

DRAYTON CHRONICLE



VOLUME 48 ISSUE 4 | MAY 2025 | EDITOR: VICKY BILLINGHAM

CHRONICLE INFORMATION

KEY DATES

The next Drayton Chronicle will be the June issue edited by Tony Holmes (01235 531180).

Issue	Advertising deadline	Contribution deadline
June	May 16th	May 19th
July	June 13th	June 16th

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.

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.

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	£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**.

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rector@damascusparish.org.uk

Administrator: Alison Bampton

admin@@damascusparish.org.uk

01235 847179

Email: rector@damascusparish.org.uk or

admin@damascusparish.org.uk

The church remains open daily (Sun–Sat, 10–4pm).
Note change of closing from 3pm to 4pm.

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)

YOU STAY WE PRAY

27th Apr - 3rd May Abingdon Rd; Oday Hill
4th – 10th May Binning Close; Haywards Road
11th – 17th May Sutton Wick Lane; Greenacres;
 Newman Lane; Conifer Drive
18th – 24th May Hilliat Fields; Lyford Close
25th – 31st May Manor Close; The Green



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For online updates about
services and events.

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

REGULAR EVENTS

First Monday	14:00	Knit & Natter No need to be a knitter, if you'd just like a natter
Monday	19:30	Bellringing practice
Tuesday	14:30 - 16:00	First Tuesday Connections All welcome for a cuppa & chat
Wednesday (term time)	10:00	Pebbles Baby & Toddler For more information contact Katy or Cheryl: draytonpebbles@hotmail.com

DAMASCUS Confirmation Service

There will be a Confirmation Service with
Bishop Gavin, Bishop of Dorchester, at
St.Peter's at 10.00 am on Sunday 11th May.

This will be followed by tea and cake.
Everyone is welcome to join us.



Plant Sale

There will be a plant sale at St Peter's on
Saturday 17th May at 10.00 am till 12 noon.

Refreshments available.

Do come and join us!

We look forward to seeing you!

[see our advert on page 5](#)

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

DAMASCUS PARISH MINISTRY

Dear Friends,

On 8th May our nation will mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day: Victory in Europe Day, when the evil of Nazism was defeated in Europe. Regardless of our age, we are all called to remember with thankfulness the courage and sacrifice of all who served at home and abroad to win the fight for freedom against Nazi tyranny. But that wasn't the end of the war; in Burma, Singapore and other places, the war raged on as fiercely and cruelly as ever. VJ Day, in August 1945, finally brought hostilities to an end, the troops still fighting between May and August, and their families, felt overlooked as they struggled to live with uncertainty and hope.

May 2025 occupies the time between Easter Day and Pentecost. Our churches have celebrated the joy of the resurrection, and we await the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit in power to set the Church alight in love and witness. After the first Easter, the first disciples lived with the knowledge of Christ's great victory over evil but struggled to come to terms with what this meant for them as they remained under the threat of death from powerful religious and military powers. The national and local VE80 activities, together with the bible readings in your church services, provide an important opportunity to consider how we can live grounded in the past and moving to the future, knowing that we and all our times, are held in the hands of our unchanging and faithful God and how this can strengthen us as we continue our pilgrimage.

*O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those men and women who have
died in active service, particularly in the Second World War,
whose sacrifice brought Victory in Europe.*

*As we honour their courage and cherish their memory, may we put our faith in your future;
for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever. Amen.*

Steventon extends a warm welcome to join with them in the lighting of a VE80 beacon at 21.00 on the 8 May. We are immensely grateful to Aces High Gallery (located behind St Michael's Church, entering through the 'Skyfall' gates) for hosting a weekend of VE80 celebrations on the 10/11 May. We welcome you to a large scale VE80 themed event including military vehicles and equipment from the era, talks with reenactors and military veterans, jeep rides, food stalls and local musical groups. Weather permitting, WW2 aircraft will be seen flying over our villages and hopefully landing close by.

Further details will appear in your church and on notice boards around the village or contact me on 07507378737. <https://ve80.com/>

Phil Sutton



Steventon WI

Coffee morning
in aid of Sobell House Hospice
Millennium Room,
Steventon Village Hall

Thursday 15th May
10.30-12.00



Come and enjoy a cuppa and cake and
browse the craft stall, tombola, and
take a raffle ticket!



