

DRAYTON CHRONICLE



Harcourt Arboretum
see page 15

Chronicle Information



The next Drayton Chronicle will be the May issue, edited by Vicky Billingham, editor@draytonchronicle.net
Key dates for next Chronicles:

Issue:	Deadline for Contributions:		Printed Chronicles available on:
	Adverts	Editor	
May	11 th April	14 th April	25 th April
June	16 th May	19 th May	28 th March

Notes for Contributors

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

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

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

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

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

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

Advertiser Category	1 insert	3 inserts	6 inserts	12 inserts
Drayton Resident	£7	£19	£36	£70
Non-Drayton Resident	£8	£22	£43	£83

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

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

On 1 May,
**Oxfordshire
decides**



2025
LOCAL ELECTIONS

**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

LOCAL METHODIST WORSHIP

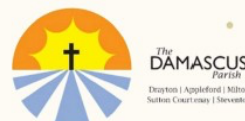
High Street, Milton
Sunday Service: 10.30 am
Local contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409

BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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



Easter Garden Quest

An Easter Garden making challenge! Come and join us on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday to make your own Easter Garden ready to bring them all together on Good Friday.

Easter Garden Making

Monday 14th April

St Michael & All Angels' Steventon at 10am

St Blaise Milton at 2pm

Tuesday 15th April

St Peter's Drayton at 10am

All Saints' Sutton Courtenay at 2pm

Wednesday 16th April

St Peter & St Paul Appleford at 2pm

Easter Garden Service

Good Friday

All Saints' Sutton Courtenay at 11am – Gathering of all
Easter Gardens with Hot Cross Buns

ST PETER'S CHURCH, DRAYTON



Rector	Revd Helen Kendrick	rector@damascusparish.org.uk
Administrator	Alison Bampton	admin@damascusparish.org 01235 847179


The church is open daily, **Sun-Sat 10.00 am- 3.00 pm**

REGULAR SERVICES:

Sunday 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) on 3rd Sunday of the month only.
Sunday 9.30 am Regular Sunday Service
Thursday 9.45 am Holy Communion (1st and 3rd Thursdays), Celtic Morning Prayer (2nd and 4th Thursdays)

Easter Services at St Peter's:

13th April Palm Sunday 9.30 am Holy Communion
17th April Maundy Thursday 9.45 am Holy Communion
18th April Good Friday 10.00 am Walk of witness, starting at the Baptist Church and ending at St Peter's for hot cross buns
Sunday 20th April Easter Day 8.00 am Holy Communion BCP
 9.30 am Holy Communion. Healing Prayer at both services
Everyone is warmly welcome to join us at any of these services.
Wishing you a Blessed Holy Week and Happy Easter from all at St Peter's.

 Follow us on Facebook for online updates about services and events!

Search:
 St Peter's Church, Drayton, Abingdon
 or scan the QR code below:



REGULAR ACTIVITIES:

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

Bellringing Practice
 Every Monday evening 7:30pm

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

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

ST PETER'S LETTER

From the DAMASCUS Ministry Team...

Dear Friends,

In CS Lewis's much-loved book, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, the lion Aslan is put to death by the White Witch in a scene which gave me childhood nightmares when I first read it. The stone table on which He is killed cracks in two, but Aslan comes alive again and meets with Lucy and Susan and he explains the Witch's failure: *'her knowledge goes back only to the dawn of time. But if she could have looked a little further back, she would have known that when a willing victim who had committed no treachery was killed in a traitor's stead, the Table would crack, and Death itself would start working backwards.'*

This is a great picture of what Jesus' cross and resurrection has achieved. As St Paul writes, *'I want to know Christ, to know the power of His resurrection'* (Philippians 3:10).

To understand the real Easter, we need to experience the same power that raised Jesus from the dead - the new hope, the new love and the new life that God brings to us all.

New Hope: Like the girls in the story, Easter highlights the sadness and confusion that loss brings. Yet the resurrection of Jesus brings new hope, as it demonstrates the victory secured by the cross over sin, Satan and death. We can face life's difficulties knowing that Jesus walks beside us.

New Love: Our relationships are often characterised by a lack of forgiveness, hurt and betrayal. Yet Jesus' resurrection opens the possibility of new love, as His power enables us to accept others and forgive them.

New Life: When we are trying to make sense of life, like Susan and Lucy in the story, Jesus offers us a living relationship with Himself. It's a friendship with God through Jesus that can begin today and continue for eternity.

When Lucy met Aslan again, she cried: *'Oh, you're real, you're real!'* My prayer, this Easter, is that, in amidst all the fear and uncertainties of the current times, we too find the real power of Easter through a life changing encounter with the living Christ.

With love and prayers

Helen

The Reverend Canon Helen Kendrick, Rector of the DAMASCUS Parish

Date for your diary: **Plant Sale** at St Peter's on Saturday 17th May 10.00 am - 12.00 noon. Refreshments available!



