

DECEMBER 2025
48.11



the
RAYTON
CHRONICLE

EDITOR: BRIDGET PYNE
PHOTO CREDIT: STEVE CLARK

CHRONICLE INFORMATION

KEY DATES

The next Drayton Chronicle will be the Jan/Feb issue edited by Margaret Inger. (07967730735)

Issue	Deadline for contributions
Jan/Feb	19th January
March	16th February

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.

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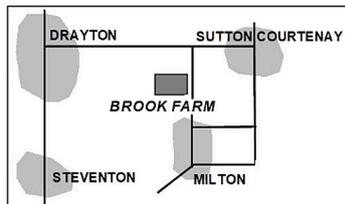


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SERVICES INFORMATION FOR DECEMBER

The church open daily (Sun -Sat, 10:00am -3:00pm).

Thursday 4th	9:45am	Holy Communion
Sunday 7th	9:30am	Holy Communion
Thursday 11th	9:45am	Celtic Prayer
Sunday 14th	9:30am	Family Service for Christingle
Thursday 18th	9:45am	Holy Communion
Sunday 21st	8:00am	Holy Communion BCP with prayers for healing
	9:30am	Holy Communion with prayers for healing
Wed 24th	2:00pm	Crib Service
	11:30pm	Midnight Mass
Thurs 25th	9:30am	Christmas Morning Praise
Sunday 28th	11:00am	DAMASCUS Parish Holy Communion at All Saints' Sutton Courtenay. No service at St Peter's.

YOU STAY WE PRAY

30th – 6th Dec Church Lane ; Henleys Lane; Caudwell Close ; Gravel Lane
7th – 13th Abingdon Rd; Oday Hill
14th – 20th Binning Close; Haywards Rd
21st – 27th Sutton Wick Lane; Greenacres; Newman Lane; Conifer Drive
28th Dec – 3rd Jan Hilliat Fields; Lyford Close

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

First Monday	2:00pm	Knit & Natter No need to be a knitter, if you'd just like a natter
Monday	7:30pm	Bellringing practice
Tuesday	2:30pm	First Tuesday Connections All welcome for a cuppa & chat
Wednesday (term time)	10:00am	Pebbles Baby & Toddler For more information contact Katy or Cheryl: Draytonpebbles@hotmail.com



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St Peter's Christmas Trail

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of Christmas to the Grumpy Owl.

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STARS OF REMEMBRANCE

Would you like to remember a loved one at Christmas by writing their name on a star or a Christmas tag?

These can be hung on the Christmas tree in St. Peter's from Sunday 14th December. The Church is open daily from 10.00a.m to 3.00p.m.

ST PETER'S LETTER

Many years ago, when I worked in a busy open plan office, a phrase often heard was, 'Look busy, the boss is coming!'. Nowadays many of us are past-masters at applying this to the season of Advent. This season in the church year is meant to help us focus on the coming of Christ but all too often it is the most frantic and distracting of times. We set ourselves artificial deadlines to get 'everything' done; our diaries are crammed with seasonal events; our shopping trollies are over-loaded and our bank balances very often turn red. The season of Advent was originally intended as a quiet time to prepare for baptism involving prayer and fasting, but this season of quiet contemplation has turned into a season of stress, worry and exhaustion and for those going through a tough time in life all the negatives become magnified.

How can we refocus our thoughts on the key themes of Advent – hope, peace, joy and love? With thanks to Michael Pffunder of the Bible Society, here's how:

On the first Sunday of Advent we light a candle for **HOPE**: Advent is about tuning into Christmas. Before long, Christians will be celebrating the twofold arrival of the Saviour: back then, in Bethlehem; and in future, when he returns to establish his eternal reign. Most church traditions include the advent wreath in their celebrations. The nights leading up to the winter solstice keep getting longer. Meanwhile, the light increases, week by week, candle by candle; a symbol of hope as darkness falls. Advent is a chance to spend a few minutes a day calming down and refocussing on our hope in Christ, which lies beyond our present circumstances.

On the second Sunday of Advent we light a candle for **PEACE**: Given how hectic December can be, church traditions which treat Advent as a time of contemplation and renewal can help. Peace may be a case of saying sorry, letting go, or simply resting in the Lord's presence, in anticipation of his coming. The apostle Paul led a life of suffering and hardship. Yet he found that the 'peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus' (Philippians 4.7). Could this be our own discovery, this Advent, whatever our situation?

