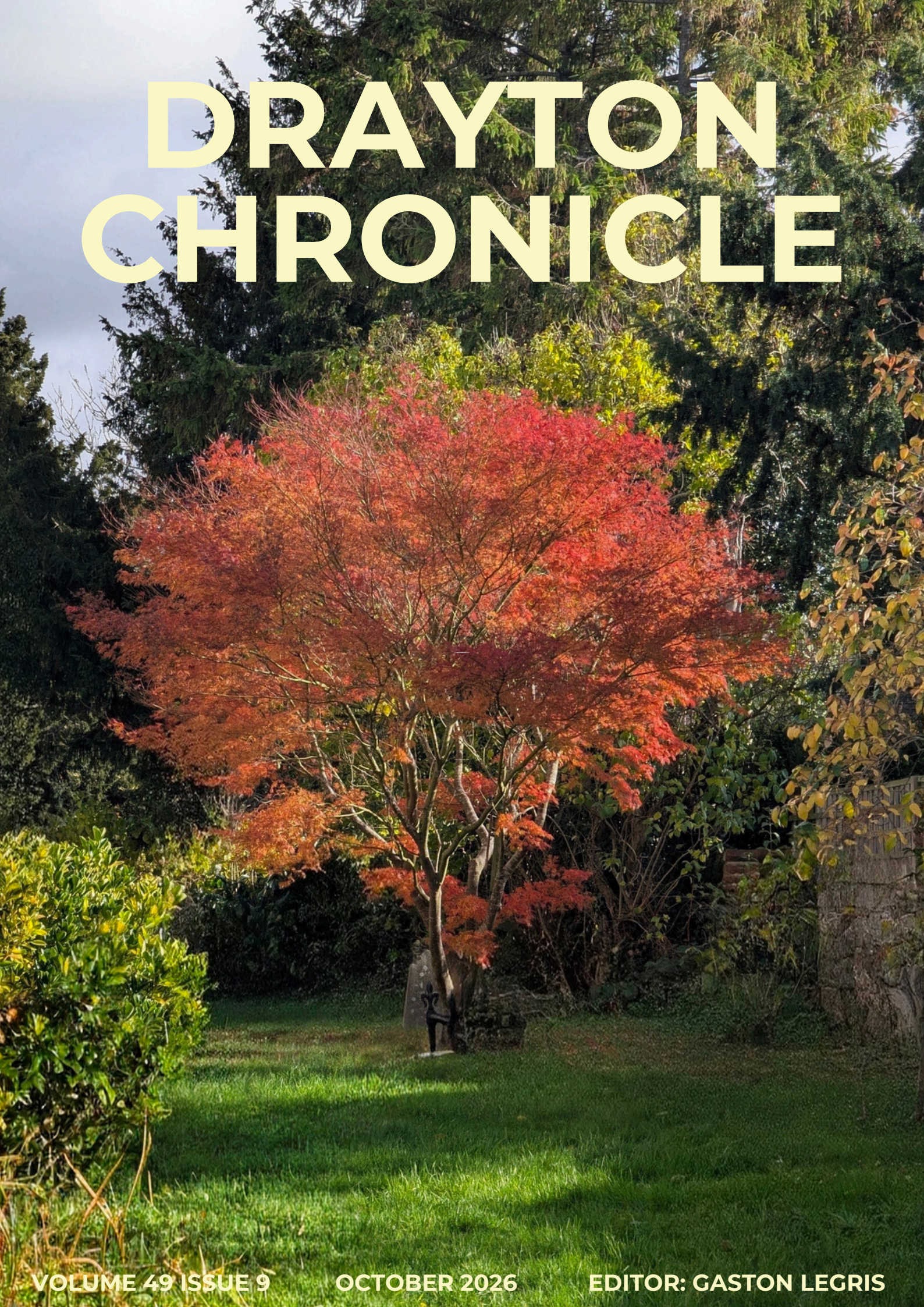


DRAYTON CHRONICLE



VOLUME 49 ISSUE 9

OCTOBER 2026

EDITOR: GASTON LEGRIS

CHRONICLE INFORMATION

KEY DATES

The next Drayton Chronicle will be the November issue, edited by Vicky Billingham
editor@draytonchronicle.net

Issue	Advertising deadline	Contribution deadline
November	October 16 th	October 19 th
December	November 13 th	November 16 th

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



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.