St Peter's Church Drayton Plant Sale

Please come to our plant sale
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from 10.00 am to 12.00.
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The 2025 Drayton Village Scarecrow Trail



Theme: British Icons

Saturday 24th May - Tuesday 3rd June 2025

Drayton residents, join us in celebrating British Icons!

Create your own scarecrow of a beloved British figure or symbol and proudly display it on your property for all to enjoy on our trail.

To enter your scarecrow, simply scan the QR code above or email: fodsafundraising@gmail.com by **16th May 2025**.

Let your creativity shine and be part of this wonderful community event!

It's free to enter!

Remember, your entry can be a person, object, building or scene.

There is a PRIZE for the best scarecrow (voted for by the public).

Maps available for £2 from Danes /MACE from Saturday 24th May.

All funds raised go to Friends of Drayton School Association.



THE VILLAGE HALL'S 50TH BIRTHDAY



This is a brief history of the events that led up to Drayton Hall and how it came to be, mainly for newcomers to our village. Back in 1920 a group of village ladies met, together with an officer of Berkshire Women's Institute, as we were then, to discuss the reality of a village group. Once formed and with no meeting place, they met in Wesleyan chapel, the Village school and the Buffs Lodge - all adequate but not very good. So a hall of their own was needed.

A piece of land opposite the church was given to us. A wooden hut from WWI was purchased, transported and built on the land. It was painted inside and curtains made and it was furnished ready for use. It was very basic; oil lamps, coke stoves and chemical toilets, but it was ours.

Years passed and we all worked hard raising money to keep the hall running and in good repair. In the early sixties more rules about health and safety were brought out and it proved a step too far and the decision was made to hand the running of the hall over to the village. This was not taken lightly and proved to be less than easy. Many years of legal letters passed back and forth until it was final. Drayton Amenities was formed to run it and the Hall News, forerunner of the Chronicle, was born.

A piece of land was obtained in the corner of the playing field and plans drawn up by H W Poulton, a village builder, and building began. It was finalised and ready for opening in early May 1975. It was a beautiful building, the best in the area, and it was well used from day one. In May 2025 it will reach its fiftieth birthday. It's wearing well but that's down to the work of the committee, for which we are very grateful.

Ann Webb



WI 'Grow, Cook and Sew' Show



Front page of the 1985 Chronicle celebrating 10 years of the hall

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DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Hi all,

Local Government Reorganisation

No further news this month, I'm afraid. We've seen leaders come out in favour of different options out of the three I mentioned last month, but in each case, the famous words of Mandy Rice-Davies in the Profumo trial apply: "[he] would say that, wouldn't [he]?"

The leader of Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) has come out in favour of Option One, where OCC absorb all the Districts.

The leaders of the four Districts in Oxfordshire (plus the leader of West Berkshire) have come out in favour of Option Two, where Ridgeway Council is created out of Vale, South Oxfordshire and West Berkshire, and North Oxfordshire is created out of Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and Oxford City.

The leader of Oxford City Council has come out in favour of Option Three, where Oxford City annex an unspecified bunch of wards from the Districts and then let what's left over form whatever they want. Notably, we still haven't seen a map or list of wards they'd like to nick. My preference remains Option Two (but then again, I would say that, wouldn't I?), with Option One as the fall-back, and I'd prefer Option Three to receive a stiff ignoring. That's it so far.

New Garden Waste permit & payment system

Mentioned last month and repeated here because it's a big change: the new sticker-based brown bin system is now live. We all get one month's grace in case we missed sorting it out. You should have also received a bin hanger mentioning the changes. If you haven't already, and you have a brown bin for garden waste (and wish to keep going with it), or if you haven't got one and would like one, make sure you sign up for the permit sticker as soon as possible!

Head to

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/gardenwaste to sign up (and then control your payments), or if you can't do it online, phone 01235 422422 or go into the Council Offices in Abingdon. You'll then receive a sticker through the post, stick it to the brown bin lid and it's then clearly identified as a fully paid-for bin.



The payment year is now aligned for everyone from 1st April to 31st March (so your previous direct debit payments should have been adjusted pro-rata to ensure you didn't miss out).

