

DRAYTON CHRONICLE



Photo: Male *Bombus pascuorum* foraging for nectar on a late-flowering Devil's Bit Scabious

Credit: Roselle Chapman, previous ecologist at Wild Oxfordshire

VOLUME 48 ISSUE 7 | AUGUST 2025 | EDITOR: VICKY BILLINGHAM

CHRONICLE INFORMATION

KEY DATES

The next Drayton Chronicle will be the September issue, edited by Tony Holmes.
editor@draytonchronicle.net

Issue	Advertising deadline	Contribution deadline
September	Aug 15th	Aug 18th
October	Sept 12th	Sept 15th

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	6 inserts		12 inserts
		3 inserts		
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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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Administrator: Alison Bampton

admin@@damascusparish.org.uk

01235 847179

Email: rector@damascusparish.org.uk or

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The church remains open daily (Sun–Sat, 10-4pm).

SERVICES INFORMATION

Sunday	8:00am	Holy Communion (BCP – 3rd Sunday only) with Healing Prayer
Sunday	9:30am	Regular Sunday service: 1st Sunday: Holy Communion 2nd Sunday: Family Service * 3rd Sunday: Holy Communion with Healing Prayer 4th Sunday: Morning Praise Everyone is welcome to join us. *Change to our regular services
Thursday	9:45am	Holy Communion (1st & 3rd Thurs)
Thursday	9:45am	Celtic Morning Prayer (2nd & 4th Thurs)

PARISH REGISTER

Baptism 13th July Jessie Morris

Funeral 9th July Vera Wakefield

REGULAR EVENTS

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

YOU STAY WE PRAY

27th July - 2nd August Steventon Rd; Kiln Lane; Mott Cottages; Barton Court

3rd – 9th August: East Way; East Way MHP

10th – 16th August Church Lane; Henleys Lane; Caudwell Close; Gravel Lane

17th – 23rd August Abingdon Rd; Oday Hill

24th – 31st August Binning Close; Haywards Rd



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK



for online updates about services and events.

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

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

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Did you know the Bible is the #1 best seller of all time? Have you ever read it? Embarrassed that you really don't know much about it?

You are in good company - most people, even regular churchgoers, know they should get to know it better. Now is your chance.

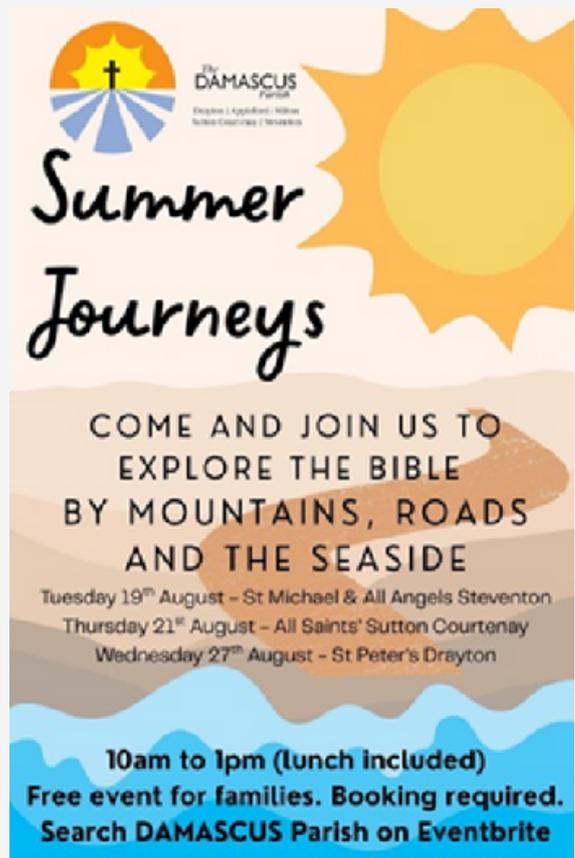
Come and join us for BIBLE FOR BEGINNERS in 6 fortnightly sessions September to November in St Peter's Church Room, Drayton - Wednesdays at 7.30 - 8.45pm.

You will see clips from 'The Chosen' - an award-winning historical drama based on the life of Jesus, seen through the eyes of those who knew him. You will read Jesus' words from the Bible and see how they can be life changing for those who hear them.

Each session is stand alone so it doesn't matter if you miss some or only come for one or two.

There is no need to book in advance but to register an interest or request more information, please email Rev Ann Templeman on anntempleman@live.co.uk.

