

# DRAYTON CHRONICLE



Volume 48 No. 5

June 2025

Editor - Tony Holmes

# COMING CHRONICLES

The **July Chronicle** should be available for distribution on or about **June 27th**.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. An **email attachment**, in **WORD** please (NOT a PDF file!).
3. A good, **black typescript** on white A4 paper or smaller. **BUT** – IF you can type it, PLEASE see #1 & #2 above?! [Scanning is a real nuisance, and tends to create errors!]
4. **Hand-written? Preferably not PLEASE, if over maybe a para.** This is 2025, should be a way to type & send it?! (= fewer errors!).

## ADVERTISING RATES

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

- - - Number of Monthly Inserts - -

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

Half-size block adverts, normally for one or two inserts, are charged at half the above rates. Double-size ones, at twice,

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

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

**This Month's Cover** – IF this issue hits your doormat early enough, JUST time to try the **FoDSA 'Scarecrow'** trail (theme = 'British Icons'), entry forms/maps at £2 from the Danes/Mace store, whizz round the village **by June 3rd**?! We chose a **random small selection of the icons**, and there's a prize for the best one, voted for by YOU (if you enter!).

And the larger icon above them, well, it's the **Air & Country** show on **Sat June 14th**, and there's a WW2 Lancaster bomber intended to be flying that day – I think we can call THAT a British icon (owed a lot), if it does come over, you'll hear it!

## DATES for FOLLOWING Chronicle

Issue for	Copy Deadlines :- to Editor by (& Ads on the Fri before these)	Chronicle published and available for distribution on Friday:-
<b>Aug</b>	Mon July 20th	Aug 1st

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## MICKEY'S PHOTOGRAPHY

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Looking for a wedding photographer in Oxfordshire?

Hi, I'm Mickey, an award-winning wedding photographer based in Drayton Oxfordshire.

Wedding photography is my passion. As an Oxford photographer, I get to photograph at some amazing wedding venues across the south of England. I love nothing more than providing images that bring happy memories flooding back of your special day, year after year.

Documentary-style wedding photographer

My style is documentary wedding photography (also called, reportage wedding photography). What does that mean for you? For the most part, I'll be unobtrusive, capturing candid moments as the day unfolds. Photographing those spontaneous laughs, joyful tears, and stolen kisses. Your photos are going to be uniquely yours, not a carbon copy of previous weddings. Find me on Instagram or Facebook by searching **Mickey's Photography** or visit my Website at:

[www.mickeysphotography.uk](http://www.mickeysphotography.uk) Mobile - 07799720183

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01235 797386 \*free delivery over £60, same-day local delivery

# Drayton Hall News – Closure Shock?!

It was my privilege to be able to attend the **50th anniversary celebration of the Village Hall's creation** last night (mid-May).

I was attending in my role as the **Parish Council liaison person** with the Hall C'tee. Imagine therefore, what a lovely surprise, when halfway through the agenda, sparkling wine corks were popped, and glasses appeared with sausage rolls. If there's anything as good as sparkling wine, it's cake, and sure enough, a celebration cake, baked and served by the secretary, was produced.

It didn't take long for the evening to turn into quite a riotous occasion. I seem to remember at one point asking Tony if he'd like to sit on my lap; he gallantly said that as I'm more used to balancing the weight of a harp (my day job), he'd better decline for both our sakes!

I wish our PC meetings were like this, but I'm sure there's some boring statute that states that no refreshments must be partaken of during government meetings. Shame!

Now, without further pre-ambles, the purpose of my article is to let the village know that **we are in a crisis situation, hence that 'Closed' picture!**

With just a couple of exceptions, the Village Hall C'tee are well over eighty, and from the look of some of them, probably ninety. There's only so long that gallant, public-spirited, self-sacrificing people can carry on their roles in serving our community, illness has taken its toll, and the burden has become too much.

They have tried to communicate this to the community before, but the time has come when enough is enough. **Unless we can recruit new members to run the Village Hall Committee, the place will have to close down, because the current situation is untenable (and the PC is unlikely to be able to take it on).**

As many of you know, if somebody is willing to do a job, we tend not only to rely on them to do it, but also to take it for granted that they will continue doing it, because that's what they do. We are perfectly happy to let them carry on, because we have come to expect it of them!

Unfortunately, **the time for change has come, and drastic action needs to be taken.**

**So, do YOU think you could help?** The committee needs recruits to run the Hall, by overseeing maintenance and taking bookings and payments. For this, they need a new bookings secretary, a new treasurer, a new caretaker, and in the fullness of time, once we know who volunteers, a new Chairman.

It really isn't so onerous: meetings are held once every two months, for around an hour & a half. There's real scope for new ideas and roles will be what you make of them (NB the bookings & treasurer roles, and a willing someone for 'odd jobs' do inevitably take more time!).

If you feel you would like to meet new people, feel part of the community, help to run what at the present time is the most important venue in our village, please contact me at [pervin.shahin@draytonpc.org](mailto:pervin.shahin@draytonpc.org) or Tony at [bookings@draytonvh.co.uk](mailto:bookings@draytonvh.co.uk) -- for more info you could also chat to the chairman (Fred) on 01235 200350.

We would love to hear from you.

**Pervin Shahin** [Drayton PC]

PS Drinks & food were kindly supplied by Fred the Chairman, and no public funds were used for the 50 year celebration.



**ABINGDON**  
AIR & COUNTRY SHOW  
SAT 14TH JUNE



25th ANNIVERSARY

ABINGDON AIRFIELD  
DALTON BARRACKS  
OX13 6JQ  
10AM – 4:30 PM

**Don't miss a great family day out! featuring:**  
RAF Battle of Britain Lancaster Bomber, DC3 Dakota  
Boeing B17, Flying Fortress. De Havilland Vampire  
Jubilee Pitts Aerobatics Helicopters  
RAF Falcons Parachute display team.  
Potential flyover of some of the aircraft from the  
Kings Birthday Flypast  
Small static aircraft area, Re-enactors, Vale  
Islanders, Tank Rides, Aircraft Simulators, Classic,  
Commercial and ex-Military vehicles.  
Live music, Animals and Dog Show, Funfair,  
Food and drink, Trade and Craft stalls.  
Onsite Caterers plus bar selling local Ales.  
Free parking.  
Tickets <https://abingdonairandcountry.co.uk/>

→ To add a little more context to Pervin's appeal for Hall help, one topic greatly disappointing for the C'tee is that of **'S106' funding**. That's a prescribed method by which developers (eg of the village's new estates) pay some funds for improvements (for PC & Hall, etc).

