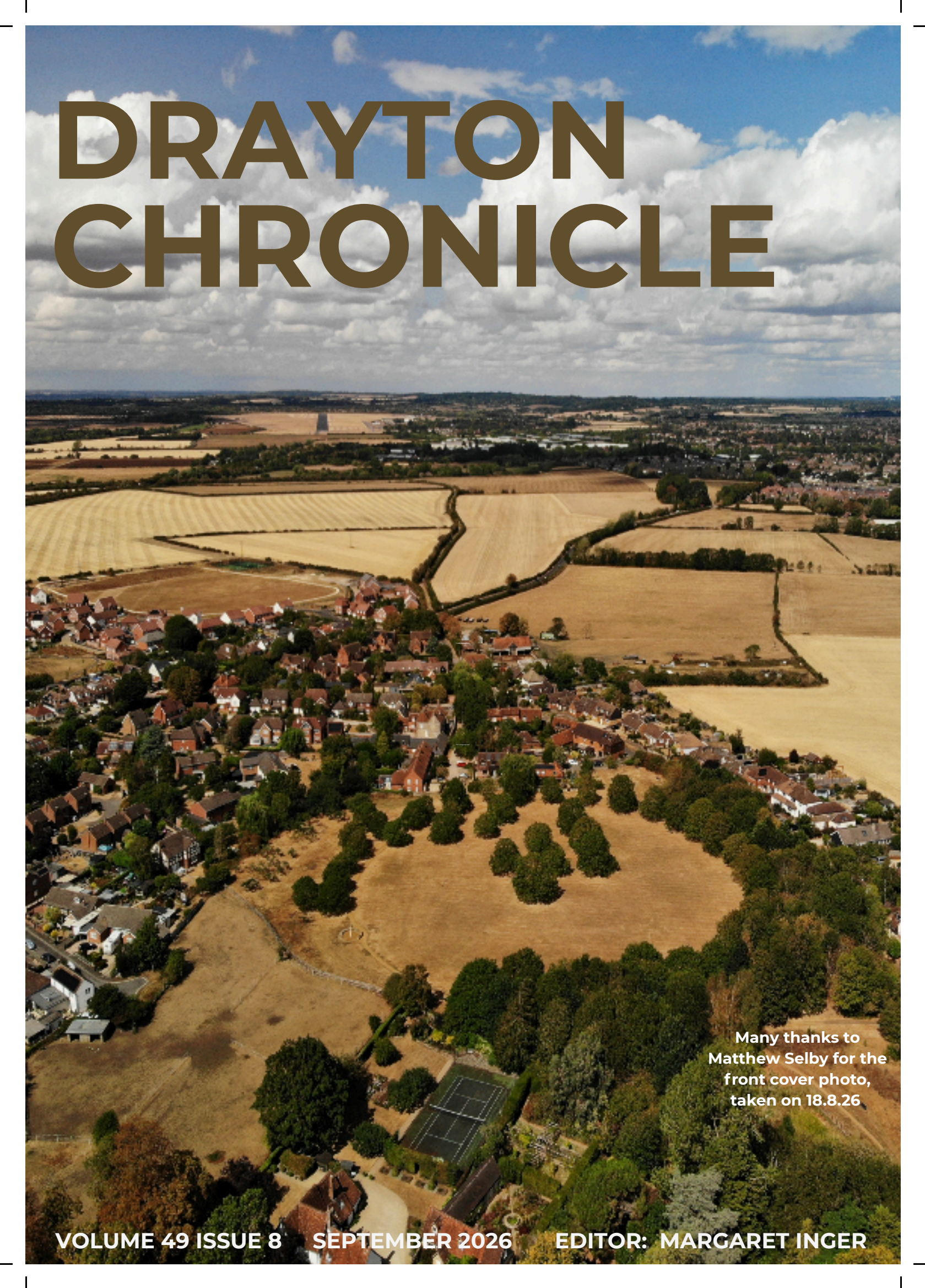


DRAYTON CHRONICLE



Many thanks to
Matthew Selby for the
front cover photo,
taken on 18.8.26

VOLUME 49 ISSUE 8 SEPTEMBER 2026 EDITOR: MARGARET INGER

CHRONICLE INFORMATION

KEY DATES

The next Drayton Chronicle will be the October issue, edited by Gaston Legris
editor@draytonchronicle.net

Issue	Advertising deadline	Contribution deadline
October	September 18th	September 21st
November	October 16th	October 19th

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.

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

Note that these inboxes are not monitored constantly; typically the production team works on the next issue during the middle two weeks of each month.

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.

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.

Requests for advertisements should (preferably) be emailed to the Chronicle advertising manager (**advertising@draytonchronicle.net**), or placed in the box at Vickery's. We will then contact you.

DAMASCUS

Parish Families

Harvest Festival

Afternoon

For families of all ages and sizes

Come and join us to celebrate Harvest with bread roll baking, games and cake

Sunday 27th September – 2-4pm

All Saints' Sutton Courtenay

River Room, OX14 4AE



The DAMASCUS Parish

Proverbs 1: Applied 1: Mission

Notkes Community 1: Stewards

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



The
DAMASCUS
Parish

Drayton | Appleford | Milton
Sutton Courtenay | Steventon

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

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

SERVICES INFORMATION: AUGUST 2026

Thursday 3rd	9:45 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 6th	9:30 am	Holy Communion
Thursday 10 th	9:45 am	Celtic Prayer
Sunday 13 th	10:30 am	DAMASCUS All age Holy Communion at St Michael and All Angels Steventon. NO service at St Peter's
Thursday 17 th	9:45 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 20 th	8.00 a.m	Holy Communion (BCP) with prayers for healing
	9:45 am	Holy Communion with prayers for healing
Thursday 24th	9:45 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 27 th	9.30 am	Morning Praise

REGULAR EVENTS

Mondays	2pm - 4pm	Knit & Natter (first Monday) No need to be a knitter, if you'd just like a natter
	7:30pm	Bellringing practice (each Monday)
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



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



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



St. Peter's Church Drayton



Concert 24th July

A big thank you to the musicians and everyone who came along to the concert at St. Peter's. £550 was raised for the upkeep of our Church.



