



DRAYTON PARSLOW VILLAGE NEWS



ISSUE 175

April / May 2023

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DRAYTON DIARY	
April	
2nd	Charity Duck Race 11am - <i>see page 19</i>
9th	Easter Egg Hunt - DPSSC 12:30pm FREE
15th	Bingo, DPSSC 8pm
24th	Parish Council Meeting - DPSSC 7:30pm
May	
6th-7th	Coronation Weekend - <i>see page 20</i>
7th	Celebration Songs of Praise - 10am Holy Trinity
20th	Teas in the Church & Plant Sale - 2.30-4.00 pm
22nd	Parish Council Meeting - DPSSC 7:30pm
26th	Spring Songs of Praise - <i>see page 5</i>
Further ahead	
Aug 12th	VPA Show

NEXT ISSUE

Contributions, articles and photos for the **June/July** issue by **no later than Friday May 5th 2023** please to the Village News mailbox dpvillagenews@outlook.com or by hand to

Sally Wallis (10 Prospect Close) or Claire Darnley (Tamara, 3b Main Road).

If you want to speak to either of us, please contact

Sally on 720030 or Claire on 720383.



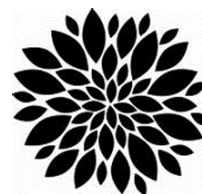
Greenacre Hall (Village Hall)

For hall bookings please telephone

Carol 01296 720741

Reduced rates for villagers

Drayton Parslow Open Gardens 1st & 2nd July 2-6pm



If you are you passionate about gardening and would like to open your garden at our Open Gardens weekend, we would love to hear from you, please contact

Wendy Preston on 01296 720426 / email prestons759@icloud.com

or Susan Piddock spiddock2014@gmail.com

Binfluencer (bin-flu-enc-er):

The person on your street who always puts their wheelie bins out first on bin day and the rest of the neighbours follow.



Want to know which bins are collected each week?

See our new reader-suggested bin calendar feature on page 4.

You could be the 'Binfluencer' on your street!

BANGERS TO BANJUL CHALLENGE - FINAL REPORT (SUMMARY)



The 'Aylesbury Desert Ducks' succeeded in their quest to drive a van from Aylesbury to Banjul in West Africa for Charity raising over £4,000 for the Glove Project who support child amputees.

Editor's note: Dafydd has provided a really interesting diary-style report of the quest that is too long to include in this edition of the Village News. Below is a short extract from the full report which we have included alongside the emailed version of the Village News.

Team Desert Ducks travelled 4,800 miles and have raised £4,100 to date for the Charity. Thank you to all those who have donated. The 'Go fund me' page remains open for donations and further details of our journey can be found on our Facebook page – The Aylesbury Desert Ducks.

On arrival in Banjul, following a day off to recover, the whole Desert Ducks team including their families gathered at the British High Commissioner's Residence for a reception to meet with the members the Glove Project Team and some of the children they are currently supporting. The whole event was televised by Gambian Television and gave us the opportunity to publicise the Charity's work locally. It was great to meet the children we had raised money to help and in particular Jackie, who runs the Charity and does so much to support the children.



Finally, our trusty van, fondly named *Jemima*, has been auctioned by the local Rotary Club to help other Gambian Charities.



I spent a mainly enjoyable (except the borders) 16 days travelling across parts of Africa you never normally see, with a group of good friends, but.....

Would I do the challenge again? – 'The jury is out'

Dafydd Powell



Rector's Musings...

Let's Eat!

We are almost at the mid-point of Lent as I write this. Traditionally people would give up something during Lent, as a sacrifice and an act of self-discipline. Lent lasts for 40 days. Recently I was at a service and I was asked whether it would be ok for us to have some cake after the service, since we were "in Lent." To be honest, I am probably not the right person to ask about such traditions, but it did get me thinking about how important the act of eating together is.

When we were in Lock Down a few years ago, one thing I really missed was meeting up with friends and family for a meal together.

Eating together was a central Christian practice for the early church. Accounts of Jesus earthly ministry and the early church place meals at the centre of sharing life together. Not only did the early church meet to break bread and share wine sacramentally, but they also met to share "ordinary food" as part of an agape meal – an opportunity to simply eat together.