The contracts (per estate) were drawn up to allocate specified amounts, the Vale Council has an officer to verify the applications and issue the amounts.

BUT – it seems that extra conditions are being imposed (we're not clear from an elected or paid part of the Council), not defined in the original contracts, and though there are ongoing discussions, so far we have not been able to get satisfactory answers to what seem simple questions. I gather the PC have had similar issues?

For example 'maintenance' is we hear NOT allowed, but old Halls need plenty, especially with the increased usage from the larger population resulting from . . . those estates!

One contract specifically refers to 'maintenance'! Hence - we really don't need the aggravation! [TH]

# ST PETER'S CHURCH



(part of the DAMASCUS Parish)

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

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

**Rector** Revd Helen Kendrick  
**Administrator** Alison Bampton 01235 847179

**Email contacts:-** [rector@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:rector@damascusparish.org.uk) (or  
[admin@](mailto:admin@) )



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

**Search:**

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



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

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

## REGULAR SERVICES INFORMATION

Everyone is warmly invited to join us

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

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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

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

### Sunday 29th June

**10.30am Dov's Priesting at Dorchester Abbey**

(NB no other morning services in the DAMASCUS Parish)

**4.00pm** DAMASCUS Parish Communion at St. Peter's followed by a cream tea. **Everyone is welcome to join us.**

## Abbey Chiropody and PODIATRY CLINIC

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## PARISH REGISTER

**Funeral** April 24th **Cicely Willis Dixon**

**Burial of Ashes** April 9th **David Hale**

April 10th **Jean Hager**

### YOU STAY -- WE PRAY (June)

1st – 7th High St; Chiers Drive; Cheers Farm; Halls Close; Elgrove Gardens

8th – 14th Friars Mews; Monk Close; Prior Drive;

15th – 21st Chestnut Drive; Holly Lane; Walnut Way; Willow Way

22nd - 28th Furlongs; Plough Lane; Furrows End; Lammas Land; Virgate; Fallowfield Close

29th – July 5th Lockway

## From the DAMASCUS Ministry Team

**Dear Friends,**

On the 29th June the church remembers two important people from its history - **St. Peter and St. Paul**. In the church calendar they are celebrated on the same day. This is because it is believed they were both killed on that date, Peter in around 64AD and Paul a few years later in around 67AD. Both were killed for their faith and this, along with the influence they have had on the church over the centuries, is why they are remembered. Two of the churches in our parish are named after them – St. Peter's in Drayton and St. Peter and St. Paul in Appleford – as are many other churches around the country and the world.

Both Peter and Paul understood the importance of telling people about Jesus, and the words and stories written by them and about them in the Bible teach us many things. One of the most striking things about what is written is how it contains details of the mistakes they both made. So much so that Paul, in one of his letters, even criticises Peter for a mistake he is making. Examples like this show us that Peter and Paul were not perfect, and this helps to remind us that neither are we. **It is how we respond to the mistakes we make that is most important.**

This is often in contrast to what society tells us today. Whether it is the picture-perfect lives we see on social media or the fear that a genuine error could lead to some sort of penalty, we are frequently made to feel that we cannot get things wrong. What Peter and Paul show us is that it is acceptable to fail as God forgives and loves us even when our mistakes are talked about some 2000 years later!

To hear more about this, please join us at 4pm on June 29th at St Peter's Drayton, a **special service** for the **whole DAMASCUS parish** where I shall be celebrating communion for the first time after being priested at Dorchester Abbey that morning.

With prayers and best wishes,

**(Rev'd) Dov Whittle**

*(DAMASCUS Parish ministry team)*

# Local Groups & Clubs

## Drayton W.I.

We had another amazing meeting with Jack Matthews (of **Matthews and Sons**, our local family run florists from Sutton Courtenay). But, before I go into that, **we would like to welcome** a new member to our group, and two visitors from the now closed Sutton group. We hope they all felt welcome and will come again.

The subject of the meeting was **the assembly of a hanging basket**. Starting with the basket, he uses wire type, lining starts with moss and a saucer sized circle of plastic, to form a reservoir for water for when the basket is completed.

Fill the basket with compost up to halfway and then thread the first layer of plants, to hang down, through the sides. A solid food was added and compost to fill to the top. More trailers and upright plants were placed round the outer edge and geraniums in the centre completed the display. He recommended the flowers be removed to allow establishment of the basket, and cuttings can also be taken from some of the plants he used.


**Jack stressed that the plants should be well soaked before planting and allow two weeks to settle before displaying.** The basket was raffled and one lucky member won it.

We followed the demonstration with the business and an amazing list of outings and events for those who want to go. We look forward to an amazing programme in front of us.

Next month we have **Karen and Brett Miles** back again. They have been twice before and have been enjoyed both times. Very appropriately they are bringing items of the times during and after the war. The talk is called *Doing Their Bit*. We don't appreciate what life was like in those years.

**We always welcome visitors**, so do come and see us if you can, our meetings are usually the 2nd Thursday each month, next time June 12th at 7.30pm, the Caudwell Centre in Gravel Lane.  
**Ann Webb**

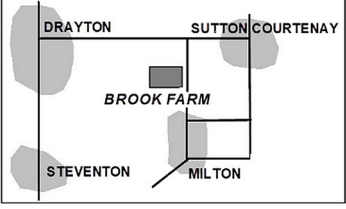
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I am open Monday to Friday 9.30 - 2.30.

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Or find me on Facebook

by searching for Rosie's Hair Lodge.

**THAMES VALLEY FARMERS MARKETS** (8.30 to 1.30)  
Fresh, Quality produce, Locally\* produced, Competitive prices –  
(\*'Locally' – Didcot mkt has a wonderful fishmonger, up from Sussex, always sells well – little sea for fishing round here?! AND – that Didcot mkt has MOVED, it's now up on the Broadway)  
**JUNE Dates** Ab'don (3rd Fri) 20th; Didcot (2nd Sat) 14th  
TVFM news - ring 01235 227266 see website - Tvfm.org.uk

## Drayton Community Choir

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

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

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



Drayton Community Choir

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

We meet on the **2nd & 4th Thursdays** of the month in St Peter's Church Hall, Church Lane, Drayton OX14 4JS. You get a first taster session for **free**, to see if you like us.

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

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

## The Back Pain Centre

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Dr Emily White DC MChiro LRCC

Dr Amanda Learoyd DC MChiro BA (Hons) LRCC

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## Letters to the Editor

The Editors reserve the right to shorten, clarify or reject any letter. Each letter – PLEASE! – must bear a legible name & address, and phone number in case any text needs verification

## Next PC Meeting

Now **Monday** evenings (2nd of month – so next it's **June 9th**, in the Caudwell Day Centre (Gravel Lane), 7pm. **All residents are welcome to attend**, and raise issues within the public participation item early in the meeting.

