

DRAYTON CHRONICLE



Volume 48 No. 8

September 2025

Editor - Tony Holmes



(Photo-info P2)

COMING CHRONICLES

The **October Chronicle** should be available for distribution on or about **Sept 26th**.

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, Sept 15th**.

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 Sept 12th** 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
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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 1/12th page)
- - - Number of Monthly Inserts - - -

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All requests must be accompanied by cash or a cheque made payable to 'Drayton Chronicle'.
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This Month's Cover – Not the usual trend of late with flowers, birds or animals, but instead **a reference to Lisa's p3 account (the Wives group)** of their recent speaker, talking about **seaside holidays from yester-year**.

Many of us have got more used to going abroad, but with the wretched Brexit changes leading to major travel problems, the general aggravation with flying anywhere (all that airport hanging about!), and Chump's paranoia making any trip to the States risky (not forgetting that Icelandic ash cloud?), maybe a few of us will rediscover the joys of the British seaside holiday?

Credit to the Guardian's 'Archive Teaching Resource', the section re 'British Holidays 1950s to 1990s'. The upper photo was **Margate beach, 1972**, taken by Ken Saunders/Peter Johns.

The lower one was described as a 'relaxed Bank Holiday on **Brighton beach** (ah, those lovely pebbles!) and was apparently as late as 1980, but the foreground snoozers could have been decades earlier. E Hamilton West took the shot.

And no **the sun isn't always out here**, hence the Southend snap, but then round the Med you can meet catastrophic floods or forest fires?! You might also meet some of the communities now campaigning to keep tourists out - though presumably that sort of feeling depends if they, or relatives, are dependent on jobs in hotels or restaurants?!

The upper photo could also be a reference to the **p11 & p13 articles** about the wretched Thames Water, as the volume of water in it could be thought similar to the amount of leakage and/or sewage pollution they cause on a given day?!

In the Letters section, look out for the most **amazing teapot**, though whether it ever gets risked with a brew is debatable?!

DATES for FOLLOWING Chronicles		
Issue for	Copy Deadlines :- to Editor by (& Ads on the Fri before these)	Chronicle published and available for distribution (hopefully!) on Friday:-
Nov	Mon Oct 20th	Oct 31st
Dec	Mon Nov 17th	Nov 28th

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Local Groups & Clubs

Drayton Wives (Lisa Lammiman)

Our meeting this month was a speaker from the **Oxfordshire Museum Service**. Sonja Roberts is the **Learning & Access Officer** at the Oxfordshire Museum.

Sonja started with "**Have our holidays changed or our expectations of a holiday**". Have a think about it!!

In **1898** holidaymakers on deckchairs had everything covered except their hands and feet. Now there is hardly anything covered! Also in 1898 in Margate men would also smoke in the sea while paddling!

In the **1920s and 30s**, men sat in their deckchairs in suits and ties with shoes and socks on (Ed:- possibly with a flat cap too, judging by old documentaries!).

We British didn't really care about the weather in those days and would sit in the rain eating ice-cream because we were on holiday. They probably only had one or two weeks a year (known as '**works weeks**') unlike today.

In 1925 swimming costumes arrived, and when Billy Butlin started **Butlins** in the 1930s (after a bad experience in a B&B on a family holiday), **Beauty Competitions** were held, a favourite with holiday makers.

In **1947 the knitted swimsuits arrived** which always stretched in the sea, later homemade boned swimming costumes came into favour.

Seasides were associated with **buckets and spades**, always made in tin and sold with packets of flags to put on the sand castles.

Punch and Judy was a favourite, but not so much now.

Donkeys came onto the beaches at resorts like Rhyl, Weymouth, Blackpool and Weston-Super-Mare. Now there are very strict rules for the donkeys' welfare.

To help with the journey down there, '**I-Spy**' books were very popular to keep everyone amused.

My favourite treasured item was the **penny lick**. A glass with an indentation in the top, room for a very small scoop of ice-cream. However the glass was only given a quick rinse between customers!!! (Ed:- a 'penny what'?! Don't recall them from our days out in the 50s, Bognor, Southsea, etc! I DO remember Mum playing Bingo on the pier, we all had to help mark her numbers!).

There were also picnic stoves for brewing tea and thermos flasks for keeping it warm.

The talk was **very interesting** and **took many of our members back to holidays in the sand**.

However **we still eat fish and chips out of the paper** because it tastes best!!!!

**** We are always on the lookout for new members.**

If you would like to join a **very friendly** daytime ladies group, we have a coffee morning once a month, a craft class once a month and then generally a speaker on the last Wednesday of most months.

If you would like to join **please contact me**.

Lisa Lammiman (Chair - 07949 275641)

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

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Dr Emily White DC MChiro LRCC

Paul Marshall BSC MSc DC

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by searching for Rosie's Hair Lodge.



{Southend 1966 / the vagaries of the British seaside!
Pic courtesy >> Guardian, Frank Martin}

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(part of the DAMASCUS Parish)

www.damascusparish.org.uk

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Sutton | Courtenay | Steventon

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

Email contacts:- rector@damascusparish.org.uk (or admin@)



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

Search St Peter's Church,
Drayton, Abingdon or >>>
>>> scan the QR Code



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

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Mondays	2.00 pm	Knit & Natter (to 4pm – First Monday) And you don't have to be a Knitter for a Natter!
	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice (each Monday)
Tuesday	2.30 pm	FIRST Tuesday Connections – ALL welcome for a cuppa & chat (runs to 4pm)
Weds	10.00 am	Pebbles Baby & Toddler Group (term-time) (back Sept 10th) For more information contact Katy or Cheryl Draytonpebbles@hotmail.com

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

PARISH REGISTER

Wedding	July 19th	Tom Manners & Chloe Bannister
Burial	July 29th	Dorothy Irene Smith

Sunday Sept 28th

PLEASE NOTE >>> NO 9.30am service!