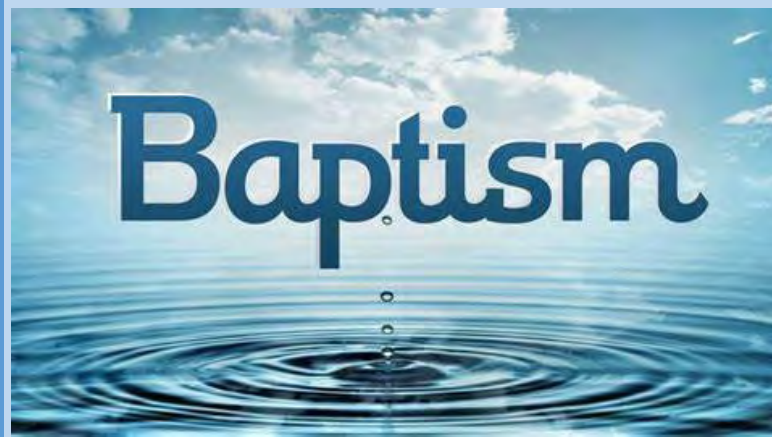
We have the opportunity to gather on Sundays to share in the Eucharist or Holy Communion in Drayton Parslow – something villagers have been doing for centuries. There is something very special and life affirming about being able to meet and break bread together. Communion is about community and all are welcome. You are warmly invited to come along on Easter Sunday at 9.30am for Communion and probably an Easter egg or two or three!

As rector of the 5 parishes I have heard a lot about the various village plans for the Kings Coronation Weekend – and each one has included plans for eating together, either at street parties or on playing fields. Let's make the most of these opportunities to gather together – especially by inviting our elderly neighbours, or those who may live alone, so that everyone is included and all are welcomed.

Rev Yvonne Mullins

HOLY TRINITY SERVICE DATES

Date	Time	Service	Rector
2 April Palm Sunday	9.30am	Café Church with morning prayer **Greenacre Hall**	Lay Led
7 April Good Friday	3pm to 4pm	Church will be open for quite reflection, lighting of candles and prayer	
9 April Easter Sunday	9.30am	Family Communion and Easter egg hunt	Yvonne Mullins
23 April	9.30am	Holy Communion	Yvonne Mullins
30 April	10 am	Benefice Service at St Faiths, Newton Longville	Yvonne Mullins
7 May	10am	Coronation Service followed by sparkling wine and refreshments	Lay Led
14 May	9.30am	Holy Communion	Yvonne Mullins
28 May	9.30am	Holy Communion	Yvonne Mullins



Baptism at Holy Trinity

Congratulations to little Olly Lenard Valentine Burden on his baptism at Holy Trinity Church on Sunday 26th February. Olly is pictured here with his parents Emma and Alan, Godparents, and siblings.





Easter at Holy Trinity

Palm Sunday - Café Church

We have an informal lay led morning worship service in the Carrington Room on Sunday 2nd April at 9.30am followed by refreshments

Good Friday - the Church will be open from 3-4pm for quiet reflection, lighting of candles and prayer on Friday 7th April.

Easter Sunday - please join us in Church at 9.30am for our Family Communion Service with Easter Egg Hunt.

All welcome - Happy Easter

'Friends of Holy Trinity Church'



Thank you to the few people who responded to the 'Friends' article in the last Village News and on the Drayton Parslow Community Facebook page. We still need a few more of you to come forward and are appealing yet again. As mentioned before, you do not have to be a churchgoer or even have any religious beliefs, but just be passionate about preserving this beautiful Church for future generations.

Any new ideas or help you can give in future fundraising events would be most welcome. All money raised by the Friends would be used solely for the benefit of Holy Trinity Church to help fund the preservation and maintenance of the fabric of the building.

Please contact Susan Piddock (spiddock2014@gmail.com) for more information.

Reminder: You can also donate towards the maintenance of Holy Trinity anytime and BACS details are:

A/C 01775478 Sort Code 30 15 53 Account name Drayton Parslow P C C
Please use 'Friends' as the reference.

Quiz Time #18 with thanks to Susan Piddock

1. What number, or who was, the last King Edward?
2. Which current daily newspaper was first published in 1785?
3. Who is currently the quizmaster in University Challenge?
4. Which European explorer discovered the Hawaiian Islands?
5. What name is specifically given to a Mediterranean wind that comes from the Sahara and reaches hurricane speeds in North Africa and Southern Europe?
6. In what year did Concorde take its maiden test flight?
7. What grain is semolina made from?
8. What does the chemical symbol F represent?
9. What is the capital of Venezuela?