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

**The Council met on May 12th >>>**

**From now on the PC will normally meet on the 2nd Monday of every month.**

And we are delighted to welcome our **3 new Councillors** Elizabeth Sheppard, Andrew Cherriman and Will Brewer.

## Walnut Meadows

The implementation of the sports pitches and drainage started on 7th May with the removal of more buried waste from the pitch area. The contractor is also implementing the surface water drainage plans for the MUGA, Pavilion and Car Park areas.

The MUGA contractor has confirmed the start date for the construction of the Multi Use Games Area as 19th May. **Work will last for 6-8 weeks with a further 4 weeks for the asphalt to harden** before line painting can be carried out.

## Manor Farm

As reported last month, Cala's contractors carried out further spraying for **hemlock** on areas of the proposed public open space despite the Parish Council having addressed this and gained agreement that there would be **no further blanket spraying**. We have now discussed this **again** with the District Council who have been assured by CALA that any remaining hemlock will be hand pulled and only spot sprayed if absolutely necessary. The area has now been rotavated and wildflower seeds sown.

## Traffic Calming

The proposals for Drayton were approved at the Oxfordshire County Council meeting on 27th March. A safety audit is being undertaken following public feedback. Detailed designs will then be completed. It is anticipated that works will be completed this year. This will consist of work at the junction of Walnut Meadows and Abingdon Road and the installation of a pedestrian crossing on the High Street.

We have requested that the Vehicle Activated sign on the High Street is replaced and also that work is done on the other two signs at the Steventon Road end of the village (sign is well in the 30 mph limit, faint and covered with a tree branch) and on the Abingdon Road (sign is set at 30 mph but is very close to the start of the 20 mph zone).

I can only apologise to the village for the length of time it has taken to sort out the VA Signs. **The PC has been requesting action for a few years now!**

## Footpaths

As walkers and cyclists will be aware, work to refurbish Bridleway 8 has now been completed. The next path to undergo refurbishment will be a section of Bridleway 29 (past the scrap yard) where it joins onto Bridleway 8.

## New Defibrillator !!

... has been installed in the **bus shelter next to Vickerys**.



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

For those who missed the news, this excellent local facility is **back in action!**

Their upcoming films include Lilo & Stitch, the latest Mission Impossible (with little Tom), Mr Burton, and The Penguin Lessons, (etc), also they have several Theatre Group trips (including to ABBA Voyage), and, **they're HIRING!**

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

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



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Tel: 01235 861228 - [www.oxfordwoodrecycling.org.uk](http://www.oxfordwoodrecycling.org.uk)



## Dog waste

**Please please do not overfill any bins with dog poo bags.** If the bin is full please take the waste home with you and place in the black bin. I would also make a plea for dog walkers not to use the waste bin that CALA have placed next to the children's play area on Manor Farm (which CALA are responsible for emptying). Please use the 4 dog bins that are placed near to the Millennium Green or again put them in your black bin.



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

A small group of let's say early teens were spotted on the roof (late May – start of holidays!) so **PARENTS** -- if your boys might be the culprits, DO TRY and tell them that the **roof is going rotten in a couple of places**, and if they fall through, the resulting mess on the floor would be quite upsetting for our cleaner to try and get the stains out? Even for modern-day detergents!

That event may of course be connected to the **recent vandalism**, all of which costs money, so in due course we'll probably have to raise the hire fees, therefore all the normal, well-behaved people have to end up paying for the dragged-up subset that we seem to have here?

It's another **ANTIQUES Fair, Sunday June 1st**, 9am to about 3pm, and a few new stalls apparently, that's plus Kathy Head running her excellent value cafe for one of her good causes (lovely breakfast, or perhaps just a bacon sarnie!). Another one on July 6th too.

We MIGHT be gaining a **dog-training course** in a month or two, we're in discussion now about finding a slot, and that might be on **Sunday evenings, 6pm start** --- if it happens, more next time.

Our **Friday exercise classes** continue, **KEEP FIT with FAYE**, (11am), then **YOGA, run by Diane ('Bliss' Yoga)**, at 12.30. And mustn't forget **PILATES** (Tues mornings, she's been with us for ages), contact info on the back page.

Lastly, our **Bowls Club and Sequence Dancers** are always on the lookout for new members, also two **BADMINTON** groups, one on Weds afternoons, the other one is Monday evenings.

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).



Here's another of the **old sepia postcards** found in the former **History Society** material (see page 9). We're really not sure exactly what sort of era this would be, my guess would be late 1800s, but **anyone with better info, please let us know!**

And back then – if fact for many decades, this was officially Berkshire. Drayton still play football in the North Berks League!

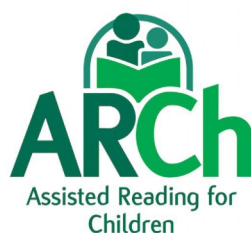
Thanks to **ALL** of our **delivery AGENTS**, who bring your copy to your letterbox! BUT – **we need your help!**

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

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

AND >> re that delivery bag, the system works best if they get dropped back to Vickery's before the Distributor for next month has to start sorting them out!!

So, to start getting ready for the JULY issue, can you **PLEASE try to get them back by the weekend of June 21st/22nd?** Thanks in advance, as they say these days!



**Could you help a child to read and change their life forever?**

## Volunteers Needed

ARCh Assisted Reading for Children is an award-winning charity that operates in primary schools across Oxfordshire supporting children with reading.

All it takes is up to 90 minutes twice a week during the school day in a primary school near you.

Full training is given, as well as on-going support and access to a wide range of resources.



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To find out more, contact us:



01869 320380



info@archoxfordshire.org.uk



https://archoxfordshire.org.uk



The charity obtains enhanced DBS checks on all volunteers before placement  
Charity Number 1146276

## Trains Fiasco?!

You may have seen the news of the HS2 project's latest chronic failure, the trains DO NOT MATCH the height of the station platforms!



And in April, Great Western **left some passengers** at Swindon, having told them they could get off for a few minutes to get some air (ultra-busy, overcrowded train).

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



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# After Walking TO Abingdon, Walking BACK!

In the May issue of the Chronicle I gave directions on how to **walk to Abingdon** without having to go anywhere near that dreadful B4017. To get back you could simply retrace your steps [Ed:- or there's that handy bus that runs quite frequently these days?!] but here's a variation which, for reasons that will become clear, I choose to call the **Heritage Route**.