Ticketless car park machine trial

To replace our ageing car park ticket machines (they're over 20 years old, and it's getting difficult to get hold of parts to fix them when they go wrong), we (along with South Oxfordshire) are testing out new ticketless machines in District Council car parks – the trials are in Civic Car Park and West St Helen St Car Park in Abingdon and Cattlemarket Car Park and Goldsmith's Lane Car Park in Wallingford.

There will be two different machines to choose from when buying a parking ticket, and with each machine, users will need to enter their vehicle registration and select the length of time they wish to park. Users can still pay in the same ways as before – by cash, card or via the PayByPhone app – but the machines will no longer issue a ticket.

The choice of two different machines is because we're trialling which type people prefer over the other. There's therefore a short survey available at southandvale.gov.uk/ParkingMachineTrial.

Climate Action Fund

Like last year, there's an opportunity for local "not for profit" organisations to apply for a share of a £100,000 fund we've been granted to help finance community projects that aim to address climate change and nature recovery.

Projects previously supported have included installing public EV charging points, solar panels, and a boardwalk at a nature site. "Not for profit" organisations have included pre-schools, town and parish councils, and even amateur dramatic groups; if you're involved in one, take a look at the Climate Action Fund on the Vale's website here: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/community-support/grants/climate-action-fund/. Applications open in May.

Community Hub – support

As always, contact the Community Hub for support:

Tel: 01235 422600

Email: communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk

Website: whitehorsedc.gov.uk/costofliving

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

All the best,
Andy Cooke

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SESRO (South East Strategic Reservoir Option)



We're continuing to develop our proposal for a new reservoir in Oxfordshire, a key infrastructure project for the South East. Following last year's public consultation, we've been reviewing feedback and refining our designs. The reservoir is essential for securing water supplies for 15 million people, addressing challenges like population growth, climate change and protecting our rivers. Our evolving plans include widening our programme of environmental surveys and a focus on creating a public space that will benefit local communities for generations.

We're committed to keeping you updated and will share more information this summer, ahead of another public consultation later this year. Spring 2025 update brochure here: thames-sro.co.uk/news.



GARD (Group Against Reservoir Development)

March: GARD met with MP OLLY GLOVER to discuss opposition to SESRO. Our MP has a meeting scheduled with the Water Minister Emma Hardy, postponed from March. There are plans for activities at Westminster, e.g. a debate in Westminster Hall. All three local MPs are united in their opposition to SESRO – keep writing to them and expressing your views.

April: GARD held the first short ONLINE INFO SESSION for non-members, with feedback; an opportunity to find out more about the issues, ask questions, all in brief without leaving your home.

May: Local Elections – ask candidates about their attitude to SESRO and what they'll do. Online Info Sessions – from May 2nd, see Facebook for details. Further local meetings – Sally Povolotsky, tbc. Balloon Event weekend of 24-25 May on the Hanney-Steventon Road, see Facebook and posters for details. Leafletting in Grove and the Hanneys.

GARD AGM 30th May 8pm Millenium Room, Steventon Village Hall (everyone welcome)

June: Millets GARD and CPRE anti-SESRO Petition Action Days – Friday 13th, Weds 18th: come and join us. Petition to be presented to Secretary of State on 19th. Judicial Review Weds 25th - Thurs 26th.

July: SESRO Action Day 5th July Sally Povolotsky.

PUBLICITY: tell the Secretary if you'd like to display a banner or poster. We welcome ideas for activities – let us know your thoughts. We want a busy summer! Online leaflets are available about groundwater effects and GARD's thoughts on a smaller reservoir.

PETITION: Sign the GARD/CPRE Petition for a Public Inquiry, currently about 5,960 signatures. Tell your friends to sign – bring it well above 6,000 before it goes to the government in June.

FUND RAISING: GARD needs funds for its ongoing Campaign; legal costs for Judicial Review are steep and have absorbed resources. Please contact us with your ideas or expertise. Donation details below.

Thames Water will be pressing on with their publicity and 'consultation' in the summer, with glossy brochures full of pictures of sailing on Farmoor or on imaginary lakes. Look out for their dates (not yet known) and go to all the events to express your views.