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SCAN ME

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.

Many thanks to Matthew Selby for his amazing drone shot of Drayton in the drought which appeared on last month's front cover.



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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: OCTOBER 2026

Thursday 1 st	9:30 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 4 th	9:30 am	Holy Communion for Harvest with donations to Abingdon Food Bank
Thursday 8 th	9:30 am	Celtic Prayer
Sunday 11 th	10:30 am	DAMASCUS All age Holy Communion at St. Blaise Milton NO service at St. Peter's.
Thursday 15 th	9:30 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 18 th	8.00 a.m	Holy Communion (BCP) with prayers for healing
	9:30 am	Holy Communion with prayers for healing
Thursday 22 nd	9:30 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 25 th	9.30 am	Morning Praise
Thursday 29 th	9:30 am	Holy Communion

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). From Sunday 25th October, the church will remain open until 3 p.m and *Thursday morning services will start at 9.30 a.m from 1st October



St. Peter's Church

All Souls' Service, 1st November at 3pm

A time to remember loved ones who are no longer with us and light a candle in remembrance of them.

If you would like a loved one's name to be read out at this service, there is a sheet on the welcome desk in Church to add their details.

YOU STAY WE PRAY OCT 2026

27th - 3rd Oct Whitehorns Way;
4th - 10th Corneville Rd; Crabtree Lane; Lesparre Close;
11th - 17th Drayton Rd ; Milton Rd; New Cut Mill; Fisher Close; Marcham Rd; Meads Close; Rippington Court; Stone Hill
18th - 24th Steventon Rd; Kiln Lane; Mott Cottages; Barton Court
25th - 31st Oct Whitehorns Way

PARISH REGISTER

Funeral

27th August Doreen Fincham

Memorial Service

2nd August Andrew Richard Gill

Baptisms

12th July Hunter Robert Holton-Webb

ST PETER'S CHURCH

From the DAMASCUS Ministry Team

My final letter for the various newsletters of the DAMASCUS Parish comes to you from a wet West Wales, where my husband and I are, as I write, twelve days into our retirement. The rain comes as a refreshing delight after the parched Oxfordshire we left behind us just a few short weeks ago, and tells us it is definitely autumn, not summer. Time moves on and the seasons change, but I take great delight in looking back on my final service in the parish, on 30th August when over 260 people filled All Saints' Church in Sutton Courtenay to say farewell.

After twenty-three years in the parish, it is hard to find words large enough to hold both my gratitude and my goodbye. Serving among the churches and communities of the DAMASCUS Parish has been one of the deepest privileges of my life. Together we have shared worship and weddings, baptisms and funerals, school assemblies and village events, quiet conversations, practical challenges, laughter, tears, and many signs of God's grace at work among us.

I am profoundly thankful for the trust you placed in me, for the welcome you gave both me and my family, and for the countless acts of kindness that have sustained me along the way. Parish ministry is never the work of one person alone, and I want especially to thank churchwardens, PCC members, the Ministry Team, all volunteers, musicians, bell-ringers, flower arrangers, administrators, pastoral visitors, schools, multiple village organisations, and everyone who has prayed, served, encouraged, and simply turned up faithfully. You have made these years rich beyond measure.

Retirement, and our move to Wales, marks a real ending, and there is sadness in leaving people and places that have shaped my heart. Yet it is also a

new beginning, and I go with deep peace, carrying many treasured memories with me – not to mention the hundreds of cards, messages of appreciation, and the extremely generous gifts I was presented with at my final service. I was, and am, overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity.

Please be assured of my continuing prayers for you all as the parish enters its next season of life. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, and may God bless you richly in the changing seasons and years ahead.

With love and prayers, **Helen**

The Reverend Helen Kendrick, Former Rector of the DAMASCUS Parish

A date for your diary!

