plan which sets out the action and investment needed to make sure your water supply is resilient and sustainable for the next 50 years and beyond.

To inform our design plans, work has now begun on geological surveys, including a clay compaction trial on the proposed reservoir site.

You can discover more on our progress by visiting: thames-sro.co.uk/sesro

GARD NEWSLETTER



WE CONTINUE THE FIGHT

Emergency General Meeting Friday 11th October

This was well attended with over 50 members and 30 sending in their proxy votes on the Resolutions. The meeting was called to discuss restructuring GARD and its activities in order to help us be in a position to contest the decisions on the Reservoir in legal ways and to be able to be represented at the ultimate decision hearings on the project, a Development Consent Order.

Campaign continues

GARD continues its vigorous opposition to the plans for the SESRO mega-reservoir. Thames Water is a step further in its process after the Secretary of State for Environment Steve Reed approved their Water Resource Management Plan (WRMP), with SESRO at the centre of the plan.

They can now apply for the Development Consent Order for SESRO, but please be assured that **nothing is decided for definite until the DCO in mid 2027**. GARD will oppose them all the way and is now taking advice on whether to challenge Thames Water with a Judicial Review: the next stage. We have written to Steve Reed demanding to see the reasoning behind his decision.

Clear actions for us all now

- Become a member of GARD – email gard.secretary@gmail.com
- Sign the petition if you have not yet done so (we have over 4300 signatures at time of writing – 13th October): here's the link <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/stop-thames-water-s-plans-for-a-devastating-mega-reservoir>
- Write to your MP:
Olly Glover MP (Didcot and Wantage) olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk
Layla Moran MP (Oxford West and Abingdon) layla.moran.mp@parliament.uk
Charlie Maynard MP (West Oxfordshire) charlie.maynard.mp@parliament.uk
- Write to your Councillors (see GARD website for details) and Parish Council Chair. Please copy GARD into your letters email: gard.secretary@gmail.com

The Banners unpacked:

Water table rise of one metre: on February 13th 2024 Thames Water gave a presentation on Flooding and SESRO to Oxfordshire County Council, District Councils and other stakeholders. Its engineer from Mott MacDonald clearly stated that the Reservoir, if constructed, would cause a 1.0 metre rise in Groundwater level, requiring considerable 'mitigation'. For the villages of East Hanney and Steventon this would greatly worsen existing flood conditions.



Thames has since made efforts to suppress or make light of this important issue. They also do not have up-to-date simulations of the effect on Groundwater Flooding – mainly because they don't know enough about the area soils and water table.

Threat to homes: property damage: the ground water rise of 1 metre and the sealing over of the Zone 2 and 3 flood plains will result in increased flooding of and damage to homes in the surrounding villages. Also flooding makes it difficult and very expensive to insure homes, and pushes the value of property down; risk of flooding is a frequently cited reason for people pulling out of a house purchase.

The proposed reservoir now appears on all property searches. Home values will fall or the houses will become unsaleable. This will affect us all - our homes are at risk.

Threat to nature: over four square miles of countryside would be inundated and destroyed if the reservoir is constructed. Overall, the development would significantly reduce the area's biodiversity. Thames Water's claim to improve biodiversity is based on no more than theoretical desk exercises. They couldn't even spot the large number of irreplaceable veteran and ancient trees on the site. Here are facts we have established through on-the-ground research:

53 miles of hedges and lines of trees destroyed: many endangered species inhabit the hedgerows and lines of trees that cross the area, these include nationally rare bird and bat species.

200 ancient and veteran trees destroyed: the historical landscape contains a high concentration of irreplaceable trees. These support great biodiversity and are home to owls, bats and woodpeckers. We would lose three fine examples of one of Britain's rarest trees: the Wild Pear, and over 60% of Oxfordshire's registered ancient and veteran willow trees.

36 miles of watercourses destroyed: these are the core of the green corridor that stretches across the site and provide important habitat for otter, water voles and waterfowl.

Destruction of habitat by massive construction over a decade will take centuries to repair.