Instead, you are welcome to join us at 10.00am for a DAMASCUS Parish Service, St Michael & All Angels, Steventon celebrating Phil Sutton's Ministry and to mark his retirement.

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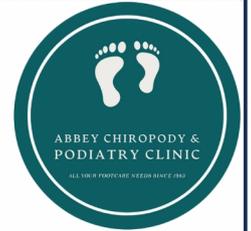
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YOU STAY -- WE PRAY (Sept)

31st Aug – 6th	Sutton Wick Lane; Greenacres; Newman Lane; Conifer Drive
7th – 13th	Hilliat Fields; Lyford Close
14th – 20th	Manor Close; The Green
21st – 27th	High St; Chiers Drive; Cheers Farm; Halls Close; Elgrove Gardens
28th Sept – 4th Oct	Friars Mews; Monk Close; Prior Drive; Abbot Crescent

From the DAMASCUS Ministry Team

Dear Friends,

This year's drought has scuppered any hope of a decent harvest; even the grass has given up growing. There may be one advantage that when it comes to digging up potatoes we may find them already baked in their jackets! Many farmers and growers are fearful of ongoing droughts or that Thames Water's plans may result in flooded fields suitable only for rice and similar semi-aquatic crops!

Plants and crops grow in different conditions and varying rates and are 'fruitful' in diverse ways; shape or beauty are not necessarily the criteria for a valuable crop; arguably turnips are of greater value than strawberries. Some plants are more resistant to drought whilst others prefer a more typical wet, cooler summer.

Like plants in a garden, allotment or field, **God calls each one of us** to grow at different rates, each of us unique, shaped by where we are planted and our nature. We each bear seed or produce in a way that is our own. We cannot bear another's fruit.

Jesus told his disciples not to worry about what we need and what we will look like. We are not to compare ourselves with each other, but to trust that as God provides seed and plants to thrive in every place, so he will provide for us.

The challenge for us all is that we must walk in step with God's will and purpose, not just for our life, but for the lives of all. This harvest time may not feel like an occasion for celebrating but this harvest has the potential of being the most bountiful if we, as a church, village, nation respond to God's call to care for the beauty of his creation and for one another.

Don't be despairing. Don't be a cabbage comparing yourself to a carnation, or a violet to a vine. God planted you where you are; it's God's good design for you to be where you are, with the people you are among, bearing fruit. God knows what he is doing, how you can be fruitful to those around as well as being nourished by the gifts of those around you.

May you enjoy a most blessed and fruitful harvest together in your church and village. With prayers and best wishes,

Phil Sutton -- Associate Minister
(DAMASCUS Parish ministry team)

Local Groups & Clubs

Drayton W.I.

Our August Meeting was 'My Life as a Film Extra' by John Kinroy. It was a very interesting meeting with John telling us about the range of Films, TV Shows and adverts he has appeared in.

He showed us some behind the scenes photos from the film **Paddington 2** which was interesting. We were so interested to hear he was in *Midsummer Murders*, *Mamma Mia 2*, *The Crown*, *Silent Witness* & so many more! He also told us he has just filmed *The Oxford Year* & *The Thursday Murder Club*.

Some of our members enjoyed a train trip on the **Wallingford & Cholsey Railway**. This included a fish & chip supper and was enjoyed by all!

We always welcome visitors, so do come and see us if you can, our meetings are usually the 2nd Thursday each month, at 7.30pm, the Caudwell Centre in Gravel Lane. Our **September** speaker is **Christine Farmer**, "The Repair Shop & Me"! Also in Sept (**29th, Village Hall**), the Jubilee Group's '**Boudicca**' event, tickets available (at time of writing) at £5.

Don't forget to save the date of our **Christmas Craft Fair, Nov 29th** (11am - 3pm, Village Hall). **Georgina Arnold**

LOCAL FARMERS MARKETS (8.30 to 1.30) Fresh, Quality produce, Locally* produced, Competitive prices –

(*'Locally' – Didcot mkt – up on the Broadway - has a wonderful fishmonger, up from Sussex, always sells well. The Abingdon one is under the Thames Valley Farmers Markets banner)

SEPT Dates Ab'don (3rd Fri) 19th; Didcot (2nd Sat) 13th
TVFM news - ring 01235 227266 see website - Tvfm.org.uk

Drayton Table Tennis Club

Another season of Ping-pong starts in September. With an increase in club members during last season we will now have **seven teams** competing in the Didcot League, some 34 players spread amongst them. This includes 4 new cadets (under 16s) who are looking forward to the competition. At the time of writing we don't know how many divisions will operate – it depends how many teams are entered. Twelve teams per division is the maximum. Last season there were 35 teams entered, so 3 divisions.

Club was in summer recess throughout June, July and August and will recommence on **Sept 8th**, with coaching starting back on **Monday Sept 15th**. Once again this will be under the guidance of coach **Jonathan Cattell** who will provide a detailed planned system for the season. No doubt we will get new members joining both for coaching and social play – not everyone wants to play league table tennis!

During the summer we held our AGM and reappointed most of our officers to continue their good work in the coming season. At the subsequent Pre-Season meeting we sorted our seven teams and appointed their captains two of whom are newbies – Peter Wiblin will captain Corinthians and the new team 'Galahs' will be looked after by Matt Harding.