Sam Croftall - saypash.com



Tyler Crampton - saypash.com



Stefan Andrich - saypash.com

YOU STAY WE PRAY

30th Aug - 5th Sept Friars Mews; Monk Close; Prior Drive; Abbot Crescent

6th - 12th Chestnut Drive; Holly Lane; Walnut Way; Willow Way

13th - 19th Furlongs; Plough Lane; Furrows End; Lammass Land; Virgate; Fallowfield Close

20th - 26th Lockway

27th - 3rd October Whitehorns Way

PARISH REGISTER

Funeral

11th June Teresa Taylor

Baptisms

7th June Talbot Preece

5th July George Andreas

Antonio Bregazzi

ST PETER'S CHURCH

From the DAMASCUS Ministry Team

A Thought to Ponder, from the Damascus Ministry Team

Come to me, all you that are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

(Matthew 11 : 28-30)

Reverend Helen Kendrick wrote, in her last letter from the DAMASCUS Ministry Team, about the need for taking a break, having a rest, and making time to relax.

"Going on holiday gives us the opportunity to take time off, to let go of the burdens that we carry every day." Jesus took time to withdraw from the crowds that followed him and his disciples. He invited them, and invites us also, saying "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest".

This month's thought to ponder is the next sentence: "Take my yoke upon you."

Nowadays it is not very often we come across animals or people wearing a yoke. A yoke is a frame fitted around the neck and shoulders of a person or animals, to carry or pull heavy objects. Jesus invites us to take his yoke; that he will share the load, share the burden we carry, share the baggage we carry.

Jesus invites us to bring to him all the burdens and all the baggage we carry and promises us that we will find release. When we accept his invitation, we will find his yoke to be marvellously light and easy.

There is an invitation to you to find out more about Jesus in a series of evening sessions starting in September, thanks to Reverends Ann and Peter Templeman. Look out for the poster for Exploring Faith for more details.

Rosie Bruce

Exploring Faith With Alpha

Led by Revs Ann and Peter Templeman at 5 Newman Lane, Drayton
Please email anntempleman@live.co.uk or call 07877 659156 if you would like to come along to one or more sessions, beginning Wednesday 16th September at 7.30pm.
See August Chronicle for poster on page 4

RIDE+STRIDE for Churches 2026



St Peter's is taking part in Ride + Stride again this year on Saturday 12th September - event details here:

We will have a team welcoming participants here at St Peter's. Also, a member of the team will be walking to visit as many churches as possible in one day!

Funds raised will be shared equally between Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust (OHCT) and St Peter's.

To take part as a welcomer please sign up on the form in St Peter's.
To cycle, walk or wheel, please email: stpetersdraytonabingdonrands@gmail.com (R + S only)
Sponsorship forms for all participants are available in St Peter's.

To support us, please donate here:



(St Peter's Team Fundraising page on Good Hub)



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

GARDEN PARTIES IN SUPPORT OF THE ABINGDON BRIDGE AND DAMASCUS

Anyone fortunate enough to secure a ticket in early August for one of two days when a garden party was held in the garden of Pervin Shahin truly struck gold!

It was a perfect day to partake in a harp concert by Pervin followed by a duet with harp and piano. The weather was just right, no rain (!) and the array of cups and saucers for a delicious cake tea was the 'icing on the cake'.

It was good to have representatives of both organisations present as they were able to explain the work they do. What was most impressive was that the young youth workers told their stories of how The Bridge and DAMASCUS had helped them and they were now training to help others who found themselves in a similar situation in their lives; an inspiring affirmation of the good work being done to help some young people in our area.

This event was put in place by The Arts Society Abingdon who have been long term supporters of both of these projects. A magnificent total of £1,250 was raised to help this work to continue.



Isla Smith



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



le tournesol
B A K E R Y

Le Tournesol bakery produces a boutique range of Sourdough loaves, continental breads and brioches. All hand made at our micro bakery here in Drayton.

SAMPLE MENU:

- Large sourdough
- Walnut sourdough
- Sunflower and sesame sourdough
- Demi baguette
- Ciabatta
- Raspberry and white chocolate brioche



AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY MORNINGS 7:30 - 10 AM

Simply check "le tournesol bakery" on Facebook for the weekly menu (or feel free to email with enquiries) and send an order to us at letournesolbakery42@gmail.com two days beforehand (this is so our lovely levain can work its magic!)

Follow us and enquiries:

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.

Co-op groceries are also available for sale here.

Small bakery cakes, biscuits and Fresh sandwiches

NOW WITH PAYPOINT

TEL: 01235 554813

E: danestores@gmail.com






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



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

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

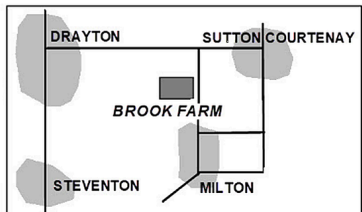
HAVE YOU TRIED OUR **FREE RANGE EGGS?**



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)





Resonate
HEARING CENTRE

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



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

Olly Glover MP

Richard Webber

Summer Tour

As the Government undergoes many changes during the summer, I am grateful for the time I can spend in the constituency on my summer tour, as well as visiting many local organisations.

The summer tour is a wonderful opportunity for me to speak with constituents from across the constituency, listen to their local concerns and ongoing challenges, and better understand how I can represent their views in Parliament. So far, I have visited Sandford-on-Thames, East Hendred, Steventon, East Hanney and Childrey. If you were unable to attend a surgery, you can request an appointment at any time throughout the year by emailing olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk.

It has also been great to participate in summer events, including Letcombe Valley's Discovery Day and Didcot's Ed Fest. We are fortunate to have wonderful community cafés, including the Cornerstone Café in Grove and the Talking Shop Café in Sandford-on-Thames. Supported by volunteers, these are fantastic community spaces, and I enjoyed visiting them both.

