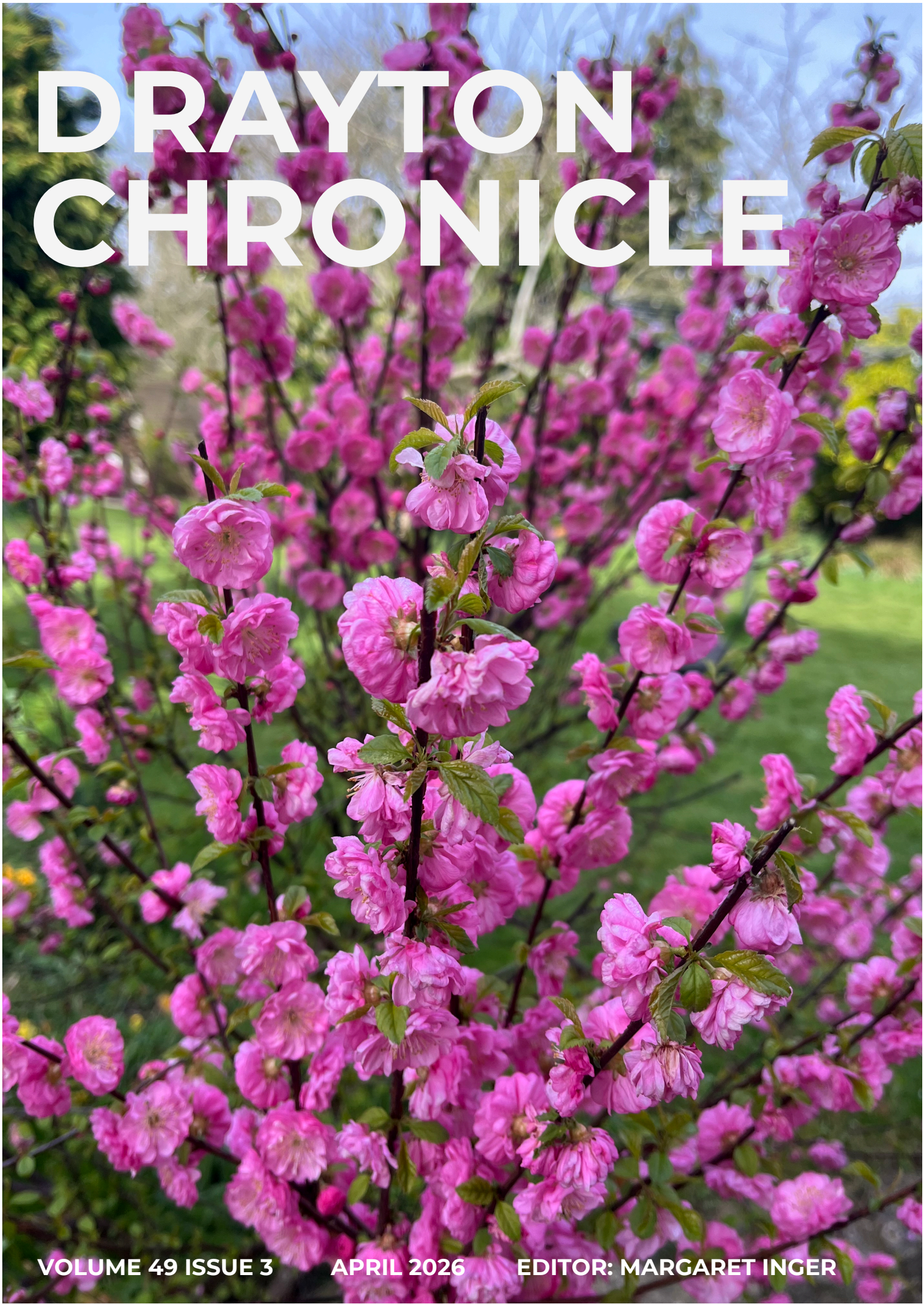




DRAYTON CHRONICLE

VOLUME 49 ISSUE 3

APRIL 2026

EDITOR: MARGARET INGER

CHRONICLE INFORMATION

KEY DATES

The next Drayton Chronicle will be the May issue, edited by Bridget Pyne.
editor@draytonchronicle.net

Issue	Advertising deadline	Contribution deadline
May	April 17th	April 20th
June	May 15th	May 20th

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.

St. Peter's Church Drayton Plant Sale



There will be a plant sale at
St. Peter's on
Saturday 16th May
10.00 am to 12.00 noon.
Do come and join us!
Refreshments available.
We look forward to seeing you



ADVERTISING

Advertising charges: for single Block Advert (approx. 9cm x 4.5 cm):-

Advertiser category	1 insert	3 inserts	6 inserts	12 inserts
Drayton resident	£7	£19	£36	£70
Non-Drayton resident	£8	£22	£43	£83

Double-sized adverts (approx. 9cm x 9cm) are charged at twice the above rates. All advertising MUST be paid for in advance, either electronically, in cash or by cheque made payable to 'The Drayton Chronicle' and placed in the box at, or sent to, Vickery's.

Requests for advertisements should (preferably) be emailed to Stephen Fearnley, the Chronicle advertising manager

(advertising@draytonchronicle.net), or placed in the box at Vickery's. If you wish to discuss your requirements, please phone Stephen on **01235 531347**.



EVER WONDERED WHAT YOUR PARISH COUNCIL DOES?

THEN COME ALONG TO THE Annual Parish Meeting (Meeting of the Parish)

**7:00pm Monday 27th April 2026
In the Caudwell Day Centre**

ALL DRAYTON RESIDENTS WELCOME!

DISCLAIMER: This Journal is published in good faith and great care is taken in its completion. The organisers of the DRAYTON CHRONICLE, and its Agents, therefore accept no responsibility for OPINIONS EXPRESSED, nor for the validity of any ADVERTISEMENT.

ST PETER'S CHURCH

Part of the DAMASCUS Parish www.damascusparish.org.uk

Rector: Revd Canon Helen Kendrick
Administrator: Alison Bampton 01235 847179
Curate: Rev Dov Whittle 07586 969985
Email: rector@damascusparish.org.uk or admin@damascusparish.org.uk, or curate@damascusparish.org.uk

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



The DAMASCUS Parish
Drayton / Appleford / Milton
Sutton Courtenay / Devizes

Easter Services 2026

at St Peter's Drayton

Palm Sunday (29th March) at 9:30 Reading of the Passion narrative including Holy Communion
Maundy Thursday (2nd April) at 9:45 Holy Communion
Good Friday (3rd April) at 10:00 Walk of Witness starting at Baptist Church followed by hot cross buns at St Peter's
Easter Sunday (5th April) at 9:30 Holy Communion with an Easter Egg Hunt

All are welcome to join us to celebrate the Good News

Sunday 12th	9.30 am	Family Service
Thursday 16th	9.45 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 19th	8:00 am	Holy Communion (BCP) with prayers for healing
	9:30 am	Holy Communion for with prayers for healing
Thursday 23rd	9:45 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 26th	9:30 am	Morning Praise Service

REGULAR EVENTS

First Monday	2pm - 4pm	Knit & Natter No need to be a knitter, if you'd just like a natter
Mondays	7:30pm	Bellringing practice
Tuesdays	2:30pm - 4pm	First Tuesday Connections All welcome for a cuppa & chat
Wednesdays (term-time)	10am	Pebbles Baby & Toddler Group For more information contact Katy or Cheryl draytonpebbles@hotmail.com

Burial of Ashes
6th March 2026 John Dunster

Funeral
6th March 2026 Vera Wakefield



Follow us on Facebook: scan the QR code or search for St Peter's Church, Drayton, Abingdon



YOU STAY WE PRAY

29th - 4th April Abingdon rd; Oday Hill
5th - 11th Binning Close; Haywards Rd
12th - 18th Sutton Wick Lane; Greenacres; Newman Lane; Conifer Drive
19th - 25th Hilliat Fields; Lyford Close
26th - 2nd May Manor Close; The Green

FROM THE DAMASCUS MINISTRY TEAM



At the time of writing this letter from the DAMASCUS ministry Team, the conflict in the Middle East dominates the news headlines, and is in our conversations, thoughts and prayers. The unease and uncertainty of the outcomes may have eased by the time you read this. However whether, or not, world events have become more peaceful, there is still a need for reassurance and above all hope.