Starting from the **Market Square**, walk down **East St Helen's Street** and follow the road round the church, across the **Iron Bridge into Wilsham Road** – and keep going.

Eventually you come to a short path that takes you **towards Abingdon Marina**, but you carry on down **Peep-o-Day Lane**, with fishing lakes on your left and sports fields, the sewage works and gravel extraction on your right. **Turn right up the long, straight, concrete road**. All this will be familiar to anyone who took the route I recommended in walking to Abingdon.

Now we come to **the variation**. Soon after you turn left into **Gypsy Lane** you will see a **footpath sign** on the right, pointing diagonally across the field. Take it but don't stray from the path because the field is usually under cultivation.

Sutton Wick is in sight but before you get there you will meet another path crossing in front of you, where you turn right. After a short distance you go through a kissing gate at a corner of the field, and here you come across the **Hidden Heritage**.

At first sight the path leads through tall bushes on either side, but look again at those on the right. Hidden by the undergrowth you will find **\*\*\*cars, vans and trucks that haven't moved in decades**; brambles grow over and through them in rampant profusion. There is a Wavy Line lorry (remember them?) and others eroded beyond all recognition. They may no longer have a use for humans but all have **found a new purpose** in providing shelter for a wide variety of wildlife. This stretch is also a good place to come at blackberry-picking time but remember – it is private property, so keep to the path.

The path emerges into Sutton Wick, **opposite the delightful duck pond**. Turn towards Drayton, taking the right fork into our equally delightful Millennium Green. I was involved in its concept and the way it has turned out is always a pleasure to me. Take the path into Henleys Lane and cross into the Manor Farm estate; wend your way through it until you come to Gravel Lane, etc.

In another issue of the Chronicle I hope to introduce you to the **River Route**. It's a good bit longer but full of interest and **refreshments\*\*** are available along the way [\*\*Ed:- that's more like it!]. More later.

**Andrew Bax**

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➔> [\*\*\*Ed:- Look closely . . .one of those hidden vehicles is just about visible!]



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➔ And here's a pic, a very old one as you can (just about) see, a scene of a spot quite close to where Andrew's route back should bring you out (if you don't get his lefts and rights muddled up!).

It's from one of a set of old sepia postcards unearthed by Stephen Fearnley from the former History Society records.



## Michael Matthews

Dear Editor, High Street

**My husband, Michael Matthews (aged 90), died at midday on Friday April 25th at Sobell House.**

He had lived most of his life in the High Street, apart from the twelve years he spent in the Army.

Wendy Matthews

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## Plant Sale

Dear Editor, via email

To **everyone who came and supported us** at our plant sale at St. Peter's on Saturday May 17th, it was lovely to see you all and **we raised over £400** to help with the upkeep of the Church.

Thank You!

Sue & David Icke



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## Thames Water - Friends in High Places?

Dear Editor, via email

Doubtless this Chronicle issue will have several references to the wretched Thames Water and their reservoir shenanigans.

Readers may well have missed the strange plug given by **Chancellor Rachel Reeves**, in a 'regeneration' speech earlier this year, in which she said the UK hadn't had a new reservoir for ages, and such a facility would "help the water companies reduce sewage pollution of rivers, streams and the sea".

Such a claim is exceptionally daft, even by the, er, 'moderate' standards of national politicians. A moment's logical thought shows that the only way a reservoir can reduce sewage pollution is by the former being used as a very large, and ludicrously expensive storage hole for the latter!

Any neutral observer might well wonder if some shady deal has already been done?!

Regards,

P. Sternbroke



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## Can YOU Help?

Dear Editor, via email

**An appeal:-** are you ready to make a real difference to young people's lives whilst having loads of fun?

We are a team of enthusiastic volunteers and parents delivering exciting activities for young people aged 6-14 in Sutton Courtenay. **We are looking for adults to join us** to help shape and run our programs, particularly for the 6-10 age range (currently running on **Weds & Thurs evenings**).

You'll be guiding young adventurers through a world of discovery and confidence-building pursuits, helping to shape young lives whilst developing your own skills in leadership, teamwork, and communication.

### **Why volunteer?**

Make a lasting impact on young people; Pass on your own skills and life experiences; Enjoy unforgettable moments and great friendships; Be part of a movement that inspires the next generation.

### **What You'll be Doing:-**

Helping young people earn badges & develop essential life skills through fun challenges; Creating a safe and supportive environment where young people can grow and thrive; Delivering an exciting, engaging, and inclusive programme of activities; Communicating with parents & carers to keep them informed & engaged; Mentoring & encouraging new volunteers – when you're ready to do so.

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Kind Regards

Lucy Tebbit-Scales

## **SPARE CHRONICLES**

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



## **Joint Local Plan**

I've gone on about the planning regulations and the essential status of the Joint Local Plan a lot in the past; it's now entering the phase where the Planning Inspectors carry out **public hearings** to ensure it's sound and in accordance with legal and procedural requirements. With the amount of work that's gone into it, it had better be. After all, it's the key element in our holding on to whatever level of planning power we've been left by decades of changes to planning legislation.

**The first week of hearing dates** will cover the following topics:-

**Tues 3 June:** Matter 1 – Procedural and Legal Requirements followed by Matter 2 – The Duty to Co-operate

**Weds 4 June:** Matter 3 – The Housing Target/Requirement

**Thurs 5 June:** Matter 4 – The Employment Land Requirement

**The hearing sessions** will be held in public at **Bee House on Milton Park**, and **anyone can attend in person to watch** (subject to venue capacity). The sessions will also be available to watch online via a **livestream** from Bee House. More details on the JLP here: <https://www.southandvale.gov.uk/joint-local-plan-2041-examination/>

As a very brief aside in the planning area, and avoiding any comment on the political aspects, I did happen to see a public announcement that the new administration in Lincolnshire will be automatically refusing any solar farm planning applications, and I 'facepalmed'. If I were a solar farm developer, I'd be making a beeline for Lincolnshire now. From all I've written on the subject over the years, you may have an intuitive feel of *why* that's the case by now. It's because if a planning application refusal (or approval, for that matter) can be deemed "predetermined" by the Planning Committee, it will near-automatically be overruled at appeal, and with costs awarded against the Local Authority, **so the appeal would be free for the developer**. Announcing in the national press that you're determined against all such developments is as clear a predetermination as possible, so they've just announced open season for developers in that area.

In addition, if an Authority loses too many appeals (I believe 10% is the threshold), they have their planning powers removed (see <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4grp83zgj60> -- a recent example story about Wiltshire).