SOFEA

I also met with SOFEA in Didcot to see its warehouse, where surplus food is distributed to community larders across Oxfordshire, and young people who have struggled at school or with social exclusion are assisted into the workplace. In addition, I met with the Orchard Centre management and Nexus to discuss reducing traffic congestion at Hitchcock Way and improving administration of car parking charges. I also visited the King's Arms pub in Sandford-on-Thames, to understand their business challenges, and to discuss the new support available from South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils for pubs and rural businesses.

Science and Technology Facilities Council

The proposed cuts to the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) risk job security and could hinder vital space and science research. I visited Diamond Light Source at Harwell Campus, where staff explained in greater detail the potential impact of these cuts on major collaborative projects and the possible loss of specialist research capabilities. Alongside my Liberal Democrat colleagues who represent constituencies with significant STFC-funded facilities, I have written to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, urging the Government to protect our vital science centres.

My team and I also welcomed three work experience students from local sixth forms for a week, giving them insight into the work of a constituency office and the role of an MP.

As always, if there is anything I can help with, please contact my team at olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk or leave a voicemail on 0207 219 7657.

Olly Glover

MP for the Didcot and Wantage Constituency

OBITUARY



It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of Richard Webber, a much-loved member of the Drayton Community.

Richard and his family lived in and around Drayton from 1976 onwards. For many years he was a dedicated advocate for the village as both District and County Councillor for over a decade until 2024. He worked very closely with the Parish Council and with local on issues that mattered most to the community including the development of Drayton's Neighbourhood Plan, supporting the Millennium Green and securing vital community funding, alongside quietly helping to resolve the countless everyday concerns that rarely make headlines.

Richard was a hugely active member of the community beyond local politics, especially in community music, drama and the church. He was an active member of Drayton Players for over thirty years, often acting and directing in sellout shows at Drayton Village Hall, from *My Fair Lady*, to *Oliver Twist*, to *The Importance of Being Earnest*. He even wrote and directed two musicals: *Hooray Henley* and *Boudica*. He was a committed member of the local St Peter's Church, singing and performing in its choir for many years as a lead tenor.

Edward Webber

He will be greatly missed and our thoughts are with his wife Catherine, their 4 children (Rebecca, Sophie, Edward and Richard junior), 9 grandchildren and their wider family.

GROUP AGAINST RESERVOIR DEVELOPMENT (GARD) UPDATE

With hosepipe bans and dry weather in the news, it can seem as if a new reservoir is the obvious answer. GARD (the Group Against Reservoir Development) believes that there are better, quicker and less damaging ways to secure our water supplies. It has been preparing its response to the White Horse Reservoir planning process, holding local Action Days and raising awareness across the area. It is also planning a crowdfunder for the autumn to help pay for expert and legal advice.

PLANNING:

GARD is preparing its formal objection to Thames Water's plans. The main concern is that the consultation did not give people enough clear information about design, safety, flooding, traffic, wildlife, water quality or the impact on local communities.

FLOOD RISK:

Thames Water has still not published enough detail on flood risk. GARD is working with an independent expert to look at what could happen if the reservoir failed or had to be emptied quickly.

ACTION DAYS:

Deborah Bennett, GARD's new Vice Chair, has been leading GARD's summer Action Days. Volunteers have spoken to people in Abingdon, Wantage, Peachcroft Farm, Truck Festival and beyond. Thank you to everyone who helped.

Two points came up again and again at these awareness-raising sessions:

•**WE NEED WATER:** yes, but Thames Water loses a huge amount of treated drinking water through leaks. Fixing leaks would be cheaper, quicker and less damaging than building a vast new reservoir. It should be the first priority.

•**WHAT IF THAMES WATER CHANGES OWNERSHIP?**
If the company ends up in public ownership, the reservoir would not automatically stop. But it is likely to be delayed while the new government looks at costs, management and alternatives, some of which – specifically the Severn Trent–Thames Transfer – could be put in place much sooner, and at much less cost.



PETITION:

Thank you to everyone who has signed or helped collect signatures. We now have 7,800+. Please help us reach 10,000.

Spread the word:

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/stop-thames-water-s-plans-for-a-devastating-mega-reservoir>

CROWDFUNDER:

GARD is planning to crowdfund to help pay for expert and legal advice. If you have experience in crowdfunding or fundraising in general and would like to help, please contact gard.secretary@gmail.com.

WORKING WITH OTHERS:

GARD is working with local councils and parish councils so that concerns about the reservoir are clearly heard during the planning process.

REMEMBER: PEOPLE MATTER – TOGETHER WE HAVE A VOICE.

Cate Dominian
GARD Secretary

If you have concerns about the mega-reservoir, make your voice heard by contacting the NEW Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Following Prime Minister Andy Burnham's recent re-organisation, this is now:

Angela Eagle MP

Write to: angela.eagle.mp@parliament.uk, or
Postal address = Angela Eagle MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



The Council met on August 13th

Grant Applications

Organisations wishing to apply for a grant from the Parish Council are urged to apply sooner rather than later. Guidance and application form can be found on the Drayton Parish Council web site. If you are hoping for a grant from us during the financial year 2027/28 it helps if you get the application in before we set next year's budget later this year.

Walnut Meadows

The good news is that we have been able to open the MUGAs (Multi-Use Games Areas) from 8am-8pm for the whole of the school summer holidays. They have been well used and also well looked after by members of the community. The Damascus youth project use them on a Monday evenings and numbers of young people attending are around 15 per week which is brilliant.

We are progressing with pre-planning application advice for placing three Padel courts on site. Combining elements of tennis and squash, Padel is one of the fastest growing sports in the UK. The Parish Council is working with a group of private individuals who would fund the construction of the courts and operate them as part of the new sports facilities. We hope to start construction of the pavilion in 2027 with a construction phase of 12-18 months.