The message of Easter is a message of hope and reassurance. The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of Christian hope and reassurance, that spiritual eternal life is God's promise to us. Jesus wanted for us to have life and to live it abundantly. One of the most frequent phrases in the Bible is "do not be afraid". Throughout Jesus' example to us is of how to live together, and in his teaching, he shows and tells us to treat others as we would like to be treated. "Love your neighbour as yourself". In the prayer which he gave to his followers and friends, the Lord's prayer, we say "forgive us our trespasses/sins, as we forgive those who sin/ trespass against us".

Love and forgiveness is the way of life that's an aspiration for many of us particularly when we seem to be surrounded by the opposite and especially when we, as individuals, seem unable to control what is happening or influence the decisions made. There's a famous quote of Dr Martin Luther King which I remind myself of frequently as I find it so inspirational, "Hate cannot overcome hate, only love can do that".

Our churches are open daily for quiet times to still our hearts and minds, for prayer and reflection, and for finding some peace.

A prayer by the Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop of Chelmsford:

Ever-loving God, who hears us in our anguish and distress, and longs for us to be free.

We pray for the people of Iran and the wider Middle East, at this time of fear and uncertainty.

Be near to those who are anxious; bring comfort to all who are suffering.

Guide those with the power to make decisions, and lead them in the ways of wisdom, compassion and moderation: that people of goodwill would seek harmony and reconciliation.

Join us with our Christian brothers and sisters in all places, in praying for peace with justice, through him who is the prince of peace, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Reverend Rosie Bruce
Rector of the DAMASCUS Parish



JOIN GARD and add your name to those opposing the proposed reservoir. Go to our website at Group Against Reservoir Development | GARD

Planning permission is not yet applied for: in seven months' time Thames Water submit their planning application for the proposed giant reservoir, now called The White Horse Reservoir. They must give in a detailed application for a Development Consent Order to the Planning Inspectorate because the proposed reservoir is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project. Vale of White Horse District Council are not the Planning Authority for this. They are opposing the plans, as are Oxfordshire County Council, South Oxfordshire Council and the three MPs whose constituencies are affected: Olly Glover, Layla Moran and Charlie Maynard.

Thames Water have already spent more than £543 million of customer money developing the huge proposed White Horse Reservoir yet there is still no final design, no published construction time-plan and no clear strategy to address major water-quality risks. Given the dramatic cost escalation, Ofwat must carry out a new independent "best value" reassessment to ensure customers are not locked into the most expensive option without proper scrutiny. Before any Development Consent Order can responsibly proceed, it is imperative that several fundamental issues are resolved:

- a completed detailed structural design published
- a credible construction timetable and accurate cost forecast detailed
- full dam-breach and flood-risk assessments modelled and published
- a proven emergency drawdown mechanism modelled and published
- a fully costed and transparent water-treatment strategy published

GARD is opposing this application all the way. Join us now and add your support to the MPs and Councils that already oppose the plans.

Send us your ideas for actions over the spring and summer, to show that we refuse to be ignored. Let's also show that democratic institutions cannot be trampled.

Write to the Secretary of State
emma.reynolds.mp@parliament.uk

Write to your MP and Council, approving of their opposition to the proposed reservoir and asking them to continue opposing it. See GARD website, Take Action section.

Advance notice: the GARD Annual General Meeting will take place on May 8th in Steventon Village Hall Millenium Room at 8pm.

Contact the secretary for information or to give ideas
gard.secretary@gmail.com **JOIN GARD!!**
<https://groupagainstreservoirdevelopment.org>



Discovering Jesus through the Eucharist

Explore the profound meal at the heart of Christian life - whether you're new to Christianity or have been coming to church for years.



Full Course: 19:30 Wednesday 25 February
4, 11, 18, 25 March & 1 April:
River Room, Sutton Courtenay
or Abridged Course 11:00 Wednesday 25 February,
11 March & 25 March: 5 Newman Lane, Drayton



Improved Hearing is Improved Quality of Life!

Professional, compassionate and individualised hearing care and solutions

Hearing tests, hearing aids, ear wax removal, custom noise protection, custom swim plugs and more

www.resonatehearingcentre.co.uk

Phone: 01235 838515

Email: info@resonatehearingcentre.co.uk

Harwell Innovation Centre, Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, Curie Avenue, OX11 0QG

MILTON MANOR HOUSE

A hidden historic gem!



Open to the Public

Easter weekend 4th to 6th April 2026

2pm to 5pm

Milton, Oxfordshire OX14 4EN

A family home with a pleasant, relaxed and informal atmosphere, fascinating history and interesting grounds

Tour of the house and access to the grounds:

Adult £10 Child £3

Grounds only: Adult £5 Child £1

N.B. Cash only Tea room. Free parking.

Sorry - no dogs

See www.miltonmanorhouse.com for details

BIG EVENT ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

Dear all,

On behalf of Drayton Parish Council, I am inviting everyone to come along on

Sunday 3rd May at 3pm

to the Big Event that we are organising to promote our latest **Art Project** for the village.

We will be unveiling a beautiful artistic map (see similar ones on this page), and a specially designed notice board, near the bus-stop, showing the routes in our Wayfinding project. There will be four trails, each with its own colour code and designated animal. The routes will be able to be accessed by zapping the QR code on your phone, which will link you directly to the Parish Council website, giving you details of all the routes, with interesting historic facts along the way.

Andrew Bax, who has helped enormously with the historic details, will be unveiling the map, and both the artist (map) and the carpenter (notice board) will be there.

At the same time, several children in the village will be planting a dwarf walnut tree, (which will not grow to more than 10 meters for those who think there are enough trees on the Green!), to tie in with the walnut theme. Though there are many trees growing there, they are all the wrong type of tree! (Misquote from Winnie the Pooh) so we thought this should be rectified.

There will be a band playing for your delectation, courtesy of Kay Davies, who will also come along with her local Drayton choir. What a treat we will have in store!

And of course, there will be refreshments: - walnut cake and coffee, with soft drinks for the kids.

This is a voluntary event, and we are looking for volunteers to help to make this day the success we hope it will be: cake makers, coffee servers, parents with children equipped with spades to plant the tree. Bring your own chairs and anything else you can think of, to make this event a fun and lovely afternoon out for the whole family. Cakes can be dropped off from 2pm, thanks in advance!

If you feel you can help in any way, please contact me at pervin.shahin@draytonpc.org