YOU STAY WE PRAY APRIL 2025

30 th Mar-5 th April	Drayton rd; Milton rd; New Cut Mill; Fisher Close; Marcham rd; Meads Close; Rippington Court; Stone Hill
6 th - 12 th Apr	Steventon rd; Kiln Lane; Mott Cottages; Barton Court
13 th - 19 th April	Eastway; Eastway MHP
20 th - 26 th April	Church Lane; Henleys Lane; Caudwell Close; Gravel Lane
27 th April-3 rd May	Abingdon rd; Oday Hill

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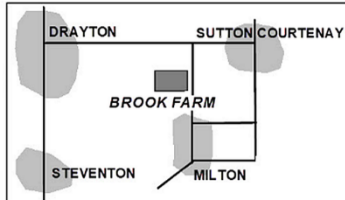
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GROUP AGAINST RESERVOIR DEVELOPMENT (GARD)

News Update for April 2025



JUDICIAL REVIEW: we now have a date for our Judicial Review hearing at the High Court - 25th and 26th June. The High Court Judge has ruled that our claim is 'significant' and, as the case is complex, has taken the unusual step of fixing a 'Rolled Up Hearing' where the issues of permission and the substance will be considered *together* on the same two days. The outcome of the hearing will be available in July.

RECENT CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY: the campaign against SESRO continues with vigour.

Meetings: Two meetings were held in March hosted by Sally Povolotsky (to whom many thanks) and GARD, in Drayton and East Hanney.

New: GARD is planning some 40 minute Zoom meetings to introduce people to SESRO issues. The dates and times will be on Facebook soon – please share with your friends. You can email gard.secretary@gmail.com for information and to reserve a place.

Publicity: We are placing more posters and banners – please contact the secretary if you would like any of these for your area. We have delivered leaflets to the houses closest to the proposed reservoir area in Steventon and East Hanney (many thanks to the volunteers who have helped with this).

There are plans for an Action Day (Cllr Povolotsky, 5th July probably) and BALLOONS: a helium balloon visual barrier near Hanney (May or June). More ideas? Please email gard.secretary@gmail.com

Online leaflets: Derek Stork (Chairman) has written short explanations answering two questions we are meeting in conversation on the street:

- what is GARD's view of a smaller reservoir? and
- how the Reservoir's effect of raising groundwater rise affects the site and the area around it.

If you would like an online copy of either of these, please email gard.secretary@gmail.com

CLAY COMPACTION TRIALS (Thames Water): The planning application to extend working hours on a Saturday has now been withdrawn – all a mystery. The delay because the site was water-logged was no surprise to anyone local, although Thames called it 'unseasonably poor weather'. We could all explain to them what a flood plain means. The pumping of water and silt into the Cow Common Brook is being investigated.

FUND RAISING: GARD's sister company SAFERwaterS has financial backing to cover the costs of the Judicial Review process. After that, GARD and SAFERWaterS need to fund themselves. If you would like to donate to GARD's campaign, the bank transfer details are given below. We are very grateful for the ongoing support of members and supporters.

ASSISTING GARD: we have enlisted some new helpers onto our Campaign and seeing their new ideas is encouraging. If you would like to be more involved and have an idea you would like to try, please get in touch with the Secretary gard.secretary@gmail.com

ACTIONS FOR YOU NOW:

- JOIN GARD if you are not yet a member. Go to the website Abingdon Reservoir - Group Against Reservoir Development and click on **Join Us** at the top.
- Sign the Petition for a Public Inquiry launched jointly with CPRE Stop Thames Water's costly mega-reservoir – fix the leaks! | 38 Degrees currently **at 5623** names.
- Write to your MP demanding a Public Inquiry
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
- Contact your local Councillors and Parish Council Chair about the SESRO plans, giving your views (see Abingdon Reservoir - Group Against Reservoir Development for contact details).
- Share GARD's social media posts (Facebook and Instagram) to your friends, personal contacts and groups.
- Display GARD's publicity materials. If you can assist with funding printing costs or would like to display material at your home or in your town / village, please contact the Secretary: gard.secretary@gmail.com

Please copy GARD into your email letters: gard.secretary@gmail.com

GARD Payment methods for Membership or Donations:

Bank transfer to Group Against Reservoir Development **Account Number: 71266438 Sort Code: 40-45-36**

Please include **your name** as a reference & email gard.secretary@gmail.com

LETTER FROM WESTMINSTER



Dear all

This month, I met many constituents in surgeries, out and about, and online—technology makes it easier to connect. And of course, our constituency is rich in technology, engineering and science; it was a privilege to meet some of the Harwell Space cluster and visit Williams Engineering. Often, I am meeting constituents who need support such as local potter, Charlotte Storrs, who highlighted challenges for small businesses exporting to Europe.

Flooding has continued to need attention, and many constituents have contacted me about the appalling track record of Thames Water. I supported Charlie Maynard, MP, in challenging Thames Water's significant water bill increases and ongoing debt-financing and will continue to do so. I am engaging with the agencies responsible for flood management, pushing to see preventative and mitigation work completed as soon as possible.

In Parliament, it was an honour to speak in the debate to mark the third anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. The tragic situation has also shown the best of our constituency, and I was able to recognise the huge contribution of local families and charities.

During a rally at Westminster of those who provide adult social care, I was able to show my support, and since then I have been able to voice, including on BBC Radio Oxford, just how important and urgent the review of adult social care is.