Threat to life: if there were a sudden breach of the bund (the wall of the reservoir) for any reason – accidental cracking, sabotage, terrorist attack – water would pour out under great pressure. The closest houses would have about a minute before inundation. The likelihood is very small but the effect is enormous.

This will affect you: anyone who lives within 20 miles of the construction, anyone who is a Thames Water customer, anyone who uses the A34 – all will be affected.

GARD will keep everyone informed about their plans: meanwhile, let's make a noise locally!

Numbers matter: any politician considering this will want to know our membership numbers and our petition signatures – please make your opposition plain!

Derek Stork
GARD Chairman

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DOVECOTE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (TDRA)

Handover of the Public Open space from Bloor Homes to the Dovecote (Drayton) Management Company Ltd continues to be delayed due to a hold up in resource availability in the District Council. The inspection was originally due to be held in mid-April but is now unlikely to take place until November.



As a result, residents may not secure control of the Management Company (the organisation that will take on responsibility for maintaining the Public Open Space after handover) until 2025. Although disappointing, this does not cause the residents any issues; these delays simply further delay the point at which residents need to start paying for maintenance! TDRA is ready to take the next step, having secured support for its Resident Director nominees and its new Managing Agent (Saxons Block Management). Both of these will need to be formalised at the EGM, which will now be delayed until at least December.

Since TDRA was formed in 2020, the residents of the Dovecote have saved an estimated **£120,000** in potential maintenance fees, ensuring this responsibility remains with the Developer. Very little maintenance on the Public Open Space has been undertaken in the past few months. We hope to be able to deliver a more consistent maintenance schedule once residents have taken over responsibility, for example this may include regular cutting back of growth in the balancing ponds and removal of weeds from the block paved roads.

Work on spending the **Arts Funding** has been delayed as we're not allowed to install anything on site until the handover has been completed. Our first project, a noticeboard at the entrance, is underway and an artist has submitted a proposal. This is likely to restart in the next few months.

Nigel Billingham

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Work has now started on building the **new slip roads onto the A34** at Lodge Hill Interchange north of Abingdon so traffic can go both ways. Before building, the archaeologists uncovered evidence of ancient river systems and early human life half a million years ago.

Oxfordshire has a 57.2 per cent **recycling and composting** rate, the best in England for 10 years in a row. But around half of the average rubbish bin is made up of items that could have been recycled, so do look for things that could be recycled (like old aerosol cans or any plastic) and put them in the recycling.

There is often dissatisfaction over the regular traffic queues on the **Sutton Courtenay – Culham bridge**, so I have investigated improving the flow. An Engineer has checked the operation of the signals and found them to be working correctly without any current faults. They will continue to monitor but the current timings are the best achievable at this location for now.

Last month saw **historic levels of rain** - more than a month's worth of rainfall in the space of 36 hours, which created many localised flash floods, and general flood levels rise to heights not normally seen until late winter. Climate change means that for some time now this country has been seeing more intense spells of rain and increased instances of flooding. OCC has diverted extra funding to flood prevention.

Climate change is accelerating, and this will get worse for at least 30 years while we get to net zero emissions. Replacing all of our drainage pipes with bigger ones won't work when a month's rain can fall in a day. We need to work out how to hold back rainwater wherever it lands, look at smarter 'water farming' practices. It is going to be a long-term thing.

Residents or businesses in a **flood risk area** can access the council's flooding toolkit, <https://www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com/>. Residents can call the Environment Agency's flooding hotline for advice and support at any time on 0345 988 1188.

We continue to feed into Thames Water's strategic water management plans which includes the **massive new reservoir**. If this reservoir was overwhelmed during flooding, it could double the worst floods we see. This risk needs to be addressed and mitigated properly. There are several other issues which I have fed into the consultations for Thames Water to address ahead of building SESRO, including sewage discharge, recycling water, fixing leaks, transporting water from areas of oversupply, management of turbid flood water, using local gravel pits first and focussing on grey water. We are concerned about the impact of construction and ongoing operations for local villages and those downstream of it.