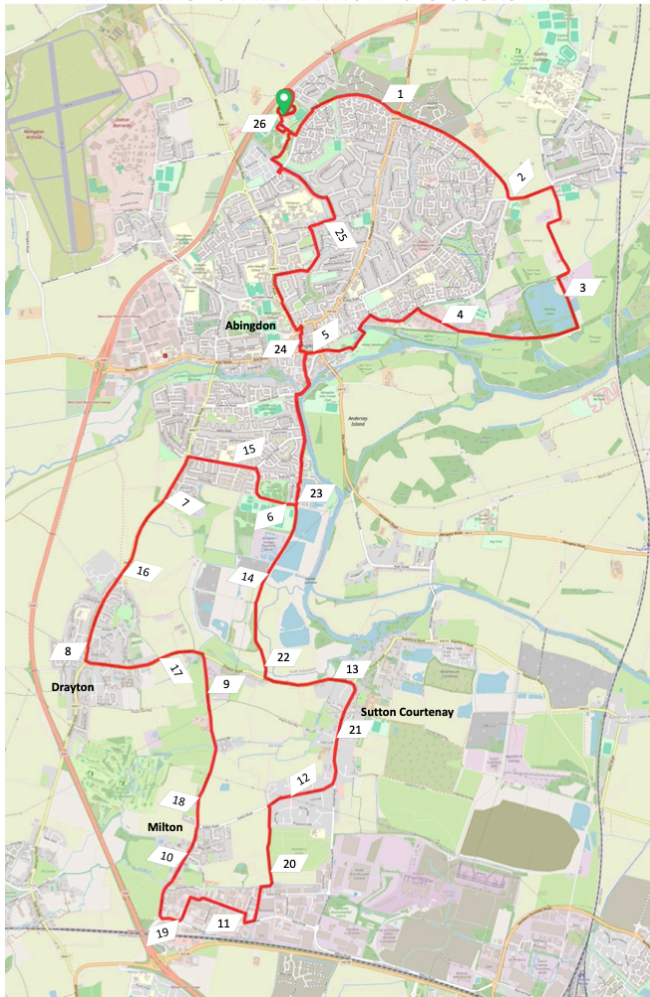
I look forward to hearing from you. The only thing we can't control is the weather, but in true British fashion, we will just pray and carry on. Come in appropriate wear. The show will go on.....

**Pervin Shahin, Arts Councilor,
Drayton PC**



ABINGDON MARATHON

THE ABINGDON MARATHON 2026 COURSE MAP



The 2026 Abingdon Marathon is due to take place at 9.00am on

Sunday 18th October.

Runners will have 6 hours to finish the race. Some small changes have been made to the route to enhance the experience for competitors and spectators. The organisers would like to hear from anyone willing to volunteer on the day, including anyone who would like to provide some entertainment or music along the route, as this always gives a boost to the runners and helps create a lovely atmosphere around the race.

Each volunteer receives a donation to a charity of their choice in return for their time on the day. In 2025, the Abingdon Marathon raised £20,300 for charities. The event is not-for-profit.

For more information see:

www.abingdonmarathon.org.uk

To contact the Race Directors, email:
racedirector@abingdonmarathon.org.uk

ECUMENICAL EASTER WALK

Please come and join us this Easter, on

Good Friday April 3rd at 10 o'clock

at the Baptist Church, then on to the Village Green opposite, then the procession of witness as we walk behind the cross to St. Peter's church for a short service followed by free refreshments (Easter buns). On **Easter Sunday 5th April** there will be a 10.30am service lead by Janet Strong at the Baptist church. Please do come if you can .

Thank you
Jayne Henderson,
Church Secretary



DANES/MACE STORE

Mon-Sat 5am-8pm – Sun & Bank Hols 6am-6pm

**FOR ALL YOUR PAPERS, MAGAZINES,
GROCERIES, FROZEN FOODS,
CARDS, OFF LICENCE and
SAVOURY SNACKS.**

LOTTERY TICKETS

Small bakery cakes, biscuits and
Fresh sandwiches

MOST MAJOR CREDIT CARDS TAKEN

NOW WITH PAYPOINT

TEL: 01235 554813

E: danestores@gmail.com



PARISH
COUNCIL REPORT



The Council met on 9th March.

Walnut Meadows

Sadly, there have been further incidents of vandalism on the new sports facilities. During the half term holidays the recently erected Heras fencing was broken and there was evidence that people had tried to get into the storage container and the MUGAs, additionally, a number of golf balls and bottles have been thrown into the MUGAs. The fencing has since been reinstalled. The Parish Council has now involved Thames Valley Police who have agreed to undertake patrols around the area and visit the parents of any youngsters identified. We believe the damage is being caused by a small group of young male teenagers, aged approximately 12-15. We are in the process of installing a temporary path and lighting so that the MUGA's can be accessed. We are also looking at a suitable booking system so that they can be used as soon as possible.

At the recent public meeting and drop-in session a number of people volunteered to join an Advisory Group for the sports facilities and have since been invited to the first meeting of the group.

A number of attendees at the village meeting concerning the Walnut Meadows Pavilion requested that the Parish Council provide a breakdown of the estimated Council Tax increases across all Bands that would be incurred by taking out a Public Works Loan. The estimates are shown below:

Council Tax Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Weekly Increase	£0.89	£1.03	£1.18	£1.33	£1.62	£1.92	£2.21	£2.66

Note: These are estimates as the final figure is dependent upon the interest rate in place at the time of the loan and final build cost won't be known until the Parish Council goes out to tender.

Clerk

It was announced at the meeting that our current Clerk has resigned. We will ensure that business continues and will keep you informed if there are any changes to contact details.

Walnut Tree

We have asked Drayton School to help plant a dwarf walnut tree on the Village Green on 3rd May. Further details of the event are given in the article by Pervin.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 13th April at 7pm in the Caudwell Day Centre

Elaine Wade



FRIENDLY PERSONALISED CARE



Home Care



Companionship & support



Prescription & medication



Medical appointments



Power of Attorneys



Transport for social visits



Shopping on-line or local



Meal Preparation

First Aid Trained

Enhanced DBS

Fully Insured



07889 985386



mandybiddle@btinternet.com



BARK IN THE PARK
DOG WALKING & PET SERVICES

GROUP OR SOLO WALKS AVAILABLE TAILORED TO YOUR DOGS NEEDS, WE ALSO OFFER DROP-INS, DOG GROOMING & OTHER PET CARE SERVICES, 10+ YEARS EXPERIENCE

RUNNING A DOG GROOMING BUSINESS (PREVIOUSLY THE DOG SHED), DBS CHECKED AND FULLY INSURED WITH PETPLAN SANCTUARY.

Barkintheparkdws@gmail.com
07909090242

7

The Back Pain Centre

Dr Natalie Nickowski MScDC

Dr Emily White DC MChiro LRCC

Paul Marshall BSC MSc DC

Chiropractic relief from:

- Back pain & sciatica
- Frozen shoulder
- Neck, shoulder & arm pain
- Tennis/golfer's elbow
- Headaches & migraines
- Knee & ankle pain
- Arthritis & postural problems
- Chronic pain



**FREE
SPINAL
ASSESSMENT**

Free Parking
Sports Therapist
Spinal Analysis Machine

Recognised by all health insurance Companies: BUPA - PPP - AXA
4C Deanes Close Steventon OX13 6SZ
info@steventonbackpaincentre.co.uk

www.steventonbackpaincentre.co.uk 01235 848008

KOGELS of Abingdon Limited

HOME EXTENSION SPECIALISTS
AND GENERAL BUILDING CONTRACTORS

72 Steventon Road
Drayton

Tel: Abingdon (01235) 531200

Abingdon

Email: kogelsofabingdon@btconnect.com

Oxon

www.kogelsofabingdon.co.uk

OX14 4LD

Suzu Willis & Associates

MCSP HCPC AACP

CHARTERED PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

Old Lodge, Henleys Lane, Drayton,
OX14 4HU

Tel: 01235 531269

*Please call for a face to face or remote
consultation*

**POST
OFFICE**

Drayton Post Office

Post Office opening hours

Mon - Sat 9 - 6pm

& CONVENIENCE STORE

Open Mon - Sat 7 - 10 pm Sun 8 - 10pm

9 The Green, Drayton, OX14 4JA

01235 531359

Electrical Problems? Call

**ROBERTS
ELECTRICAL**



Domestic • Commercial • Industrial

- Electrical Hard Wire Testing
- Domestic Electrical Reports
- Landlords Certificates
- Portable Appliance Testing
- Re-wires Full or Part
- Extra Power or Lighting Points
- Electrical Showers Complete
- Security Lighting, Fire & Intruder Alarms
- LED & Low Energy Lighting Installations
- Data & Telephone Wiring
- TV & Home Entertainment Installations
- Heating Controls and Wiring