A perimeter gate has been installed in the Heras fencing near the play area at the top of the site. A height barrier will soon be installed at the entrance to the site.

Three youth football Teams have signed up to start using the pitches from October. Our Programme Manager has submitted a grant application to the Football Association for goalposts and nets. We are looking to install portable toilet facilities pending the construction of the pavilion.

Once the pavilion is in place the toilets and showers will use the pumping station situated next to the entrance to the site. Use of this pumping station by the sports facilities was part of the original planning permission for the site. The Parish Council will pay a fair share of the operating and maintenance costs. We are in discussion with the Management Company on this issue.

The sports facilities were planned at the time that the Drayton 2020 plan was adopted. It has taken approximately 10 years to get to the point where we have started to deliver some benefits to the village. Progress has been hampered by COVID, increased construction costs and the need to battle with the developers to get them to put right all the elements that made earlier construction of the facilities impossible.

Traffic Calming

Unbelievably, after years of nagging and some tantrums, the VAS (Vehicle-activated Sign) near the entrance to the village from the Sutton Courtenay end, is now working!

On other traffic calming measures final designs for the traffic calming measures at the Walnut Meadows junction and the High St have been approved by OCC Highways. Although welcome, the designs have been delayed within OCC and perversely now include work on the crossing and raised table near Manor Farm which was not on the PC's priority list. We have gone back to OCC on this as our priorities are for a crossing on the High Street and a crossing and platform at the entrance to Walnut Meadows. This will be paid for with S106 money.

Need for Parish Councillors

Another month, same old plea. We have 6 Councillors and should have 11! We could achieve so much more with a bigger team. If you are interested, please email one of us or contact the Clerk on clerk@Draytonparish.gov.uk.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Caudwell Day Centre, Gravel Lane at:

7pm on September 14th.

Elaine Wade

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

CPPM LOCKSMITHS

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



Emergency Locksmith – 24 Hour Service

www.cppm.org.uk

email: info@locksmithoxford.co.uk

Tel: 01235 239068 Mob: 07760 537147



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

KOGELS of Abingdon Limited

HOME EXTENSION SPECIALISTS
AND GENERAL BUILDING CONTRACTORS

72 Steventon Road
Drayton

Tel: Abingdon (01235) 531200 Abingdon
Email: kogelsfabingdon@btconnect.com Oxon
www.kogelsfabingdon.co.uk OX14 4LD

Suzy 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**



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

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

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 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



If your dog is showing any of these signs, I can help make
them more comfortable. Limping, Lameness, Bunny
hopping, Slow to rise or sit, stiff when they first get out of
bed, reluctance to be groomed or behaviour changes.

Mobile: 0770 449 2862

Email: info@soloclinicalcaninemassage.com

Based in Steventon, I treat all dogs with bespoke
treatment using a combination of Swedish, Sports,
Deep Tissue Massage, Myofascial Release, The Lenton
Method™ & Manual Lymphatic Drainage.



**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.

Local Government Reorganisation

We're finding out as much as we can about the Council reorganisation decision that Government have made. It is confirmed that we will be a new Unitary Council – Ridgeway, consisting of most of the Vale (minus wards and parishes in the Green Belt, which go to Greater Oxford), most of South Oxfordshire (similarly losing Green Belt wards and parishes), and West Berkshire. Of all three Unitary Councils for Oxfordshire, it's likely we will be the most financially stable and resilient (the three council option was the least resilient one on offer, but the worst impact is on the other two councils).

We will have a total of 88 councillors across all of Ridgeway (a decrease from today). We have been told that this is a non-negotiable decree by Government. The wards that will come out are still under negotiation, but I understand that in all proposals, there will be two members for the area covered by the County Council Division of which Drayton is a part (covering Drayton, Steventon, Sutton Courtenay, and Milton), who currently have three District Councillors and one County Councillor. The more difficult discussions, I understand, involve ones where the County Division is pulled apart by the loss of parishes to Greater Oxford (such as Marcham & Cumnor).

All responsibilities for both County Council matters and District Council matters will fall under the purview of the new Unitary Councillors. There should be elections for the Unitary Councillor positions from April next year – before the new Unitary Council comes into being. These are "Shadow Councillors" to begin with, elected to a "Shadow Council." The idea is that it transitions into existence smoothly thereafter, like synchromesh when changing gear. We'll see how it goes.

Planning Committee Changes

The Government have also decreed a change to Planning across the country, with wide-ranging implications for all Planning applications. At the moment, about 80% of planning applications go straight to professional Planning Officers for decision (usually the everyday ones and smaller ones), with larger ones going to Planning Committee. As a safety valve, Councillors can "call in" any application to be decided by the Planning Committee (as long as they have some grounds to do so).

From the beginning of November, however, almost all planning applications will go to Planning Officers only; only the very largest, most complex, or highly controversial projects will still go to Planning Committee. Councillors will not be able to call in applications to Committee unless they can pass a strict "gateway test," which involves having to prove the project has a massive impact on the wider area.

A special Council meeting has been called in September to discuss the implications of this and the changes needed to Planning and the Council constitution because of it.

SESRO News

Sorry, I mean "Fluffy Bunny Reservoir" or "White Elephant Reservoir" news. Following our motion to Government and letter to the Secretary of State requesting targeted consultations under

statutory law to require Thames Water to cover the major unanswered questions around groundwater flooding, Dam Breach, Emergency Drawdown, water quality and environment, construction traffic and logistic impacts, and security implications – well, we haven't had a reply. There has, though, been a reaction. Government changed the law on 24th July removing the statutory requirement for such consultation, which does feel like changing the rules as you go.

Thames Water will, though, still need to answer questions at the DCO application in November or December and we will keep pushing for this.

Thames Water also released a survey in which 53% of people supported the reservoir, whilst only 39% trusted Thames Water to do the right thing. You may have seen this reported as "nine in ten support the reservoir" with no mention of the latter fact. This is because they unaccountably failed to highlight that the actual initial response was as I just mentioned, but after playing the interviewees their PR slides (which you may have seen at one of their "outreach" programmes) that made it look wonderful and fail to cover the negatives, risks, and questions, they could get it up to 89%.