On the third Sunday of Advent we light a candle for **JOY**: Pick a quiet weekday to visit an open, but empty, peaceful church, which has a nativity scene as part of its Advent tradition. Or look up a painting in a book or online. Take a moment to settle down and look carefully at the characters. The shepherds: social outsiders with a taxing day job. The Magi: facing an evil, scheming ruler. Mary and Joseph, about to run for their lives and seek asylum in a foreign land. No-one in the nativity scene is happy because of their circumstances. All of them are full of joy because of the child in the manger. Advent invites us to discover a 'joy to the world' that isn't of the world.

On the fourth Sunday of Advent we light a candle for **LOVE**: By now, all four candles are burning in many churches and homes. The light is shining in the darkness. Jesus is about to arrive. The wait is almost over. Christians celebrate Advent to receive the message of God's love as if they were hearing it for the first time. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.

So this Advent, remember the Lord is coming. Don't look busy – prepare inwardly. Take time to pray and reflect in silence. Keep your eyes fixed on the light that shines in the darkness and find the joy in Christmas once again.

With love and prayers

**Helen - The Reverend Canon Helen Kendrick,
The Rector of the DAMASCUS Parish**



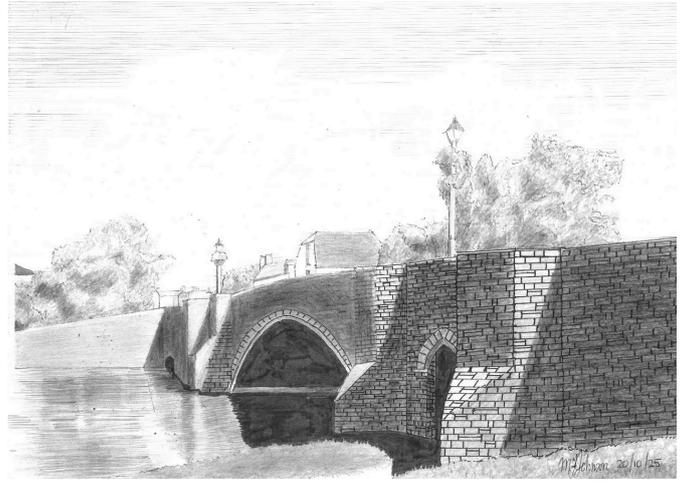
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why is the central arch of Abingdon Bridge also known as Burford Bridge?

Building of the bridge began in 1416 and was completed in 1422 financed by the Fraternity of the Holy Cross. The southern part of the bridge was originally called Borough-ford Bridge. The northern section was known as Abingdon Bridge. Over time Borough-ford bridge became referred to as Burford Bridge; confusing since there is a bridge over the river Windrush at Burford also known as Burford Bridge.

In 1790, when Abingdon Lock was opened, the width and height of the central arch was increased and a Georgian elliptical arch built. The bridge was rebuilt again in 1927 and three of the 15th century arches were demolished and replaced with one wide span to improve navigation.

Mike Johnson



Polite request to dog walkers

On my Sunday morning walk this morning, I came across a pile of dog mess. It was in the middle of the gravel driveway, in front of the Grange gates in the High Street. Someone must know that their dog has done this.

Richard Talbot, Lockway



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DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

First off – Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I can't believe we've hit December again.

SESRO (Reservoir)

I know this often dominates my reports (as it would dominate the village), but this month's is more salient than ever. Thames Water have released a "Map Book" during their Statutory Consultation here:

<https://thameswatersromedia.blob.core.windows.net/live-media/documents/Map%20Book.pdf>

They have considerably increased the footprint of land involved, including around Drayton. In terms of District wards, it sprawls over not just Drayton, Marcham, Steventon and the Hanneys, but includes areas in Sutton Courtenay, Kingston Bagpuize, Grove North, a little in Blewbury & Harwell (albeit I think this bit is likely land just owned by Highways England next to the A34 there), Abingdon Fitzharris, Abingdon Caldecott, and even a little in Ridgeway Ward.