We are able to Part P/Building Control our electrical works

Office: 01235 528800 Mobile: 07786 930463

Windy Ridge Court, Milton Road, Drayton, Abingdon OX14 4EZ

FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTATIONS

**Larkmead
VETS**

Proudly Independent

Caring for your pets 24-hours a day



*We run our own
24h emergency
service*

01235 814991 / 01491 651379

www.larkmead.co.uk

07360 277998

www.larkmead.co.uk



Didcot | Great Western Park | Wantage | Cholsey | Benson | Sutton Courtenay



Authentic Italian restaurant with a
covered garden terrace &
licensed Wedding venue

Opening times

Friday and Saturday 5.30pm last orders 8.30pm

Private function on request

Wakes from 10 am Monday - Saturdays

Website www.La-Fontana.co.uk

Telephone 01235 868287



Tonks Brothers Funeral Directors

Abingdon & Kennington

158 Ock Street, Abingdon. OX14 5DT

Tel: 01235 539444

197 Kennington Road, Kennington. OX1 5PG

Tel 01865 736144

www.tonksbrothers.com

'Proud to be a family business'

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT



Hi, all,

SESRO (Southeast Strategic Reservoir Option) news

a.k.a “White Elephant Reservoir”

Following an earlier letter to the Minister, we had a standard dismissive response, but with one very interesting element within it. In response to our concerns over the Dam Breach issues, the Minister stated (in an official letter which we can now cite) that Thames Water would be required to produce the Dam Breach Analysis for the DCO.

This is a significant shift, as Thames Water had been insisting that they only need to do it prior to filling the reservoir (that is – after DCO, after design, after construction, but before first filling it – so far too late to back out).

This was confirmed in a presentation by Thames Water to Parish Councils (and very helpfully picked up by GARD as well). This will NOT be allowed to go by. Personally, I intend to insist that Emergency Drawdown details, Flood Management, and all Emergency Plans should be presented at DCO as well, which could be problematic for Thames Water’s designs to get this approved. After all, if the Dam Breach Analysis is needed for it, surely these should be as well?

We’ve also learned that they still haven’t got lab results for their Clay Compaction Trial. They also intend to build a spur off of the A34 between the Drayton and Abingdon interchange, but have not given any reason why.

New Garden Waste Permits

Last reminder for the reapplication for the new Garden Waste Permit for the next year (from 1st of April to 31st of March). Those of us with Brown Bins for Garden Waste will need to apply for next year’s permit before the end of March. Details here:

<https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/garden-waste/> (or by telephone here: 01235 422422).

If you miss this, you can still apply at any point afterwards, but there’s no reduced fee for missing any months, so it makes sense to get it done before the first collection.



Bringing empty homes back into use

Over the past year, we’ve worked with the owners of 854 empty properties to understand why they are empty and offer support. This has already helped 232 homes return to use across South Oxfordshire and the Vale. Some of these homes are unoccupied for a good reason – such as undergoing major refurbishment or awaiting sale. There are still around 1,162 homes that could potentially become homes again for residents. The councils offer homeowners information, advice and support to bring their empty properties back into use, including:

- Help to make the property more energy efficient
- Refurbishing the property including VAT reduction for renovation and alteration works
- Additional revenue by renting the property to a tenant in housing need, alongside financial assistance if the property requires minor refurbishment works before being let
- Additional revenue by letting privately
- Selling the property privately, through an estate agent or through auction

Property owners can find out more about the help available and how to report an empty property at: whitehorsedc.gov.uk/empty-homes

Community Hub – support

Once more, if you need help, do not hesitate to contact the Community Hub for support:

Community Hub: Tel: 01235 422600

Email: communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk

Website: whitehorsedc.gov.uk/costofliving

Office hours: 8.30am-5pm M-Th, 8.30am-4.30pm Fridays.

All the best,
Andy Cooke

The Red Lion, Drayton

Open Daily Monday – Sunday. Kitchen Hours –

Thursday & Friday 12 - 2 5 - 8

Saturday 12 - 8

Sunday 12 - 4

Conor & Amelia and the team welcome you in the warm, forget about the cost of living – turn off the heating and come enjoy ours! ... and maybe have a pint while you’re at it. Come enjoy delicious comfort food this cold season & let us do the cooking.

Dog Friendly. Families welcome. Regular Entertainment. All Sky Sports channels. Six Nations shown live. Free pool Tuesdays.

Free Jukebox Sundays. Sunday Roasts served.

Follow our Social Media



For Enquiries Contact us at:
manager@redlionabingdon.co.uk



The Red Lion, Drayton, OX144JB, 01235 799108.

Architectural Design Services

Over 40 years experience in the Building Industry.
Plans and Specification prepared on Autocad for
Planning Permission and Building Regulations Approval
for all kinds of Building Work. Contact: Steve Lester
stevelesterads@gmail.com Mobile 07818-751526

EVERLAST ROOFING SERVICES

New Roofs • All Flat Roofs • Tiling & Slating
Demossing Chimney • Repairs & Pointing
Fascias & Guttering • All Repairs • 24/7 Call Out
No job too small

01235 612576 **Checkatrade** 07553 911258
quote@everlastroofingservices.co.uk



TAYLORED ELECTRICAL SERVICES

QUALIFIED. EXPERIENCED. RELIABLE.

Call: 07841677921

Email: taylored.electrical@outlook.com



Rosie's Hair Lodge in Drayton

I am open Monday to Friday 9.30 - 2.30.

Please ring or message me on **07842848784**

Or find me on Facebook

by searching for Rosie's Hair Lodge.

A.L.VICKERY AND SON

Hardware and much more

**Keys Cut while you wait,
cookshop, housewares,
tools, gardening...**

...you'll save money, time
And mileage when you try

Vickery's first!

5 The Green, Drayton,
Abingdon OX14 4JA
Telephone 01235 531497

Just park outside!

OPEN Monday to Saturday
9:30am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm. Lunch 1pm to 2pm






ABINGDON & DIDCOT
Locally owned by Vets,
Dan & Lucy.
Proudly offering trusted
care for your pets.

Laparoscopic (Keyhole) Surgery, BOAS
Digital X-ray & Ultrasound, Cardiology, Orthopaedics
Chemotherapy & Cancer Treatment

& so much more!

Abingdon



01865 347596
07456469397

← Scan to register →



Didcot



01235 462350
07701 410156

A. Gibbard & Son
High quality interior & exterior
painting & decorating
Mob: 07759 842388

CARDY CARS

Oxfordshire's Female Owned & Operated Taxi Service

Easy booking online any time

Or give us a call

www.cardycars.com

0800 404 5670



@cardycars

“Hello, we are your friendly, local taxi service for
advance bookings in Drayton and the surrounding
area, so give us a call to book your next journey.
We're here to help!” – Mya at Cardy Cars



The BEST prices for Airport Transfers!

+ Hospital & Doctor Appointments | Restaurants
Concerts | Shows | Sporting Events | Shopping Trips

Get 10% off your next booking with code: **DRAYTON10**

Terms: One use per customer; cannot be combined with any other discount; valid until 30/06/2026.



WhatsApp & Text
07588 588 640



Email
book@cardycars.com

LOCAL GROUPS

DRAYTON WIVES

Our meeting this month was called The History of the Traditional Toastmaster and the speaker was Jim Macleod.

Mr Macleod has been a professional toastmaster and celebrant for over 20yrs along with playing walking football for Oxford United and the Republic of Ireland. A very varied life!!!

The role of the Toastmaster is a cross between being a presenter, consultant, focal point and a link between the vendor and the venue.

He is responsible for the Etiquette of the proceedings which is from the French word meaning the code of conduct.

When people shake hands it is a sign that denotes no violence but friendship as it is clear neither have any weapons!!

The Toastmaster raises many glasses for toasts at private functions and weddings but a smaller glass is used to stop the Toastmaster from imbibing too much!

William Knight Smith was the first Toastmaster and invented the red coat to look different but there is a group of toastmasters who wear blue and only wear red for the King.