Our Christmas Cracker event will be held on Saturday 14th November 10.00a.m - 12 noon. Do come and join us .

More details in the November Chronicle.



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OPENING OF DRAYTON HALL

When Drayton Hosted "Any Questions?"

The North Berks Herald (now the Abingdon Herald) of 15 May 1975 featured the opening of Drayton Hall with two weeks of festivities, including a dinner dance with cabaret, a comedy staged by the Drayton Players, and a live broadcast of BBC Radio's Any Questions? This popular discussion programme has been broadcast weekly since 1948.

On this occasion the panel, chaired by David Jacobs, consisted of Jeremy Thorpe, leader of the Liberal Party; Peter Hall, director of the National Theatre; Lord Mancroft, chairman of the Tote; and Corinna Adam, assistant editor of the New Statesman. The illustration also features Mrs Thorpe and Norman Stimpson, chairman of the first Hall committee.

Those with long memories will remember that Jeremy Thorpe's parliamentary career ended in scandal when he faced charges of conspiracy and incitement to murder, of which he was eventually acquitted.

Norman Stimpson ran his family greengrocer's in Ock Street, Abingdon, in premises now converted to flats.

He lived in the High Street, and his wife, Daria, started the village History Society with Teresa Taylor.

Part of its fascinating archive is on show in Drayton Hall during the mornings of Wednesdays 21 and 28 October.

The newspaper article mentions that after the broadcast Jeremy Thorpe and his wife went to meet local members of the Liberal Party at Old Lodge in Henleys Lane, the home of Dr Graves-Stanwick. Despite his English-sounding name, Dr Graves-Stanwick was, in fact, Polish. As a medical student in Prague, he fled just before the Nazi invasion and crossed the Channel by rowing boat. He was succeeded as the local GP by Dr Richard Casson.

It is probable that the Any Questions? broadcast was arranged by my predecessor at Pusey Cottage, Michael Henderson. He was a senior BBC executive who, five years earlier, had launched BBC Radio Oxford.

Andrew Bax



Left-right: Norman Stimpson, David Jacobs, Mrs Thorpe, Lord Mancroft, Jeremy Thorpe



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THE ABINGDON DAMASCUS YOUTH PROJECT (ADYP)

A New Chapter for Abingdon Damascus Youth Project in Drayton

There's an exciting new chapter beginning for Abingdon Damascus Youth Project (ADYP) – and we want the Drayton community to be right at the heart of it. For more than two decades, ADYP has supported young people across the DAMASCUS villages.

What's happening in Drayton? Things are already moving! We are now engaging with around 30 different young people in Drayton. Our new Monday evening meet-up at the fantastic MUGA is giving young people a relaxed space to meet, chat, play some sport and, importantly, get to know our youth workers. A big thank you to Drayton Parish Council for its support in helping us get this underway.

But Monday nights are only part of the story. Our youth workers are also getting out and about across Drayton delivering detached youth work, meeting young people where they naturally spend their time and building relationships.

We're starting to identify young people and families who might benefit from some additional support or mentoring. Through our collaboration with TAB, we can also help young people access more specialist mental health and wellbeing support where needed. We're equally interested in spotting potential. There are young people in Drayton who could become the Youth Ambassadors and community leaders of the future, and we want to give them opportunities to discover what they are capable of.

Building community together

- What would make young people feel more connected to Drayton? What skills and experiences could adults in the village share with the next generation?
- Could a local resident become a mentor?

- Could a business give a young person an opportunity?
- Could someone share a skill?
- Could young people themselves help shape something that makes Drayton an even better place to grow up?

Over the next year, these are some of the conversations we want to start having. We are also delighted to receive the support and blessing of The Reverend Canon Helen Kendrick, Rector of the DAMASCUS Parish, for this new collaboration.

Could you be part of what comes next?

ADYP's new trustees and youth work team have big ambitions, but this won't work through charities and professionals alone. Strong young people need strong communities around them.

We want the Damascus Youth Project to continue being shaped by the young people and communities we serve, and **there are lots of ways you can get involved:**

- Are you a young person?