10. What is the final event in the decathlon?
11. Which American state is named in recognition of Queen Elizabeth I?
12. In which city in Jordan would you be if you were in the 'rose-red city, half as old as time'?
13. Which former National Hunt jockey celebrated his 44th birthday by reaching the South Pole?
14. Who played Honey Ryder in the first James Bond Movie?
15. Who wrote the play 'A Winter's Tale'?



Answers to quiz on this page:

1. Edward VIII (8th)
2. The Times
3. Jeremy Paxman
4. Captain James Cook
5. Sirocco (also spelt Scirocco)
6. 1969
7. Wheat (ground from hard durum wheat)

8. Fluorine
9. Caracas
10. 1500m
11. Virginia
12. Petra
13. Richard Dunwoody
14. Ursula Andress
15. Shakespeare



Drayton Parslow Sports & Social Club

**The Recreation Ground, Main Road,
Drayton Parslow, MK17 0JR**

Children's cricket this spring/summer - sign up now! There are still a few spaces left.

Last edition, we shared that **Drayton Parslow Cricket Club will start a Summer Youth Camp** this year. This will be a wonderful opportunity for children to come and have a great time playing cricket. Children will be managed by a Qualified Youth Coach.

We're really pleased that **a number of children from the village have signed up**. There are **still a few spots left** so do get in touch ASAP with Asad if you'd like to sign up (details below).

- **Age group:** 7-11 years (girls and boys)
- **Session Dates:** April 27th; May 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th; June 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th with July 6th and 13th as reserve days in case of bad weather.
- **Session time:** 5:45pm- 7:00pm
- **Location:** Drayton Parslow Sports and Social Club
- **Payment:** £50 for 10 sessions. The club has also created a **scholarship program** for children whose parents are not able to afford the fee. They have space for **five children at no cost** so please contact Asad if you'd like to take advantage of this opportunity.
- **For details on how to join, please contact Asad on:** Draytonparslowcricket@gmail.com/07401317071. **numbers are limited so please get in contact soon to register your interest.**



FREE Easter Egg Hunt: Sunday 9 April

The Easter Egg hunt for children starts at 12.30pm at the clubhouse on Sunday 9 April. It's completely free of charge and everyone is welcome!

The Easter Egg Raffle will kick off after the Easter Egg Hunt finishes, around 2pm.

Membership renewals are due

Our licence is granted based on our club being a Members Club. Membership runs from Jan-Dec so if you haven't paid for this year, we'd be really grateful if you could pay this soon.

There is a sign-up sheet behind the bar, or please drop your details (name, address, age for under 18s) along with your membership fee through to Helen Harvey (24 North Close). Fees are £2 per person for the year. Family membership is £5 per family. We appreciate everyone's support in becoming members – not only does it help us maintain our licence (which is a valuable addition to events such as the VPA show and Cricket, as well as those who regularly use our clubhouse), the membership fees help us pay our essential fixed costs such as Council Tax and Public Liability Insurance.



Sunday Sessions



Our Sunday sessions continue to be popular, both with our regular Dominoes players and with families socialising and using the pool table (free to use) and our growing collection of board games. As always, all are welcome, the clubhouse is open every Sunday lunchtime (12noon-2.30pm)



Mobile Post Office



The Mobile Post Office continues to operate out of the clubhouse on a **Tuesday morning (9.30am – 11am)**, serving all of your Post Office needs.



Bingo Dates (Monthly, Saturday Evenings):

Forthcoming dates for bingo are:

- 15th April

As always, all are welcome at Bingo. Eyes down at 8pm!

Regular cards sessions

Whist: Tuesday evenings, 7pm - 10pm.

Abbey Smith Bridge Club:

Thursday Evening: 7pm - 10pm

Beginner Lessons: Friday 11.30am - 1pm

Friday Afternoon: 2pm - 4.30pm

Please contact Abbey on abbeybridgelessons@hotmail.co.uk or 07891 586410 with any questions you may have about sessions either face-to-face in the club building, or virtual sessions.