The new **Joint Local Plan** is now open for public consultation. The plan identifies just one major redevelopment – the brownfield site of Dalton Barracks on Abingdon Airfield – as we believe enough house building has already been authorised to meet central government targets. The rest of the plan focuses on driving better standards for house building.


Peter Stevens

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LOCAL GROUPS AND CLUBS

DRAYTON WI

Thank you to my stand-in last month; it enabled me to get my second cataract operation done in the new clinic in Abingdon. Grateful thanks to the NHS for wonderful care and allowing me to see blue sky and green grass, which I have not seen so clearly for quite a long time.

This month we had a return visit by **Lynn Carter**, who this time showed us a selection of glassware from her collection. We were allowed to handle the glass and guess its value as she told us about its origins. We partook in an Antique Roadshow "good, better, best" game which was quite enlightening. She also showed us a nifty way to discover and value any item we may own through Google. Some members tried it and it works. None of us have turned into millionaires yet but we live in hope; who knows what is lurking in a cupboard or the back corner of the garage?

At the end of her talk she disclosed to us the health battle that she has been through since we last met. We wish her well and hope she fully recovers as soon as possible. Lynn can be seen at the **Antique Fair** held monthly in Drayton Village Hall.

Next month we will be doing **Strictly Nature** with Simon Booker. That sounds mysteriously interesting. Why not come and find out with us on Thursday November 14th at 7.30 in the Caudwell Centre?

Don't forget the **Craft Fair** in the Drayton Village Hall on November 9th - many stalls, raffle, teas and cakes - all information on the many posters all round the village. It should be a really good event so come and find out - see you there!

Ann Webb

DRAYTON PLAYERS

Little Steventon Amateur Drama Society is in trouble. Membership has dwindled to four, and audiences aren't much bigger! Time for dramatic action. "There's only one thing that sells tickets these days – sex" argues Gordon the Chairman. But how will the locals react to the promise of a sizzling sex comedy?

Drayton Players present
"The Last Christmas in Little Steventon"
a comedy by David Tristram,
adapted for Christmas by Sue Hadley

Contains adult humour.

Refreshments and a raffle will be available.

We will be performing at 2 local venues:

Sat 23rd Nov 7.30pm

Harwell Village Hall OX11 0EX

Sat 30th Nov 7.30pm

Steventon Village Hall OX13 6RR

Tickets are £9

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www.DraytonPlayers.org.uk

DRAYTON WIVES

We are always on the lookout for new members. We are 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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LETTER FROM WESTMINSTER

Although, since the last newsletter, it has been the recess in parliament, I have been busy meeting residents, and my team have continued to provide support to individual residents. Since returning to parliament, I have raised questions and spoken and debated about issues that have an **impact upon the residents of Drayton**. This has included:

- Seeking redress for the **pensioners** who have lost millions of pounds following the privatisation of the UKAEA
- Speaking up for **renters** in supporting the government's Renters' Rights Bill; a home is a place of safety that all deserve without fear of unfair eviction or rent rises.
- Calling for the **rail ticketing systems** to be affordable & comprehensible
- Supporting the concerns of locals regarding **health care provision**, as the local NHS Integrated Care Board seeks to make changes that could reduce the ability of communities to shape local provision.

It was **Carers' Week** recently and I pledged my support to unpaid carers who need government. During the Liberal Democrats Conference, I was proud to contribute to the motion and to share the great work of Be Free Young Carers, a fantastic local organisation.

We have some great pubs in our area, and I was pleased to meet with **British Institute of Innkeepers** recently as they called upon the Chancellor to use the budget to provide support for community pubs & breweries.

My team here in Oxfordshire and Westminster provides support for all our constituents. Please **contact me** if I can help, or if you would like me to attend a local event or meet with a local organisation. My parliamentary email address is olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk

I continue to look forward to meeting as many as of you as possible.