At this point I wish every player a **successful and enjoyable season**. We play at Thameside School, with practice and coaching on Mondays, and League matches on Wednesdays. **John Gould**



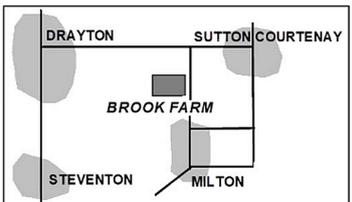
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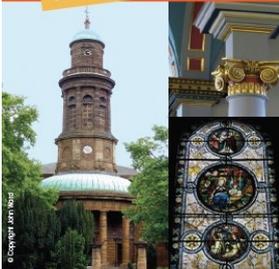
13TH SEPT 2025

RIDE + STRIDES for Churches

Many of the churches and chapels in Oxfordshire will be open.

Help preserve the history on your doorstep by raising funds for Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust.

All funds raised go to OHCT and 50% can be passed on to a church or chapel of your choice.



join us

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County Organiser: Hilary CakebreadHall
Email: rideandstrideoxon@ohct.org.uk Tel: 07831 690524

For full details including sponsorship forms, link to and list of churches www.ohct.org.uk/ride-stride

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Next PC Meeting

Now **Monday** evenings (2nd of month – so next it's **Sept 8th**, 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 August 11th >>>

Let's start with positives! The PC wishes to thank **Dosa Spice** for maintaining a wonderful display of flowers outside the restaurant. It makes our hearts sing!

The Chair pointed out how good the village is looking at present. The Churchyard and the Millennium Green are well mown and looking good. Litter is at a minimum. Of course if you think that there are areas that are not looking so good **please let us know**.

Footpaths

Following the upgrade of the footpaths to Oday Hill, providing round the year access to Abingdon, **we have money to upgrade a further 250 metres of footpaths**. One path that has been identified is the one opposite the entrance to Sutton Wick, that travels along the edge of Walnut Meadows and eventually reaches Tesco (**Bridleway 7**). We could not afford to do the whole stretch but could upgrade some of the muddiest and most uneven patches.

The **other path** is the one that comes down from the main road to Sutton Courtenay at the back of the farm and adjoins the Bridleways that have already been upgraded at the back of Sutton Wick. **What do you think? Do you know of another footpath / bridleway that needs upgrading? Please DO let us know!**

Manor Farm

Cala has now removed the weeds on the public open space and **will re-sow the wildflower area in the Autumn**. Now that the spraying of Hemlock has stopped, Cala have agreed to remove the Heras fencing. This should at least improve the look of the area.

Traffic Calming

The Programme Manager has been informed that OCC are moving into the detailed design phase, including timescales for installation. This involves the **Walnut Meadows junction with the Abingdon Road and the crossing on the High Street**.

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.

Walnut Meadows

We are making **really good headway**.... Finally!!!

Line painting on the **MUGA courts** is to be completed this week. The lights are up, though not connected. The PC is awaiting an outcome from its request for Miller Homes to reimburse the Council for removal of buried waste.

The sports pitch contractor will be starting work on the **perimeter track** over the next 3-4 weeks and then installing sand slits and seeding the area towards the Autumn. The pitches require a full growing season before they can be used.

The Council is now at the stage of finalising the **costs and design of the pavilion**.

Allotments

We have managed to reduce the **waiting list for a plot to ZERO**. If anyone is interested in having a plot please do get in touch with Chris Price at deputydraytonclerk@gmail.com or myself elaine.wade@draytonpc.org. We can then put you in touch with our allotment warden Tim Atkins (there are plots of various sizes available). If anyone would like a **tour** of the allotments before expressing definite interest please let one of us know and we will arrange it.



The Parish Council is responsible for running the site, but Tim is responsible for plot allocation and for liaising with the PC on any day to day matters.

Note that **you must be a Drayton resident** to qualify for a plot.

The Abingdon Bridge

TAB is not directly linked to the PC, but this year has been awarded a grant from the Council to support its work. The focus of TAB work has until now mostly been aimed at 13-18 year olds.

The charity have asked us to let everyone know that from September 1st they are introducing a **new mental health initiative for 18-25 year olds**, a group facing growing pressures. Support can include 1:1 counselling, workshops, drop-ins, sports activities etc. **If you or anyone you know could do with some support** please contact TAB on **01235 522375** or via www.theabingdonbridge.org.uk.

Planning

We have just heard that the **District Council has refused permission for up to 31 houses to be built** on land adjacent to Little Smiths Farm & Halls Close. The PC submitted robust objections to this plan. This may of course not be the end of it as an appeal is possible. The PC has **also been informed** of potential plans to build more houses on the **Kiln Lane site**. Permission has already been granted for 8 houses there, however it is likely that a new application for 15 houses will be submitted.

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

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

Their upcoming films include **Downton Abbey – the Grand Finale** (or is it?!).

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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** (yes, it's holiday time!) 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 Sept 7th**, 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 Oct 5th too.

Oh, and **LEE is back for another Jewellery Valuation session**, best prices paid, **Tues Sept 2nd**, and THIS time he's coming early, 9am start (to midday). He usually does a leaflet drop just before his session, but he's looking for all manner of precious metals, even broken items, watches (working or not), chains, rings, brooches, or old coins if they're pre-1947. Etc.

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 --- BUT she's away Sept 26th), then **YOGA, run by Diane ('Bliss' Yoga)**, at 1.30. Sadly Diane couldn't start her intended Monday session yet, but she's working on it! 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).



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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 OCT issue, can you PLEASE try to get them back **by the weekend of Sept 20th/21st?** Thanks in advance, as they say these days!

Oh, and look out for **an invite** – if not already received – to a **Chron gathering**, Oct 22nd the likely date.



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Vaccines – can YOU help?!

The Oxford Vaccines Group (part of the Uni) and the Jenner Institute, are both constantly searching for volunteers (but PAID ones!) to help them **develop and test all manner of vaccines**.

Far too many to list here, and the requirements and payments differ greatly, but see their websites www.ovg.ox.ac.uk and www.jenner.ac.uk

They GENERALLY want people from 18 to 55, but occasionally seek pensioners, or toddlers at the younger end of the age scale!