Hall Hire

Subject to diary availability, the clubhouse is available to hire. With a lovely view over the Cricket / Rec ground, we have a large, spacious hall with kitchen, ladies/gents/disabled toilet facilities, Bar facilities, and outdoor space to the rear of the club. Hall Hire charges are fixed at £15 per hour (with an incremental £10 per hour (per bar staff member) if the bar is required. Bar hours will need to include set-up and clearing up time). A non-refundable deposit and hire agreement form are required for all bookings. Please text Linda Fedoriv on 07851 077684 for hire availability.



Calendar of bin collection dates (Binfluencer)

* NEW FEATURE REQUESTED BY CAROL HEMMING *

Normal Collection Day	Revised Collection Day	Green bin (Landfill)	Blue bin (Recycling)	Brown bin (Garden)	Food caddy (Food)	Note
Tue 04/04/2023	Tue 04/04/2023	✓			✓	
Tue 11/04/2023	Wed 12/04/2023		✓	✓	✓	Bank Holiday week
Tue 18/04/2023	Tue 18/04/2023	✓			✓	
Tue 25/04/2023	Tue 25/04/2023		✓	✓	✓	
Tue 02/05/2023	Wed 03/05/2023	✓			✓	Bank Holiday week
Tue 09/05/2023	Wed 10/05/2023		✓	✓	✓	Bank Holiday week
Tue 16/05/2023	Tue 16/05/2023	✓			✓	
Tue 23/05/2023	Tue 23/05/2023		✓	✓	✓	
Tue 30/05/2023	Wed 31/05/2023	✓			✓	Bank Holiday week

Note: at the time of compiling this edition of the Village News, Bucks Council have not published the revised collection schedule for the April and May Bank Holiday weeks so we have assumed bins will be collected one day later than normal but this may not be correct.



Raising Money for Malawi

In July 2025, I will be travelling with a group of Aylesbury Grammar School students to the Zomba district of Malawi to take part in an exciting project to help build a new secondary school. With this project, we hope to reduce the acute shortage of schools in the Zomba area of Malawi.



As part of the preparation for this trip, the boys involved are aiming to raise £170,000 to build and furnish the School. AGS have a registered charity, Aylesbury Grammar School Malawi Education Initiative, which is actively fundraising for this project. Each student involved has been asked to raise a minimum of £1000 to help achieve this total.

The Aylesbury Grammar School Malawi Education Initiative aims to enhance the educational opportunities in the Zomba district of Malawi. Thus far the initiative has already raised over £170,000 and has helped improve ICT infrastructure, electrical supply, educational resources, sports equipment and has built classrooms and new preschools. A programme has also helped a number of Malawians to visit the UK on an educational exchange.



With my fundraising, I aim to help stock the library in this secondary school in Malawi in order to share my passion about books.

One of the ways I am fundraising is by competing, along with my father, in a 65 mile cycling event around Northamptonshire on May 20th 2023 and would be really grateful for sponsorship. I have never cycled 65 miles in one go before and am embarking on a training schedule during my free time to prepare for this event. If you would like to help me by sponsoring me, please have a look at my JustGiving page link below.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/OCBmalosa>

In the summer, I hope to have a stall at the VPA Village show where I will be selling children's books, jigsaws and some toys. I hope to have some games for everyone to take part in too.

I am also collecting metal to raise funds for the school project. If anyone would like to help me with this - I am collecting aluminium drink cans, old or unwanted electrical cables and any scrap metal and would be grateful for any donations. I will happily collect these from you (please drop me an email at caroline.cb@icloud.com) or alternatively, you can drop them in the box at the side of my house (36 Main Road).

All the money raised will go towards helping people in Malawi have a better education.



Thank you in advance for your help and support in this exciting project.

Oliver Colborne-Baber

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

<http://draytonparslowparishcouncil.org.uk/> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/DraytonParslowPC/>

Drayton Common Land Trustee Fund Annual Distribution 2022

The applications for 2022 have now been considered and awards should have been paid directly to your utility bill provider. Letters confirming the award were sent out in the first week of February 2023, if you have not received the letter or the award please contact the Clerk T:07516344248 E: draytonparslowclerk@gmail.com

For 2023 the Trustees hope to reach more of the community offering support to anyone in need. If you or someone you know live in Drayton Parslow and are currently finding it difficult to afford essential things, you might be eligible for a grant from the Drayton Common Land Trust Fund. These grant criteria will be as follows:

The Trustees shall annually apply such rents for the relief of financial hardship, either generally or individually, of people in Drayton Parslow Parish by making grants of money for providing or paying for items, services or facilities.