Best wishes,
Olly Glover MP



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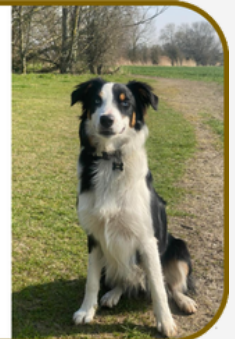
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We're trying to order the correct amount from the printer, and avoid needless waste. Please email Kay with any amended tally. Thanks!

The Chronicle Team



DRAYTON HALL NEWS

Thanks to all our **Main Hall users** for their patience, since the lights failed. The new (replacement) LED lighting is scheduled to be installed the second week of November.

We've another **Jewellery Valuation** day, Tuesday Nov 5th, 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.

Not ONE but TWO **Craft Fairs** this month, the WI on Sat 9th and Kathy Head's one for the Air Ambulance, Sat 30th.

We've another **Antiques Fair**, Sunday Nov 3rd, 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!). Another one on Dec 1st too.

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 (and a Xmas party).

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).

Tony Holmes



DRAYTON DIARIES

All events held in Drayton Hall unless otherwise stated. To book the Hall email Tony Holmes at **bookings@draytonvh.co.uk** or call on **(01235) 531180**. Website: **www.draytonvh.co.uk**

Sat 2nd	11am	Private Function (child's party)
Sun 3rd	9am	Antiques Fair (to 3pm)
Tues 5th	1pm	Jewellery Valuation (to 4pm)
Sat 9th	11am	WI Craft Fair
Sun 10th	9am	Dog Show (private club)
Tues 12th	7pm	Parish Council Meeting (Caudwell DC)
Sat 16th	1pm	Private Function (child's party)
Sun 17th	9am	Dog Show (private club)
Mon 18th	x	Chronicle Deadline
Sat 23rd	10am	Private Function (all day)
Sun 24th	9:30am	Private Function (child's party)
Wed 27th	1:30pm	Drayton Wives
Sat 30th	10am	Charity Craft Fair (Air Ambulance)
Sun 1 Dec	9am	Antiques Fair (to 3pm)

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise.
[## = Small Hall in Village Hall]

If an entry is wrong – DO tell an editor (page 2)

MONDAYS	
2:00pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session
6:00pm	Damascus Youth ##
7:15pm	Badminton (Private Group)
7:45pm	Bell-ringing (<i>St Peter's</i>)
TUESDAYS	
9:30am	Pilates (Alexandra Merson 07788 248925)
1:45pm	Drayton Art Group (<i>Caudwell DC</i>)
2:30pm	Tuesday Connect - 1st Tuesdays (<i>Church</i>)
5:30pm	Irish Dancing (Ashleigh 07375 878445)
6:45pm	Karate/'Dojang X' Sabrina 07938 537310
7.45pm	Beginner's YOGA (ditto)

WEDNESDAYS	
10:00am	Pebbles Baby Group (<i>Church</i>)
1:30pm	Whist Drive (<i>Caudwell DC</i>)
1:45pm	U3A Science/Tech, 1st Weds (07890 385931) ##
2:00pm	Drayton Wives (Last Wednesday, most months) ##
2:15pm	Badminton
6:30pm	Brownies (term-time / Laura 07916 459435) ##
7:00pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session
THURSDAYS	
9:30am	Parent & Toddler Group
9:45am	Holy Communion (**) (<i>St Peter's Lady Chapel</i>)
11:00am	Baptist Café (to 1pm) (<i>Caudwell DC</i>)
2:00pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session
2:00pm	Crafts Group (2nd Thursday) Kate 01235 550486) ##
5:30pm	Rainbows (girls 5 to 7 yrs) ##
7:30pm	Sequence Dancing (Brian - 01235 531701)
7:30pm	Women's Institute Meeting (2nd Thurs) (<i>Caudwell DC</i>)
7:30pm	'Community Choir' (2nd & 4th Thurs) <i>Church Room</i>
FRIDAYS	
11:00am	Keep Fit with FAYE (07815 583591)
4:15pm	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
6:00pm	Evening Service (<i>Baptist Church</i>)

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