Thames Water have started to send out "land ownership questionnaires" to anyone with land in their area of interest (within the red borders in the map). This includes not just land to be within the reservoir footprint itself, but land they believe will need to be set aside for environmental offsetting (to partially offset the environmental damage of the reservoir) and potential routes and sites for access, storage, and the like. They don't seem to have fully worked out what and where they will need for these access and storage aspects, but they will only need those during the actual preparation and construction phases (currently scheduled all the way to 2043, but could easily slip later — so the word "only" is doing a lot of heavy lifting there).

This covers everywhere they may possibly have an interest, so there is no information yet as to what will and won't be bought – it's highly likely they won't need to acquire all the land. In cases where they can, we expect they'll prefer agreement by private arrangement as far as possible, and only compulsory action where unavoidable – if for no other reason than they'll prefer not having to pay too much in the way of compensation. But we don't actually know anything about this, so please don't take it as financial advice in any way!

If you have been contacted by them or get contacted by them, do not panic. Remember that it seems to be more a scoping exercise at the moment; that they don't seem to know yet where they will need to get agreements or

purchase (and are covering all bases); and that it is likely they'll try to come to some kind of agreement or deal voluntarily first and foremost. (Map and information from GARD on page 8)

Local Government Reorganisation

The "Two Councils" option has been submitted by five councils (us, South Oxfordshire, and West Berkshire for Ridgeway; Cherwell and West Oxfordshire for Oxford and the Shires). Oxfordshire County Council have submitted their "One Oxfordshire" proposal as well. Oxford City Council have submitted their three-council "Greater Oxford" proposal, which doesn't meet the government requirements and is the least financially viable of the three.

Beyond this, the brand-new regional level of devolution that's being pressed upon us ("Mayoral Strategic Authorities" with a minimum population of 1.5 million) has been seriously considered, and a proposal for Oxfordshire plus all of Berkshire is being put forward (with Swindon considered as an addition, but not currently overly favoured, from what I can see so far). Buckinghamshire had been invited (which would make the borders the same as the NHS Integrated Care Board), but apparently they don't want to consider going in with anyone on this, despite being far too small on their own. Oxfordshire-plus-Berkshire makes 1.7 million (so above the threshold). If Swindon do come in as well, that makes it just short of 2 million; if Bucks are added on, it'd be 2.5 million. It does seem a bit strange to me that government have said: "we're getting rid of 2-tier Local Government, so everyone must form Unitaries" and followed up with an immediate: "we're creating a new second tier of Local Government above that," but we have to play the cards we're dealt. We're told that new grant money will come from this and it should "drive economic growth."

Warm Spaces

This winter is forecast to be a cold one. We will be providing Warm Spaces again in local libraries, leisure centres and other organisations – details are available on the Warm Welcome website: <https://www.warmwelcome.uk/#find-a-space>.

Community Hub – support

Take care in the cold months, and if you need help, please contact Community Hub for support:
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All the best, and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, **Andy Cooke**



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GARD: RESERVOIR MAP AND FAQ UPDATE

Given the recent updates from Thames Water, we have put together these FAQs from information provided by GARD so residents can understand the scale and impact of the proposed reservoir.



The red outline is the Thames Water new boundary for land reservation for solar farm and biodiversity-loss compensation.

Sources: Openstreetmap and Thames Water.

What's happening now?

A public consultation is under way on Thames Water's application for a Development Consent Order (DCO), which is required before construction can begin.

What is the cost?

Estimated costs have increased—from £2.2 billion to over £7 billion since the Rapid Gate 3 submission. All costs would ultimately be paid by the public through water bills.

How much land is reserved for the reservoir?

Thames Water now requires around 38 km² of land to meet biodiversity and flood-mitigation requirements. They plan to relocate existing solar farms and take control of land along every connected watercourse.

What public access will there be?

Public access and water quality issues remain unanswered.

What about biodiversity?

Thames Water would be responsible for "rewilding" large areas of land. However, this would largely replace nature lost to the reservoir, rather than add to total biodiversity.

How much water will it hold?

The proposed reservoir would be unprecedented in size, holding around 150 million cubic metres of water—about 11 times the volume of Farmoor. This would require 15–25-metre-high embankments to contain the water, making it essentially a massive storage tank, not a new natural water source.