Dates are 17th Sept, 1st Oct, 15th Oct, 29th Oct, 12th Nov, 26th Nov.



Summer Journeys

COME AND JOIN US TO EXPLORE THE BIBLE BY MOUNTAINS, ROADS AND THE SEASIDE

Tuesday 19th August - St Michael & All Angels Steventon
Thursday 21st August - All Saints' Sutton Courtenay
Wednesday 27th August - St Peter's Drayton

10am to 1pm (lunch included)
Free event for families. Booking required.
Search DAMASCUS Parish on Eventbrite

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Stay and Play

For children under 5

(older siblings welcome but toys will be for under 5s)

Tuesday 5th Aug, 9:30-11am

Friday 15th Aug, 9:30-11am

Organised by a local parent who will be missing all the term time only playgroups and classes. Nothing fancy, just a welcoming space for little ones to play with some different toys and for parents and carers to chat over tea/coffee!



WILD OXFORDSHIRE NEWS

Share your wildlife sightings! The value of contributing wildlife records – please help

Everyone can play a part in submitting wildlife observations to local Environmental Records Centres. This is so that they appear on the “official record” that is consulted by planning authorities and used by other parties to track changes in distribution and abundance. As well as the value of the data submitted, keeping a systematic note of what you see on your walks and in your gardens adds extra interest and depth to the experience, and can help you to improve your identification skills.

How: using iRecord

A great way of easily logging records is via the [iRecord](#) website or app, from which Records Centres like our [Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre \(TVERC\)](#), can extract data. You can also send records direct to TVERC to ensure they get them in a timely fashion.



Local groups or parishes can provide focus to their efforts by setting up an “Activity” within iRecord, whereby all records submitted by participants, within a designated geographical area or within specified window of time, will combine to form an easily accessible overview of what has been seen and where, including a species list. However, you can, of course submit via iRecord observations from beyond the activity area, and historic observations. We recommend that anyone who is interested creates their own iRecord account and uses that to record their sightings; to do this, go to <https://irecord.org.uk>.

Other methods of submitting observations

However, if you do not have the means to use iRecord, then record your observations in a field notebook, then ask someone in your group to upload your data for you. If this is not possible, then you can submit your field notebooks to TVERC.

How your records are used

Your records are validated before they are entered into the TVERC database. This ensures that the data passed on to decision-makers is as accurate and informative as possible. The records are shared with local authorities in Oxfordshire and Berkshire, the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust and the Environment Agency. They are also provided through data searches to local groups, parish councils, ecological consultants and researchers. The information is used:

- by planning authorities and developers to make informed decisions on the design and location of sustainable development
- to help farmers, landowners and conservation organisations manage land in the best way to enhance biodiversity
- by nature partnerships to direct wildlife conservation work
- by teachers, students and scientists for education and scientific research

The database currently holds over 5 million records, including over 1.1 million records of Protected and Notable species i.e. those that should be taken into account in planning applications. The vast majority of records in the TVERC database are collected by volunteers and local wildlife groups, showing just how vital your efforts are. So please, make your nature spotting count and submit your records to TVERC.

Joanna Higson, TVERC Biological Recording Co-ordinator

joanna.higson@oxfordshire.gov.uk <https://www.tverc.org/>

Check out our website to see the many ways you can support us and our recent achievements.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rash of Poo Bags

There seem to be numerous dog walkers in the village who fail to understand that plastic breaks down far more slowly than dog poo. May I implore those dumping the offending, mainly pale green, bags full of faeces to take them to a nearby poo bin?

I saw 8 such bags within 200 metres on the road over the A34 leading to the Plymouth Estates farm one Saturday morning at 9 am. There are two poo bins very close by; one on the lane side by the village hall and the other on the main road almost opposite the phone box.

Please desist from littering in such an unpleasant way and take your dog poo to one of these bins in future.

Polly Bennett



Seeking those with village history

We live in Pusey Cottage in Henleys Lane, and we have just received a letter and this family photo from Michael Long of Calgary, Canada. His great-grandmother, Eliza Long, and two of his aunts (Grace, Nora or Lucy) lived here until around 1960. Eliza's husband William may also have lived here before he died. When the photo was taken, Michael's father had driven here from Finland in that rather unusual van.



Does this jog any memories among our older residents? If so perhaps you could contact us on 01235 531512 and we can pass the information on.