Bank Holiday Bins

Due to the bank holiday, bin collections will take place a day later than usual in the week from 31 August to 5 September.

Community Hub – support

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

Tel: **01235 422600**

Email: communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk

Website: whitehorsedc.gov.uk/costofliving

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

All the best,

Andy Cooke

Cllr Andy Cooke, Drayton Ward, VoWHDC

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 536642

Email: sue@hsoliver.co.uk

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

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

ABLE GARDEN Services

Professional Tree Surgery & Landscaping

Tree Felling	Stump Grinding
Topping	Ivy & Climbers Pruned
Pruning and Shaping	Fencing & Turfing
Hedge Cutting	Mulching & Graveling

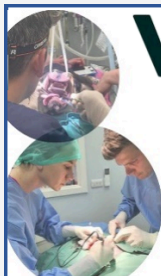
**ALL TYPES OF LANDSCAPING & FENCING WORKS
UNDERTAKEN NO JOB TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL**

All green and garden waste removed

Tel: 01865 475223 or 07391 204145

24 HOUR EMERGENCY CALL OUT

FULLY
INSURED



Vets for Pets

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



← Scan to register →



Didcot



01865 347596

07456469397

01235 462350

07701 410156

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



TAYLORED ELECTRICAL SERVICES

QUALIFIED. EXPERIENCED. RELIABLE.

Call: 07841677921

Email: taylorred.electrical@outlook.com



SPENCER'S HOUSE CLEARANCE



Full or partial property clearance from
garage to attic whether you're downsizing
or moving home, including bereavement
or probate, ensuring every item is
handled with dignity.



No job too big or too small. We clear the
entire property quickly and respectfully.



All items are disposed of or recycled in
a responsible manner including local
charities.



Please contact:



Spencer Hathaway



07889 071810



spencerhathaway20@gmail.com



Cordelia Littlefield



07384 568957



littlefieldcordelia@gmail.com



Clearing homes with care. Supporting our community.



LOCAL GROUPS

TABLE TENNIS CLUB



The club AGM and Pre Season Meetings were held in the last couple of months. All the officers / committee members retained their roles, and the members were very pleased they have done so!

Awards were given to three deserving recipients. Matt Harding received the Alan Bachrach Club Person of the Year Cup. Matt has done a brilliant job, running the club with some new initiatives and ensuring everything went swimmingly. Matt Davies the Oxford Fireplace Centre Senior Best Player Shield and Oliver Gifford awarded the Geoff Hoyland Junior Best Player Shield. The latter two given for their Didcot League performances over the 2025-26 season.

For those who are unaware, our current base is at Thameside School, Cotman Close, Abingdon. Coaching with Jonathan Cattell will recommence on September Monday 7th September from 7-8pm each Monday excluding Bank holidays. Anyone from age 9 -adult can come along to learn the sport or improve. We always welcome new members. From 8-10pm there will be general/ social play.

Our teams have been selected and the captains for each appointed. League matches will commence towards the end of September. Once again, we will enter 7 teams in the Didcot League. Home will be matches every Wednesday commencing 7.30pm.

John Gould
Chairman

DRAYTON W I

Drayton WI members enjoyed a wonderful afternoon tea at the beginning of August, kindly hosted by our Vice President. There were plenty of delicious scones, cakes and other lovely treats, and everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

The occasion also provided the perfect opportunity to surprise one of our committee members with a surprise special birthday celebration. It was a lovely afternoon of friendship, laughter and good food!

Our August meeting was a fun-filled Beetle Drive, followed by some essential administration as we prepare for a number of very exciting upcoming meetings and events. We are also busy getting ready for our Christmas Craft and Gift Fair, which will be held on Saturday 7th November at Drayton Village Hall. There will be plenty to look forward to, so please put the date in your diary!

Our next meeting promises to be particularly entertaining, with a talk and possibly some entertainment from the Oxfordshire Gang Show, who are about to begin rehearsals for their 75th show. We are looking forward to hearing more about this long-running local tradition and, hopefully, enjoying a little taste of their entertainment too!

We always welcome visitors at Drayton WI, so if you have ever thought about coming along, please do join us. Our meetings are usually held on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30pm at the Caudwell Day Centre, Gravel Lane. We would love to see you!

Georgina Arnold
Secretary, Drayton WI

DRAYTON WIVES

Our speaker this month was one of our very own members and good friend Josie Midwinter.

The talk was titled My Life in Secret Drawers. Josie came with a little cabinet of ten drawers where each drawer held a memory of her life.

The **first** drawer represented her achieving an MA in church history in 1997/1998 by containing a wise owl! Very appropriate.

The **second** was a matchbox containing Josie's special fudge recipe that she used to make in Uganda when she was there as a missionary. It was basic only containing sugar, milk and butter. Therefore homemade fudge for Auntie Josie is now in the drawer.

The **third** drawer contains a packet of chalk representing her teaching days in Uganda. Josie was known as a Chalk and Talk teacher but the chalk in Uganda was so bad her brother sent some English chalk to her!! Josie used to teach Church History but it was the Principal who decided who taught what subject. The **fourth** drawer contained a marriage certificate dated 1858 which started her interest in family trees. Henry Midwinter married Martha Lane. Thomas Midwinter was the father allegedly of Henry but he died 5 years before Henry was born. Whoops!!

The **fifth** drawer relates to her father who had a grocer and sweet shop in Didcot so it's a little grocers van. Josie also went on a school trip to Austria which was £25.00 with £5.00 spending money which she bought her mother a little dish.

The **sixth** drawer is a pair of walking boots which as everyone knows Josie is a keen Rambler.

The **seventh** drawer is a little lace handkerchief from a lady in her 90yrs who Josie used to visit. Which reminds Josie that Pastoral care is very important to everyone.