Where will the water come from?

Current flows in the River Thames are often not enough to fill even Farmoor Reservoir, raising concerns about whether Thames Water could realistically fill a much larger reservoir.

What impact could this have on local flooding?

In February 2024 Thames Water engineers stated at an OCC meeting that ground water would rise by about one metre. A full perimeter underground drainage system would be required, but groundwater mitigation has not yet been fully modelled or proven. Nearby villages already have water tables close to ground level, adding to the concern. Emergency discharge plans are also incomplete. No report has been published on how a major release of water would affect the River Thames.

Is the reservoir design proven to be safe?

Not yet. Thames Water has not yet published safety analyses about flooding or dam breach. Clay compaction trials, which test whether the clay foundations can form a stable, waterproof barrier, were delayed due to high groundwater levels. The results have not been released, so it is unclear whether the clay met the required safety standards—an important unresolved issue.

Are there acceptable alternatives to the proposed reservoir?

Yes. Thames Water is still developing the Severn–Thames Transfer (STT) scheme, which would move water from the River Severn to the Thames. This option is expected to be quicker, cheaper, more drought-resilient, and more environmentally sustainable than building a new reservoir. It would also form part of the emerging national water grid, improving long-term water security.

Another alternative would be a smaller reservoir located outside the Zone 3 floodplain.

How long will the proposed reservoir project take?

The Development Consent Order (DCO) consultation is scheduled for November 2025 to January 2026. Thames Water plans to submit the DCO application in late 2026 and construction is expected to begin in 2029. The latest schedule suggests completion in 2043, which is three years later than the current target in-service date. In total, the project would bring roughly 15 years of disruption to surrounding villages.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Merry Christmas, everyone!

Christmas is a great time, and I hope this year will be no exception. Enjoy the break and relish the time with friends and family. I don't know about you, but I have found 2025 to be a frustrating year – I have worked really hard all year trying to do several different roles, and I have achieved quite a bit, but yet not anywhere near all that I wanted. So I am hoping for much more in 2026: to finish unfinished business, edge closer towards resolving long-standing issues, and push forward towards creating a better place locally.

My 2026 wish list includes:

- The new HIFI road and bridge across the Thames being planned and built in the best way, on time and on budget – creating new opportunities for both safer and less congested routes across our area.
- Finally, safe traffic lights for kids and parents getting to Europa School.
- A better train service for Appleford.
- New cycle routes being shown to be feasible, linking Abingdon to Milton Park to Steventon.
- An agreed solution for Steventon Bridge.
- Exciting new sports facilities in Drayton.
- Sound and sensible plans for a new unitary council that delivers better public services at lower cost.
- More local socially responsible investment from our pension funds.

Last but not least, my motion passed unanimously in November that the district council would request Thames Water to re-evaluate their options given the ballooning costs of SESRO, so I'm hopeful for an open dialogue with Thames Water on the best – safest, environmentally-friendly, flood-mitigating, and most cost-effective – strategy for water management for the next 100 years, rather than a presumption that it is the SESRO mega-reservoir.

Moving beyond our area, I am hoping for so much more in 2026 from central government and internationally. Lots to wish for... and hopefully you can make good lists too... the more good stuff we vocalise, the more likely it is to happen.

Bring on the new year!

Peter Stevens

CONGESTION CHARGE

A reminder that Oxford now has a temporary congestion charge for cars and motorhomes (M1 vehicles) while Botley Road is closed. A £5 daily charge applies at six key routes around the city and operates every day, including bank holidays.

Residents of Oxfordshire can apply for free permits, along with eligible groups such as Blue Badge holders, carers, community health workers and certain traders, but electric cars are not automatically exempt. Apply for your permit on the Oxfordshire County Council website.

The scheme will remain in place until Botley Road reopens, or for up to two years, and is supported by free Park & Ride bus travel for a limited time.



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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



The Parish Council met on 10th November.

Walnut Meadows

The grass has been seeded and the area for the pitches is now a beautiful emerald green. E.ON have finally installed the electric meter into one of the feeder pillars, so we can progress with connecting the electricity for the Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs). The running/jogging track around the pitch is about to be completed and we are progressing with the construction of a safe pathway around the MUGAs. The plan is to open the MUGAs as soon as we can, but please bear with us whilst pathways are completed and the area is made safe for use.