Ivor Spencer was the most famous toastmaster and worked for the Queen. One time the Queen was given the largest bottle of champagne a Jereboam, and decided to open it on the night, so the toastmaster had to open it

A Toastmaster is popular at weddings to organise the guests and keep control and to add gravitas to the proceedings. The bride will always stand on the left of the groom as this allows the groom to draw his sword if necessary.

There are many traditions for weddings, even the day to marry:

Monday will give you wealth

Tuesday health

Wednesday is the best day all round

Thursday is for losses

Friday is for crosses and and Saturday has no luck at all

The wedding certificate is the property of the bride and it may be the only thing she owns.

The talk was excellent with lots of information dotted with plenty of laughter and stories.

Lisa Lammiman
Chairman



DRAYTON TABLE TENNIS CLUB



The Table Tennis Club's cadet's competition took place on 16th March. With 10 of our young players entered it was a busy evening. Split into two groups of 5 they played a round robin event using a handicap system to try and ensure an equal chance. With the top two in each group progressing to the semi-finals. The two finalists are brothers Arthur and Wilfred Jarrett. The final was a very close affair with younger brother Wilfred winning through to become this year's Cadet Champion.

In the doubles competition the pairs were again selected to place the weaker players with the stronger. The 5 teams played each other and once again Wilfred won through accompanied by his partner Dorian Marlin. The runners up were Oliver Gifford and Callum Moran who incidentally was a doubles winner last year.

Two of our club teams have reached the last 8 of the DDTA Handicap Shield competition. However, they will play each other so we are sure of a semi-final team that will be either Flamingos or Galahs.

In the Bidmead Cup our club team of Matt Davies, Chris Blencowe and Oliver Gifford have also got to the semi final where they will play SOFEA table tennis club. Fingers crossed that we progress to both finals.

John Gould
Chairman

DRAYTON WIVES

In February 2026, we welcomed David Barber, His Majesty the King's Swan Marker. During his visit, we learned about the different types of swans and the long history of Swan Upping, a tradition dating back to 966. Swan Upping takes place on the River Thames between Sunbury and Abingdon-on-Thames and lasts for five days. Today, the event is carried out mainly for conservation and educational purposes. Members of the Royal Family and other well-known figures sometimes take part in this historic tradition.

In March we had our annual meeting followed by a lovely selection of puddings! We talked about the year ahead and the many things we have planned. Our programme is all done and we have lots of fabulous speakers and activities!

Our April Meeting will be a gentleman talking about his life as a Hong Kong Policeman!

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

Georgina Arnold



COOMBES

Home Improvements

ELECTRICAL • KITCHENS • BATHROOMS

m 07827 258818

e dean@coombeshomeimprovements.co.uk

www.coombeshomeimprovements.co.uk



R & R Landscaping

Richard and Ryan Seamark
randrlandscaping12@outlook.com
07565421637 / 07498399521
Call or email us today!
42 Abingdon Road, Drayton

We undertake projects of all shapes and sizes. We specialise in:

- Garden Maintenance
- Garden Clearance
- Turf Laying
- Patios
- Fencing
- And much more

NEED A PLUMBER FOR THE SMALL JOBS?
5 STAR SERVICE ★★★★★

07526 304050
taps-toilets.co.uk



Martin Hudson Flooring

Hudsonmartin@hotmail.co.uk | 07590192298

Martin Hudson

Floor Layer

Carpet, Vinyl, Lino & Luxury Vinyl Tiles

Local Dog Walking

I will walk and feed your dog while you are out
DBS checked and fully insured
Instagram: [pawsome_walkiesx](https://www.instagram.com/pawsome_walkiesx)
E: pawsomewalkies5@gmail.com
Phone: 07493830191



THE Oxford

WINDOW REPAIR

COMPANY

The Wooden Window Renovation Specialists

Flaking paint and cracked putty on your wooden windows and cills?

We specialise in repair and renovation to give your windows a new lease of life!

We cut out rotten wood and replace with new timber.

We replace failed single/double glazing

Combined with modern & traditional paint solutions to give an excellent finish inside and out

We are accredited suppliers and installers of Fineo© Vacuum Glazing

We also specialise in wood treatments, oils, stains and varnishes

Maintenance contracts & references are also available for peace of mind

All work guaranteed

Call us for your free estimate 07880 560 403

www.oxfordwindowrepair.com

YOUR LOCAL GARAGE

Servicing all makes and models of vehicles,
Diagnostics, General Repairs,
Tyres, Exhaust, Air Conditioning, MOT's



www.autocheckoxfordltd.com

autocheckoxfordltd@gmail.com

Unit 3, Cuebar Court, Lashford Lane, Dry
Sandford,
OX13 6EB.

01865 730011

Courtesy cars available

Free collect and delivery service

ProClean

Housekeeping Services

Sue Oliver



Fully Insured & all Staff are DBS checked.

All equipment & cleaning products supplied.

Call now or email for a quotation

East Way, Drayton, Abingdon - Tel: (01235) 468402

Email: sue@hsoliver.co.uk

Happy Easter!

Roads

Last month, the A34 Milton/Didcot Interchange had its long-awaited re-surfacing, which was great, apart from the road markings, forcing an emergency night closure the following day to re-paint them. Now, all should be fine, and works continues on track with Steventon lights project, which will complete before the HIFI road work starts.

The new HIFI road bypasses Clifton Hampden, runs past Culham Campus, and then across a new bridge across the Thames between Appleford and Sutton Courtenay, around Didcot, through the new Data Quarter, to link into the A34 Milton Interchanged, removing a lot of today's rat runs and congestion. However, to build it requires a lot of construction through to 2028.

For our section between the A34 and the river, the HIFI project team are planning for most construction materials to be delivered by train to Appleford Sidings, and for the rest to use the existing internal corridor roads used by FCC, Hanson Heidelberg and Forterra, via Colletts roundabout north of Didcot, meaning little disruption to our villages.

However for the second half of the project – from around July 2027, there will need to be some road closures of the B4016 between Sutton Courtenay and Appleford to tie it in with the new road, and we are liaising with the planners and contractors to work out the least disruptive way to do this, and any contingencies that need to be put in place. Appleford have held two public meetings to discuss this as they will be most affected, so we can create the best plans for this.

Water

In other news, Thames Water have written to me to apologise for the sewage overflow onto Oday Hill ditch next to the Peep'o'Day Lane cycle path. They received a report of pollution at this location on 26 February, and attended the same day to investigate. The sewage overflow was due to the heavy rainfall that also resulted in Abingdon Sewage Treatment Works discharging excess storm overflows into the watercourse. The brook it fed into became blocked up away from their site boundary, meaning the flows from these discharges were moving very slow and holding within in the brook. Site inspections continued on 27 February and 28 February following further reports of pollution. Thames Water state that recent discharges occurred in compliance with the permit at this location. Since January 2023 Thames Water have been providing near real-time notifications of discharges from our permitted discharge points. Their interactive map showing data for all these discharge points can be found at: <https://www.thameswater.co.uk/about-us/performance/river-health/investing-in-river-health>.

These notifications are designed to help people to decide whether or not to take part in recreational activities, such as swimming, in rivers and waterways. However, there are also other potential hazards in rivers, including bacteria and parasites in the water, from livestock and other animals, along with pollution from

farming, industry and roads. Works started on 5 March to clean the impacted stretch of the watercourse. For background, discharges are designed to happen automatically when, after heavy rain, more flow arrives than can be treated or stored, or when sewer networks become overloaded. Thames Water cannot completely control the amount of flow entering our sewers or arriving at the works and trying to do so would cause flooding somewhere else, from the sewers backing up. For this reason, the majority of sewage works are designed so that any surplus, above the amount the site is designed to treat, is diverted automatically to storm tanks and stored until incoming flows reduce and the works once again has spare treatment capacity. Once storm tanks are full, any excess overflows automatically to the river, because there is nowhere else for it to go.