Payments can be substantial – but may require quite a few visits.

Search for them on Facebook or see their websites for their latest projects.

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www.mickeysphotography.uk Mobile - 07799720183

Heritage OPEN Days

Dear Editor, via email

The **Friends of Abingdon** are organising further Heritage Open Days this year featuring the interesting architecture we enjoy every day. From the **lost buildings** featured in the **Royse room** to the ultra modern **Sophos Headquarters** (Barton Lane), there is an opportunity to learn more about our **rich heritage**.

Other sites of interest include the Pendon Museum (check **precise openings** for all sites), Christ's Hospital Hall, and more.

The **13th and 14th of September** have become a great feature of our year when we appreciate what our forebears have created and let for us to enjoy. The event is **free for all the family**.

See <https://www.abingdonheritage.org.uk/> for more info, or email heritage@abingdoncivicsociety.org.uk

Regards Barbara Weinberg

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Marcham Road Health Centre PPG

Are you **a patient at this practice?**

This article is for **you, & residents**

At Marcham Road Health Centre, **interest in research** is high on the agenda. As part of this interest, Dr Fiona Tierney, from Oxford Brookes University, spoke to some patients from the practice.



Her topic was to elicit sleep experiences from the patients, enabling her to give pragmatic advice and suggestions to improve their quality of sleep. This prompted a fascinating range of sleep experiences, including; the impact of exercise, smart watches, bright light, shift-working, herbal teas and body rhythms.

If residents, who are patients at this Health Centre, are **interested in attending similar events**, having more information or wish to be more involved with the **Patient Participation Group**, please contact: mrfhc.ppg@nhs.net or drop a note into reception marked for The PPG.

Kind Regards Bernadette Wilcox (PPG)



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Home-Start Volunteers (please!)

Dear Editor, 197 Broadway, Didcot

If you're looking to do something different this autumn, **Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire** would love you to join their team of home-visiting volunteers!

Volunteers are matched to a local family with young children and support them by visiting once a week to **provide peer support**.

They'll be holding their next **Volunteer Preparation Course** from Tuesday **Sept 23rd** in their Didcot office.

If you'd like to find out more about what volunteering in this role involves and **can spare a couple of hours each week to help a local family**, please email Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire at admin@homestartso.org, see www.homestart-southernoxfordshire.org.uk/volunteer or call them on **01235 511152**.

Kind regards

Leila Brown

{Volunteer Development Co-ordinator}



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County Council - Odd Priorities?

Dear Editor, via email

A recent Herald e-newsletter stated that OCC had admitted to spending over £100K on its project to impose 20mph signs and road markings, in the **Wallingford area**. Multiply that by goodness knows what to get the figure for the whole county?! And that work was done in record time, so the funds and resources were rapidly available.

BUT – this IS the same council that, in local TV statements a couple of months ago claimed they couldn't get close to meeting their **REQUIRED** obligations towards **'SEND' children!** (ie Special Educational Needs & Disabilities).

So, they clearly find it much easier to attack motorists (as with their ludicrous 'Low Traffic Neighbourhood' dogma in Oxford) than do the right thing for disadvantaged kids?!

Regards,

P. Sternbroke

YOUR LETTERS

DAMASCUS/‘NADFAS’ Fundraiser

Dear Editor, via email

Parvin Shahin's annual garden party was held over two days, 5th & 6th August, an event held on behalf of the **Abingdon Arts Society (NADFAS)**, in aid of "Clear Sky" on Tuesday, and "**DAMASCUS Youth**" on Wednesday.

I was lucky enough to be invited on the Wednesday. It was the most quintessentially English afternoon attended by about 40 guests, and from the photos you get a feel for the ambience generated.

Prior to tea, Pervin gave a rendition of a wonderful harp piece, preceded by a duet with one of her harp pupils. She ended with one of her amazing renditions of a jazz solo, never to be forgotten.

As an encore we were surprised by Pervin's niece, a professional ballet dancer visiting from the U.S.A, who graced us with her skills, with **Pervin playing the theme from the Deer Hunter**. Quite electric!

And then came afternoon tea! A wonderful array of cakes, and a **beautiful teapot** big enough to earn a place at the Mad Hatter's table!

I'm sure Pervin would like me to thank her family, "the back room boys" and all her many helpers but **most thanks go to Pervin**, for her generous hospitality and wonderful entertainment.

The total amount of money raised was **£1,200**.
Kind Regards Shirley Thomas

[Ed:- Thanks Shirley – though we only had room for a couple of the photos you kindly sent]



[that amazing teapot! – and the performance scene]



Plants & Produce (etc) Show

Dear Editor, via email

The **Sutton Courtenay Craft and Produce Show** will be held at the Village Hall on Sept 6th.

Entry drop off 09:45-11:00 Show opens 13:30pm

Same entry price as 2024, so no inflation there! (20p per entry). There are classes for fruit & veg, art, crafts, cookery, too many to list here, please see F'Book for more info, search **Sutton Courtenay Craft and Produce Show 2025**



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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!



SESRO

There's quite a bit of news on **SESRO (reservoir)** this month.

Firstly, as I pessimistically expected, GARD sadly lost their Judicial Review against the Secretary of State signing off the Thames Water WRMP. It was always going to be an uphill battle.

The second major piece of news has some interesting context that I've not seen in any news item. That is – as part of the WRMP submission to the Secretary of State, Thames Water produced a 324 page "Response" to questions from DEFRA on their WRMP in order to get the Secretary of State to sign it off. Within it, **they reassured him at length** that the costings for SESRO were kept up-to-date, solid, rigorous, and had plenty of contingency to avoid any increase (Ed:- that aged well?!).