The PC has received reports of young people using the Multi Use Games Areas. Whilst we are thrilled that there is interest in the MUGAs, we have had to lock the gates, as the site is not officially open and remains a building site.

The Chair of the PC and Programme Manager recently met with representatives from the FA to discuss availability of grant funding towards the facilities. The FA is willing to contribute towards the cost of an artificial pitch and pavilion; however, this will take a lot of thought, as there would be conditions attached. The Programme Manager is now drawing up revised costs for the building of a pavilion. We will keep you posted on developments.

Remembrance

The Chair of the Council laid a wreath at the Church memorial dedicated to the brave men and women who served for us.

Walnuts

We are replacing the walnut that was stolen from the Village Green. Whatever your views on the walnuts, they are doing a great job in preventing parking on the grass and also provide a talking point and, as Pablo Picasso said, "Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life."

Sutton Wick Pond

As many will already know, we did not succeed in our first attempt to drain and clean the pond. The level of silt in the pond is such that heavier machinery is needed to complete the work.

The PC has agreed to fund an additional amount so that the company contracted to do the work can remove the water and waste from the site. Paul Caudwell has kindly agreed to spread the organic waste over his fields. We will let you know when the work is scheduled. It should not take much more than a day to drain and clean, but will, of course, take a while to refill.

The Parish Council wishes all residents a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

The next PC meeting is scheduled for December 8th, 7pm at the Caudwell Day Centre in Gravel Lane.

Elaine Wade



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REMEMBRANCE DISPLAY



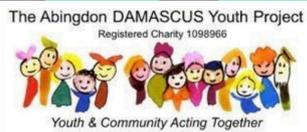
Many of you will have spotted the lovely Remembrance display in the village this year. With its poppies, wreaths and handmade touches, it made a really thoughtful place for people to pause and remember those who served. It's been great to see so many stopping by to take a moment.

A big thank you goes to the Drayton Tommys Group for putting it all together. They put in a lot of time and care behind the scenes, and the village really appreciates their hard work in helping us mark Remembrance in such a meaningful way.



COUNCILLOR RICHARD WADE ON THE LEFT. IAN BAIRD (BRITISH LEGION) ON THE RIGHT AT THE REMEMBRANCE SERVICE.

Annual General Meeting



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LOCAL GROUPS AND NEWS

TABLE TENNIS

Now winter is here and table tennis being an indoor sport, (I know there are some outside tables but they are few and far between) these are busy times.

Like many sports, ping pong is a way of keeping fit and suits all ages. Drayton TT Club has members with an age range from 9 to 80. It's great to see youngsters joining up with the generations ahead of them in a safe environment and really enjoying the camaraderie. All our 7 teams have a mix of ages as well. As do those members who prefer to stick to social play at our Monday sessions. The club has a large supportive membership and a number of volunteers that help us function well.

We recently had to appoint a new secretary due to unexpected circumstances but, as has always been the case, a volunteer stepped forward! Thanks to the new incumbent, Matt Harding, the change has been seamless.

Our league teams are having mixed fortunes. The Artisans are in the top 4 in Division 1 and Buzzards also in Div 1 are secure in mid table. We have two mid table teams in Div 2 but Eagles are in a battle at the lower end of the table. Same for our two Division 3 teams – Flamingos and Galahs, but with a lot of players new to league competition they are sure to improve with experience.

We also will all look forward to the New Year when the cup competitions get underway and when we hope we will experience some success.

Wishing everyone a happy Christmas and a great 2026.

John Gould
Chairman

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The RBL Curry Lunch in Steventon which took place on the 9th November resulted in a profit of £430 to add to the Steventon and District RBL Poppy Appeal. This was a splendid result and boosted greatly by a donation of 30 pints of most excellent beer by Love Beer brewery Milton.

Nick Thompson
Hon Chairman Steventon and District Branch
Royal British Legion

DRAYTON W.I

For our November meeting, we had a demonstration and practical evening learning how to block print with Marea Brown from the Art of Jaipur. It was a fantastic evening, with everyone managing to successfully create a variety of different styles and items.

We always welcome visitors, so do come along and see us if you can. Our meetings are usually on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in the Caudwell Day Centre in Gravel Lane.