As a Transport Select Committee member, I raised concerns about barriers to bus use, especially in villages, which affect many constituents.

With the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Motor Neurone Disease (MND), it was an honour to visit the Kings MND Care and Research Centre and see their work.

Finally, I was pleased to hear the local elections are going ahead in May. This is your opportunity to listen to the candidates and vote for who represent your needs. If you have concerns, would like to meet me or would like me to visit you, please contact me at:

Olly.glover.MP@parliament.uk

For more regular updates you can follow me on Bluesky: [@ollyglover.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/ollyglover.bsky.social) and

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OllyGloverLD/>

Best wishes, *Olly.*
Olly Glover MP



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FOOD WASTE ACTION WEEK

PLAN AHEAD

- **Create a meal plan** for the week and use a portion calculator too if this helps, to work out how much you need to buy
- **Check what's in your cupboards and fridge** – you could take a "shelfie"
- **Write a shopping list** of the items you need

SHOP SAVVY

- **Buy what you need**, either by choosing loose produce, or coordinate with others to share a bigger package
- **Choose loose where you can** at local supermarkets, green grocers, markets or order a home delivered veg box
- **Save money** by doing a quick calculation and check the unit price vs the packaged

Follow **Oxfordshire Recycles** on Facebook for waste reduction and recycling information

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT



Dear Readers

Hello, happy spring. Depending on when you read this, we might be in purdah, when we are now preparing for county council elections, which occur about every 4 years on 1st May. For me, it is slightly different, as I was elected only last summer, in a by-election, as my predecessor stood down because of ill health, which means for this division it is less than a year since you last voted. Sorry. Happy to accept your vote again!

During purdah, I can't make promises, as I might not be in role to deliver them. Quite sensible really. But I can summarise what I have done for Drayton so far in my short time to date:

- Sponsored speed cameras and speed control work where roads are known to be dangerous – shifting the effort from only acting after accidents to acting where accidents are just waiting to happen – encouraging people to keep diaries of near-misses, so we can win arguments to make safer roads and paths.
- Promoted people to sign up as 'super-users' which enable us to queue-jump and prioritise bad local potholes and Fix My Street issues for urgent attention.
- Sponsored the purchase of a new defibrillator for Drayton
- Taken on role as chair of the local liaison group to work with the landfill, gravel and energy sites around our village site to provide the best long term environmental social and economic outcomes. I have started to work with the county on new Local Area Energy Plans to create the best joined up plan for proposed new solar, battery renewable energy supply and research and data centre applications around Didcot Power Station and between our villages that make us at the forefront environmentally and economically.
- Holding the multi-nationals to account to develop and implement plans that keep our communities safe from extreme flooding and weather events that affect their operations.
- Campaigning against Thames Water's excessive reservoir plans which ignore the elephant in the room of managing current excess water from flooding and leaks, and campaigning for funding for the Thames Valley flood alleviation schemes recommended by the Environment Agency.
- Helping Drayton residents stop Thames Water abusing byways and small lanes as HGV routes for drilling rigs and other reservoir development work. Thames Water have given up on some of their trials due to difficulties.
- Supporting the great work that your district councillor, Andy Cooke, has been doing to research the facts and build a better case for better outcomes with Thames Water.

I also think it might be helpful if I explain (as I didn't really know before I was elected) what the county council does as opposed to the district council.

The county council runs social care services (the biggest cost and closely linked to the NHS), schools, libraries, education services, highways, roads, paths and transport infrastructure (except national highways), fire and rescue services, strategic, economic and environmental planning, public health, registration and coroner services. Generally public services where there are efficiencies and economies from running them at a county level.

Before I sign off, I should also say that things are changing so next time, the district and county councils will probably have merged, and they may well be part of a larger strategic authority, intended to help local devolution of power. But in the meantime, May 1st is important (in my opinion) to vote for what you think is best for our area.

All the Best, Peter

Councillor Peter Stevens, Sutton Courtenay & Marcham Division



The Curlew

The Curlew's wonderful 'bubbling' call is one of the most evocative sounds of springtime in meadows and pastures across Oxfordshire. Something we cherish, but which is sadly under threat. The Curlew is arguably the most pressing bird conservation priority in the UK, where nearly half the breeding population has been lost over the last 25 years and where range contraction has seen Curlews disappear from many traditional sites. Watch our 'Curlew River' film which explores the work of farmers and volunteers to help our wonderful Curlews as well as highlighting the fabulous ancient meadows and wet grassland habitats that they inhabit in our area. <https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/projects/curlew>



New Year Resolutions

How are those **green-themed resolutions** coming along? Perhaps yours were to cultivate new hedge life. Maybe you're going to reduce your meat intake, find eco-friendly cleaning products, or make your garden more wildlife friendly using native plants. There are endless ways to make a difference!

Why not sign up to our monthly email Bulletin, visit our website, and follow us on social media for the latest nature news and ways you can join others in helping nature in Oxfordshire

<https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/news>

Jess Bouwer – Wild Oxfordshire Hedgerows & Partnerships Officer

Wild Oxfordshire – what do we do?

We help catalyse change by identifying conservation needs and supporting nature recovery action across the County. We collaborate with numerous individuals, communities and organisations; offering expertly curated and inspiring information, bespoke advice, and nature-based solutions.