This grant can still take the form of a credit towards electricity bills however the Trustees are now able to consider other requests that fit the criteria above.

Villagers can nominate themselves or can nominate a neighbour, friend or acquaintance who might be reluctant to apply on their own behalf. All applications and distributions from the fund are handled in confidence. The closing date for applications is 6th November 2023 as the grants will be decided at the meeting on the 27th November 2023. To be eligible, even if you have received credits from this Fund in the past, you need to apply by completing the application form which can be obtained from the Clerk. T:07516344248 E: draytonparslowclerk@gmail.com



Drayton Parslow Parish Council supports the 20's Plenty for Buckinghamshire campaign and calls on Buckinghamshire Council to implement 20mph in Drayton Parslow. Full details are on our website [Twenty is Plenty – © 2022 Drayton Parslow Parish Council](#)

If you live in Drayton Parslow and would like to **show your support by displaying a 20's plenty sign on your wheelie bins** then please email your name and address to DraytonParslow@20splentyforus.org.uk

We will then deliver a sticker free of charge to your door.

Planning

If you wish to receive updates regarding planning matters, please register with the Buckinghamshire Council website where all the latest applications and updates can be found. Within your own profile you will be able to track applications and receive notifications for all applications made within the Parish Boundary.

<https://publicaccess.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/online-applications/>

Elections Photographic ID

From 4 May 2023, voters in England will need to show a photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections. This will apply to local elections, Police and Crime Commissioner elections, UK parliamentary by-elections and recall petitions. From October 2023, it will also apply to UK general elections.

Full details can be found : [Voter ID | Electoral Commission](#)



Allotments

We currently have two vacant allotments available. Contact the Clerk for details

draytonparslowclerk@gmail.com

Special Thanks



It will feel like many months ago now but the Parish Council would like to thank Mr and Mrs Harris for supplying electricity for the use of the Christmas lights.

Dates for the Diary

Full Council Meetings:

24th April 2023 7:30 pm at the Sports & Social Club

22nd May 2023 7:30 pm at the Sports & Social Club

A Drunken Brawl (1) by Jeremy Lee

On a summer's evening in 1841 three friends go drinking in Drayton, but the evening ends with an argument (what it's about is not clear), there is a fight and one of the men is killed. The following account is based on newspaper reports from the time, court records, census returns and other sources (including historic weather data). I have standardized the spelling of the names of people and places.

In the 19th Century, in the middle of August, most villagers would be focused on getting in the harvest and would not have time to head to the pub early in the evening. However, the summer of 1841 was unusually wet. Perhaps the wet weather had delayed the harvest, or perhaps it was raining that day and it was not possible to get the harvest in. Or perhaps, because the three men were not from the village, they were not involved in the harvest. Whatever the reason, at around 5pm on 18th August 1841, Solomon Loveridge, John and Joseph Smith, were heading towards the Horse and Jockey pub. By the end of the evening, Solomon would be dead and the next day John and Joseph would be accused of causing his death. Solomon is described as being 23 years old.

At the Inquest into Solomon's death, all three are described as gypsies. This may have been just lazy labelling. From the records I've found, I think it likely that the men would have described themselves as Travellers. It was then quite common for some families, not necessarily gypsies, to travel round the country following the seasonal demand for labour, particularly in the countryside. The 1851 census for Drayton gives us a rare glimpse of one of those families. On census night (30th March) 1851 Thomas Baldham and Mariah Smith, together with their eight children were camping in a tent somewhere near the crossroads. Thomas is described as a Traveller. It is clear, from the birth places of their children, that the family are on a regular circuit taking in Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and Kent. There had always been people travelling around the country doing seasonal work, but by the mid 19th Century other forces had added more people to this 'Travelling' community. The Inclosure of the old, largely arable, open fields with the, largely pasture, enclosed fields was at its height between 1750 and 1850 (Drayton's fields were Inclosed in 1798), and, together with the greater mechanization of farm work, had greatly reduced the need for a large, settled, agricultural labour force. Many of the people working in agriculture now needed to move around the country, following those seasonal spikes in the demand for labour (wheat harvest, fruit picking, hop picking, hay making, etc).