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DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Hi, all,

July Full Council Meeting

I usually pull out one, or at most two elements from the Full Council meetings, but this last one on 16th July had a few items to mention:

- Approval of S106 funding for Drayton Multi-Use Game Area. "S106 funding" refers to money that developers have to give to fund specific infrastructure in order to build their developments and there's a bunch of legal hoops to jump through. At last, though, all hoops are navigated for funding for the very-long-awaited MUGA at Walnut Meadows (for use by all villagers). I've got to pay tribute to the Parish Council and the Planning Officers (after all, the Planning Officers get enough grief from me usually, so I really should give praise when due) for managing to force through the necessary remediations by the developers.
- Motion passed unanimously to try to pressure Government to change their mooted changes to Planning Committees (essentially to bypass these for a huge quantity of planning applications). If the Government pass these, local accountability for many planning applications will simply vanish. Given that over a million homes have been granted planning permission since 2015 but not built, we suspect they're looking in the wrong direction for hold-ups, anyway.
- Motion passed unanimously to pressure Government to amend their proposed changes to environmental protection in development. These changes would hugely reduce obligations on developers to deal with impacts of development on protected features. This disadvantages those developers who do try to protect the environment – of which there are actually some – against those who just chase the cash. Which leads inevitably to a race to the bottom.

I've mentioned before that I started off very cynical about the prospect of such motions actually having any result, but have been pleasantly surprised in the past. Indeed, since passing the motion, there have been major changes to the environmental protection proposals.

I haven't had the chance yet to check these out, and obviously am not claiming that it's down to us; it's possibly due to many councils doing exactly the same and Government having to accept there's a lot of blowback.

SESRO (Mega Reservoir)

The articles I mentioned have recently gone live on the Oxford Clarion site, and are below:

<https://oxfordclarion.uk/abingdon-reservoir-is-there-an-alternative/>

<https://oxfordclarion.uk/abingdon-reservoir-what-are-the-risks/>

<https://oxfordclarion.uk/abingdon-reservoir-how-much-will-it-cost/>

I've got to thank the Clarion for being willing to publish three lengthy and unsolicited articles from me. I have endeavoured to be as balanced as possible.

Although they publicised it on social media, I have a strong tendency to avoid social media (several years back, I forced myself off it. If you've seen the xkcd cartoon, "I can't come to bed, there's someone WRONG on the Internet," well, that was me. I have been told that some have responded with, "Just get it built already." Those people will inevitably be disappointed; even if all resistance to it vanished, they'd still have to find some sort of answer to a bunch of those issues (and, you know, actually get around to properly designing the thing), and even after any approval, the project would stall for years whilst trying to answer these. Running up the cost and timeline remorselessly. I do go into that in the articles, to be fair.

Since they were written, just a few weeks back, there have been some developments. The price tags for SESRO and both the mentioned reservoirs have noticeably climbed already (despite being in the pre-planning phases). But that for STT (River Severn to Thames Transfer) has not climbed, I noticed.

And, additionally, Thames Water has quietly asked for submissions for proposals for an STT design. My council colleague, Rob Clegg (Marcham), at the Marcham Thames Water public outreach session, was told by a Thames Water delegate that they're getting this set up in case they fail to get approval at DCO (Development Consent Order) stage. As that approval should be locked-on, this does indicate their concern that the honking great issues they still have could be a show-stopper, even with them having brought Government behind them.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT (continued)

Between my writing this and you receiving it, GARD should receive the outcome of their judicial review into the Secretary of State's approval of the Water Resources Management Plan from Thames Water (which was approved and included SESRO selected on cost grounds(!), despite the Environment Agency recommending rejection due to lack of clarity on options and cost). Although I'd have thought it should be a slam-dunk, these judicial reviews are very difficult to win, especially when the Government are fully against you. Fingers crossed for them, despite the deck being stacked against them.

Council Letting Services

Something I'd not known before becoming a councillor is that VoWHDC and South Oxfordshire jointly run a not-for-profit lettings service (White Horse Lettings). It connects private landlords with potential tenants in need of housing, matching people with a suitable and affordable property. They offer ongoing support to both tenants and private landlords (ideally as a win-win: the tenant gets a stable home and the landlord a steady income). Services such as tenancy agreements, inventories, property inspections, and safety and legal guidance are free of charge for landlords, who retain 100% of the rental income. More information is available here: whitehorsedc.gov.uk/whitehorselettings

Climate Change

Here, I'm blowing our own trumpet: both ourselves at VoWHDC and our neighbours at South Oxfordshire were named in the top ten performing district councils in the country for taking action on climate and nature recovery. Whilst a lot of council work can feel like pushing a rock uphill, it's nice when we can see genuine progress made in some areas.