Matthew Barber
Your voice in
Thames Valley

JOIN THE WHATSAPP COMMUNITY

Matthew Barber is Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley, working with the police to help drive down crime locally.

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@matthewbarberpcc
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Promoted by Matthew Barber on his own behalf, of Waterloo House, 58-60 High Street, Witney, Oxfordshire, OX28 6HJ.

Could you be their next victim?

Whilst many crimes are falling, such as burglary - down by a third since before the pandemic - sadly we are all more at risk online. We can all feel the benefits of living our lives in a more connected way, but with the convenience that technology brings, there are also risks – however, a huge amount of cyber-crime and fraud is preventable.

Scams can take place online, on the phone or in person. Here are some of the ways fraudsters may try and target you and the signs to spot to help you protect yourself:

MAIL SCAMS Common types of postal scams include fake lotteries and prize draws, offers of investments and inheritance windfalls. What to look out for: irresistible offers that are too good to be true; unfamiliar branding; not using your name; bad spelling and grammar.

TELEPHONE SCAMS Common telephone scams include investments, pension or computer support scams. The person calling often sounds professional and may pretend to be from a trusted organisation such as your bank, the police or a company you recognise. What to look out for: callers asking you to share personal or financial information or a passcode or pin; callers asking for remote access to your computer; callers trying to rush or pressure you into making decisions.

DOORSTEP SCAMS Criminals pose as legitimate businesspeople selling goods or services that are faulty, overpriced, poor quality or non-existent. What to look out for: being asked for money upfront before providing any goods or service; No ID or proof of who they are; telling you they're doing work for neighbours to try and gain your trust.

EMAIL, TEXT AND WEBSITE SCAMS In what is known as Phishing, an email or text may appear to be from your bank or other company, in order to trick you into revealing personal details. You may be asked to click on a link which takes you to a fake website where you will be prompted to enter your details. What to look out for: spelling or grammar mistakes in emails or texts; they may not use your name; an unusual email address which may be similar but doesn't match the company email; strong encouragement to click on a link.

Remember, anyone can be a scam victim.

If you spot a scam, always report it. You can also look out for other people who may be vulnerable to scams by joining friendsagainstscams.org.uk to help raise awareness throughout your community. **For more information visit stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk.**



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DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT



Hi, all,

Local Government Reorganisation

I have an apology to make. By the time my previous update reached you, everything had changed. And then changed again. Sorry. Since then, the West Berkshire option came onto the table again, then off again, then on again. I'm getting reminded of that old song and wondering if it'll be "gone again, Finnegan," by the time I finish writing this update. Anyway, the latest update (that *doesn't* look to be changing) is that all the District Council Leaders and County Council Leader have written to Government saying that there are realistically three options:

- 1 – A single Unitary: the County Council absorbs all the Districts to form a super-sized Unitary.
- 2 – Two Unitaries: North Oxfordshire (Cherwell, West Oxfordshire, and Oxford City) and Ridgeway Council (Vale of White Horse, South Oxfordshire, and West Berkshire)
- 3 – Three Unitaries: Oxford City expands and absorbs an unspecified number of wards (the hole in the doughnut I mentioned last time) and the outer remnants form a Northern and Southern Unitary, also including West Berkshire.

My own preference is for #2, if anyone can say whether West Berkshire will join in. If not, reluctantly, #1. The option of #3 looks like a half-baked doughnut, as no-one seems to be able to even say what wards are in the hole and what the northern and southern remnants will be. Still no news on the Combined Authority front. We're still tending towards the Berkshire-Oxfordshire-Buckinghamshire model to follow the NHS boundary. I probably shouldn't suggest it be called the "Combined Authority of Bob," though.

New Garden Waste permit and payment system

I mentioned this last year, and now it's coming live. Residents should now sign up for that new garden waste permit sticker to put on their brown bins. This should prevent some of the confusion that occurred in the past when some people who had paid didn't get their brown bins picked up, and others who hadn't paid, *did* get their brown bins emptied. It wasn't widely prevalent, but enough to cause a few issues, I understand. We're essentially copying West Oxfordshire, who successfully rolled this out a while back. Unlike in school, I approve of copying what works – we get to learn from successes and (hopefully) avoid failures.

I'll quote the release, to make sure I get it completely right: *"The updated scheme, launching on 1 April 2025, introduces an annual permit sticker system. Residents need to pay for their permit to ensure their garden waste collections continue without interruption."*

The new payment system is now available online at www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/gardenwaste Once they have purchased a permit, customers will receive a sticker through the post displaying their address which needs to be stuck to their garden waste bin lid to identify it as fully paid for and eligible for collection. Customers now need to make an annual payment for a permit – this replaces the existing direct debit scheme. Everyone's payment year will run from 1 April to 31 March each year. Every bin needs its own permit, and customers will receive a new sticker annually each time they renew."

"Benefits to customers include a new online system so they can manage their account, renew their permit and change their details much more easily. This will also mean the councils can contact people quickly if there are any major disruptions to the service, such as during adverse weather. When customers pay for a permit, there will be a link to sign up for an account and the account sign-up is also available on the councils' websites. Full information is also available on the council websites and each existing customer will shortly receive a bin hanger flagging the changes. Support is available for any customer unable to pay online by contacting the council."