I think that because Peep'o'day Lane was flooded for the previous few weeks, none of us could not see what was going on, until the floodwater subsided and the path could be re-used. If you do see any issue with sewage, please contact Thames Water's hotline on 0800 316 9800. Lines are always open.

Didcot Power Station

Lastly, last week, I visited Didcot Power Station, where I quizzed RWE (who run many power stations and most of our offshore wind farms). This was a few days after the USA and Israel started their war on Iran, causing the Straits of Hormuz to close to a fifth of the world's oil and gas, causing market mayhem, oil and gas prices to rocket globally, markets to fall, UK inflation and interest rate uncertainty, and the likelihood that electricity prices will soar when the next cap is recalculated. I asked RWE how they could help change the absurd situation where, although half our power is from wind and the most of the rest from the North Sea, our UK electricity prices are still set by oil and gas global markets, leaving us at the mercy of wars and atrocities beyond our control. Surely, we could move to direct long term supply contracts to avoid us being prone to world events. RWE acknowledged this absurdity (which should be addressed by Ofgem) and felt the answer lay in renewables like battery storage providing the peak power shortfalls in the future beyond gas. However, until then (2050 is the UK target), our local huge gas power station provides vital power in periods of low winds and high demand onto the national transmission network. In addition, great efforts have been made to reduce pollutants to microscopic levels (meaning acid rain and the like is a distant memory). RWE plan to open their national training centre on the site next year and this should create some local jobs. There have been zero safety incidents this year on a site where safety is paramount - this year is the 10th anniversary of the tragic events where four people died during the demolition works at Didcot A, whose lives were commemorated on 23rd February in a special service on the site.

Best Wishes to all

Peter Stevens

CPPM LOCKSMITHS

Locked Out
Key Snapped
Keys Lost
Faulty Locks
Lock Upgrades
UPVC Locks



Emergency Locksmith – 24 Hour Service

www.cppm.org.uk

email: colinpizzie@btinternet.com

Tel: 01235 239068 Mob: 07760 537147



HAVE YOU TRIED OUR

FREE RANGE EGGS?



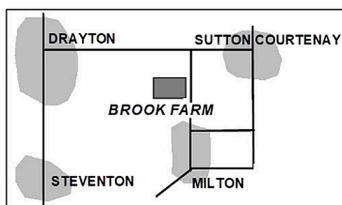
Brook
Farm

Brook Farm, Milton Road
OX14 4EZ

OPENING HOURS

Mon to Sat - 9.00am to 1.00pm Except Friday 9.00am to 6.00pm

FREE RANGE EGGS, & POTATOES (if available)



For more information and tickets, please visit
<https://sobellhouse.org/event/spring-stroll>

Spring Stroll

Sunday
10 May 2026
**Blenheim
Palace**



ANDY BRYAN BUILDERS

For all types of building work from a
reliable local company

Extensions, Alterations, Kitchens & Bathrooms,
Carpentry, Decorating, Patios, Plastering,
Roofing, Brickwork and Plumbing

MOB: 07905386150

HAIR THERAPY

MON/TUES : 9:15 - 5PM

WED : CLOSED

THURS : 9:15 - 7:30PM

FRI : 9:15 - 6PM

SAT : 9:15 - 3PM

CHILD/OAP PRICING

10% BLUE LIGHT DISCOUNT

CALL - 01235 399043

BOOKSOLO.CO/HAIR-THERAPY-SALON-BYJOANNE

DRAYTON TELEVISION SERVICES

Digital TV aerials installed

Extra aerial points

Television Wall mounting

New TV Sales

Satellite Sky or Freesat

FREE ESTIMATES

TV tuning and programming

Telephone: 01235 531451



Local reliable compassionate
care - Right at Home

Choose Vine Living!

- Flexible care plans
- Support that's truly yours
- Short term help
- Long term care
- Hospital to Home Service
- Respect and Consistency
- Skilled Caring staff
- Hand picked, fully trained, friendly professionals
- Familiar faces and companionship
- Trusted by NHS teams and private families
- Reputation built on reliability and quality

Call our dedicated staff on

01235 512344



DOG GROOMER

*GROOMING APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE NOW

THE DOG'S SPOT

DOG STORE

COFFEE SHOP

THE DOGSSPOT.CO.UK

2 HIGH ST, ABINGDON, OX14 5AX

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

MILLENNIUM GREEN

Drayton Millennium Green Easter Egg Hunt



Monday 6th April at 10:30

Please give a cash donation to take part on the day, suggested donation £3.00 minimum per child and

Please email events.dmgt@gmail.com with no. of children attending and how to prepay by bank transfer

No dogs please (not even Snoopy)
Suitable for 12 years and under

Dear Residents

I am writing to you on behalf of the Drayton Millennium Green Trust a non profit registered charity (Registered Charity number 1072020). As you may know, the Millennium Green is a vital public space for our village. It is maintained entirely by volunteers and funded by the generosity of the community to ensure the Millennium Green remains a beautiful place for everyone to enjoy.

This year, we are facing a big challenge in that we need to have up to 50 Ash trees removed due to a fungal disease called "Ash Die Back". Unfortunately no Grants are available for the felling of the trees so we need to fund this ourselves. We are also looking to replace the trees with native species for the future.

This is where you can help! After a few years' break we are going to run our hugely popular Easter Egg Hunt. This will be on Easter Monday, 6th April on the Millennium Green at 10.30. It's suitable for children up to the age of 12. If you'd like your children to take part I'd be really grateful if you could email me with numbers, so we can ensure we are fully stocked! We are looking for a minimum donation per child of £3.00 - this can be paid with the details that will be emailed to you. All donations will be used for this vital work to be carried out on the Green and is your way to help with the upkeep.

Please email me with numbers or any questions on the Easter Egg Hunt at events.dmgt@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you on Easter Monday for a lively morning!

Jane MCWHIRTER

Chair - Drayton Millennium Green Trust

THAMES VALLEY POLICE UPDATE



New Team Launched to help tackle criminals on our roads

Last month I joined Thames Valley Police Officers for the launch of the Force's new Roads Policing Unit (RPU) Tasking Team.

The RPU Tasking Team will deliver a more strategic and targeted approach to road safety across the Thames Valley using data and intelligence to identify areas of greatest risk and highest harm. The team will then proactively deploy to these locations to directly address the behaviours and offences driving those risks.

The creation of the Roads Policing Unit Tasking Team will be a major boost to Thames Valley Police's capability to bear down on the dangerous and illegal drivers who put others at risk and criminals using our roads.

In addition to their proactive work, the team will support local policing operations wherever possible and will also target those individuals known to us through intelligence, including those involved in drink or drug driving.

In a two day operation last month to mark the launch of the new team, police officers were joined by other agencies including Immigration Enforcement, HMRC, taxi licensing and Environmental Health.

During the operation 16 arrests were made for drug driving and immigration offences along with over a hundred dangerous vehicles taken off the road.

Of course this kind of work is what Roads Policing Officers do each and every day, but the purpose of this team is to be much more proactive. Previously officers would often be called on to respond to collisions on our roads or to assist other officers with arrests. The RPU Tasking Team is intended to focus more dedicated resources to take criminals and dangerous drivers off our roads.

Matthew Barber
Police & Crime Commissioner - Thames Valley

K. L. YATES BUILDERS

FOR ALL YOUR BUILDING SERVICES

Extensions and Alterations

Property Maintenance

Kitchens and Bathrooms

Carpentry and Tiling



Call RICHARD for an estimate on
01235 531275 or mobile 07788 738248

DRAYTON HISTORY: 1957 PLANE CRASH

In 1957, a plane carrying Alsatian sniffer dogs and their handlers, flying from R.A.F. Abingdon to Malta and Cyprus, crashed on Sutton Wick. Shortly after take-off between 10.00 am and 11.00 am on March 5th 1957 the plane was found to be losing fuel and the pilot was trying to get back to Abingdon.