ACTIONS FOR YOU NOW: Join GARD, sign the Petition, attend a GARD Online Info Session, like and share GARD's Social Media posts. Write to your MP and Councillors (County, District and Parish). For email details see last month's Newsletters or contact the GARD Secretary 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.

Derek Stork, Chairman GARD

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



The Council met on April 8th.

Walnut Meadows

The contractor constructing the MUGA will hopefully be starting work by early May. The contractor for the sports pitches is also due to start work in May however, the Parish Council is still awaiting agreement from the Vale regarding the release of S.106 funds for this part of the work. We are hoping that work can commence as planned, without further delay! Jon, our Programme Manager is currently sorting out issues to do with the drainage of the site along with the electrical supply for the MUGA lighting.

After years of planning, setbacks, frustration and angst we are finally about to start work on the long awaited sports facilities that were promised for Drayton many years ago!

Manor Farm

The PC has reached an agreement with the District Council and with Cala Homes that prevents further spraying of hemlock in favour of hand pulling. Cala's contractors have carried out some recent spot spraying of some of the bigger hemlock plants but this should be the last of the spraying. The reality is that despite frequent spraying the hemlock it is still thriving. However, all other vegetation looks in a poor state. This is a part of the Drayton Conservation Area and is not a pretty sight or site! More positively, the sowing of wildflower seeds should be carried out towards the end of April. Once we can get the wildflower area established the PC will request that the unsightly Heras fencing is removed.

Unfortunately, since our meeting Cala have again sprayed the area. The Parish Council raised this with the Vale and Cala who assured us that this was spot spraying and that there would be no further spraying. This was clearly not the case, with the whole area appearing to have been sprayed including some areas accessible to residents. We have raised this yet again with the Vale.

Refurb of Bridleway 8

At last, the Vale has agreed to release the funds so that we can ask the contractor, Drayton Construction, to start work upgrading this path. It is, as dog walkers will know, very rutted. We hope that this will make a real difference to walkers and cyclists.

Our Programme Manager

Special thanks must go to our hard working, diplomatic and patient Programme Manager Jon Fowler. It is largely due to his dogged work that we are achieving so much. He remains positive in the face of adversity. The only sign of occasional displeasure is a noticeable tightening of the jaw! Goodness knows there are enough barriers in the way of progress to cause even the most even-tempered individual to despair!

Allotments

We inspected the plots recently and are pleased to say that they are being cultivated well. Our allotment warden Tim Atkins has managed to reduce the waiting list to only 3. This is fantastic as the waiting time for a plot is now relatively short.

St Peter's Church Graveyard

The Parish Council has taken on the grass cutting for the churchyard. It has received its first Spring cut and is looking pretty good.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on May 13th, 7.00 pm in the Caudwell Day Centre.

Elaine Wade



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WALKING TO ABINGDON



I've seen people from Drayton walking to Abingdon just feet from traffic rushing by. Why not try the country route? Starting from the walnuts opposite the Post Office, walk down Gravel Lane and along the footpath at the end. As you pass the barn on the right I hope you will notice honeybees - a wild colony that has been undisturbed for many years but it may not have survived the winter.

When you reach Henleys Lane, turn right and then left along the footpath to Sutton Wick. It divides the five-acre garden of Lime Close, which has the occasional Open Day which I thoroughly recommend.

The path dips steeply into Sutton Wick Lane; continue up it until you reach a gated track and bridleway sign on the right, which you take. After 100 yards you will pass gates on the right threatening trespassers with guard dogs. There used to be a scrap metal yard behind those gates but now it is a builders' yard.

Some years ago the Parish Council did a fine job in renovating this path, and it now has the cash and intention to finish the job but has been frustrated by higher authority. Doesn't matter. It can be a little tricky and muddy along here.

Eventually you will come to Gypsy Lane. A right turn takes you close to the junction between the Sutton Courtenay and Milton roads, but you need to turn left, towards Oday Hill. After 200 yards you join a wide, straight, concrete road; turn right. It takes 10 minutes to reach the end but it is not boring; there is gravel extraction on both sides and a restored landfill site which is now a nature reserve (worth a visit).