I note that the price has gone up (to £70); this turns out to be because the cost of it to the Council has also gone up. The phone number for those less confident with doing things online is here: 01235 422422; you can also go into the Council offices in Abingdon if you'd prefer to do it face-to-face.

Reservoir

Thames Water continue to have problems with their trial site on Hanney Road. Despite major questions of whether a 3-metre high embankment running for a few tens of metres is even worth anything, they've been struggling to complete it within the year they'd allowed for it (which was supposed to include a 100% overrun for anything unexpected). I got an aerial photo of the site a couple of weekends back: see below

Not only the "borrow pit" from which they mine the clay, but the intended site of the actual clay bank were underwater. Perhaps they should have expected rain? They're nowhere near completion, which was why they'd put in a planning application to allow extended hours working. An application they withdrew in early March. I've got no idea if they'll try another one to run on for a second year, or whether they'll simply abandon the trial site and claim it was never needed anyway. Regardless, their timeline of 9 years to dig out and put up 25-metre-high banks in an 11,000 metre length is looking to be a total fantasy.

Community Hub – support

Tel: 01235 422600

Website: whitehorsedc.gov.uk/costofliving

Email: communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk

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

All the best, Andy Cooke



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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



The Council last met on 10th February

Request for additional Councillors

I am pleased to report that we have 3 potential new Councillors. They will all be considered for co-option at the next meeting on 20th March.

If all 3 prospective Councillors are accepted, we would be up to 8 Councillors, leaving 3 further vacancies.

We represent the whole of the village, modern developments and old houses alike. Despite a recent increase in Drayton's population by c. 1000 people, the Council does not currently have a single Councillor from any of the 3 main new developments. Everything that we attempt to achieve is for the village as a whole and it would be great to have representatives from Walnut Meadow, Manor Farm or the Dovecote on the Council.

Refurbishment of Bridleway 8 (Gypsy Lane)

The best laid plans!!!

This refurb was due to start, weather permitting, on March 24th. Unfortunately, it looks as though this will have to be postponed until later in the year. The District Council are refusing to release the S.106 money to the Parish Council as the bridleway is not registered on the Land Registry. This is very frustrating as the path is almost impassable at the present time.

Trees by the horse field on Henleys Lane

The Parish Council arranged for a quote for a survey of the large Horse Chestnut trees.

This has been sent to the landowner.

Manor Farm public open space

The Parish Council is still awaiting clarification from the District Council regarding the management of Hemlock on the site. As readers will recall, we are hoping to prevent further spraying of the site. We have offered to hand pull any emerging hemlock.

Danes Store

As most of you will know, staff at the store were recently subjected to a terrifying incident where they were threatened by someone with a knife. Obviously, this has been extremely traumatic for them. The Parish Council wish to acknowledge how important the shop is to our community and send our very best wishes and support to Mano and Georgiana.

That's it for this month. There will be more detailed report next time. The next meeting is on 20th March (sadly too late to report on for this edition of the Chronicle) and after that we revert to the normal date of the second Tuesday of every month, at **The Caudwell Day Centre, Gravel Lane at 7.00 pm (ie Tuesday 8th April followed by Tuesday 13th May).**

Please let us know of any concerns via clerk@Draytonpc.org

Elaine Wade

For further Parish Council info.....

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

Here you will also find archives of The Drayton Chronicle, History of Drayton, Village Information, photographs and more. This site now contains a link to the new website: draytonparish.gov.uk

CALLING ALL CHIPPIES OUT THERE!!

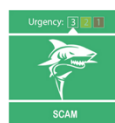
(Carpenters, as opposed to booty makers)

As many of you will know, the PC is working on a Wayfinding Trail through the village, and we need three lecterns to be located at various sites, to house a lovely map, showing us the routes and how to find them.

So.... we will need a handy carpenter to make the lecterns for us, in hard wood. We would like to employ a local craftsman if possible, so now over to you.

Please contact me at: pervin.shahin@draytonpc.org

Thanks!



Protect yourself from Holiday fraud: don't let fraudsters trip you up this summer.

People looking to snap up online holiday deals ahead of the summer are being warned to stay extra alert and do their research before booking their getaways, as new data reveals victims lost a total of over £11 million to holiday fraud last year.

Action Fraud, the national fraud and cybercrime reporting service, has launched a [holiday fraud campaign](#), urging the public who are looking to snap up their next holiday deals online to look out for suspiciously enticing offers online, including on social media, and do their research before booking their getaways.

What can you do to protect yourself from holiday fraud?