If you would like to find out more about what we do, get involved in activities, or simply have a chat with one of the team, we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch using the contact details below.

- Could you support the project?

We are always keen to hear from people who have skills, experience, or simply some time and enthusiasm to offer. Whether you might be interested in volunteering, supporting activities, or potentially becoming a trustee, please get in touch (Email: info@adyp.org.uk kirsty@theabingdonbridge.org.uk; Tel: 01235 522375)

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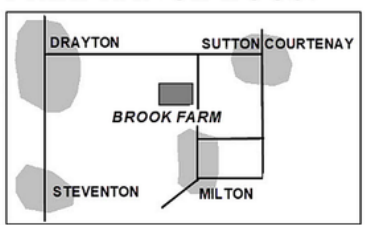
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I have raised the importance of adequate central government funding for our local councils so that they can provide the essential social services we rely on. I have also spoken about safety concerns relating to new technology advancements such as Meta's Smart Glasses, as well as the regulation of retirement property management companies. During a Westminster Hall debate on global biodiversity loss, I called for a nationwide broadcast of the People's Emergency Briefing, a film focused on enhancing public awareness of the climate crisis and environmental risks. This summer we saw the real impact of climate change on our area, so I'm really pleased to see many local groups in the constituency organising viewings and working together to raise awareness of this urgent issue. Across the constituency, I've enjoyed attending BunkFest in Wallingford, Boundary Park's 10th anniversary in Didcot plus visits to the new Tap Social venue at Milton Park, LTi Metaltech and Crown Packaging, businesses creating highly skilled jobs for local people.

Following my final summer surgery in Cholsey, I met with Andrew from Amwell Springs Brewery, who produces excellent craft beer. I was also pleased to attend the resurfacing and reopening of Hobbyhorse Lane with Cllr Peter Stevens, who has worked hard alongside residents to resurface this important walking and cycling route linking Appleford and Sutton Courtenay. Over a lunch at the Plum Pudding, Milton Parish Council and I discussed pedestrian access and cycle routes to/from Milton Heights, particularly the bridge at the Milton Interchange, which I will continue working to make happen. Working with the Mill Brook Restoration Group, we have continued our campaign to restore Mill Brook, hosting a site visit with Thames Water, the Environment Agency and Oxfordshire County Council to securing a commitment to work together on addressing the issue.

Olly Glover
MP for the Didcot and Wantage Constituency
olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk
voicemail on 0207 219 7657

Firstly, a reminder that the Hall now has CCTV installed, and we've already seen the excellent clarity of the pictures.

Secondly, something new for the Hall: Sunday, 18th October features a Modern Jive session, described (I think!) as a 'Social Dance' club. It runs from 5 pm (£10) – see local Facebook for any updates nearer the time. They say:

- The Music: Playing the best music tracks in a variety of styles to suit all abilities, so there is something for everyone's taste.
- Warm, Welcoming Vibe: Great lighting, a smooth sprung dance floor, and non-stop music to keep you dancing all evening.
- Details: Hot drinks and water are provided.
- Beginners Welcome: If you like dancing to popular tunes, you will be fine.

Lee is back for another Jewellery Valuation session on Wednesday, 7th October (9:00 am to midday). For any questions about his service, please call 07834 462508. His updated leaflet states, "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 arrange a private home visit for those who aren't so mobile. It's another Antiques Fair on Sunday, 4th October, from 9:00 am to about 3:00 pm, with a few new stalls apparently, plus Kathy running her great-value café for one of her good causes (lovely breakfast!). There is another one on 1st November too.

Kathy is also running Coffee Mornings in the Hall on Wednesday mornings (10:00 am to midday) for good causes. It's not just tea, coffee, and cake, but a well-filled bacon sarnie if you like! And to coincide with her mornings, on 21st and 28th October, there will be an exhibition celebrating the former History Society (see separate article). Finally, I've just heard that Sabrina's karate classes, which have been quite busy for a while, may now have openings for new recruits. They run on Tuesday and Friday evenings—please see the back page for times and age groups. They are also trialling a new Tuesday session (6:00 pm) for 'Little Ninjas'."