The **eighth** drawer contains two finger puppets - a lamb and a furry rabbit. We were then treated to a song by Josie as the puppets reminded her of her time at Drayton.

The **ninth** drawer was a little suitcase as she spent 8yrs in Uganda and 4yrs in Kenya and working abroad is different than holidaying!

The **bottom drawer** was the biggest and represented her Christian life. Her Pilgrimages are important to her one to the Holy Land, one to Ethiopia and the last one this year was to Assisi where her favourite saints are St Francis and St Clare are. These were Josie's life in ten drawers. How many drawers could your life fill?!!!

Lisa Lammiman

DOG
GROOMER

*GROOMING
APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE
NOW

THE DOG'S SPOT

THE DOGSSPOT.CO.UK

DOG
STORE

COFFEE
SHOP

2 HIGH ST, ABINGDON, OX14 5AX

01235 797386

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

COOMBES

Home Improvements

ELECTRICAL • KITCHENS • BATHROOMS

Dean Coombes
07827 258818
coombeshomeimprovements@gmail.com
www.coombeshomeimprovements.co.uk



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

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



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
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

NEED A PLUMBER FOR THE SMALL JOBS?
5 STAR SERVICE ★★★★★
07526 304050
taps-toilets.co.uk

DRAYTON GARDENS

Lawn Mowing & Gardening

YOUR LOCAL RELIABLE GARDENERS



Lawn Mowing
and Edging



Shrub & Rose
Pruning



Planting



Garden Border
Care



General Garden
Maintenance



Hedge
Trimming

Fully Insured



07764 657753



paulbiddle2@btinternet.com

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Dear all,

Thames Water

As I write, the scorching summer heat seems to be subsiding, albeit still with too little water for our needs. Central government law changes in July mean that the SESRO White Horse Reservoir no longer needs any further targeted consultation to address concerns over its over-sizing, ongoing cost burden for bill-payers, and impact on local flooding including from emergency discharges which could devastate local communities. Thames Water have also released customer research findings indicating approval for it. This may be the case, and we all know we need more climate resilience for water, including resilient regenerative agriculture, fixing leaks, recycling and wasting less, transferring from wetter areas, using more rainfall and grey water for areas which do not need expensive purified drinking water, and right-sized reservoirs. However, new reservoirs must be delivered in a safe and affordable way. I intend to continue to hold Thames Water and other stakeholders to account.

Thames Water Again

Otherwise, Thames Water have been great on helping to fix the Hobby Horse Lane across to Appleford, which is now restored and fully open. As well as thanking Phil Stride at Thames Water for finding the support and funding to repair the lane, I want to thank FCC for preparing the area, removing the flood silt, and re-working their water drainage plans to ensure surface water does not drain off their land to damage the lane in future, Oxfordshire County Council Public Rights of Way Access team for their expert support, and also to Simon Lazare for pushing us all until it got delivered.

Europa Bus Club

I am delighted to help the hugely well-run parent-led Europa Bus Club get a new contract to deliver local school bus services in such a way that makes sense commercially and environmentally, combining routes to provide the best way to get kids to school without clogging up roads. This fits nicely with the improvements locally for those who can cycle and walk. Work should now be finished on fixing the collapsed footpath over the heavily used Sutton Courtenay bridge, which is part of a series of improvements, including making the crossing safe at the Tollgate Road traffic lights, and, fingers crossed (subject to public consultation), a new zebra crossing to make it safe to cross at the other end – Agbingon/Appleford road T-junction.

Drayton's Speed Sign

For Drayton, the High Street speed sign entering the village has finally been repaired, and the work to make the speed limit 30mph along the windy and housed road between Sutton Courtenay and Drayton is now part of the speed review plan.

FCC

I have also been working with the Environment Agency to ensure they monitor and hold FCC to account to do what they can to contain the smells in this heat. Most of you will have seen the fire on the landfill, which the Chief Fire Officer confirmed as posing no risk to the public. I chair the liaison committee and will be discussing ongoing measures to make the site more resilient to future heatwaves.

Climate Change

Everyone should read the Joint Intelligence Committee report on Climate Change and watch the National Emergency Briefing film made to disseminate its findings. Although people do not like hearing that burning stuff warms up the planet, it is a very simple truth - rapidly burning through millions of years of fossil fuels super-heats our planet. I believe everyone's legacy should be to leave their place in a better place than they found it.

Botley Rd/Oxford Congestion Charge

One last thing – the Botley Road bridge and route into Oxford is due to re-open 20th September. Following this, the Oxford Congestion Charge will be replaced by the Traffic Filters trial, starting 26th September. Local residents are still eligible for 25 free passes, which will pass across automatically for those who have already registered. After that, people will be fined for going through the same gates used for the congestion charge. The trial hopes to prove a lasting reduction in traffic congestion.

**Best wishes,
Peter Stevens**

K. L. YATES BUILDERS

FOR ALL YOUR BUILDING SERVICES

Extensions and Alterations
Property Maintenance
Kitchens and Bathrooms
Carpentry and Tiling

**Contact Richard on 07788 738248
or email klyatesbuilders@gmail.com**





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



Drayton WI
Christmas Craft & Gift Fair
 Refreshments Saturday 7th November 2026 11am - 3pm Books & Jigsaws
 Over 15 Stalls
 Drayton Village Hall,
 Lockway, Drayton,
 OX14 4LG
FREE ENTRY
 theWI INSPIRING WOMEN Raffle

*** CARAVAN STORAGE ***
STEVENTON
 
www.qselfstore.co.uk
01235 847164 

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!