## **Splash Pads in Abbey Meadow**

The splash pads at Abbey Meadow in Abingdon and Wantage Memorial Gardens **will open just in time for the bank holiday weekend at the end of May**.

**The splash pad at Abbey Meadow will open daily**, while the kiosk will be open only at weekends until the outdoor pool opens on 19th July. After that, the kiosk, splash pad and outdoor pool will be available every day until 7th September.

**Throughout the summer**, the council's Active Communities team will also host a **variety of events**, including **community walks**, free outdoor community park **fitness sessions** (designed for those new to exercise or who have been inactive for some time) and **football sessions**.

See all the relevant info on the Active Communities webpage <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/sports-and-activities/active-communities/> and by following the team's [Facebook page](#).

## **Cost of Living**

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

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

**01235 422600** or [communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk)

Website: [whitehorsedc.gov.uk/costofliving](http://whitehorsedc.gov.uk/costofliving)

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

## **Waste services feedback (PLEASE!)**

There's a **new survey** to find out what residents think about the waste and street cleaning services and waste reduction initiatives. The survey can be completed online at <https://theconversation.southandvale.gov.uk/housing-and-environment/waste-survey-2025/>. Comment process is open until **13 June 2025**.

Anyone with questions or who requires the survey in an alternative format (eg:- large print, Braille, audio, email, Easy Read and alternative languages) can call **01235 422146** or email [waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk)

## **Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme**

**Finally some good news** re flooding. The Government have confirmed the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme's Compulsory Purchase Order, and OCC have granted planning permission. This will cause some disruption as they put it into effect, it will involve creating a new stream, grazing pasture, and gently sloping wetland about 3 miles long, starting just north of Botley Road and passing under the A423 Kennington Railway Bridge (Southern by-pass) to the south before re-joining the River Thames. **It should considerably reduce flood risk** to Oxford, a bunch of local roads, the railway, and the utilities and services in the area (which has knock-on effects as far out as us).

## **Bat Surveys by Thames Water**

Thames Water will be continuing their survey work in the proposed SESRO area (remember – it's *not* yet approved, no matter the impression TW would like to give), and they have **to check out bat populations**. They're going to be using both manual and static temporary radio antennas (which look like this picture).



[Ed's Note:- ANYONE who's seen TW's ludicrous behaviour over the years will know they don't have to look far for 'batty'!]

## **Cost of Living**

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

All the best,

**Andy Cooke**

# Peter Stevens – County Councillor

Following the 1st May election, I am delighted to have been **re-elected as your county councillor**, responsible for the division covering **Drayton, Sutton Courtenay, Steventon, Milton, Milton Heights and Appleford**. The boundaries have slightly changed, replacing the area covering Marcham, Abingdon Airfield / Dalton Barracks, Shippon and St Helens Without, with the area covering Steventon. Hello Steventon, as a Stevens, it is also great to represent Steventon!

**For those who voted for me**, thank you – we had a brilliant result with more people voting than last time, and personally I gained around twice the number of votes as the next closest person standing. **For those who did not**, I still hope to represent you just as well if not better than my predecessor. I met a lot of people in a short space of time across the area and look forward to meeting many more in my time as councillor.

**I am a Liberal Democrat because** I believe that holding the centre ground is the best place to be. I believe that the best lasting solutions are those in the middle that try to accommodate as many people as possible.

**During the campaign**, I may have knocked on your door and I would like to apologise if I disturbed you, but I am only trying to engage with everyone living here, and give you a chance to meet me, hear concerns and exchange views. All part of the democratic process which is supposed to make our country great, fair and open. Some of which do feel increasingly under threat, undermined by negativity and mis-information.

Fighting misinformation with triangulation of facts from different trusted sources to make the best decisions is important to me, from holding Thames Water to account properly for their reservoir strategy, to building our resilience to flooding and climate change, to ensuring the restoration of the brownfield land between our villages will make our area better, and must pay homage to the beauty of our villages.

It is also important to me to leverage the brilliant science and technology that resides locally like in Milton Park, and we make the most of our local energy assets from the power station, solar and battery to world-leading nuclear fusion research, reducing pollution and powering the transformation of the national grid to clean green energy.

**Our small area punches well above our weight** across many spheres, and I aim to take this even further, making it a great place to be.

Best wishes

***Councillor Peter Stevens***

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

## **Summer Reading Challenge Volunteer**

**OCC want to:-** Encourage children to participate in this year's **Summer Reading Challenge**

### **About the role**

Volunteers are key to the success of the Summer Reading Challenge. You will help during the summer holidays to sign children up for the challenge and give out rewards. You could also get involved in events, displays and other library activities (NB **nearest Libraries** are Abingdon, Didcot & Wantage). Your support will help children keep up their reading fluency through the long school holidays whilst having lots of fun!

### **What we need from you**

We need people who are reliable, enthusiastic, organised, enjoy working with children, and confident talking to their parents and carers. The minimum age for a volunteer is 13 however, if you are under 16 you will need your parent or carer's permission. Volunteers 16 and over will need a reference from someone who is not a friend or family member.

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## **Using tech to fight retail crime: Disc app now used by over 1,500 businesses**

*The retail crime reporting app was rolled out a year ago free of charge, funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner.*

DISC is a crime information-sharing system that allows for businesses and others to be aware of criminal activity in their communities, view galleries of offenders, submit reports of incidents and act as an alternative to 101 for reporting non-emergency crimes. It also enables communities to manage their business crime reduction schemes efficiently and effectively. A year since its launch, 1563 businesses have signed up and 1758 incidents have now been registered.

Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner **Matthew Barber** said: "This app has been a key part of my retail crime strategy. I encourage businesses to join and to make full use of the app so more criminals can be brought to justice and retail staff can be protected. Maximising member participation is essential for successful crime reduction schemes."

Disc is available, free of charge, to businesses in the Thames Valley area, it can be used for retail, night-time economy or Anti-social behaviour (ASB) schemes. The information is shared with Thames Valley Police and supports the use of enforcement action against offenders as well as increasing in shoplifting convictions.

**Apply:-** email [matthew@matthewbarber.co.uk](mailto:matthew@matthewbarber.co.uk) using the title "Please sign me up for the Disc app" [Ed- quite low tech?!]

# GARD

## ***(Group Against Reservoir Development)***

GARD is a group of individuals whose aim is to identify and promote viable solutions to meet the future needs of water users in the Thames Water Region. GARD is advised by eminent water industry practitioners. Our c'tee is composed of voluntary, unpaid members with technical experience, each of whom is free from any political or vested interests.