Further, in response to questions on **comparative price to the Severn-Thames-Transfer option**, they produced figures (which involved some fairly heroic assumptions, such as 100% utilisation rather than the 14% projected over the next century, which just happened to increase the operational expenditure). They then **explicitly** said that, if the price increased by somewhere between **£0.669 - £0.803 billion**, then the Severn-Thames-transfer would be **the value option**.

They have just published an increase to **£5.5 - £7.5 billion** (an **increase of £4.4 billion to the central figure**). Further, this is in 2022/23 prices; it would be £6 to £8 billion today (a £4.9 billion increase to the central figure and potentially as much as £5.4 billion up). This also **omits the c.£1.5 billion** for the transfer systems to Southern Water and to Affinity Water, without which the size of SESRO is unjustifiable.

In my arithmetic, a £4.9 billion increase is indeed significantly larger than a £0.8 billion increase. Yet, somehow, Thames Water manage to insist that SESRO remains the best option... (Ed's Note:- But then we know, from a lot of years, that TW's only expertise with figures lies – pun intended! -- in paying their management extravagant wages and bonuses for non-existent 'achievements', allied to hugely generous shareholder dividends – which at one time were **supposed** to be related to a firm doing well?).

The VofWH Council Leader has made a statement reiterating our opposition to SESRO and its absurd price. Unfortunately, as readers of my Clarion articles will know, the likelihood is that even this huge price will be blown past if and when construction actually begins. On average, we should **expect the final price to be triple the starting price** – which we still have yet to reach. And remember – this goes onto **OUR water bills**.

Cost of Living / Community Hub

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



Planning Application - refused

The Parish Council will have mentioned this in their report elsewhere in this issue (page 6) that the speculative application for a further development (31 houses) behind Halls Close has been refused planning permission. I'm adding my take on this because of the fact that the primary reason for rejection was that it was **not a site allocated in the Drayton NDP and outside the built borders of the village**. Given that the NDP used to be ignored far too often, I am very pleased to see it being used exactly as intended, with some teeth given to it.

Local Government Reorganisation

No updates on this, unfortunately. Officers from Vale and South Oxfordshire remain working on our Ridgeway Council bid, along with their counterparts in West Berkshire, but no news is yet received from Central Government.

All the best,

Andy Cooke

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

Website: whitehorsedc.gov.uk/costofliving

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

Walking to Sutton Courtenay

(Andrew Bax)

(with an extension to Culham Lock)

There is only one realistic way to reach Sutton Courtenay without road walking, and that is **along East Way**. This can be reached either from its estuary in Steventon Road or from one of its many tributaries along the way. I have chosen one of those routes, starting from the 'Walnuts' in the centre of the village.

Head down **Gravel Lane** and, at the bottom, take the **footpath diagonally to your right**, through two kissing gates and into High Street. Here you cross over into the Dovecote Estate and along the footpath which skirts to the left of the houses through that attractive open area. When the path divides, take the left-hand fork into East Way, there bordered on either side by high hedges. Turn east and keep walking for half an hour, **taking care as you cross Milton Road**.

This brings you to the source of East Way where it becomes **Mill Lane in Sutton Courtenay** and passes the old mill, over **Ginge Brook**. It joins the High Street almost opposite a fine old timber-framed house where Susan, my wife, lived her entire life until I came to take her away. There are footpaths to the centre of the village but, in my opinion, it is more interesting to walk down the road passing several other old houses. **At the bottom of High Street** (Ed:- I think of that end as the top?!) **turn right into Church Street** along the cobbled causeway **past the Abbey towards the church**.

After admiring the familiar view of The Green, take the path towards the church and **into the churchyard**, emerging into All Saints Lane though a gate in the far left-hand corner. While you are there you could pay homage to **the grave of Eric Blair (George Orwell)** close to a yew tree at the back, alongside that of his friend and patron, the newspaper owner **David Astor**, who lived at the Manor House.

Turning left down All Saints Lane brings you to **The Fish** and here you have **choices**. You can either ignore the rest of this part and turn left to begin the journey home, **or take the Culham Lock extension**, adding half an hour to the walk.

For this, cross Appleford Road into the lane opposite and through the kissing gate into a field. The path across it brings you to another kissing gate near the traffic lights for Culham Bridge and here you cross the road onto the opposite pavement. Over the bridge **turn left to Culham Lock**, where there is usually plenty of interesting activity. Carry on through the lock and along the river path until you reach a **humped-back footbridge**. Cross it, following the track on the other side to **the weirs where a set of Archimedes Screws generates hydro-electricity**.

The path then takes you through trees past the **Endurance café boat**, where you could stop for refreshments (Ed: that's NOT a "could stop" by now!); you also get a good view of some of Sutton Courtenay's river-side properties on the far bank. It comes out on **the sharp bend where Church Street turns into Appleford Road**, and **rejoins the main walk**. →>



At the time of writing, the beautiful **Mill House**, opposite The Fish, is on the market along with its 13 acres of garden and three islands in the Thames. Together with **Walton House and The Wharf**, which you passed as you left the weirs path, it was once owned by the **Asquith family** (H.H. Asquith was Prime Minister, 1908-1916). Many readers will know that talented film star **Helena Bonham Carter** is related to Asquith, one of his daughters was her grandmother (Lady Violet Bonham Carter).

Back in the 70s I knew **Oliver Ford**, interior designer to the rich and famous, who lived in Courtenay Lodge, the imposing Queen Anne house in Church Street. He had an **aviary of free-flying budgerigars** that screeched across the village in tight formation. Almost opposite is the 12th century Norman Hall and, with its entrance on The Green, is the Abbey, almost as old and now used as a spiritual retreat.