Tony Holmes

FRESHWATER HABITATS TRUST

Dear Parish Clerk, I am writing on behalf of the Freshwater Habitats Trust to ask whether your parish council could help us promote our Ock Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) Project and recruit local volunteers.

The project aims to improve our understanding of the distribution of invasive plants—particularly Himalayan balsam—along watercourses throughout the Ock catchment. Trained volunteers are helping us survey streams and brooks, providing the evidence needed to develop a rdinated plan to manage and eradicate these species. We would be very grateful if you could share details of this volunteering opportunity through your parish newsletter, website, social media channels, or local noticeboards. Volunteers will receive full guidance on identifying invasive species and carrying out surveys; no prior experience is required.

Anyone interested can find further details and register on our project, click on freshwaterhabitats.org.uk and then search for [ock-invasive-non-native-species](#)

We would also be keen to hear from residents or landowners who have spotted Himalayan balsam on their land or near a local watercourse, as their reports will help direct our survey efforts.

Please let me know if you would like additional information, images, or shorter copy for your communications channels. Thank you very much for your support in reaching residents across the Ock catchment to help protect our local waterways.

Best wishes,
Lizzie Every



We are Freshwater Habitats Trust

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Freshwater is our passion. Together, we can make a difference for wildlife

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We have a vision for a better future. We're working with partners and volunteers to create, restore and protect high quality habitats for freshwater wildlife. As the UK's leading charity for all freshwaters, we're reversing the long decline of freshwater biodiversity by building a national network of wilder, cleaner, connected freshwaters.

Our Work

Reversing the decline in freshwater biodiversity Freshwater Habitats Trust is a national wildlife conservation charity and our aim is to reverse the decline in freshwater biodiversity. We work to achieve this through practical conservation, scientific research, community engagement and by influencing policy.

As an evidence-based organisation, we target our practical delivery work where it will make a real difference. We have projects in many parts of the UK, focusing on restoring and protecting high quality habitats for freshwater wildlife.



PARISH COUNCIL REPORT



Walnut Meadows

At the time of writing we are opening the MUGAs for free village use on Sat and Sundays from 9-5pm.

We are building up paid bookings for the MUGAs and currently have bookings on 3 weekday evenings. The courts have been well used during the Summer holidays and are hoping to keep slots for free village use moving forward. We do have to balance free use with paid bookings to bring in revenue for maintenance and improvements. There will soon be a booking system in place (villagers have a reduced rate).

The running/walking track is now complete but still blocked by Heras fencing at one point. We are getting the post and rail fencing replaced.

There is no date yet for the public consultation on the building of the pavilion and public works loan. We will be going out to tender for the pavilion and will then have detailed costings which will be shared with the village. We have received a revised design for completing work on the current hard-standing area. Quotes are being sought. A pre-application advice request has been sent to VOWH Planning Dept.

Sadly, there have been numerous incidents of vandalism on the sports site, including the lights, fence and the lock damaged. All repairs are paid for out of our Council tax and damage will be reported to the police - please pass it on either to the police or to the Council Clerk.

Traffic calming

OCC has advised us that work on the two new pedestrian crossings is due to commence in January 2027! More positively, a miracle appears to have occurred whereby overnight OCC elves appeared to mend the VAS along the High Street and alter the VAS on the Abingdon Road to reflect the 20 mph limit. The elves were silent on this for many years but have suddenly burst into life!

Planning matters

We were devastated to hear that the appeal for houses to the west of Little Smiths Farm has been allowed. The Planning Inspector appears to have manipulated the Vale's land supply by removing numbers of houses that are planned but not completed. The PC are resolutely against this development.

Travellers on the Village Hall Recreation Ground

The PC wants to thank the residents of Drayton who cleared up and we are particularly grateful to members of the football club who have been magnificent. The PC has agreed to fund the installation of a height barrier at the entrance to the car parking area to deter future incidents.

New Councillor

We are delighted that Colin Arnold has agreed to return to the Parish Council.

Our next meeting will be on October 12th, 7 pm at the Caudwell Day Centre.