I have not found, with certainty, details for any of the three men on their way to the Horse and Jockey. Solomon could be the Solomon Loveridge who is sentenced to a month in prison for the manslaughter of his brother in a fight at Houghton Regis in 1835. He is considered a model prisoner and is released after two weeks. However, there were at least three Solomon Loveridges moving around the area (most often in Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire) in the mid 19th Century, all describing themselves as Travellers or Tinkers. I haven't been able to clearly identify John and Joseph Smith either and I haven't been able to find any of the three in the 1841 Census. If they were travelling around that is perhaps not surprising. Intriguingly, a Joseph Smith and a Solomon Loveridge are convicted of stealing seven rabbits and a ferret in Bedford in 1885. It can't be our Solomon, but is it evidence of a connection between the families?

...continued.

A Drunken Brawl (2)

When the men arrive at the Horse and Jockey they see John Gilling. John had been born in Stony Stratford in around 1803, but he had lived in Drayton since at least 1831. In 1837 John is in the register of electors for Drayton as owner of the Freehold of the Horse and Jockey pub and Grocer's shop. The Horse and Jockey was probably built in about 1829, when it is first Licensed as a pub. So John could have been there since 1829. In 1841 he was living at the Horse and Jockey with his wife Elizabeth (born in Northamptonshire) and son Thomas and he was still the landlord at the time of the 1851 Census. He dies in 1857.s

In 1797 Charles Greenwood and the Rector, William Lord, as the main landowners in Drayton, were the sponsors of the Inclosure Act. This swept away the great Open Fields where farmers and landowners held strips of ridge and furrow mixed in with each other in the same field in its place farms of small fields enclosed with hedges arose that we see today. The Act is only concerned with the Inclosure of Drayton Parslow Parish. However, one of the first things the Act notes is that arable land known as Gore Leys and Clackhill, two closes known as Clack Closes, and an area of common pasture Clackhill Common, are in both the Parish of Drayton and the Parish of Stewkley, with both Parishes having rights over this land at "stated times of the year". The Act doesn't set out what those stated times of the year were, but it does note that the boundary between Drayton and Stewkley was "not clearly known". How this came about we don't know, but with both the Passeslewes and the Abbott of Woburn Abbey owning land in both Drayton and Stewkley they were probably less interested in exactly where the boundary was between the two Parishes.

The Inclosure Act requires the Inclosure Commissioners to appoint arbitrators to fix the boundary between Drayton and Stewkley and to divide the "uncertain land" equally between the two Parishes. One of the first things the Commissioners do, in August 1797, is write to the proprietors of land and tithes in Drayton and Stewkley and ask them to nominate arbitrators for these discussions.

The Inquest into Solomon's death, was held in Drayton on the 25th August, probably in the Three Horseshoes. At the Inquest John Gilling said that he knew the three men well and that all three were gypsies. John said that the men came to the pub between 5pm and 6pm the previous Thursday (18th August) and drank three pints of beer each before leaving at about 9.15 that evening. John said the men appeared to be on the best of terms, if a little drunk, when they left. Evidently they headed up hill towards The Three Horseshoes.

The Three Horseshoes wasn't the same building we see today. It was a low, thatched building, set back from the road. Kitty Millburn was born in Swanbourne in about 1788. She was the landlady of the Three Horseshoes and remained so until at least 1854. Kitty told the Inquest that the three men arrived at the her pub at about 9.50pm that night. Solomon called for, and paid for, a quart (a quarter of a gallon = 2 pints) of beer, which the three men shared. The men "appeared to be on the best of terms", but quite drunk, when they left, about 20 minutes after they arrived. However, a few minutes later, Kitty heard quarrelling 'up the road' which she supposed were the three men.

Ann Chappel was born Mary Ann Tarbox in the village in 1801. In 1827 she married John Chappel, an agricultural labourer. In 1841 they are living in a cottage a short distance downhill from the Three Horseshoes, probably on one of the sites now occupied 12-16 Main Road. In the report of the Inquest Ann's cottage is described as being 'near Mr Fountaine's rickyard' ...continued

A Drunken Brawl (3)

In the 1838 Register of Electors, John Fountaine is recorded as being the tenant farmer at Manor Farm, but he doesn't appear in the 1841 Census. The rickyard was where hay was stacked and stored after cutting and was probably where 3a and 3b Main Road, along with the entrance to The Pightle, are now. About 10pm that Thursday evening, Ann tells the Inquest, she heard some men quarrelling in the road. She heard one say "Come into the rickyard for this is the Highway and you will be run over" and then another voice said " I won't go. I will lie here and die first".