Back to the walk. Keep to the right-hand side of Church Street and along the road towards Drayton. After some 15 minutes you turn **right into Peep-o-Day Lane** (watch out for cyclists). This is an old causeway across the Thames' flood plain and the fields on either side **abound with wildlife**. Turn left along the straight concrete road and, at the top, left again along the newly surfaced Gypsy Lane, and right past the old breaker's yard into Sutton Wick. From here you can cross the Millennium Green and into Gravel Lane back to the Walnuts.



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GARD (Group Against Reservoir Development -- Derek Stork, Chairman)

(for any new readers. . .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).

1: Help GARD with Fundraising

With the latest developments (including the spiralling costs – see below, and having lost the Judicial Review), GARD must campaign hard now, researching and planning to contest the Development Consent Order.

ACTION: Please assist us with money to do this. Just one example, to commission a report from our consultant on Thames Water's submission to RAPID (delivered August 15th, in which the cost increases were revealed) will cost us £10,000.

Please go to our website to donate >>>>>>
<https://groupagainstreservoirdevelopment.org>

[here is the payment info]

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**

Membership is a one time payment of £10 for adults, £5 for under-18 & students in full-time education



{Ed:- TW repeatedly show an 'artistic impression' of the reservoir in their leaflets and joke 'consultations', which make an area of water the size of an airport resemble a garden puddle.

THIS is a picture of the type of walls needed ("bunds"), as per the ones to the west of Heathrow. My fellow editor Vicky found a helpful pic of 5.5 buses to help gauge the height!}

NB – TW recently said, to answer a question, that the flooding damage resulting from the rise in the local water table **would be paid for "by the Council"**. Oh, REALLY?!

2: Reservoir costs rise to £7.5 BILLION

Thames Water reported this week (mid-August) that its estimated costs for the reservoir have **risen from £2.2bn up to as much as £7.5bn**.

The reservoir has been promoted over other schemes as offering customers '**best value**'. In a submission to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) even as recently as last October, Thames Water maintained that its cost assessment was "robust".

Dr Derek Stork, GARD chair, says: "We predicted this would happen, but even I am astonished by the increase to £7.5bn. Thames Water must have known 10 months ago when it responded to a DEFRA request for more financial details that its costs had risen steeply. Moreover, Thames Water **MUST** also have been informed of the rising costs when it defended the civil action this summer brought by SaferWaterS & the countryside charity CPRE.

These revelations make us at GARD even more determined to continue to hold TW to account, to ensure that it is open and transparent about its plans, and to encourage it and the government to look at the alternatives".

ACTION: Write to your MP and Councillors (County, District and Parish – see page 19 in this issue for that info). The Leader of the VWHDC has issued a statement opposing the planned reservoir, shocked at the cost rise. OCC is in supportive talks with GARD.

Our District Councillor **Sally Povolotsky** has issued a statement {Ed:- Sally is the Steventon Cllr, **Andy Cooke** is the Vale rep for Drayton, see his p11 article}. We are encouraging all Parish Councils to voice their opposition – or, even better – to join forces to voice their collective opposition. Details and emails are on our website:-
<https://groupagainstreservoirdevelopment.org>

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Not Chairman Mao's Little Red Book, but the thoughts of President Orange . . . as this issue is being prepared, we've not long had that strange 'Summit' in Alaska, in which Donald Trump had been talking tough, trying to make good on his promise to end the Ukraine War "on Day One", and fresh from saying how angry he was with Putin.

Strange then to see him behaving like a besotted teenager invited on stage to drool over Taylor Swift? Or maybe not.

This IS the same guy who made an **Independence Day speech in 2019** (I missed the news at the time), in which he paid tribute to the forces who won that war (in the late 1700s), forcing the British to concede defeat. He lauded George Washington's 'Continental Army', for their bravery and victories, and mentioned how they "took over the airports" so the British couldn't use them. **If only** the Wright Brothers had known there were some by then 100+ year old planes they could model their 1903 invention on?!

BAPTIST CHURCH

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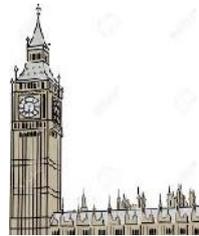
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NB LOOK OUT for the BAPTIST CAFÉ with tea, coffee, cake & a chat! **Thursdays** 11.00 to 13.00, BUT – please NOTE it’s been **relocated**, to the **Caudwell Day Centre, Gravel Lane.**

WESTMINSTER VIEW



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

Over the summer, I have enjoyed visiting **many local organisations** and speaking to residents in some of the villages across our constituency. I was very pleased with the **attendance at my summer surgeries** in Sutton Courtenay, Uffington, Stanford in the Vale, Moulsoford, Blewbury, Didcot, Clifton Hampden, and Letcombe Regis: **thank you to everybody** who took the time to come and discuss a huge range of topics and concerns.

Alongside summer surgeries, I visited places I have been meaning to for some time and saw a wide range of the activities that take place in our local area. I saw the scientific progress being made on **Harwell Campus**: from exciting startups like Astron Systems, Oxford Dynamics, and Space Solar, to local outposts of major organisations like the UK Space Agency.

I spent an **eye-opening shift with Thames Valley Police**, saw the work to renovate the Wantage Community Hospital, and met representatives from the **NHS regional Integrated Care Board** to push for progress on the new GP Surgery at Great Western Park, as key to further progress lies with the regional NHS. Be it championing greater support for policing or new primary care capabilities to keep up with local housing growth, there is still much for me and others to do to support our public sector and address the pressures they face.

Still, there has been time to appreciate the **best of our area** in the summer sunshine. I was very grateful to drop in on Truck Festival, to hear about the fantastic ways they **combine charity and welfare commitments** with putting on a good time.

I narrowly avoided a game of ‘sponge the MP’ at TRAIN’s Didcot Youthfest, where young people were connected with vital projects to support their wellbeing. There was even a moment to hone my farming skills with a combine harvester ride amongst the early August showers.