### **NEWS round-up and plans:**

**May:** GARD held more short ONLINE INFO SESSIONS for non-members. We were pleased with participation and will be planning more. **If you would like a recording of the talk** sent to you, email [gard.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:gard.secretary@gmail.com)

**June: JOIN US at Millets for the GARD and CPRE anti-SESRO Petition Action Days** – Friday June 13th, & Weds June 18th (110am to 3pm). The Petition will be presented to the Secretary of State on Thurs 19th June.

The **JUDICIAL REVIEW** takes place on June 25/26th. We'll know the result some time in July and put it on the GARD website at once. If we succeed, there should be a Public Inquiry with open and unbiased scrutiny. This is what we have been asking for over a year.

If we don't succeed, Thames Water proceeds to apply for the Development Consent Order (2027, to be decided in 2028).  
→>

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**PUBLICITY:** tell the Secretary if you'd like to display a banner or poster. Online leaflets are available about Groundwater effects, GARD's thoughts on a smaller reservoir and a comparison on Thames Water's claims versus reality (Ed:- there's quite a large gap!).

**THE PETITION:** Sign the GARD / CPRE Petition for a Public Inquiry! See the '38 Degrees' petition website :- <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/stop-thames-water-s-plans-for-a-devastating-mega-reservoir> . . . PLEASE ask your friends to sign – let's bring it to 7000 names before it goes to the government in June.

**FUND RAISING:** GARD needs to raise funds for its ongoing Campaign, the legal costs for the Judicial Review are very high and have absorbed available resources. Please contact us with your ideas or offering your expertise. Donation details are 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 – see page 19 in this issue for that info), or contact the GARD Secretary [gard.secretary@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:gard.secretary@gmail.com)

**Derek Stork, Chairman GARD**

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**SIMON CALDER** is THE acknowledged travel expert, often used by TV news bulletins whenever an urgent report is needed, for airport chaos, travel disruption, etc. Based with **The Independent**, he writes an expert fortnightly e-newsletter. He recently wrote of the 'EU deal' travel concessions (not impressed):- I was amazed to hear ministers imply that UK travellers would henceforth be back on the fast track through airports across Europe. Each nation decides how to operate its borders, the main instruction from Brussels is that EU citizens should be given priority over "third country nationals" from places like Tonga, Venezuela & the UK. So as you were: **be prepared for long delays!**

Oh, and in his latest piece, he described exploring Long Island, to the eastern tip, New York State's oldest lighthouse (1796) occupies the final headland before Europe; **Montauk** was the first sight of the New World for many transatlantic settlers. Any **Paul Simon fans** may know that the singer-songwriter had a home there on the cliff, until coastal erosion put it at risk of . . . (wait for it. . . ) "**slip slidin' away**".

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# WESTMINSTER VIEW



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

In recent weeks, I've been focused on Planning. I was appointed to the **Planning and Infrastructure Bill C'tee**, where MPs from various parties scrutinise this new government legislation. We are reviewing the bill line by line, suggesting improvements before it returns to the Commons. Experts and charities have provided evidence, and I have advocated for amendments to protect nature, ensure genuinely affordable housing with necessary infrastructure, and introduce solar panels above car parks. The committee debated the vital role of planning committees in ensuring transparency and community engagement.

While the Govt may not adopt many amendments, we continue **pushing for improvements**, and it is important that the Ministers championing the Bill hear the full range of concerns about it.

I also led my first **Westminster Hall debate**, championing walking and cycling for journeys to school, and urging its prioritisation in the Road Safety Strategy. I raised local examples, including a safe crossing over the A415 in Culham for **Europa School students**, and improvements to the walking and cycling path there, and a much-delayed walking and cycling bridge project **over the A34 in Milton**, to link Milton Heights with Milton Park and Milton Village. We discussed safety concerns like pavement parking forcing wheelchairs and buggies onto the road and the need for investment in rural cycle and footpaths. Minister Lillian Greenwood is set to visit a local school to observe Bikeability training, which boosts children's confidence in cycling to school.

**Recent Westminster activities** include meeting Lord Vallance to discuss concerns that our local area may not benefit from the proposed 'Oxford to Cambridge Growth Corridor', and summing up a debate on St George's Day. I also took part in a debate on estate management fees affecting new residents, and raised questions with ministers on various local concerns, including export license processing for small businesses, stalking protections, transgender rights, and the lack of coordination in roadworks.

Regarding the **mega-reservoir**, a High Court hearing on 24th and 25th June will determine whether a Judicial Review into the Government's decision to approve Thames Water's plans for the Abingdon Reservoir without a Public Inquiry should proceed. I have secured a meeting with Emma Hardy, Minister for Water and Flooding, to **ensure the government fully understands the community's concerns** about this major infrastructure project.

The Planning and Infrastructure Bill Committee has kept me in Westminster more than I'd like, but I was glad to meet local residents at my advice surgeries, visit Grove GP practices, celebrate VE Day in Wantage, and visit Linda Benton's art exhibition championing beautiful and old local trees in Didcot and East Hagbourne.

Alongside my regular appointment-based surgeries, I am planning drop-in sessions in some villages this summer – look out for details of the dates and times. In the meantime, feel free to contact me.

**Olly**

**If you need to get in touch with our MP >>**

Please email [olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk)  
(or leave a voice message at 0207 219 7657)



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# HAY FEVER??

**Hay fever can be annoying at the best of times.** But this year, many people are reporting their usual symptoms are **worse than ever before** – with **their normal go-to remedies doing little to provide relief.**

**Here's what you can do** if you're finding that nothing seems to be helping your itchy eyes, sneezing and runny nose this year.

There are **several reasons why hay fever is so bad right now.** In the UK, 2025's unusually dry and warm spring has worsened conditions, leading to earlier and more intense tree pollen release. **Birch pollen**, which affects around 25% of UK hay fever sufferers, peaked sharply this year due to the high temperatures and low rainfall – two factors which increase pollen production and dispersal. The lack of rain has also prevented pollen from being cleared from the air, prolonging exposure and severity.

Another issue is timing. For full relief from hay fever symptoms, **allergy medicines** (especially **steroid nasal sprays**) should be started one to two weeks before pollen appears. You can also develop new sensitivities, even as an adult. Pollen that didn't bother you years ago might start causing symptoms now. Grass and birch pollen are among the most common types of seasonal pollen that start bothering people in adulthood.

## Managing symptoms

If you're finding allergy pills alone just aren't cutting it this year, the best thing you can do to reduce symptoms is **cut your pollen exposure** wherever possible.