Turn left into Peep-o-Day Lane. This is a Sustrans cycle route so beware swift and silent cyclists bearing down upon you. Despite that, there is nature all around. The land to your right is very low-lying and prone to flooding all the way to the Thames. You are likely to see ducks of all sorts, herons, little egrets, cormorants and hundreds of geese, maybe also rabbits and deer.

After a while you pass the sewage works. I once disturbed a huddle of twitchers who had crossed the country to watch a rather rare warbler that had settled just inside the perimeter fence, also disturbing the warbler.

There are old gravel pits on the right, now used as fishing lakes, and sports fields on the left. When you join the road, veer right, ignoring the turn to Abingdon Marina. Take the short path which connects it to Wilsham Road. After passing sailing clubs and rowing clubs on your right, you turn a bend and get your first sight of the Thames and the glorious St Helen's Church. This is a busy stretch of river.

You soon come across some of Abingdon's famous old landmarks. Towards the end of the road the point where the Wilts & Berks Canal joined the Thames, then the Old Laundry, the Iron Bridge over the River Ock, the Old Anchor Inn (now sadly closed) and St Helens Church itself. Rounding the corner you can either go straight ahead for the Co-op and High Street, or fork right into East St Helens Street, the Market Place and shopping precinct.

And that's the walk, taking little more than an hour.

Andrew Bax



LOCAL GROUPS AND NEWS

W.I.

Last month we had a visit from Chris Strata speaking about Leprosy, a disease of the poor. It was a very informative talk during which he explained the cause and effect of the disease and how it's regarded by people around the sufferers. Although still a very serious and debilitating disease, it's better understood nowadays and some control is available to young children and control of disabilities for older people, allowing them to live as normal a life as possible. The first visible signs of the disease is deformed hands taking on a crab-like appearance. His talk was punctuated by short films showing sufferers and how they are making the best of life with their disabilities. There were leaflets available and we gave a donation enough to buy two goats.

Next month we have Jack Matthews back again. This time he will be demonstrating how to fill a hanging basket and how to maintain it through its life. Again it will be raffled among us. Fingers crossed someone will be lucky and win it.

Why not join us? We meet monthly at 7.30 pm. Next meeting will be May 8th at the Caudwell Centre, Gravel Lane. See you there.

Ann Webb

DRAYTON TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Another season of ping pong has ended. All our teams gave a good account of themselves and none propped up their respective divisions. The Buzzards concluded their brilliant season with a win and so finished champions of Division 2. They will play in Division 1 next season alongside the Artisans who finished 5th out of 12 this season. Corinthians just missed out on the runner-up spot in Division 2 by finishing 3rd. Dingos also in Division 2 ended in 7th place.

Our Division 3 teams of Eagles and Flamingos finished in the top half in 4th and 6th respectively. It was a creditable performance by both.

The Handicap Shield saw the Flamingos exit in the quarter-finals but the Artisans were into the semi-final but lost to SOFEA A by a mere 9 points. Our Bidmead team reached the semi-final but unfortunately lost out to SOFEA club. They had a substantial handicap of 153 points to make up but couldn't quite manage it, losing by 35 points. Clearly SOFEA have enjoyed playing our teams this season!

Club nights will continue until the end of May then we will break until September.

John Gould Chairman



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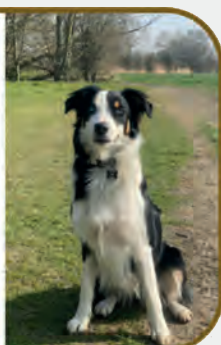
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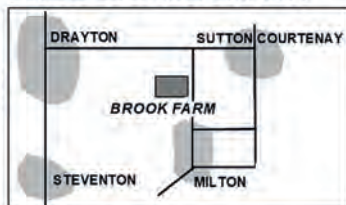
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LETTER FROM WESTMINSTER

Spending time with local people and businesses to understand your concerns and working to find ways to make improvements is the most important part of my role as your MP. I am grateful for opportunities like this newsletter to provide local people with updates and prompt new connections.

In Parliament, I have continued to advocate for issues that matter to our constituency. I've spoken about the importance of aligning new housing developments with adequate infrastructure – such as a new railway station serving Grove and Wantage, and new or expanded GP surgeries - at every opportunity, and I will be on the legislative committee scrutinising the government's new Planning and Infrastructure Bill. This is a chance to critically examine the Government's bill that will guide development in the future and suggest amendments and improvements before it becomes law, and address emerging concerns that it will not address the imbalance between new housing and expanded public services and infrastructure, nor give sufficient consideration for natural and architectural conservation.