Community Hub – support

Contact the Community Hub here for support if you need it: Tel: 01235 422600
Email: communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk
Website: whitehorsedc.gov.uk/costofliving
Office hours are 8.30am-5pm Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-4.30pm on Fridays.

All the best,
Andy Cooke

LOCAL GROUPS

DRAYTON WIVES

This month's meeting was our summer coach outing.

We visited St Albans in Hertfordshire. We chose St Albans because we thought it had something for everyone and we weren't disappointed !!

There was a lovely Cathedral with history dating back to 1877 when the parish church became the Cathedral and the seat of the Bishop of St Albans.

St Albans gets its name from Alban who is known as the first British Saint. There is also a collection of Roman mosaics in the park.

We then went into the lovely town and came across a market with lots of different stalls. There were, of course, many individual shops and coffee shops; everyone enjoyed the visit.

The coach trips are something we do twice a year, besides our monthly talks, coffee chats and craft meetings.

If you would like to come and meet us, please call me.

Lisa Lammiman

Chairman
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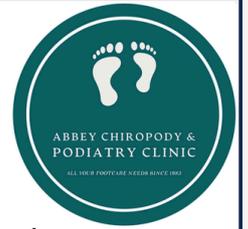
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GARD (Group Against Reservoir Development)

JUDICIAL REVIEW: This took place on June 25th/26th. Directors of SaferWaters attended in court, with Lisa Warne, Director of CPRE Oxfordshire. It then took four weeks for the Judge to deliver his judgement. This occurred on Wednesday 23rd July. We are sorry to say that the Judge **did not uphold** our claim to quash the Secretary of State's decision to approve the Thames Water plan to the next stage. We have thus lost the Judicial Review. We have, however, lodged a notice that we intend to appeal the decision. We have 21 days to file this appeal.

UPDATED WEBSITE: Yes, the new website has landed! Please visit it and find your way round. In particular you will find it works well on your phone.

Group Against Reservoir Development <https://groupagainstreservoirdevelopment.org/>

We send out regular updates to all GARD members and supporters. You can sign up to the GARD circulation list by clicking the 'sign up' button at the bottom of page 1 of the website.

THAMES WATER EVENTS: Thames Water has been hosting information events in four local venues. If you attended one of these, please email GARD saying what you asked and what answers you were given gard.secretary@gmail.com. GARD considers the use by Thames Water of 14-year-old school children in a video to promote its 'proposed' leisure facilities to be a dubious practice, especially when we have good evidence to show that such facilities pose a serious risk to the safety of the reservoir. Thames Water has been giving 'workshop opportunities' in local schools and filming them. Several parents have written to us and have complained to the schools about it. Some of us were annoyed at a response that 'dealing with flooding or later problems would be the responsibility of the Council'. Let us know how you fared.

PETITION: This now stands at about 6,630 signatures. Please sign it if you haven't already, and tell people you know about it: [Stop Thames Water's costly mega-reservoir – fix the leaks! | 38 Degrees](#). Last month, we gained about 150 signatures on our Action Days at Millets Farm (thanks to the Millets owner and supporter of GARD, Tony Carter).

WHAT CAN YOU DO? Join GARD, like and share GARD's Social Media posts, display a poster or banner at your home. Write to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Steve Reed; to your MP and to your Councillors (County, District and Parish). For email details contact the GARD Secretary gard.secretary@gmail.com

WHAT IS THE NEXT STAGE?: Now that we know the Judicial Review is lost, apart from appealing, there is still the next stage of the Approval Process for SESRO. This leads up to the submission by Thames Water of a Development Consent Order (DCO) application in 2026. It is only after that has been heard and agreed that the final approval would be given by the government in 2027. GARD and SAFERWaters will be fighting against the proposal in the public consultations to come in the Autumn of this year. We need your active support for this to respond against the Thames Water propaganda in the consultation documents. It is important to realise that, even though we will be appealing, this DCO process will roll forward (as no project approval is given for nearly two years). So, we will be active on both fronts.

For any appeal, and for the DCO process, we shall be needing substantial funds raised from the public. Please donate.

Here are the payment details 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, Chair GARD

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



The Council last met on July 7th.

Walnut Meadows

Work on the MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) is progressing well with the asphaltting work completed. The contractor is about to finish work on the fence and gates, then there will be a gap of approx 4 weeks before the asphalt has hardened and lines can be painted. The floodlighting is to be installed at a future date.