For our December meeting, we will be having our Christmas Party with a bring-and-share. If you want to come along, then we do a Secret Santa Sack with each gift costing £5 so that everybody gets something!

DON'T FORGET to save the date of our Christmas Craft Fair: November 29th (11am–3pm in the Village Hall!).

Georgina Arnold

DRAYTON WIVES

This month's meeting was a light-hearted and amusing presentation given by Ann and John Ford.

The theme was Morris Minor cars in the media, spanning the period 1990–2015, and focused on providing Morris Minors and other classic cars to the TV, film and publishing industries. They also provided cars for some unusual weddings and charity events involving MPs and pop stars. Films included Shadowlands, The Borrowers and Harry Potter. A few of the TV shows they provided vehicles for included Antiques Roadshow, Spitting Image and London's Burning. We heard tales of after-party events and were shown some fantastic memorabilia.

Our annual Christmas coach trip is fast approaching, and this year we have decided to visit Gloucester Quays.

We always welcome visitors to come along to our meetings, held on the last Wednesday of the month at 2.00pm in the Village Hall. We have coffee mornings, craft mornings, outings and events. If you would like to come and meet us, please call Lisa Lammiman on 07949 275641.

Ruth Hudson, Vice Chair



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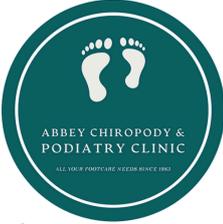
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FROM WESTMINSTER



This month has been incredibly busy, full of constituency engagements alongside exciting activities in Parliament.

In Parliament, I secured a commitment from the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to help unblock progress on the GP surgery in Great Western Park. At Prime Minister's Questions, I challenged the Prime Minister on the Government's decision to delay SEND reforms until 2026, asking what he has to say to parents and education staff who are deeply worried by these delays.

I also led a debate on the proposed cuts to funding for the International Baccalaureate (IB) programme - an issue that affects many families at Europa School - and spoke on the need to improve statutory maternity and paternity pay.

It is always a pleasure to meet constituents in Parliament. Recently, I've met with residents campaigning to end cages for farmed animals, and with local pharmacists attending the launch of the new Shot in the Arm vaccine campaign.

Back in the constituency, I've held surgeries in Wantage and Didcot and met residents on the doorstep in East and West Challow. I joined members of CulBug (the Culham Bicycle User Group) for a cycle trip and opened the new visitor centre at Culham Campus - planting a tree and recognising 60 years of remarkable work at the site. I also had the pleasure of visiting Fitzwaryn Special School and Wantage Primary Academy to see Bikeability training in action alongside the Local Transport Minister, Lilian Greenwood.

It was wonderful to attend SOFEA's "Donate What You Can" community meal in Didcot, where all proceeds support the charity's Nourish and Flourish programme. I also visited the Thames Travel bus depot in Didcot and made further progress on improving the Orchard Centre, where parking is now free after 7pm every day.

Lastly, it was a privilege to lay a wreath in both Wallingford and Didcot at Remembrance day events, alongside laying a wreath on the Poppy Train at Didcot Railway Station. Lest we forget.

As always, 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.

Olly Glover



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THE POSTCARD DROP

Dinah Johnson, Founder of The Handwritten Letter Appreciation Society, was delighted to be able to hire Drayton Village Hall to lay out all 547 postcards from 32 countries, as part of The Big Summer Postcard Drop 2025 she organised to help keep the art of postcard sending alive.

Dinah explained 'As we were up visiting family in my old home village it was the perfect place to display all the postcards for World Postcard Day on 1st October that had been received from people all over the world. We needed a big space and it was lovely to revisit the Hall that holds so many memories from Brownies, to jumble sales, local dance school performances, Summer Fetes and birthday parties, all those years ago. It hasn't changed one bit!'



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DRAYTON HALL NEWS

Nearly showtime! Look out for local ads for the Bob Cutting Big Band who will be doing a show here on Sat Dec 20th (doubtless with guests!).

It's another **Antiques Fair**, Sunday Dec 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. Following that, 7pm, is the annual and very popular **Carols Concert**.