Maurice Hutt lived in one of the terraced cottages next to the Millennium Green (Sutton Wick entrance) in Drayton. The then 17-year-old Maurice worked for T.H. Tombs (general builders and plumbers). He had a one-hour dinner break - he could cycle home for lunch in 10 minutes. As he cycled past Gainsborough Green, his uncle waved him down, he told him that a plane had crashed at Sutton Wick.

By the time he got half way to Drayton he could see black smoke and smell aviation fuel. With his heart beating fast he cycled through the wreckage area to his cottage. The front window was smashed and a large piece of wing was leaning against the house. This was about 100 yards from the crash site. His mother was in a state of shock. She'd been standing by the front window ironing when she heard a very loud unrecognisable noise. Using her knowledge of wartime procedures she moved to stand in the centre doorway of the cottage which is the strongest part of the cottage. The window where she had been standing ironing at the front of the house was shattered. She was shocked but unhurt.

The plane was heading for the aerodrome going low over the fields at the back of Webb's farm when one of its wings clipped some elm trees. (It was running low on fuel; it was alleged at a later date that mechanics had fitted a valve back to front and it wasn't letting fuel through). The jolt turned the plane at right angles on a collision course to the bungalows and farm. First in line was a caravan owned by Mr. James (now of Marcham Road), he and his wife were out at work. Next in line was a pre-fab where

the Binnington family lived. Mrs Binnington was at home, dealing with the electric-meter reader and both of them were killed outright. The house was demolished completely. Next to the pre-fab was a cottage where Mr. & Mrs. Stanton lived. Mrs. Stanton was injured but not seriously. The plane cartwheeled and ended up

with its tail on the roof of the farmhouse.

The pilot was badly burnt and lost an ear. Seventeen people were killed, 15 R.A.F. and two civilians. Many of the dogs were killed, others were shot, one lady kept one as a pet. (The others were mad with fear.) The co-pilot was found to be dead on the veranda at the farm.

Maurice's pet cat disappeared that day never to return. Nobody enquired about the part of the wing in Maurice's garden. The pilot was often seen in Drayton with terrible facial scars. He was befriended by Mrs. Beverley Smith (not her real name but named because she claimed to be first on the scene after the crash and being W.V.S. she was a great help). She was later awarded The

Oak Leaf for her services.

Mr Eric Webb saved three of the crew by pulling them from the wreckage. He and Phil Richards threw Vic Hurring, the pilot, into a horse trough to put out the flames on him.

Mr Webb was later awarded The British Empire Medal and The Industrial Heroism Medal for his bravery.



This article was written in June 2007 by Judy Henman and was originally published in the Drayton Chronicle, Vol. 30 No. 5

LETTER FROM WESTMINSTER



Update from Olly Glover MP

Spring is finally here, and I am pleased to say it has brought some great progress in the constituency, as well as hopeful developments in Parliament.

Roads

The roads have been a main topic of discussion, particularly the ongoing roadworks near Milton and Culham to improve road safety and the stepping up of pothole repairs now the weather has improved. There is more work to be done, so please continue reporting potholes and other defects on www.fixmystreet.com to make sure they are logged with the County Council.

As a regular cyclist myself, I raised concerns in parliament about the lack of government investment in active travel, which in many areas could reduce congestion, improve public health, and lower carbon emissions. In a Transport Committee meeting, we heard interesting evidence about the future of electric vehicles and the barriers which prevent them from being more widely used.

Museum

I asked the Department for Culture Media and Sport minister about the much-loved Vale and Downland Museum in Wantage, which, like many others, has battled against funding cuts to keep up the valuable work they do for the community.

Environment

In the Westminster Hall Debate on Environmental Protection and Biodiversity, I had the opportunity to raise the outstanding work of many local groups and organisations. Community action groups including The Letcombe Brooke Project, The Earth Trust, and Sustainable Didcot, need adequate support from the government to continue to protect the countryside that surrounds our constituency.

Student Loans

My team has received a significant amount of casework on student loan repayment plans, and I was able to raise two of these cases in a parliamentary debate. The Treasury Committee have now launched an inquiry into student and graduate finance to identify ways to make it fairer. If you are over 16 you can respond to their survey via www.parliament.uk/treascom

Research & Technology

Back in the constituency, I have had the pleasure of meeting Carbon-ion Energy, a tech company developing next-generation energy storage, and Agratas Innovation Lab, a cutting-edge research facility on battery manufacturing. At UTC in Didcot, I spoke with students and staff, answering questions about local and national political activities, and even shared my own curry recipe. 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.

Best wishes,
Olly Glover
MP for Didcot and Wantage Constituency

To receive my email updates for residents please sign up at oxonld.uk/ollynewsletter



- Business Stationery
- Leaflets & Flyers
- Newsletters
- Books & Booklets
- Reports & Manuals
- Cards & Calendars
- Large Format
- PVC Outdoor Banners
- Roller Banners
- Pop-Up Exhibition Stands
- Vehicle Graphics
- and much more...



Artisan Print and Sign Solutions

H4 & H5, Kingston Business Park,
Kingston Bagpuize, Oxon, OX13 5FB

print@artisanprintsolutions.co.uk
www.artisanprintsolutions.co.uk
01865 820088



SCAN ME

Sharman Roofing Ltd

GRP fibreglass flat-roofing specialist

tiling, slating, leadwork, guttering and fascias,
new builds, re-roofs, extensions,
maintenance & sheds

all work considered, call Mark on

07979 791075

sharmanroofingltd@gmail.com

We Clean Ovens

...so you don't have to!

Call us today to have your
cooking appliances sparkling, using
our own eco-friendly products.

Our oven cleaning experts will
leave you free to enjoy your
valuable leisure time.



oven
oven valeting service
Local | National | Affordable



TRUSTIST 5.0/5.0
★★★★★

01235 239938

griffin interiors

...soft furnishing solutions...

Interiors and soft furnishings workroom located in Appleford making quality handmade curtains, pelmets, blinds, cushions. Alterations. Headboards, loose covers and upholstery.

Poles, tracks and fitting service.

Design studio with extensive library of fabrics and trimmings.

Interiors mentoring to make your house a home.

Over 30 years' experience.

Off street parking.

Flexible opening hours by appointment

01235 847135/07808 762626

email: griffin.interiors.oxford@gmail.com

www.griffininteriorsoxford.com



TEL: 01235 239631

flat roofing specialists. tile repairs. Fascias, moss removal, guttering, leadwork, felt roofs. 10,15,20, year guarantees supplied with all roofing works
GET IN CONTACT FOR YOUR FREE QUOTATION
TEL: 01235 239631

EMAIL: abingdonfeltroofing@outlook.com

Web: Abingdonfeltroofing.co.uk

Proud members of

Checkatrade.com
Where reputation matters



Town Furlong Cattery

Kingston Road, Frilford

01865 391864

www.townfurlong.co.uk



Fun and Imaginative Dance Classes for Children 2-16 years

Book for a Free Taster Session!

Thursdays @ Steventon Village Hall

Wednesdays @ Northcourt Centre, Abingdon

Email: bettybloombdance@gmail.com

Website for more information: bettybloombdance.co.uk

Mobile: 07785 232862

L H GOODWIN professional decorator.

Our services include both domestic and commercial painting and decorating.

We are fully insured and all work guaranteed
25 years' experience – References available.

For a free estimate please call Leigh on

07789873483 or visit my website

www.lhgoodwin.co.uk

HALLS GARAGE

Established 60 years – Servicing and repairs

- MOTs
 - Batteries
 - Diagnostic Facilities
 - Vehicle Collection Service
 - All Makes and Models
- (Milton Park, Drayton, Steventon, Culham, Appleford, Sutton Courtenay)

mothallsgarage@gmail.com

Open 06:30 to 18:00 Mon-Fri

The High Street, Sutton Courtenay, ABINGDON, OX14 4AH
Tel: 01235 848236 • Mobile 07767165072



Make memories with our fabulous themed
teepee sleepovers and picnic parties

Sarah Coombes

07779 300054

peony_parties@outlook.com

www.peonyparties.co.uk



PROFESSIONAL GARDEN SERVICES

Stephen R. Matthews

50 Witan Way Wantage, OX12 9HB

Tel: 01235 766412

Mobile: 07796 532356

stephenmatthews.pgs@gmail.com

All kinds of work undertaken, including:

- garden maintenance and restoration
- fruit tree, shrub and rose pruning
- hedge cutting, turfing
- fencing and landscaping.