Elaine Wade

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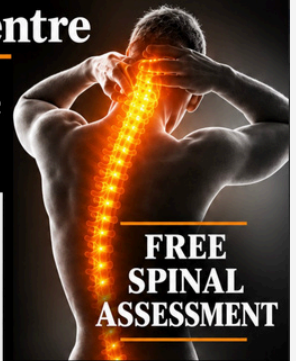
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Waste crime knows no boundaries

We have seen the huge impact of large scale waste crime here on our doorstep with the massive illegal dump near Kidlington which has cost the Environment Agency millions of pounds to clear up. More arrests have already been made in this case and the investigation into others continues.

It is not just these huge waste sites that are the problem though. Each year across the country there are over a million incidents of fly-tipping and many of these have serious consequences for victims. Often landowners, large and small, are left with the clean up costs and the problem of disposing of someone else's waste.

In Oxfordshire the problem has only been exacerbated by the changes made to our local tips.

The County Council's new policy for our local household waste recycling centres is making it harder for many residents to legitimately get rid of their waste, and that can play into the hand of organised criminals. Thames Valley Police regularly work with local authorities and with the Environment Agency on joint operations to tackle waste criminals.

Sometimes operating as seemingly legitimate businesses - some even have waste carrier licenses - these criminals are not just responsible for fly-tipping, but are often linked to other forms of organised crime.

They operate across borders, and so must the enforcement. Thames Valley Police's Rural Crime Taskforce frequently operates in London and neighbouring counties to identify and apprehend those responsible for fly-tipping, rural crime and other offending locally across Oxfordshire.

The impact of fly-tipping can be significant. It is not just an inconvenience but can land the victim with a bill for thousands of pounds to safely remove someone else's waste. In the coming months I hope to announce a pilot project across Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire that will allow victims to claim support to deal with some of the costs of the clear up.

This will help victims financially as well as helping to protect our local environment. The intention of the scheme is to increase reporting of fly-tipping incidents and increase the change of catching those responsible.

Matthew Barber

Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley

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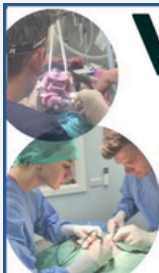
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LOCAL GROUPS

DRAYTON SHORT MAT BOWLS



On behalf of all the members of The Drayton short mat bowls club I would like mention Val Locke, who has been the Chairperson of The Drayton short mat bowls club for the past 15 years. Val, your input will be missed. Our New Chairperson is Michael Donnolly. Drayton Short Mat Bowls is a very friendly, relaxed club that meets three days a week:

- Monday: 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm
- Wednesday: 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm
- Thursday: 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Come along for a free taster session. For more details, call Andy Brooks on 07434 273053. Drayton Short Mat Bowls looks forward to welcoming you!

Andrew Brooks

Archive Exhibition - Wednesdays 21st and 28th October 10am to 12pm in the Small Hall

A selection of items from the village history archive, collected by Theresa Taylor and Daria Stimpson amongst others, will be available to view at the same time as the coffee morning. Helen Morris, village resident, is working on an oral history project and will be there with her recording gear if you would like to share any memories.

Drayton Archive Exhibition

In the early 1990s Teresa Taylor and Daria Stimpson began the History Society. They set about collecting an archive of fascinating materials relating to Drayton's history. During its time the Society amassed census records, letters, coins, records of the Great Fire of Drayton, local history books, old school photographs and much more. Now, for the first time in decades, it is being opened for public inspection.

There will be a variety of items including folders of historic documents, photographs and maps, news cuttings and even an example of a Victorian concealed shoe recovered from the wall of Lime Close. And what about those plans for us to have London's fourth airport instead of a reservoir? It's all there – and, of course, admission is free.

Helen Morris

DRAYTON WI

Our September meeting featured a fascinating talk by Kirsten Phipps-Get, who gave us a very interesting insight into the History of Oxfordshire Gang Show as they begin preparations for their 75th anniversary show.