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


Abingdon Wood Shop
 We have your DIY and hobby wood needs covered – sustainable British hardwoods, scaffolding boards, pallet wood and other softwood timber.
 Open 7 days a week.
 Our prices are low and we can cut to size.
info@owr.org.uk
www.oxfordwoodrecycling.org.uk


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


WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE TAXI
 SMOOTH RIDES FOR EVERYONE

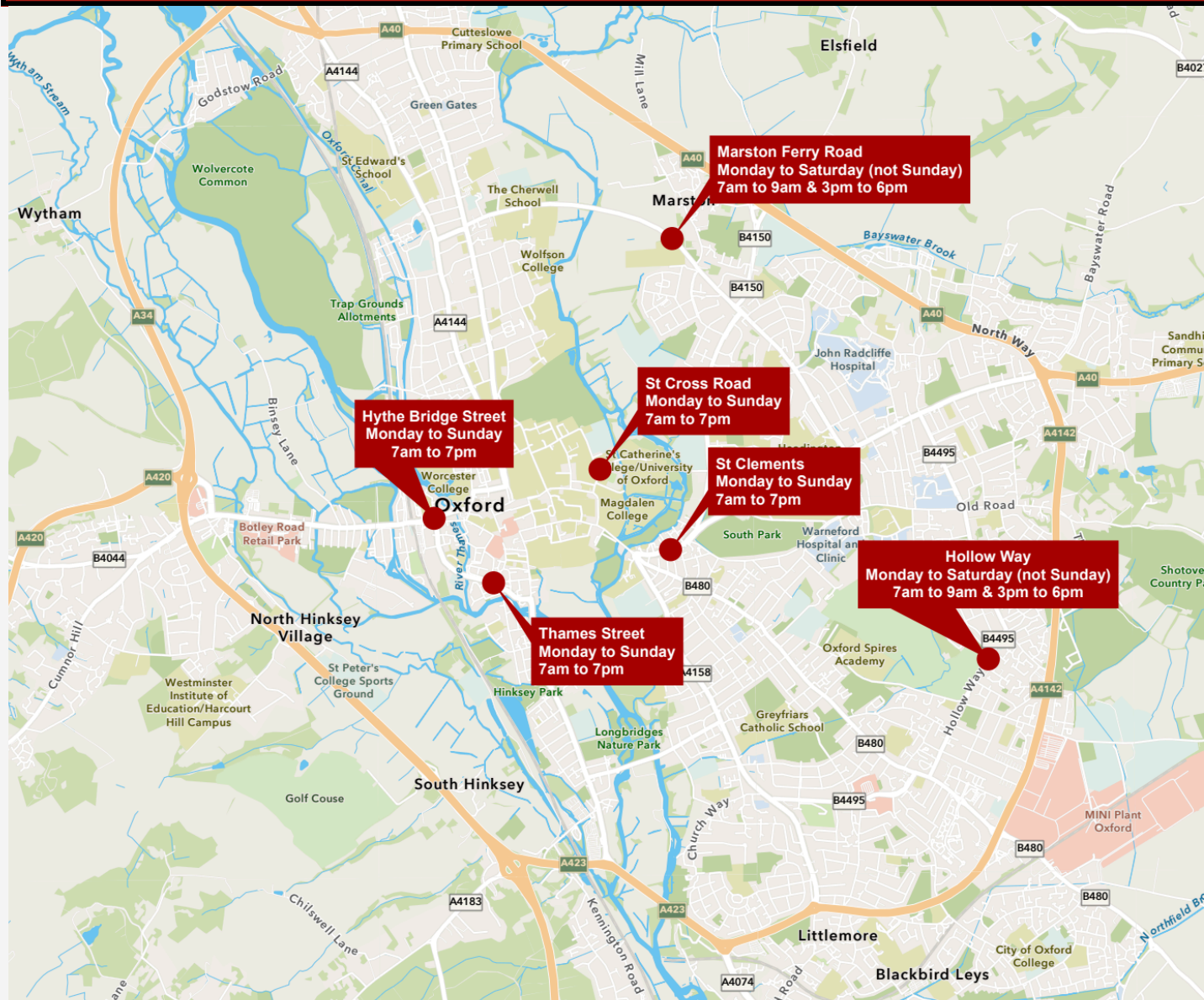
 07979 793385
hello@leafmobility.co.uk
leafmobility.co.uk

 SAFE • RELIABLE • FRIENDLY

Oxford Traffic Filter Trial Starts on 28th September 2026

Don't get caught out!

ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) cameras enforce restrictions on six key roads to reduce congestion and speed up buses. Unauthorized car trips through filters risk fines up to £70, reduced to £35 if paid within 21 days. First-time violations in the first six months receive warning notices. Oxford permit-area residents eligible for 100 free annual day passes, wider Oxfordshire residents eligible for 25 permits per year. Congestion charge permits will automatically transfer to traffic filter permits - no need to re-apply. See <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-travel/oxford-traffic-filters> for more details, including exemptions etc.



ABINGDON HERITAGE OPEN-WEEKEND

Following a very successful event last year, The Friends of Abingdon are organising another Heritage Weekend on **19-20 September**. This year's theme is "The history of everyday working life" and there will be pictures and real-life stories of the changes Abingdon people have seen over the past 200 years. With several exhibitions and around 10 "Open Doors" properties, this promises to be a great event - and it will be free for all the family. The full programme, which will be updated as new events are included, can be seen at <https://www.abingdonheritage.org.uk/>

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

Firstly, a reminder that the Hall now has CCTV installed, and we've already seen the excellent clarity of the pictures (no grainy old Crimewatch film!).

Secondly, apologies this report didn't appear last month, what we in the trade call a technical glitch!

AND – as I write, news just in that the Rec has been invaded by 'travellers' – likely from their unwanted stay at Albert Park in Abingdon. A big 'shout out' here for Elaine Wade of the Parish Council, and the OCC's Traveller Team, who've been liaising to keep an eye on things, also Debbie of both the Hall C'tee and the Football Club. It seems the FC was due to be playing its first matches of the season (4th weekend in Aug) – now they have to hope they don't have a massive clean-up when the 'visitors' move on.

Cllr Stevens (OCC) has also helped, along with Matthew Barber (Police Commissioner). We're advised that a long-term change will likely need to be a set of larger barriers to stop caravans getting onto the Rec.