- **Check the travel company is legitimate:** about to book a holiday? Do some research first to check that the company is legitimate, especially if you haven't used them before. Use consumer websites, or reviews from people (or organisations) that you trust.
 - **Look for the logos:** look for the [ABTA](#), [ABTOT](#) or [ATOL](#) logos on the company's website. If you're unsure, you can use the links below to verify membership:
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 - o ABTOT - <https://www.abtot.com/abt-ot-members-directory/>
 - o ATOL - <https://www.atol.org>
 - **Use a credit card to pay:** use a credit card for payments (if you have one). Many of these protect online purchases as part of the [Consumer Credit Act](#).
 - **Only provide required details at checkout:** when making your payment, only fill in the mandatory details (often marked with an asterisk) such as your address. Unless you think you'll become a regular customer, **don't** create an account for the store.
 - **Keep your accounts secure:** create a strong and unique password for your email. If 2-step verification is available, always enable it.
 - **Watch out for suspicious links:** whether it's in an email or social media post, be wary of promotions for unbelievably good holiday offers. If you receive a suspicious email, report it by forwarding it to: report@phishing.gov.uk
- Find out how to protect yourself from fraud: <https://stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk>

If you've lost money or provided your financial information to someone, notify your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud at actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040. In Scotland, call Police Scotland on 101.

LOCAL GROUPS and CLUBS

Drayton Wives

Our monthly meeting in February was about the art of Jaipur block printing.

Our speaker was Marea. Marea used to work at Abingdon and Witney college as an Events Organiser, then discovered Indian block printing while visiting a stately home in the Cotswolds and had a complete change of career.

Marea was shown around the house by the owner and was told about the history including all about the textiles that were all hand-printed.

From that moment Marea was hooked, so she bought printing blocks from India and started a business from a workshop at home advertising her printing and courses. Unfortunately, she also realised there was another printer in the same village so booked village halls around the county and beyond to demonstrate her printing.

Marea started doing workshops at Highgrove which opened many doors for her and her business took off. At this time, she left her job to concentrate fully on printing, giving talks and practical demonstrations

There was something for everyone to do, from making aprons to tea towels to just having a go with the colours and designs.

A very interesting and hands on meeting!!!!

Lisa Lammiman
Chairman

Drayton Table Tennis Club

We are nearing the season end in the Didcot League. The main success for the club are the Buzzards who are clear at the top of Division 2. Unless there's a major turnaround they will be champions. Captain David Hudson assures me that will not happen! In the same division Corinthians are currently third with an outside chance to finish runners up. Dingos are lying 8th and clear of the bottom positions. In Division 1 the Artisans are embedded in the top 5. They won't challenge the top positions but with the level of quality in the division (several nationally high-ranked players) have done very well.

In Division 3 our two teams Eagles and Flamingos are vying with each other and regularly swapping positions. Currently 4th and 5th with 4 points between them and 4 matches each left to play. In the recent 'derby' it finished all square!

The Handicap Shield and Bidmead Cup competitions are well advanced. Our Bidmead team have reached the Semi-Final. Hopefully they'll go all the way! In the Handicap Shield, we are at the Quarter-finals stage. Corinthians and Flamingos have both qualified. Hopefully they'll avoid each other in the draw and both progress!

Our Cadets tournament took place on 17th March with 14 youngsters having entered. A report of the outcome will be in the next issue. Finally, the club Closed Championships are scheduled for 11th May. It's the 31st year of the tournament that decides who wins the John Prior Cup as club Champion!

John Gould
Chairman



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oxfordshire.gov.uk/fostering



Obituary

Jean Hager (1932 – 2024)

- always in our thoughts -



Over the 60-plus years that Jean lived in Drayton, she became a familiar face and good friend to many in the village. Born in the East End of London in 1932, evacuated to Wiltshire in 1939, she returned to London in her mid-twenties then spent a couple of years in Oxford with her friend Gill. Jean and family moved to Drayton in 1964 after short spells living back in Oxford and then Goring. Always keen to get involved, she embraced many of the activities on offer in the village. The Chronicle you are reading now was part of her involvement, delivering it around Whitehorn's Way for many years, and she also regularly visited people's doors to raise funds for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Whilst living in London in her twenties, Jean attended drama school, and it was there that her passion for acting began. Drayton Players was a young group when they arrived in the village, and she didn't take much persuading to join – I think she was in her early eighties when her involvement with the group finished, undoubtedly a difficult decision for her. I know she had many happy memories of being part of the Drayton Players.

Jean is survived by husband Don who is now a resident of Old Station House in Abingdon. Don is Canadian and has Jean's sense of adventure to thank for their meeting: in her late twenties she left Oxford and booked a passage to Vancouver, and it was there that they met and were married. I happen to know that Canada wasn't Jean's intended destination, having put plans in place to go to Australia. A letter from Jean to her parents tells how, on a visit to London, she decided to visit Canada House to see what may be on offer, prior to going to Australia House to see how her paperwork was progressing. She never got to Australia House and by the end of the day her passage to Canada was booked. This fortunate stroke of serendipity was to mean Jean and Don settled and brought up their family in Drayton.

Jean worked for many years at Rutherford & Appleton Lab, firstly as a Particle Scanner and then in the library. At retirement and for many years after, she kept herself busy by volunteering as a client advocate for Age Concern helping people navigate their older age.

Drayton Wives and then the Wooden Spoon were groups Jean joined early on when arriving in Drayton; these were a good way to meet new people and improve culinary skills. She became a member at St Peter's Church in Drayton, enjoying the opportunity to share her faith and becoming involved in services when possible. Whatever she did, Jean had a desire to help others, so when a chance came up to be involved with First Tuesday Connections at St Peter's, she committed herself to something she realised would be very important to many in Drayton.