Kirsten explained all about the origins of Gang Show and Ralph Reader, and showed us the show reel from their 70th anniversary, featuring pictures from across the ages. We also had the opportunity to look through archives from past and present shows, which was a wonderful chance to see how Gang Show has evolved over the years. Everyone really enjoyed the evening, and I believe we may even be organising a trip to watch the show. We are now looking forward to our October meeting, when Jim MacLeod will be giving a talk on The History of the Traditional British Toastmaster.

Everyone is welcome. We simply ask for a donation of £3, which includes tea or coffee.

We are also busy preparing for our annual Drayton WI Christmas Craft & Gift Fair, on 7th November, from 11.00am–3.00pm.

Our meetings are usually held on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30pm at the Caudwell Day Centre, Gravel Lane.

Georgina Arnold



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COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Weather forecasts are for an abnormally stormy autumn following the record 'El Nino' weather patterns so far this year. As our weather continues to sharpen, prepare your homes to make them warmer over winter and cooler over summer.

Currently, in the council, the spotlight is on local government re-organisation. Andy Burnham is a big fan of devolution to local government, running with success the Manchester mayoral strategic authority. Since my last article, Whitehall announced that Oxfordshire and West Berkshire councils would be re-organised into three new unitary authorities: Greater Oxford, North Oxfordshire, and Ridgeway (combining our South and Vale districts with West Berkshire). Although least favoured, each council has started work on the new authorities with elections planned to the new 'shadow' authorities next May, and full transition in 2028.

However, since then, central government announced a 'pause' last week, citing legal challenges worthy of review that could also affect the decision for Oxfordshire and other areas. The minister says this review is likely to be rapid, but until it is complete, we must pause and revert to current councils including replacing the May elections from the new authorities to the old councils. In my opinion, this is wasteful as the existing councils will be replaced, so elections to them feels lame. NB. The Thames Valley mayoral strategic authority would be the strongest economic powerhouse outside of London, which could drive huge potential development managed properly across the region and boost the Milton Park, Culham and Harwell campuses.

Over summer, Whitehall changed the laws for 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects', allowing Thames Water to continue without any more consultations for the SESRO White Horse mega-reservoir. Although we need more strategic water resources to enhance resilience for droughts, that does not mean we need one SESRO mega-reservoir with all its safety concerns from an oversized lake. I will continue to work closely with the council and Thames Water to address safety concerns. In my opinion, fixing leaks, using more grey water, a range of smaller cheaper reservoirs, and diverting water from the West and Wales to the South East would be quicker and cheaper.

Steventon lights works are due to finish this month, whilst HIF1 road works continue. Please monitor/report undue nuisances.

The Landfill Liaison Committee that I chair meets to find out what can be done to suppress the bad smells experienced this summer. I was in touch with the Chief Fire Officer at the time, who reassured that there were no toxic fumes or dangers to local residents from this fire. To report a pollution please call the incident hotline on 0800 807060 or on line via gov.uk and search for "report an environmental problem".

FCC are committed to finish the landfill by 2030, whereafter, I am seeking a review of the restoration vision for the area to create nicer walking, cycling paths, more natural wildlife spaces and hide the remaining HIF1 road, solar and battery farms and other brownfield developments as much as possible.

Peter Stevens

Councillor for Appleford, Drayton, Milton, Steventon & Sutton Courtenay Division

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The race start time is 09:00 on October the 18th

The route this year has changed slightly from previous years—please refer to the Course Map below. As usual, appropriate signage and marshalling will be provided.

The time limit for runners to finish the marathon is 6 hours, matching last year, to ensure the event remains as inclusive as possible.

The race capacity remains capped at 1,500, with around 1,000 runners anticipated to start on the day.

We have obtained a Special Events Order (SEO) from Oxfordshire County Council, which details all road closures and can be viewed online at [oxfordshire.gov.uk](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk), and search for abingdon-marathon.

Professional traffic management services will manage vehicle flow at the start and finish, through Abingdon town centre, and at other strategic points along the course.

Estimated runner timings by location:

- Market Square and town centre, Abingdon: 09:20–10:00 and 11:00–14:30
- Lambrick Way and Southern Town Park: 09:30–10:30 and 11:30–14:00
- Drayton Village: 09:40–13:00
- Milton Village and Milton Park: 09:50–13:45
- Sutton Courtenay: 10:30–13:30

Please note that these timings are approximate; the field will be significantly more dispersed during the second lap.