The sports pitch work is also progressing. A new pipe has been installed to the north of the site to drain the MUGA, Pavilion and car park areas. An on-site meeting between Parish Councillors and representatives from Miller Homes was held on July 14th to address the additional costs incurred by the Parish Council due to the further buried waste; we will let you know the outcome.

Footpaths

The Vale has now released the S106 money for upgrading Bridleway 29. By the time you read this, Drayton Construction should have completed this work, which will join together the two already refurbished areas that lead along the path adjacent to the old scrapyard and down to the concrete road.

Traffic Calming

We are still awaiting an update from Oxfordshire County Council regarding the design and costings for the proposed traffic calming measures. We are hoping to progress the replacement of the VAS as you come into the village via High St. This has been broken for about 5 years now!

The Dovecote

Nigel Billingham, Chair of the Dovecote Residents' Association, reports that the Dovecote have made two requests to the VOWHDC to draw down funds to spend on the Dovecote arts projects. The first amount is for the design phase and the second to cover the installation of a labyrinth on the site.

There is a current snagging list that can be found on <https://dovecotedrayton.co.uk/>. The main concerns relate to the quality of the path and the lack of a hedge on the eastern boundary. There is concern that the residents on Elgrove Gardens are using the boundary, including the growing hedge, as a short cut onto the Dovecote Public Open Space. Negotiations about this are to take place.

It is likely that the residents will have control of their management company from early 2026, once the Certificate of Final Completion has been agreed and issued and an Extraordinary General Meeting held.

Manor Farm

The PC is unhappy with the state of the public area. Despite further wildflower seed being sown in late Spring, the seed appears to have been scattered on the surface, making little contact with the soil and there was no watering afterwards, so seeds did not germinate and the area is now taken over with perennial plants including thistles, nettles and fat hen. This remains the responsibility of Cala Homes. The PC has set out its concerns to Cala and to the VOWHDC and has also requested the removal of the heras fencing as the hemlock is now not a significant issue. Those of us who have been around a while will remember this as a pasture with grazing cattle and horses. It is beyond sad to see this area in its current state.

Conservation Area (CA)

A query has been received from a resident specifically relating to maintenance of trees in a CA.

The CA extends from the Manor Farm estate, along Henleys Lane, Church Lane and the High Street and incorporates Millennium Green. The original CA was extended in 2023 following appraisal and public consultation. The map and detailed appraisal report can be found on the Drayton Parish Council website.

The purpose of the CA is to preserve the historic or architectural heritage of an area. This does mean some extra considerations; some trees may be subject of a specific Tree Preservation Order within a CA, however for all others you must notify the District Council in advance of any proposed work on trees with a trunk diameter of over 75mm, measured at 1.5m above the ground.

Tree removal is possible with a valid reason, for example that the tree is diseased, dead or poses a safety risk but notification to the Vale is required.

So an application to the Vale is required for almost all tree work. A response should be received within 6 weeks. These restrictions apply to trees in a CA, regardless of whether they are on public or private land.

Minor property works that would otherwise be allowed under permitted development may need planning permission in a CA. Any additions, eg. conservatories, do require permission within a CA.

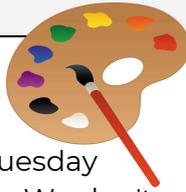
The best thing is to consult with the Vale of White Horse District Council about any proposed work.

The next meeting of the Council will be on 11th August at 7pm in the Caudwell Day Centre.

Elaine Wade

WHAT'S ON

Drayton Art Group



The Art Group continues to meet on Tuesday afternoons in the Caudwell Day Centre. We don't have a set programme, with members exploring subjects of their own choice including abstract, landscapes, portraits and seascapes in a variety of media.

We've also had a workshop with local artist, Claire Cross, on painting flowers using watercolours and ink.

If you are interested in joining us or would like to have a taster session then please contact David Icke at sue-and-david-icke@hotmail.co.uk or 01235 532090.