OK - back to 'normal' -- NEED EXTRA CASH?! We have another Jewellery Valuation session, Lee is back on Weds Sept 9th (9am to midday), for any questions about his service, please call 07834 462508. His updated leaflet refers to "We buy Gold, Silver & Platinum, free Gold Valuations" but if you have a query about coins (pre 1947), watches, brooches, chains etc, he can help. I believe he can also do a private home visit for those who aren't so mobile, just ask him!

It's another ANTIQUES Fair, Sunday Sept 6th, 9am to about 3pm, and a few new stalls apparently, that's plus Kathy running her great value cafe for one of her good causes (lovely breakfast!). Another one on Oct 4th too.

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! Attendance is building up nicely, do come along if you can! [And on the 9th – maybe bring an item for Lee, pay for that coffee & cake, with extra to spare?!]

Donna's LITTLE TOTS group (doing well I hear) is BACK after their break, Thursday Sept 10th.

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.

Other groups include (seniors) Badminton (Weds PM), & the Bowls club (see back-page diary for sessions, their Weds evening group has a couple of gaps I hear), also the Sequence Dance group (Thursday evenings).

I also heard that Sabrina's Karate classes, which have been pretty busy for ages, may now have an opportunity for new recruits, Tuesday and Friday evenings, please see the back page for times and which age group fits in where?! PLUS -- I think she's planning to start an exercise class, likely to be Tuesday evenings after her Karate session, more news anon.

Tony Holmes

And finally.....

Nine Easy Ways to Keep Your Brain Sharp!



1. Aim to be ambidextrous

Use your non-dominant hand to brush your teeth, write with a pen etc. Doing this creates new neural pathways and synapses, so increases plasticity and growth in the brain

2. Sniff out a new smell

Change the aroma you wake up to every morning which might be tea or coffee. Try baking bread, see what smells you can identify on a walk or warm some spices in a dry pan. A new smell after you wake will help activate new neural pathways.

3. Close your eyes

To activate the side of your brain that you don't normally use, close your eyes when you wash, dress, open the front door or even search for your keys in a drawer without looking. This won't just activate your brain, but strengthen your sense of touch too.

4. Turn things upside down

Turn your calendar, artwork, notes on the fridge, clock and anything else you'd like, upside-down. This challenges the visual cortex to work harder and then the thalamus to relay the information to the correct part of the body/brain. It works like a brain workout by increasing blood flow and nutrients.

5. Meddle with your morning routine

Mix things up with your morning routine – try eating breakfast first and then getting ready. You can also change your breakfast as well. Anything that's different to the norm gives your brain its own wake up call.

6. Start a new hobby

Hobbies that require the use of more than one sense and that are not routine are great for your brain. Creative writing or sitting down with a good book are both great for you. We are not hardwired to do either of these, so they challenge the brain.

7. Make the familiar unfamiliar

Repositioning the location of familiar items reactivates spatial networks and forces your visual and somatosensory areas of the brain to get busy adjusting your internal maps. So, rearrange the furniture, change the order of the clothes in your wardrobes, change your cupboards around in the kitchen, move your watch to the other wrist – anything that can help ring in the changes.

8. Tantalise your tastebuds

Once a month try a new food that incorporates exotic tastes and smells. Choose a recipe and shop at a different shop for the ingredients. This helps to create a break in the pattern of familiar and gets you out of your comfort zone – the more we can do this, the more resilient our brain becomes.

9. Feel the experience

Visit a park, beauty spot or safe place in the countryside. Get comfortable and close your eyes. Use your other senses to determine what's happening around you. Free-associate using the smells and sounds, and "feel" the experience.

Source: SAGA



SP COURIER SERVICES

'MOVING ASSISTANCE'

House – Flat – Apartments – Office

FURNITURE MOVED / TRANSPORTED

COLLECTIONS - DELIVERIES

Tel 07721 679487

DRAYTON DIARIES



(MOSTLY) VILLAGE HALL DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER

Weds	2	10.00am	COFFEE MORNING (weekly, to noon)
Sat	5	1.00pm	Private Function (child's party)
Sun	6	9.00am	ANTIQUES FAIR (to 3pm)
Weds	9	9.00am	Jewellery Valuation (to midday)
Sat	12		'Ride & Stride' (see St Peter's page)
Sat	12	5.00pm	Private Function
Mon	14	5.00pm	Chronicle Deadline
		7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting (Caudwell DC)
NB – Now 2nd Mondays! (check FBk for any late change?!)			
Sat	19	10.00am	Private Functions (&2pm - child parties)
Sun	20	1.00pm	Private Function (child's party)
Fri	25	11.00am	SORRY! No 'Keep Fit Faye' today – But she's back next week!

To book the Village Hall, please email:
bookings@draytonvh.co.uk or call Tony Holmes on
01235 531180. Website: **www.draytonvh.co.uk**
To book the Caudwell Day Centre, please contact
Teresa Prince, caudwelldaycentre@gmail.com or call
01235 531627
Or, for small meetings, the Church Hall may be okay;
see the St Peter's page in this edition.

REGULAR EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Village Hall unless stated otherwise. [## = Small Hall in Village Hall]

MONDAYS	
10:00am	Coffee Morning (Wives - 2 nd Monday) <i>Caudwell DC</i>
2:00pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session
7:15pm	Badminton (seeking new members)
7:45pm	Bell-ringing for 1.5 hours <i>St Peter's</i>
TUESDAYS	
9:30am	Pilates (Alexandra Merson 07788 248925)
1:45pm	Drayton Art Group, till 4 pm (<i>Caudwell DC</i>)
2:30pm	First Tuesday Connections (<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	
9:00am	Little Tots returns from 10 th (Donna, 07584 900040)
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
Three sessions from 4:45pm	Karate/'Dojang X' (07938 537310) 4.45pm -5.15pm Little Ninjas for 3-6yr olds 5.15pm-6pm Kids Karate (7-12yrs) 6pm Family Class (6yrs+, teens and adults)
SUNDAYS (see page 3 for all church services)	
6:00pm	Evening Service <i>Baptist Church</i>