Everyone is welcome to come out and cheer on the competitors—the runners greatly appreciate the support.

Everyone is very welcome to come out and cheer on the competitors; the runners always really appreciate the support!

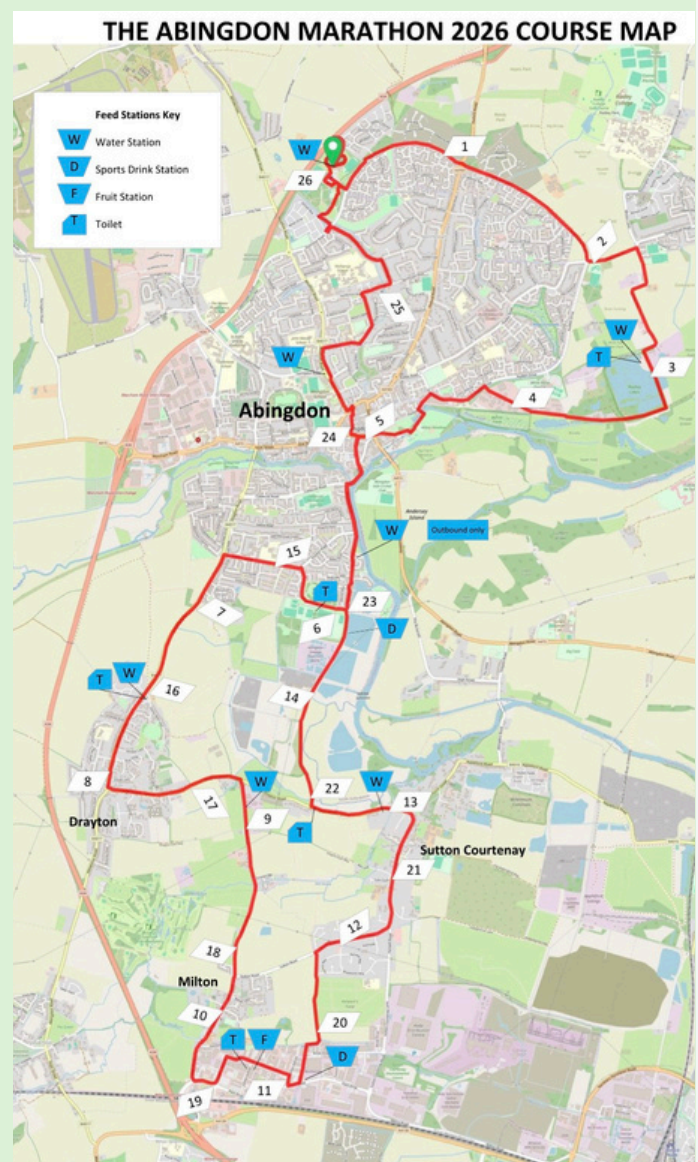
We hope that the map shown below will provide the information that you need. You may also wish to look at our website ([link above](#)). This has additional information for local residents and visitors to the area.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions and/or wish to discuss the event further.

Nichola Poulton and Kate Brook

Co-Race Directors, 2026 Abingdon Marathon

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DRAYTON DIARIES



(MOSTLY) VILLAGE HALL DIARY FOR OCTOBER

Sat	3	9.00am	Private Function (all day)
Sun	4	9.00am	ANTIQUES FAIR (to 3pm)
Weds	7	9.00am	Jewellery Valuation (to midday)
Weds	7	10.00am	COFFEE MORNING (weekly, to noon)
Sat	10	10.00am	Private Function (all day)
Mon	12	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting (Caudwell DC) NB – Now 2nd Mondays! (check FBk for any late change?!)
Sat	17	4.00pm	Private Function
Sun	18	5.00pm	MODERN JIVE (to 8pm)
Mon	19	5.00pm	Chronicle Deadline

To book the Village Hall, please email:
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 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>
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