Before going outdoors, **check the local pollen forecast.** Avoid exercising outside during peak pollen hours (usually mid-morning on dry, windy days). If you do go **outside**, wear a face mask (such as an N95 mask) when pollen counts are high. After coming inside, remove your shoes at the door, change your clothes and take a shower to wash off pollen.

Inside, you can use a **HEPA air purifier** or **high-MERV filters** in your heating or cooling system. These will capture airborne pollen particles, which **may help to reduce the severity of your symptoms** during high-pollen seasons. On high-pollen days, keep windows and doors closed. You might also want to vacuum with a HEPA-filter vacuum and wash bedding often to remove any pollen. While these steps won't cure allergies, **they can sharply reduce your total exposure.** This gives medications a better chance to work.

**Allergy tablets** work best when taken daily and pre-emptively, ideally before peak exposure each morning.

**Nasal steroid sprays** are often more effective than antihistamines for nasal congestion. These should be started one to two weeks before the allergy season begins and used consistently.

**Allergy wipes and saline nasal rinses** may also help reduce pollen exposure – though evidence of their benefit have only been shown in small studies, so larger, high-quality trials confirming their effectiveness are still needed.

## Longer-term fixes

When symptoms stay severe, **allergy immunotherapy** – which helps desensitise a hay fever sufferer to pollen – can help. This works like an allergy "vaccine". You receive tiny, gradually increasing doses of your specific allergen either by regular injection or as a daily under-the-tongue tablet or drop. This trains your immune system to tolerate the pollen and shifts your immune response by making your body better able to block allergens while simultaneously dampening the allergic response.

In one study, around **90% of patients** who underwent a full course of immunotherapy had **major relief from symptoms** – and this effect often lasted many years. The trade-off with immunotherapy is commitment: a typical course lasts 3–5 years under a specialist's guidance. But for **people with chronic hay fever**, immunotherapy can dramatically improve their quality of life. [courtesy of 'TheConversation.com' newsletter]



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**'FSC' stands for 'Forest Stewardship Council', (<https://fsc.org/en> for more info), and they are aiming to maintain healthy resilient forests.**

# Down the Years



So, for this occasional venture back into **Pop Chart history**, who was charting **THIS TIME OF YEAR**, going back through time? Which ones take you back, if they pop-up on the radio?

**Remember any of these? >>>>**

In 2005, Crazy Frog occupied #1 with 'Axel F', a weird combo of German dance duo 'Bass Bumpers' blending the wildly successful **Crazy Frog ringtone** theme with the massive **Harold Faltermeyer** hit of 1985; Axel was of course Eddie Murphy in the film **Beverly Hills Cop**. Also that month 'Marmite' star **James Blunt** was at #1 with "You're Beautiful".

Back to 1995 – **Robson & Jerome** had quite a while at #1 with 'Unchained Melody', the biggest selling single of the year.

**40 years ago** (REALLY so long?!) **Paul Hardcastle** had just been #1 with the catchy 'N-n-Nineteen', keeping out **Katrina & the Waves** ('Walking on Sunshine') and **Duran Duran's** Bond-theme ('View to a Kill'). **Sister Sledge** also hit #1 ('Frankie'), followed by **Jennifer Rush** ('Power of Love').

Just below them were **Fine Young Cannibals** ('Johnny Come Home'), **Bruce Springsteen** ('I'm on Fire/Born in the USA'), & **Dire Straits** ('Money for Nothing'), with soon to be at #1 the wonderful **Eurythmics** ('There Must be an Angel'), and **Madonna** with 'Into the Groove'. Quite a month!

**FIFTY years ago** (for real old-timers), we'd just had **Windsor Davies & Don Estelle** ('Whispering Grass') and the fantastic **10cc** at #1 ('I'm Not in Love), just edging out another iconic sound **Judy Collins** ('Send in the Clowns'). Also high in the charts were the **Sensational Alex Harvey Band** (their name, not my adjective, though they were OK!), with their version (& only top-10 hit) of the old **Tom Jones** (now Sir Tom!) hit 'Delilah' (very hard to not sing along if that one's on the radio?!).

Anyone go back to 1965?! **Let me help:-** The **Byrds** had quite a spell at #1 with 'Mr Tambourine Man', holding off one of **Dusty Springfield's** great hits ('In the Middle of Nowhere'), the **Dave Clark Five** ('Catch Us If You Can'), & the **Animals** ('We Gotta Get Out of this Place').

Perhaps just a few readers can recall 1955? By coincidence, a much earlier version of 'Unchained Melody' had just been at #1, (see Robson & Jerome in 1995!), THAT one was by **Jimmy Young**, famous as a DJ for his 'easy listening' show on BBC Radio 2 (almost 30 years), & he had another #1 the same year, 'The Man From Laramie'.

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**This month in 2015** On TV, the Clarkson/Hammond & May 'team' presented their last ever '**Top Gear**', & then-PM **David Cameron** told election-campaign journalists that he would "**close down the BBC**" after he had to suffer an awkward interview question. Yes, thanks Dave!!

Sadly we lost **James Last**, **Charles Kennedy** (former LibDem leader), **Marguerite Patten** (one of the original cookery experts), **Cilla Black** and actors **Sir Christopher Lee**, **Ron Moody**, **George Cole** & **Patrick Macnee**.

**TWENTY years ago** We heard that **Daniel Craig** was to be the next **James Bond** (after Pierce Brosnan), and sadly we lost **Richard Whiteley**, the much-loved original presenter of **Countdown** (23 years in that role).

**Back in 1995** – **Eric Cantona** (Man Utd) achieved a degree of notoriety for attacking a spectator at Crystal Palace (but would later escape jail for assault), and a **new law stated that domestic electrical appliances** had to be supplied with a **fused, pre-wired plug**.

Rogue trader **Nick Leeson** was jailed for bankrupting **Barings Bank**, **Julie Goodyear** ('Bet Lynch') left **Corrie** (after 25 years), the then **Queen Mother** (aged 95!) had a hip replacement, good old **Frank Bruno** finally won a version of the World Heavyweight title, and we lost former PMs **Harold Wilson** & **Sir Alec Douglas-Home**.

**FORTY years ago** the London & Philadelphia **Live Aid** concerts raised over £50mill for Ethiopian famine relief, **Microsoft** (what happened to THEM?) launched Windows version 1.0, **Eastenders** was first shown, and in Australia **Neighbours** launched. There were two football stadium disasters, the **Bradford City** fire (56 victims), and the **Heysel** (Brussels) 'crush' killed 39 after terrace rioting. The **Titanic** wreck was found, & the **Sinclair C5** first wobbled onto the roads (production only lasted 7 months).