Parliament resumes in September, and I look forward to representing YOU there with renewed energy, and to keep working on your behalf. As always, if there is **anything you feel I can help you with please do not hesitate** to contact me and my team. **Olly**

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

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Matthew Barber (Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley) is asking residents to complete his **ongoing local crime survey**.

It’s anonymous, and is **your opportunity** to share your experiences and have a say in how policing services are shaped in the Thames Valley. The information you provide will help inform the Office of the PCC on any gaps in service, or improvements that could be made in the future.

For more info, and to complete the survey, please see:- **<https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/survey/>**

Ashley Sellwood (OPCC, Communications and Engagement Officer, Thames Valley)

SPARE CHRONICLES?

Need an extra copy? You can collect one from Vickery's. Lawrence has very kindly agreed to keep a few spares.

Remembrances of War exhibition

The exhibition features art by **Paul Joyce**, possibly the last remaining artist with first-hand memories of the Second World War, at the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum (Woodstock) from Sept 13th.

Painter, photographer and filmmaker Paul Joyce's artwork is held in a number of prominent private and public collections, including the V&A, National Portrait Gallery, Tate Gallery, and the National Museum of Wales.

His striking work includes paintings from his own childhood memories of the war, imagination, and reality.

Joyce was born in 1940, under the shadow of the Second World War even before his birth: while heavily pregnant, his mother was pursued across a field in Whitchurch by machine gun fire from a German plane.

His work bears this legacy, mixing childhood memories of playing amid the rubble of a bombed-out Crystal Palace with the received cultural memories of a city, nation, and world nearly destroyed. The paintings in the collection reflect this interplay between first-hand and received experience.

In his work, Bovril and beans clash with bombs, a German fighter plane lies amid the haystacks of the English countryside in an 'Unusual Harvest', and the Tower of London crouches beneath barrage balloons.

He cites Paul Nash and Eric Ravilious as influences, with the juxtaposition of pastoral scenes and military elements characterising this exhibition, but with striking, dramatic colours. His paintings are devoid of people, populated instead by planes, objects and the built environment, but they still speak of the people of the apocalyptic landscapes he paints.

Joyce's paintings are set alongside artefacts from Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum's collection which explore how everyday people rationalise and live through extraordinary events and conflicts.

The exhibition welcomes visitors of all ages, with special activities and interactive experiences for children, including a reconstructed 1940s bedroom, and arts and crafts areas. Entry to the exhibition includes entry to the other galleries, including an immersive Anderson Shelter and First World War Trench, the permanent exhibits, and the temporary exhibition Life Lines, exploring the liberation of Bergen-Belsen through community art projects focusing on the power of acts of kindness.

The Museum is holding a raffle where visitors can enter for the chance to win one of the exhibition paintings, tickets cost £5, winners will be announced on Dec 2nd.

Paul Joyce: Remembrances of War is on display at the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock from 13th September to 18th November 2025.

The Museum is open Tuesday to Saturday 11am to 5pm, and Sunday 2pm to 5pm.


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Grateful thanks to **BRENDA MALIN**, who sent this shot of Bees on a sunflower, looking remarkably like a face?! (sorry, had to reduce the picture, as the whole plant takes up most of the page!)

The Chronicle is printed on FSC certified paper, as are many magazines these days.
'FSC' stands for 'Forest Stewardship Council', (<https://fsc.org/en> for more info), and they are aiming to maintain healthy resilient forests.


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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, **Oasis**, **Gorillaz**, and **Pussycat Dolls** all made #1, with 'The Importance of Being Idle', 'Dare', and 'Don't Cha' respectively.

Back to 1995 – familiar names like **Take That** ('Never Forget'), **Blur** ('Country House'), **Boyzone** ('So Good'), & **Oasis** again ('Roll With It') had all been doing well, but this month saw **Simply Red** at #1 with 'Fairground'.

40 years ago (REALLY so long?!) **Kate Bush** had (famously!) just been 'Running Up That Hill', and **Bonnie Tyler** had been 'Holding Out for a Hero', but it turned out to be TWO 'heros', namely **David Bowie & Mick Jagger** memorably teaming up for an all-time great #1 'Dancing in the Street' (originally by **Martha Reeves & the Vandellas**).

FIFTY years ago (for real old-timers), we'd just had **KC & the Sunshine Band** ('That's the Way I Like It') in the Top-5, also the novelty hit(s) by **Jasper Carrott** ('Funky Moped/Magic Roundabout'), with **Rod Stewart** at #1 ('Sailing'). **Jasper** was recently in a BBC special to mark his **80th** (it's on the I-Player) and he's still incredibly funny.

THIS month that year we had **Art Garfunkel** ('I Only Have Eyes For You') & **David Essex** ('Hold Me Close') at #1, just keeping out **Glen Campbell** and his iconic hit 'Rhinestone Cowboy' (very hard to not sing along if that one's on the radio?!). Sadly we lost Glen back in 2017.

Anyone go back to 1965?! **Let me help:-** We'd just had a month with no less than THREE iconic #1 hits, **Sonny and Cher** ('I got You Babe'), the **Walker Brothers** (though they weren't! – 'Make It Easy On Yourself'), and the **Stones** ('Satisfaction').

THIS month though the top spot was dominated by a surprise name, **Ken Dodd** (!), with 'Tears', a million seller. I'll give a mention to 3 names that he held off, **Dusty Springfield** ('Some of Your Lovin'), **Manfred Mann** ('If You Gotta Go, Go Now' – that's NOT the Moody Blues hit 'Go Now!'), & **Hedgehoppers Anonymous** ('It's Good News Week', though it never seems to be these days?!).