I have started working with fellow MPs on cross-party efforts to improve safety on the A34, including concerns about the length of the slip roads at the Chilton interchange. A project to improve safety and congestion was 'paused' by the previous administration, but the huge disruption caused by accidents on the A34, and more importantly injury and loss of life on this National Highways Road, must still be addressed.

Back in the constituency, I recently joined young people at an Oxfordshire County Council Pizza and Politics session, where we discussed the use of smart phones amongst other topics. I had a useful meeting with GARD about the latest on the Reservoir and have secured a meeting with the Water Minister to discuss local concerns about this huge project.

Our area is a hub of research, innovation and enterprise. Recent activities included opening the Nebula Building at Milton Park and welcoming Harley Davidson.

With government's announcement of the Oxford Growth Corridor, I am keen to help ensure that Culham, Harwell Campus and Milton Park can benefit from investment and opportunities that arise. But I am mindful that most of our local businesses are small or medium sized and face different challenges. I recently chaired a discussion with local entrepreneurs and have visited local farms to understand how new policies around tax and national insurance are impacting them, and the cost and availability of food.

The local and regional media have covered several issues impacting our area recently, so I have been interviewed about A417 flooding, hare coursing and rural crime. In my first appearance on the BBC's Politics South show, I was on a panel discussing conflict in Ukraine and rising energy bills - topics many of you have contacted me about. And on a lighter note, while advocating for children's literacy skills, I shared my favourite childhood story: The Very Hungry Caterpillar.

If you have any concerns that you think I can help you with, the best way to reach me is by email at olly.glover.MP@parliament.uk or if you are not able to email you can leave a voice message on 0207 219 7657.

Best wishes,
Olly Glover



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Let it Grow - in our Community GreenSpaces!

The temptation for many of us can be to regularly mow our greenspaces but research by Plantlife has shown just how beneficial to wildlife the opposite can be. In their 'No Mow May' survey, Plantlife found that the highest production of flowers and nectar sugar was on grass cut once every four weeks. 'Short-grass' plants like daisies and white clover had a chance to flower in between mowing, boosting nectar production tenfold.

Areas of grass that were left to grow for even longer periods of time were more diverse in their range of flowers, with other nectar-rich plants like oxeye daisy, field scabious and knapweed providing varied nectar sources well into late summer.



Garden mini-meadows:

This year, why not take it a step further and create a mini-meadow or grassland? Options are:

- **Simply leave some, or all, of your lawn unmown** and let the grass grow long where any wildflowers are present and for them to be able to reach the height needed to flower. Mow and remove the cuttings in September.
- **Plant low-growing wildflowers and spring bulbs in your lawn** to create a flower-rich mown lawn. If your lawn already supports several low-growing wildflowers, this will lend itself to adopting this option. This is a good compromise as it requires less frequent mowing than a regular lawn but can still be cut before it gets long. Species such as birds-foot trefoil and selfheal are great for butterfly species, such as common blue and small skipper, as well as other pollinators. These wildflowers can also cope with being mown since they adapt to flower at short height.
- **Convert a lawn into a wildflower meadow.** There are lots of 'how-to' meadow guides out there. I would recommend Plantlife's 'How to Grow a Wildflower Meadow': www.plantlife.org.uk/how-to-grow-a-wildflower-meadow.

So, as May unfolds and the grass grows taller, consider letting your lawn be a sanctuary for pollinators.



The Hall has its **50th birthday**; it was opened in **May 1975**. Thanks to **Ann Webb** (page 6) who's provided some Hall history. I'll give a 'shout out' to the memory of the great **HARRY BISBY**, who was a driving force in the village for both the Chronicle and getting the Village Hall planned and built.

Despite the undoubted 'challenges' presented by the Hall project, I daresay that they were not that great for a man of his ability; his expertise in WW2 helped the Allies achieve notable advantages in developing RADAR (probably as crucial as the famous Enigma code-breaking project that ran at Bletchley).