**Back in 1975** we lost actors **William Hartnell** (first Dr Who) & **James Robertson Justice**, also racing driver **Graham Hill**, & author **P.G.Wodehouse**; but just arriving (**HAPPY 50th birthday!**) were:- **David Beckham**, **Jamie Oliver**, **Gareth Malone**, **Mel B**, **Alison Hammond**, **Sarah Millican**, **Liz Truss** (oh dear), **Kate Winslet**, snooker stars **O'Sullivan**, **Higgins** & **Williams**, and . . **Ant** & **Dec**.

## More Notices & Other Local Churches

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

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

**Abingdon LIBRARY** has masses more events than you might expect from a mere library!  
See their full list at  
<https://www.facebook.com/AbingdonLibrary>  
But DO SEE their ex-stock **Book Sales**, last Friday & Saturday of each month



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### Milton Methodist Church News

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL CONTACTS :-

Parish (Clerk) Anita James ([clerk@draytonpc.org](mailto:clerk@draytonpc.org))  
District (VofWHDC) Andy Cooke (07507 602911)  
& Oxfordshire County Peter Stevens via email >>  
[peter.stevens@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:peter.stevens@oxfordshire.gov.uk)  
& your MP Olly Glover (contact info >> [page 15](#))

## FOSTER CARERS NEEDED

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

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

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

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/children-and-families/fostering> or please call 0300 131 2797. Types of placements are both short & long term and include sibling groups. And you can check for updates on their Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/FosteringinOxfordshire/](https://www.facebook.com/FosteringinOxfordshire/)

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

## FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS >>

(See p4 - St Peter's - monthly tea & chat afternoons).

And the **Baptist Cafe** is on **Thursdays** - each week - but NOW held in the **Caudwell Day Centre**, 11am to 1pm, more tea and cake, **a warm welcome assured**.



## Drayton Post Office

Post office has now reopened

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## LISTINGS

### DRAYTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY

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

### NEW THEATRE

Musicals galore to look forward to:- **Kinky Boots** (July 22 - 26th), **The Bodyguard** (Oct 6 - 11th), **Mamma Mia** (Nov 25 - Dec 6th), **SIX** (Dec 9 - 13th), **Miss Saigon** (Dec 16 - Jan 3rd).

Or if you prefer Comedy, **Jason Manford**, July 31st, **Rob Beckett**, he gets 2 days, Sept 19-20th, then **Alan Davies** (does he tour much now, been on QI/XL forever?!) & **Russell Kane**, Oct 30th & 31st (so don't get the dates muddled up?!)

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

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

Oxford Playhouse **The Talented Mr Ripley** is on, **Oct 13th - 18th**, and the drama students of Magdalen College school are putting on the classic tale **Three Musketeers** June 26th-28th. They've got an unfortunate booking clash though, (comedy, see New Theatre!), **Jenny Éclair** on Oct 31st! Moving forward to NEXT year, and a completely different genre, **Feb 10-14th, The Woman in Black** (they stress fear and suspense!).

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

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

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

E H SHEPARD (Winnie The Po) An exhibition (Before & Beyond) showing his war drawings, and the first appearances of his famous characters, **runs to Aug 31st**, at the **Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum**, Park Street, Woodstock, also a new display re **Operation VARSITY**, the D-Day airborne landings, June 7 - July 27th. [www.sofa.org.uk](http://www.sofa.org.uk)

Abingdon AIR & COUNTRY Show - June 14th - see their ad on page 3 for full details of all the attractions!

## D-Day Commemoration Service

Readers with any RAF connections may well already know, but the annual D-Day Commemoration service will be held on **Saturday 7th June** at the **Harwell Memorial Stone** located on the campus, back then it was RAF Harwell (OX11 0PW - W3W ///bitter.path.runways)

The service starts at **17:30** (for an hour), with the car park open from 16:30.

**All are welcome to attend**. Those wishing to participate in a more formal manner - by laying a wreath, carrying a standard, or any other manner - should contact Peter Davies (via the [harwellcampus.com](http://harwellcampus.com) website).

## (Mostly) Hall Diary for June

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

Sun	1	9.00am	ANTIQUES FAIR (to 3pm)
Sat	7	11.45am	Private Function (child's party)
Sun	8	9.00am	Private Function (child's party)
Mon	9	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting (Caudwell DC) NB – New date, now <b>2nd Mondays!</b>
Sat	14	10.00am	Air & Country show (see ad p3)
Sat	14	11.00am	Private Function (child's party)
		5.00pm	Private Function
Sun	15	11.45am	Private Function (child's party)
Mon	16	5.00pm	<b>Chronicle Deadline</b> (Ads = Fri 13th) (NB – see page 2 for Chronicle Info)
Fri	20	11.00am	<b>NOT 'Keep Fit Faye'</b> (Hols that week!)
Wed	25	1.30pm	NOT Drayton Wives (back in July!)
Sat	28	5.00pm	Private Function
Sun	29	3.00pm	Private Function (child's party)

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## 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) <i>St Peter's</i>

### TUESDAYS

9.30 am	Pilates (via Alexandra Merson 07788 248925)
1.45 pm	Drayton Art Group (until 4 pm) <i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
2.30 pm	Tuesday Connect (back to 1st Tuesday!) <i>Church</i>
6.30 pm	Karate/'Dojang X' session (Sabrina 07938 537310)

### WEDNESDAYS

10.00 am	Pebbles (Baby, Toddler, Carer group) <i>Church</i>
1.30 pm	Whist Drive <i>Caudwell DC</i>
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 (**) <i>St Peter's Lady Chapel</i>
11.00 am	Baptist Café (to 1pm) NOW IN >> <i>Caudwell DC</i>
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) <i>Caudwell DC</i>
7.30 pm	<b>Drayton Community Choir</b> (2nd/4th Thurs) -- Call Kay for info 01235 204187 <i>Church Room</i>

### FRIDAYS

11.00 am	<b>Keep Fit with FAYE</b> (07815 583591)
12.30 pm	<b>YOGA class</b> (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 <i>Baptist Church</i>
---------	---------------------------------------

## WhatsApp FRAUD Warning!

In 2023/24, **British Consumers had more stolen** via WhatsApp than any other country in Europe, an average of OVER £2K.

Some of the most popular frauds were scams re jobs, investments, Tax Refunds (!), family member impersonations and fake giveaways.

**Report** a dodgy WhatsApp by selecting it, then tap 'report'.

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