Adam Hager

The Late David Hale 26.8.1933 - 20.12.2024

Following the funeral on the 29th January 2025 at Saint Peter's Church, donations received in David Hale's memory came to £1,197.86! This is a wonderful amount and has now been divided equally between St Peter's Church Fabric Fund, Drayton Baptist Church and The Pug Dog Rescue & Welfare Association. As a family we are so grateful to everyone who attended & it was lovely to see the church so full with 105 people! Special thanks go to Reverend Rosie Bruce & Reverend Phil Sutton for taking the service, Jayne Henderson & Peter Hale for the readings, organist John Napper, Sally Dixon for verging, Val Cross & the ladies for the floral arrangements in the church, Richard Mathews Flowers for the garden trug floral tribute and M & J Didcock Funeral Directors for their excellent service. The sympathy cards & support we have received from the wonderful community of Drayton have been much appreciated, thank you.

Anne Goddard (daughter)



VE Day 8th May 2025 *Victory in Europe Day*

The photo depicts a banner of remembrance for VE Day. Proudly displayed by two Drayton veterans: Harry Ash & Ian Baird. As we celebrate and remember this important date in history, we remember those who were lost and injured. Their selflessness and sacrifices making this day a momentous date for us as a nation. Freedom came at a huge cost of life. We shall remember them. Let's we forget.

Susan Baird
Veteran & Author



Harcourt Arboretum

The front cover photo was taken at Harcourt Arboretum situated in Nuneham Courtenay (a 20-minute drive from Drayton).

In 1835, Archbishop Vernon Harcourt commissioned artist and landscape designer William Gilpin to create an eight-acre pinetum and Serpentine Ride in the parkland next to Nuneham House, where the Harcourt family lived. In 1947, the University of Oxford purchased the entire estate and created an arboretum that has grown over time to 130 acres. It was acquired by the Botanic Garden in 1963. It was designed as a place of beauty, to preserve the collection of North American conifers, and to grow trees for which the Oxford Botanic Garden was too small or the soil too alkaline.

University experts travel the globe to find rare trees, collect their seeds and grow them in the Arboretum, ensuring the species survive outside their threatened native habitats. Today, visitors can discover trees from around the world growing alongside tranquil British woodland and open meadows. This includes some of the oldest redwoods in the UK. Seasonal highlights include wildflower meadows, rhododendrons and bluebell woods.

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<https://www.obga.ox.ac.uk/visit-arboretum>



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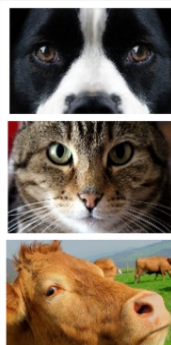
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SUTTON COURTENAY PRODUCE SHOW



The Sutton Courtenay Produce Show committee members would like to let you all know well in advance the plan for this year's show.

It will be on 6th September at the Village Hall.

Same entry price as 2024, so no inflation there! (20p per entry)

We would love to see lots of entries and the money we raise stays local and goes back into the community,

From last year's show we have given money to the SC Primary School gardening club and to the SC news and it would be amazing to be able to continue this.

The Produce Show Committee

See below for all available categories – start planning, growing and creating your entries now!