Post war, his scientific ability was used in nuclear research at Harwell. So, with his background, co-ordinating the efforts towards a new village hall may well have been just a minor hobby?! Even so, **the village owes him quite a debt.**

Re. the 50th anniversary, the Committee had allocated a sum towards a **birthday celebration**, but sadly most of it had to be used up replacing the windows smashed a few weeks ago by some local nitwits, whose parents are probably suitably proud. Somewhere on high, Harry will be shaking his head!

We've another **Antiques Fair, Sunday May 4th**, 9am to about 3pm, including Kathy Head running her excellent value cafe for one of her good causes (lovely breakfast, or perhaps just a bacon sarnie!). Another one on 1st June too.

And Lee is back for another **Jewellery Valuation**, Weds this time (May 7th), and an early start (9am to midday), so quite a change from Tuesday afternoons!

ELECTION DAY (County Council) is Thursday May 1st; polling station will be in the Small Hall.

Look out for another **Charity Craft Fair**, Sat May 10th, starts 11am, doubtless several Facebook notices will appear nearer the time with more info.

Our Friday exercise classes continue, **Keep Fit** with Faye, (11am), then **Yoga**, run by Diane ('Bliss' Yoga), at 12.30. Contact info on the back page.

Our **Bowls Club** and **Sequence Dancers** are always on the lookout for new members, also two **badminton** groups; Wednesday afternoons and Monday evenings.

Tony Holmes

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DRAYTON DIARIES

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

Thurs 1st		ELECTION (County Council)
Fri 2nd	2:30pm	Yoga Class (Bliss Yoga)
Sat 3rd	11:45am	Private Function (child's party)
Sun 4th	9:00am	Antiques Fair (to 3pm)
Weds 7th	9:00 am	Jewellery Valuation (to midday)
Sat 10th	11:00am	Charity Craft Fair (see Facebook ads)
Sun 11th	9.15am	Private Function (child's party)
Tues 13th	5700pm	Parish Council Meeting (Caudwell DC)
Sat 17th	9:45am	Private Function (child's party)
Sun 18th	10:00am	Private Function (child's party)
Mon 19th	5:00pm	Chronicle Deadline (adverts deadline is Fri 16th)
Sat 24th	8:30am	Private Function (child's party)
Fri 30th	8:00pm	GARD AGM (all welcome) Steventon Village Hall

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

If an entry is incorrect, please contact an editor.

MONDAYS	
2:00pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session
6:00pm	Damascus Youth ##
7:15pm	Badminton (Looking for new players)
7:45pm	Bell-ringing for 1.5 hours (<i>St Peter's</i>)
TUESDAYS	
9:30am	Pilates (via Alexandra Merson 07788 248925)
1:45pm	Drayton Art Group until 4 pm (<i>Caudwell DC</i>)
2:30pm	Tuesday Connect - 1st Tues (<i>Church</i>)
6:30pm	Karate/'Dojang X' session (Sabrina 07938 537310)

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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) ##
2:00pm	Badminton
6:30pm	Brownies (term-time) Laura 07916 459435 ##
6:45pm	Short Mat Bowling Club (looking for new members)
THURSDAYS	
9:30am	Parent & Toddler Group
9:45am	Holy Communion (**) St Peter's Lady Chapel
11:00am	Baptist Café (to 1pm) NOW IN Caudwell DC
2:00pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session
2:00pm	Crafts Group (2nd Thursday – run by U3A, but it's simple to join. Call Kate for info 01235 550486) ##
5:30pm	Rainbows (girls 5 to 7 yrs) ##
7:30pm	Sequence Dancing (Brian - 01235 531701)
7:30pm	WI meeting (2nd Thurs) Caudwell DC
7:30pm	Drayton Community Choir (2nd/4th Thurs) Call Kay for info 01235 204187 Church Room
FRIDAYS	
11:00am	Keep Fit with FAYE (07815 583591)
12:30pm	Yoga (Bliss Yoga) Diane (07469 767500)
4:15pm	Karate/'Dojang X' sessions (07938 537310)
SUNDAYS	
(**)	For all the latest info on their Services (Thursday communion, & especially Sundays), see our St Peter's Church page
6:00pm	Evening Service (<i>Baptist Church</i>)