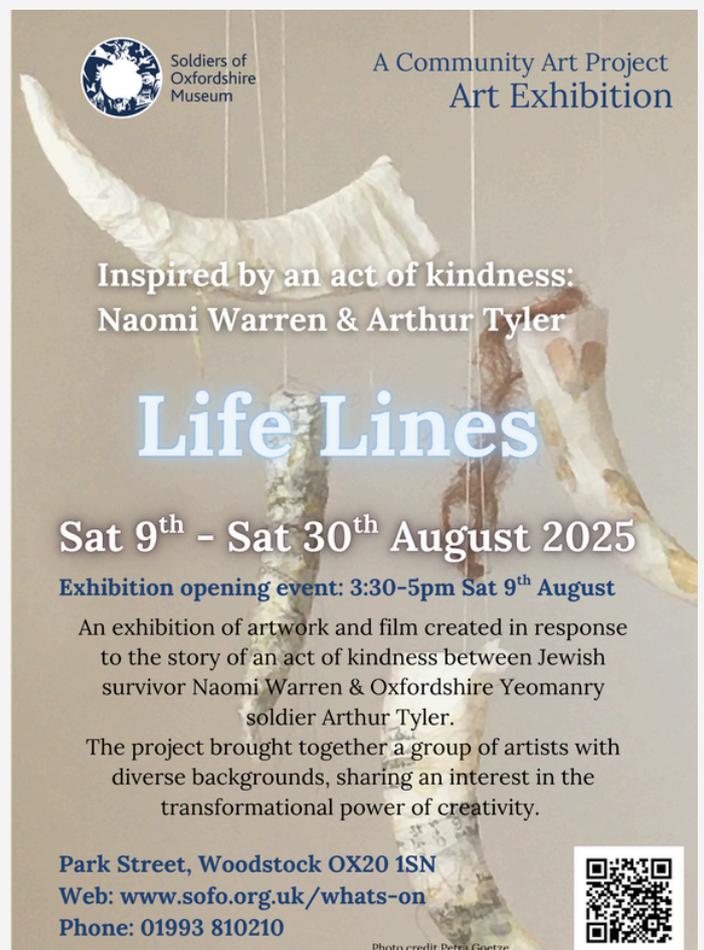
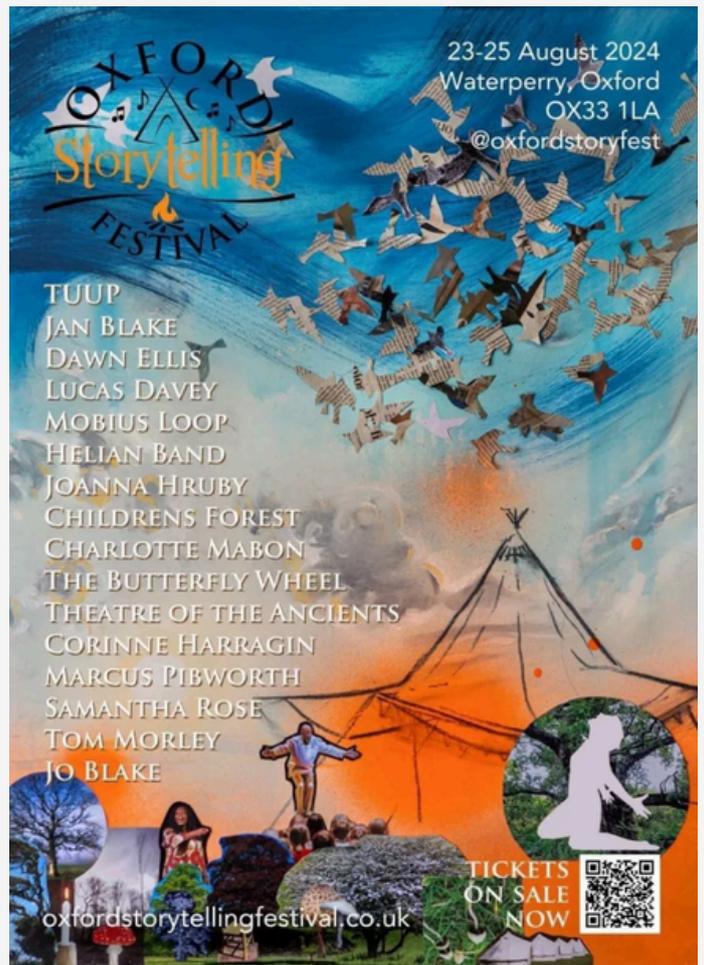


Comedy Special: Ed Byrne & Comedians TBA!
Cornerstone, Didcot,
Thursday 23 Oct 2025 7:30pm



With a TV career now in its third decade, ED BYRNE has regularly appeared on the likes of QI, Mock The Week, The Pilgrimage, Dara and Ed's Road to Mandalay, The Graham Norton Show and Have I Got News For You, as well as hosting Live At The Apollo and Comic Relief Bake Off. His latest tour, Tragedy Plus Time, won British Comedy Guide's Best Comedy Show Of The Year and sold out venues nationwide, becoming his most critically and commercially successful yet.