RIDGEWAY FUNERAL SERVICE

**A CHAPEL IN THE
HEART OF THE
COUNTRYSIDE**

Proprietor: Michael Didcock
Hill Farm, Church Lane
Steventon, OX13 6SW

www.ridgewayfuneralservice.co.uk

info@ridgewayfunerals.co.uk

01235 355269



DRAYTON HALL NEWS

Quilting

After the great success of the QUILTING Exhibition (in 2024), those ABBEY QUILTERS are back for a further show, weekend of April 18th & 19th (10 to 4pm). There is some exceptional handiwork on show – and they have a terrific raffle, some great prizes!

Antiques

It's another ANTIQUES Fair, Sunday April 5th, 9am to about 3pm, and a few new stalls apparently, that's plus Kathy running her excellent value cafe for one of her good causes (lovely breakfast!). Another one on May 3rd too.

Coffee Mornings

Kathy is also running Coffee Mornings in Hall on WEDS mornings (10 to midday), all for good causes, not just tea, coffee and cake, but a well-filled bacon sarnie if you like!

Hamster Show

Oh, advance notice, we have a Hamster show, May 9th, and they always run a class for assorted pet rodents, chance of a rosette?! More info next month.

Fire Extinguisher

The aftermath of the vandalism incident, late January, rumbles on. We never heard of the relevant parents taking responsibility, but as a result, the Youth Club (Damascus) – on whose 'watch' the incident happened – have decided to pause their sessions in Hall while seeking a resolution. It's unclear at present if they'll ever be able to resume.

If any parent noticed their son (or daughter?) coming home strangely wet early evening, Monday Jan 26th, (a fire extinguisher was stolen, and set-off) then maybe contact Damascus?

Clothes Recycling

Thanks to all those who bring clothes (and/or shoes) for the charity bin (in aid of the Child's Air Ambulance, a very good cause). BUT – partly due to the OCC's new and much criticised policy at recycling centres, we see bags dumped when the bin is full – and that's officially 'fly tipping'! The Hall gets charged to REMOVE them – which affects the community. OTHER CLOTHING bins are in the village, at the Red Lion and the 'Danes/Mace' shop, the local Tesco stores have them, and also at the Gainsborough Green shops. You can also put clothes out, in a carrier bag, by your green recycling bin (& in passing, small electricals in a bag on black bin day!).

Toddlers

Now, a shout out for our TODDLER GROUP (Thursday mornings), leader Tracey tells me that she has space for a few more little customers!

Exercise Classes

Our Friday exercise classes continue, KEEP FIT with FAYE, (11am for an hour --- seated if you prefer!). And mustn't forget PILATES (Tues mornings, Alex, she's been with us for ages), contact info on the back page.

Tony Holmes



Drayton Dosa Spices
Authentic Indian Restaurant & Bar

Authentic Indian Flavours
Tandoori, Curries, Biryani & Street Food
Paneer, Chicken, Lamb & Seafood Specials
Vintage Dhaba-style Ambiance

Generous Portions • Quality Ingredients • Unforgettable Taste

CALL: 01235 612388 BOOK ONLINE: www.draytondosaspices.co.uk
Download Our App & Get 10% OFF!

povall mechanics

**Family-run
automotive garage**

MOTs, servicing, repairs & more

Unit 6, Station Yard, Steventon, Oxon, OX13 6RX

Tel - 01235 635330
Email - office@povallmechanics.com
Web - www.povallmechanics.com

OXFORD WOOD RECYCLING

Celebrating 20 Years of Oxford Wood Recycling

For 20 years, we've been:

- Reclaiming good wood from waste
- Creating local jobs
- Supporting vulnerable adults

We need your help to keep our mission alive.

Our fundraising goal is
£20,000 over the next 20 months

Donations of any size are greatly appreciated

Scan the QR code to donate

Find us at 4 Suffolk Way,
Abingdon, OX14 5DX -
Tel: 01235 861228 - www.oxfordwoodrecycling.org.uk

DRAYTON DIARIES

(MOSTLY) HALL DIARY FOR APRIL

All events held in Drayton Hall unless otherwise stated. To book the Hall email **bookings@draytonvh.co.uk** or call **01235 531180**. Website: **www.draytonvh.co.uk**
To book the Caudwell DC contact **Vicky Malin, malinfamily27@gmail.com** or **07525 462630**. Or, for small meetings, the Church Hall may be okay; see the St Peter's page in this edition.

Sun 5th	9:00 am	Antiques Fair (to 3pm)
Wed 8th	10:00 am	Coffee Morning (weekly to noon)
Wed 8th	12.30pm	Private Function (wake)
Sat 11th	10:30 am	Private Function (child's party)
Mon 13th	7:00 pm	Parish Council Meeting (Caudwell DC)
Fri 17th	9:30 am	Private Function (all day)
Sat 18th	10:00 am	Abbey Quilters Exhibition to 4pm
Sun 19th	10:00 am	Abbey Quilters Exhibition to 4pm
Mon 20th	5.00 pm	Chronicle Deadline
Sat 25th		Private Function (all day)
Sun 26th		Private Function (all day)

REGULAR EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise. [## = Small Hall in Village Hall]
If an entry is incorrect, please contact an editor.

MONDAYS		
10:00am		Coffee Morning (Wives - 2 nd Monday) <i>Caudwell DC</i>
2:00pm		Short Mat Bowling Club Session
4.30PM		(Damascus Youth are taking a break; see their Facebook group for updates)
7:15pm		Badminton (seeking new members)
7:45pm		Bell-ringing for 1.5 hours <i>St Peter's</i>

Printed on FSC paper in Kingston Bagpuize
T. 01865 820088



TUESDAYS	
9:30am	Pilates (Alexandra Merson 07788 248925)
1:45pm	Drayton Art Group, till 4 pm (<i>Caudwell DC</i>)
2:30pm	Tuesday Connect - 1st Tues (<i>Church</i>)
6:30pm	Karate/'Dojang X' (Sabrina 07938 537310)
WEDNESDAYS	
10:00am	Pebbles Baby & Toddler Group (<i>Church</i>)
10:00am	Coffee Morning (for good causes, till noon)
1:30pm	Whist Drive (<i>Caudwell DC</i>)
1:45pm	U3A Science/Tech, 1st Wednesday (07890 385931) ##
2:00pm	Drayton Wives (last Wednesday, most months) ##
2:00pm	Badminton
6:00pm	Brownies (term-time) Laura 07916 459435 ##
6:45pm	Short Mat Bowling Club (seeking new members)
THURSDAYS	
9:30am	Parent & Toddler Group
9:45am	Holy Communion <i>St Peter's Lady Chapel</i>
11:00am	Baptist Café (to 1pm) <i>Caudwell DC</i>
2:00pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session
2:00pm	Crafts Group (2nd Thursday – run by U3A Kate 01235 550486) ##
5:30pm	Rainbows (girls 5 to 7 yrs) ##
7:30pm	Sequence Dancing (01235 531107)
7:30pm	WI meeting (2nd Thurs) <i>Caudwell DC</i>
7:30pm	Drayton Community Choir (2nd/4th Thurs) Kay 01235 204187 <i>Church Room</i>
FRIDAYS	
11:00am	Keep Fit with Faye 07815 583591
4:45pm	Karate/'Dojang X' (07938 537310)
SUNDAYS (see page 3 for all church services)	
6:00pm	Evening Service <i>Baptist Church</i>