And the day before, 6th, Kathy is running her good-cause **Xmas Craft Fair** - with Santa at 1pm (assuming he doesn't get nobbled by those Oxford traffic issues!), children all get a prize. I hear she also has a raffle with some great prizes, including a magnificent £100 top of the list!

Start of the month, Lee is having another **Jewellery Valuation session**, best prices paid, Tuesday for a change (Dec 2nd), and this time he's coming early, 9am start (to midday). He's looking for all manner of precious metals, even broken items, watches, chains, rings, brooches, or old coins if they're pre-1947, etc.

Weds 3rd, Kathy is running her '**good-cause**' **Coffee Morning**, and she's intending to make them weekly from now on (10 to noon)). So, come along for coffee and cake (or a naughty bacon sarnie too?).

Our Friday exercise classes continue, **Keep Fit with Faye**, (11am for an hour, sitting if you need), then **Yoga**, run by Diane, at 1.30. Do check with Diane (p20) if you fancy the yoga, as she has occasional other commitments at present.

Our **Bowls & Badminton** groups are also happy to welcome new members at present. Badminton plays on Monday evening. Also, the **Karate** has space for a couple more members & they offer free trials.

There's also a **Badminton group** on Friday evening who are now looking for a little 'new blood', they tell me that would be players of a 'reasonable standard' — to me, that would be getting that funny feathered thing over the net at least twice in succession?!

Please note: Due to the persistent vandalism, with kids accessing the roof and ripping off guttering, it's been decided to apply anti-climb paint. So, if one of yours comes home one day with self and/or clothing adorned with sticky black gunk, please don't complain to the c'tee.

Thank you to all those who bring clothes items to support the **Child Air Ambulance charity bin**. If you find the bin is full, then please call the charity number (on the bin!).

Tony Holmes

THE PASSING OF ANN WEBB

As we went to the printer, we received the very sad news that Ann Webb, long-time Chair of the Hall Committee, passed away on 17 November.

Ann served our community with unwavering dedication and warmth, she will be deeply missed by all who had the pleasure of working with her.

The upcoming Committee Meeting will include discussion of a suitable tribute to honour Ann's memory.

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to Ann's family and friends at this difficult time. Our thoughts are with them.

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DRAYTON DIARIES

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

Tues 2nd	9:00am	Jewellery Valuation (to midday)
Wed 3rd	10:00am	Coffee Morning (weekly)
Sat 6th	11:00am	Xmas Craft Fair (to 4pm; Santa @ 1pm)
Sun 7th	9:00am	Antiques Fair (to 3pm)
	7:00pm	Carols Concert
Mon 8th	7:00pm	Parish Council Meeting (Caudwell DC)
Sat 13th	All day	Private Function
Sun 14th	12:00pm	Private Function
Sat 20th	7:30pm	Bob Cutting Big Band

How to Book Other Drayton Venues:

To hire the Caudwell Day Centre, please contact Vicky Malin: malinfamily27@gmail.com or 01235 539625 or 07525 462630. Or, for small meetings, the Church Hall may be OK, for their contact info see the St Peter's page in this edition.

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
4:00pm	Damascus Youth (to 5pm - for Yr 6)
6:00pm	YOGA class (temp POSTPONED)
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 24892)
1:45pm	Drayton Art Group until 4 pm (<i>Caudwell</i>)
2:30pm	Tuesday Connect - 1st Tuesdays (<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) NOW IN >> Caudwell DC
2:00pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session
2:00pm	Crafts Group (2nd Thursday – run by U3A, but it's simple to join. Call Kate for info 01235 550486) ##
5:30pm	Rainbows (girls 5 to 7 yrs) ##
7:30pm	Sequence Dancing (01235 531107 for info)
7:30pm	Women's Institute Meeting (2nd Thurs) Caudwell DC
7:30pm	Drayton Community Choir (2nd/4th Thurs) Call Kay for info 01235 204187 Church Room

FRIDAYS

11:00am	Keep Fit with FAYE (07815 583591)
1:30pm	YOGA class (Bliss Yoga, Diane, 07469 767500)
4:15pm	Karate/'Dojang X' sessions (07938 537310)

SUNDAYS

(**)	For all the latest info re their Services, please see our St Peter's Church page
6:00pm	Evening Service (<i>Baptist Church</i>)