Two other amazing comedians will be appearing on the evening - names to be announced soon!



WALKING TO MARCHAM



This is an interesting walk passing historical artefacts and through a landscape which is unusually flat. You can understand why it has attracted unwelcome attention and I urge anyone to explore the area before it is overwhelmed by the threatened deluge.

Marcham is closer than you think, and steady walking takes little more than an hour each way. It is reasonable to assume that Marcham Road would get you there and maybe it could once but the A34 put paid to that. So, starting from the walnuts in the centre of the village, cross over the road and head past Vickery's, the Wheatsheaf (Dosa Spices) and Mott Cottages until you come to the bridleway sign for Kiln Lane, which you take. Until the middle of the last century, this area of Drayton was pock-marked with claypits and a brick kiln whose products were, at one time, transported to their markets via the Wilts & Berks Canal, which you meet on this walk. Continue across Lockway and the A34 bridge into the flatlands, passing farm buildings on your right.

Eventually you come to a line of trees and cross what remains of the old canal. Here you turn right along the boundary of a large field running parallel to the canal. When you come to a new, wooden footbridge, cross it and turn left along the next field boundary.

This leads to a clearly visible footpath which you follow through trees until you come to Marcham Mill.

There has been a mill over the River Ock at this site since the 11th century although it has now become a desirable residence. However, you are still a mile away from the village itself, which you reach along a very attractive, shady lane. Your destination is, of course, the Crown, now thankfully reopened after earlier difficulties. A group of us used to walk here on summer evenings and on one occasion we had such a merry time that we had to return home by moonlight, surprisingly without mishap.

The return journey to Drayton is back along Mill Lane, passed the mill and into the fields. When you reach the wooden footbridge, don't cross it; instead continue left along the field boundary until you reach a concrete road. This rises above the general flatness and leads over the A34 into Barrow Road. After the barns on your right, turn down the new footpath to Cornville Road and take another into Lyford Close and wend your way back to the centre of the village.

Coming up is a walk to Sutton Courtenay and, eventually, one to Milton when current difficulties over a footpath blockage have been resolved. Steventon is forever beyond reach without walking first through Milton or enduring that endless pavement along the main road.

Andrew Bax

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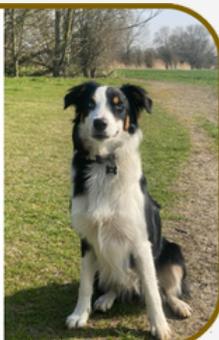
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LETTER FROM WESTMINSTER

A Message from Your MP

Much of my time this month has been spent fighting for our area to get the attention and resources we deserve from government; from speaking to BBC and ITV news about failures in local postal services, to holding the Health Secretary to account in the House of Commons over Oxfordshire's status as an NHS dental desert.

Despite the challenges, it is a pleasure to represent our area on the national stage. I was pleased to be able to tell the Culture Secretary about my visit to the Cornermen Project during a session in the House of Commons, and to meet constituents at the recent Act Now, Change Forever climate lobby. At the lobby, I learned about the inspiring work of the Cholsey School Eco Warriors: it encouraging to see constituents young and old taking an active role in the politics that affect them.

I have been following the court hearing about the huge reservoir south of Abingdon and continue to argue for greater public scrutiny of this huge and costly Thames Water project. I am in regular contact with campaigners and constituents and will be meeting the water minister soon to raise our concerns about the risks of this such an unprecedented, large and complex scheme, and put forward the case for greater transparency.

As ever, I have really enjoyed meeting many constituents and local organisations over the past few weeks. On a visit to Vale Community Impact, I heard about the vast range of support and advice on offer to local people. I also had a lovely evening at the Aureus School Presentation Evening, recognising the achievements of students and school staff. After a meeting arranged by parish councillors about making Cholsey Station more accessible, I had the opportunity to raise the need for government funding for local rail infrastructure in a speech at Westminster about transport reforms.



With the summer recess approaching I am planning to hold advice surgeries in several villages around the constituency and spend some more time in the rural communities I represent. I hope, by the time you read this, that I will have had the chance to speak to many of you as I make my way around, but if there is anything you feel I can help you with please do not hesitate to contact me and my team at olly_glover.mp@parliament.uk, or by leaving a voice message on 0207 219 7657.

Best wishes,

Olly Glover

MP for Didcot and Wantage Constituency

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DRAYTON HALL NEWS

Okay, let's try this **AGAIN...PARENTS** (at least those of teens and pre-teens it seems?)....lots of recent nice weather, perhaps more to come, and we've seen a number of kids up on the Hall Roof.