Sutton Courtenay Craft and Produce Show 2025. The Village Hall on 6th September

Show open for viewing at 13:30pm

Entry drop off 09:45-11:00. Late entries will not be accepted & cannot have been previously exhibited.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES		CRAFTS	
1	Seed tray with mixture of vegetables	36	Hand knitted baby item
2	One sweetcorn – kernel to be ½ exposed	37	An item of hand embroidery: cross stitch or canvas work
3	Three potatoes, any one variety	38	Hand knitted toy
4	Six runner beans	39	An item of crochet
5	Bunch of fresh herbs	40	A visible repair on an item of clothing
6	Three onions (trimmed)	41	Something new from something old
7	Three tomatoes	42	An item for a child, made from fabric
8	A truss (on vine) of tomatoes - any variety	43	A hand-made card
9	Two courgettes no larger than 6”/ 15cms	44	A piece of original craft work: ceramic, metal or wood
10	Three carrots with 3” / 8cm tops	CHILDREN’S CLASSES a) 6 and under b) 7-11	
11	Three beetroots with 3” / 8cm tops	45	A Lego structure (not from a kit)
12	Three dessert apples	46	A decorative pebble
13	Three cooking apples	47	Collage of an animal
14	Five plums	48	Four chocolate rice crispy cakes
15	Three pears	COOKERY	
16	Two peppers	49	Jar of jam
17	One cucumber	50	Jar of marmalade
18	Funniest looking vegetable	51	Jar of lemon curd
19	Three leeks	52	Jar of chutney
FLOWERS		53	Three sausage rolls
20	Vase of three stems of roses	54	Four pieces of shortbread
21	One specimen rose	55	Four fruit scones
22	Vase of four different herbaceous flowers	56	Six squares of rocky road
23	Four dahlias	57	One slice of lemon cheesecake
24	Three stems from a flowering shrub	58	Gluten free Victoria Sponge – recipe below
25	Vase of five or more mixed garden flowers / shrubs	Recipe Ingredients:	
26	A flowering houseplant	225g / 8oz caster sugar	
27	A pot plant shown for foliage	4 large eggs	
FLOWER ARRANGING. Accessories to be within size limits		1 tsp vanilla extract	
28	Petite: 4” wide 9” high / 10cm wide 23cm high	225g / 8oz butter, cubed and well softened, plus extra for greasing	
29	Arrangement with 5 flowers and foliage	250g / 9oz gluten-free white self-raising flour	
30	Arrangement in a jug	1tsp gluten-free baking powder	
31	VE day max 20”/ 50cm sq unlimited height Accessories allowed	125g / 4 ½ oz strawberry jam	
ART		1 tbspc icing sugar, sifted	
32	Drawing – pencil, charcoal, pen or ink (max 2”x 2” / 5cm x 5cm)	Method:	
33	Picture – any medium including collage (max 2”x 2” 5cm x 5cm)	Pre-heat the oven to 190C/170Fan/Gas 5	
PHOTOGRAPHY. Must have been taken by exhibitor. Mounted, overall size max 14”x10” / 35cm x 25cm		Butter two 20cm/8in loose based sandwich tins and line the bases with baking paper	
34	Black and white photograph of a gate	Beat the sugar, eggs and vanilla extract until very pale, smooth and thick. (electric beaters/food mixer are best). The whisk should leave a thin trail of batter when lifted from the bowl	
35	Colour photograph of a tree	Add the butter, flour and baking powder and beat together for 1-2 minutes until smooth	
		Divide the mixture evenly between the tins and smooth the surface then bake on the same shelf in the middle of the oven for 20-22 minutes or until well risen, golden brown and just beginning to shrink back from the sides of the tin	
		Remove from the oven, leave to cool for 15 minutes before turning out onto a wire rack. Peel off the baking paper and leave to cool completely	
		Place one sponge on a plate, stir the jam to loosen and spoon onto the cake, spreading almost to the edges.	
		Sandwich the cake together and dust with icing sugar	

DRAYTON HALL NEWS



The Hall has an **imminent 50th birthday**, it was opened in **May 1975**. Does **ANYONE** have any photos of a wedding, or party perhaps, from right back in those early days? Or one of the Saturday night dances, we hear that they were regularly packed out, unlike nowadays when people want to stay in with 'Celebrity' (haha!) Love Island Big Brother Bake-off or similar essential viewing? Let us know, and I'll display them in this column in a month or two. Doesn't have to be that month that year, let's just say 70s or 80s, close enough?!

Of course, it was harder to take pictures back then, you needed an actual camera! Younger readers are probably unaware that in those hardship times you could only get a mobile phone that had a camera if you passed a special competence test, like a driving licence, so very few folk had one.

We've another **ANTIQUES Fair**, **Sunday April 6th**, 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!). Another one on May 4th too.

We've a **new class (weekly) starting on Friday April 4th**, that's for **YOGA**, run by Diane ('Bliss' Yoga), see her contact details on the back page, and she's placing notices on the village F'book too. They'll be at 12.30, following on from **KEEP FIT with FAYE**, (Fridays at 11am). NB – you don't have to go to both!

Look out too for another **Charity (Spring) Fair**, Sat April 19th, 10am, also with F'book notices for who'll be there, and it's to benefit Child Diabetes at the JR.

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'!

Tony Holmes



Town Furlong

Cattery

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(Mostly) Hall Diary for April

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

Fri	4	12.30pm	(new) YOGA class (Bliss Yoga)
Sat	5	10.30am	Private Function (child's party)
Sun	6	9.00am	ANTIQUES FAIR (to 3pm)
Tues	8	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting (Caudwell DC)
Sat	12	11.00am	Private Function (child's party)
Sun	13		Dog Show (private club - all day)
Mon	14	5.00pm	Chronicle Deadline (Ads = Fri 11th) (NB – see page 2 for Chron schedule)
Sat	19	10.00am	Charity FAIR (see F'book notices)
Sun	20	11.00am	Private Function (Pigeons Show)
Sat	26		Private Function (all day - & Sun 27th)

REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise
NB PLEASE – if an entry is wrong – tell an editor (p 2)

MONDAYS [## = Small Hall in Village Hall]

2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session	
6.00 pm	Damascus Youth ## (NB – check their F'book!)	
7.15 pm	Badminton (Looking for NEW Members!!)	
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
6.30 pm	Karate "Dojang X" session (Sabrina 07938 537310)	

WEDNESDAYS

10.00 am	Pebbles (Baby, Toddler, Carer group)	Church
1.30 pm	Whist Drive	Caudwell DC
1.45 pm	U3A Science/Tech, 1st Weds (07890 385931) ##	
2.00 pm	Drayton Wives (Last Wednesday, most months) ##	
2.00 pm	Badminton	
6.30 pm	Brownies (term-time / Laura 07916 459435) ##	
6.45 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club (seeking NEW members!)	

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

FRIDAYS

11.00 am	Keep Fit with FAYE (07815 583591)	
12.30 pm	YOGA class (Bliss Yoga, Diane, 07469 767500)	
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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