Perhaps just a few readers can recall 1955? The #1 spot was held by a certain **Jimmy Young**, famous as a DJ for his 'easy listening' BBC Radio 2 show (for almost 30 years!), with 'The Man From Laramie'.

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This month in 2015 **Queen Elizabeth** surpassed Victoria as the longest reigning UK monarch. Sadly we lost writer **Jackie Collins**, & legendary cricketer **Brian Close**.

TWENTY years ago England won the **Ashes** (hurray!) - sadly we lost much-loved **Ronnie Barker**, also former PMs **Ted Heath & Jim Callaghan**, and the influential **Mo Mowlam** (the Northern Ireland agreement).

Back in 1995 – In LA, the trial of **OJ Simpson** (for a 1994 double murder), was finally ending, having run since January (officially 'Not Guilty!'). It seems **Boris Yeltsin's** first words on meeting **Bill Clinton** were "did OJ do it"?!

Frank Bruno ("Orright Arry"?) finally won the WBC World Heavyweight title. On BBC, we first glimpsed the exceptional **Pride & Prejudice** serial (Colin Firth became an overnight star), but sadly we lost **Jeremy Brett**, lauded for his depiction of Sherlock Holmes in over 40 ITV episodes, also **Albert Johanneson**, pioneer footballer.

FORTY years ago the Titanic wreck was found, & sadly we lost designer **Laura Ashley** (after a fall at home), and legendary Scottish football manager **Jock Stein** (a heart attack after a match, both in their 60s). And it was the final whistle after 20 years for ITV's **World of Sport**.

Back in 1975 we had the 'Thriller in Manila', the third & final bout between 'The Greatest' **Muhammad Ali** and 'Smokin' **Joe Frazier**. And we saw the very first episode of **Fawlty Towers**, one of the greatest ever sitcoms.

Just arriving that year (**HAPPY 50th!**) were:- **Mel B**, **David Beckham**, **Angelina Jolie**, **Charlize Theron** & **Drew Barrymore**, **Naga Munchetty**, **Gareth Malone**, **Alison Hammond**, **Sarah Millican**, **Michael Bubl **, **Kate Winslet**, snooker stars **O'Sullivan**, **Higgins & Williams**, **Jamie Oliver**, and . . **Ant & Dec**.

And **SIXTY years ago**, **Thunderbirds** were 'Go', and the **Magic Roundabout** started turning! We had lost **Sir Winston Churchill**, but arriving (any surprise 60s?!) were **Rob Brydon**, **Steve Coogan**, **Bill Bailey**, **Liz Hurley** and **Jo Whiley** (60? – never?!), **Lennox Lewis**, **Mark Labbett** (The Chase), and **Shaun Williamson** (EastEnders).

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

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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VALE of WH District Council

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)
District (VofWHDC) Andy Cooke (07507 602911)
& Oxfordshire County Peter Stevens via email >>
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/

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**.

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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:- **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**, **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?!)

FAWLTY TOWERS - the stage version of one of the best ever sitcoms, is going on tour, after its 'sell-out' West End run.

If you can get to **Wycombe Swan** theatre (45 mins from here?) catch it there from Oct 28th for that week, OR, it's (eventually) coming to **New Theatre**, but that's next JULY! Don't leave it too late, the show is immensely popular, and tends to sell out quickly!

Antiques Fair - In the Village Hall - Sunday **Sept 7th** (& Oct 5th 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 some comedy (see New Theatre too!) on **Oct 31st**, **Jenny Éclair**. 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/>

And CYCLISTS - security is always a worry so DO check out the highly recommended **HIPOK** range of products <https://hiplok.com/product-category/bicycle-locks/> and they do a motor-bike range too.

JEWELLERY VALUATION - In the Village Hall - Lee is back, Tuesday **Sept 2nd** from 9am to about midday. Best prices for all sorts of precious metals, watches (even broken), rings, brooches, chains, all sorts. Info **07834 462508**

DISCLAIMER This Journal is published in all good faith and every care is taken in its compilation. The organisers of the **DRAYTON CHRONICLE**, and its Agents, therefore accept NO responsibility for OPINIONS EXPRESSED, nor for the validity of any ADVERTISEMENT, nor for any EFFECTS ARISING WHATSOEVER from the publication.

DRAYTONDIARIES

(Mostly) Hall Diary for September

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

Tues	2	9.00am	JEWELLERY VALUATION (to midday)
Sat	6	11.00pm	Private Function (child's party)
Sun	7	9.00am	ANTIQUES FAIR (to 3pm)
Mon	8	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting (Caudwell DC)
NB – Now 2nd Mondays! (check F'book for any late change?!)			
Sat	13	3.00pm	Private Function
Sun	14	12.30pm	Private Function (child's party)
Mon	15	5.00pm	Chronicle Deadline (Ads = Fri 12th) (NB – see page 2 for Chronicle Info)
Wed	17	9.00am	Private Function (seminar)
Sun	21	11.30am	Private Function (child's party)
Fri	26	11.00am	NOT Faye's Keep-fit (Hols) nor Oct 3rd
Sat	27	11.30am	Private Function (child's party)
		6.00pm	Private Function
Mon	29	7.00pm	WI 'Jubilee' Group ('Boudicca').

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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	YOGA class (temp POSTPONED)
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	Drayton Community Choir (2nd/4th Thurs) -- Call Kay for info 01235 204187 <i>Church Room</i>

FRIDAYS

11.00 am	Keep Fit with FAYE (07815 583591)
1.30 pm	YOGA class (Bliss Yoga, Diane, 07469 767500)
4.15 pm	Karate/'Dojang X' sessions (07938 537310)

SUNDAYS

(**) For all the latest info re their Services (Thursday communion, & especially Sundays), **PLEASE see our St Peter's Church page**
 6.00 pm Evening Service *Baptist Church*



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