We've now placed warning signs that the roof structure is now **FIFTY YEARS OLD**, and as one 'fun' activity for the culprits seems to be not just **trespassing** on it, but even bouncing up and down (!!!), I'll repeat the point that our cleaner will be greatly upset if she comes in one morning and finds some awful bloodstains on the Main Hall wooden floor! We'd have to charge the relevant parents that extra cost as the Hall finances* cannot withstand such extra stains (sorry, stRains) on the budget (* more later). SOOOOOO, to avoid an unwelcome invoice, not to mention a trip to hospital or even the morgue, **DO PLEASE** try to correct that "I'm invincible" belief that young people often have?

THANKS to those who'd volunteered to help and attended the July Committee meeting, also **GRATEFUL THANKS** to the Parish Council, who sent a small delegation and made some useful points about the Hall's imminent future.

*Sadly though, one of those points was about the likely necessity to **raise the Hall's hire fees**, as the catastrophic rises in energy bills since Putin's lunatic invasion have been something we couldn't anticipate. We've also had a sad rise in **VANDALISM** costs this last year or two. We're presently researching what other nearby Halls charge, we'll inform hirers re. changes as soon as poss!

I gather we had a couple of 'helpful' suggestions about having a booking form on the website (there's been one there for YEARS!), and that we could maybe call the Hall a 'Community Hub'? **JUST TO REITERATE**, the Hall is very well attended, it's very hard for hirers to find an empty slot, and we sometimes have to disappoint those wanting a kiddies' or adults' party at weekends. Getting the Hall **KNOWN** is NOT the problem, we're trying to get more help to keep it going!

It's another **ANTIQUES Fair, Sunday Aug 3rd**, 9am to about 3pm, and a few new stalls apparently, that's plus Kathy Head running her excellent value cafe for one of her good causes. We **MIGHT** be gaining a **ballet** group soon, we're trying to find a late afternoon or early evening slot. One definite date – still some way off! – is that the **Bob Cutting Big Band** are scheduled for Sat Dec 20th, fans - note that date?!

Tony Holmes



PCC Newsletter

July 2025

At the end of last month, I was pleased to publish my latest Annual Report which marks the conclusion of the first year under my second term as your Police and Crime Commissioner. I remain focused in delivering my plan to Protect Communities, People and Property, ensuring that national directives are integrated effectively into the Thames Valley and maintaining a policing service that reflects our communities' needs.

As we move into the second year of my Police and Crime Plan (available via www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk) I remain committed to working closely with the Chief Constable, our partners and the public to build on our achievements, address emerging challenges and continue to make Thames Valley a safer place for all.

I was hugely disappointed with the Government's 'Comprehensive Spending Review' announcement on 12 June. As well as leaving the 'Safer Streets' mission in tatters, the review will also mean that local council tax payers' bills will be maxed out. Despite already saving over £20m in the last two years, seeing record numbers of police officers, arrests up and crime falling, this settlement risks reversing these achievements.

As part of my education strategy, we have recently published two bite-sized education videos which are focused on Child Exploitation and Online Harm. I urge all parents to use and share these resources.

Matthew Barber

List of jobs

- Flat pack assembly large/small scale
- Fixings and fittings
- Window, roof, and gutter cleaning
- Fencing installation and repairs
- Small woodworking projects
- Patio installation and repointing
- Concrete work
- Artificial grass installation
- Patio cleaning
- General gardening services (hedge cutting, grass cutting, planting, etc.)
- Painting and surface preparation
- Plumbing and repairs



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DRAYTON DIARIES

(MOSTLY) HALL DIARY

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

Sat 2nd	11:00 am	Private Function (child's party)
Sun 3rd	9:00 am	Antiques Fair (to 3pm)
Sun 10th	10:30 am	Private Function (child's party)
Mon 11th	7:00 pm	Parish Council Meeting (Caudwell DC)
Sun 17th	11:00 am	Private Function (child's party)
Mon 18th	5:00pm	Chronicle Deadline (advert's deadline is Fri 15th)
Sat 23rd	3:00 pm	Private Function
Sat 30th	10:00 am	Private Function (child's party)

REGULAR EVENTS

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)

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) Caudwell DC
2:00pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session
2:00pm	Crafts Group (2nd Thursday – run by U3A Kate 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) Kay 01235 204187 Church Room
FRIDAYS	
11:00am	Keep Fit with Faye 07815 583591
1:30pm	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>)