In 1841 Hannah Viccars (nee Jackman, born in Drayton in 1803) lived with her husband Thomas, a Cowman, and their seven children in a cottage either to the rear of Manor Farm House or possibly at what is now 5 Main Road - although the house would have been very different to the one that is there now. Hannah told the Inquest that at about half past ten, she was passing Mr Fountain's rickyard and saw the two Smiths dragging Solomon towards the rickyard. Joseph Smith put his fist in her face and said he had hit Solomon on the jaw. Solomon didn't speak.

James Webb was in the rickyard when the two Smiths dragged Solomon in and left him under a rick before leaving. James also saw John Smith return between 4 and 5am the following morning, but didn't see him leave. There are two possible candidates for this witness, a father and son, both agricultural labourers. James Snr was born in around 1794 in Shirburn near Thame. In 1841 James Snr, his wife Elizabeth and their sons James, Joseph, William and Thomas were living next door to Ann Chappel. None of the family were born in Drayton. James Jnr was born in Penn near High Wycombe in about 1825.

Joseph Mead saw both the Smiths come out of the rickyard at about 4.30am on the Friday morning. Joseph was born in the village in 1829 and, in 1841, was living with his father John (an agricultural labourer), his mother Frances and his five siblings. They were living somewhere near to Hannah Viccars. The 1841 Census doesn't record an occupation for him, although he was probably too old to be at school.

Other, unnamed, witnesses stated that Joseph Smith had struck Solomon and that Solomon was found dead, under the rick at about 4.30am on the Friday morning. The Smiths were seen running from the rickyard towards the church and they were caught later that Friday morning about 8 miles from Drayton.

John St. Thomas Wynton, surgeon (probably from Aylesbury or Buckingham), had examined the body and reported that the deceased had two large bruises on his head, consistent with being struck by a fist or hitting his head on the ground. The surgeon reported that the injuries had caused severe internal bleeding and that these injuries had caused Solomon's death.

The evidence from the witnesses leave a number of questions unanswered. Firstly, where were the three men heading when they left the Three Horseshoes? They were clearly heading uphill. If they were gypsies/travellers, were they camping somewhere beyond the Church - perhaps in Drayton Wood, which would have been larger then. Or were they staying temporarily on one of the farms whilst they helped with the harvest? If they were, Manor Farm seems the most likely, as there wouldn't have been another farm for some distance (Pot Ash Farm and Merrymead Farm weren't there then) along the road they were on.

...continued

A Drunken Brawl (4)

Secondly, why did the Smiths leave Solomon in the rickyard, then return the following morning and why, when several people had seen Solomon dragged into the rickyard, did no one go to check on him? It seems likely that the Smiths didn't realise how badly Solomon was injured: they appear to be concerned that he would be injured lying in the road. Had they left him, sheltered by the rick, to sleep and returned the next morning to pick him up for work on one of the local farms? And most importantly, why, when several people had seen Solomon dragged into the rickyard at about 10.30 that evening, did no one go and check on him before 4.30 the next morning? It sounds like Joseph Smith had tried to intimidate Hannah Viccars. Were the Smiths well known for being quick with their fists and everyone was being cautious? Or were people just used to men sleeping off a heavy night's drinking under a rick?

The Inquest was conducted by J. W. Cowley, the coroner, with a Jury of 18 'respectable' men. The coroner gave the Smiths the opportunity to address the Inquest. He told them that they didn't have to speak, but, if they did, their comments would be taken down and may incriminate them. Joseph Smith asked to speak and said that he had quarrelled with Solomon. Solomon then struck Joseph before Joseph struck him.

The coroner explained to the Jury the difference between murder and manslaughter and the Jury unanimously returned a verdict of manslaughter. The Smiths were remanded to Aylesbury gaol (then sited where the Judges Lodgings now is - near to the David Bowie statue) for trial at the next assizes. On the 3rd March 1842 at Aylesbury Assizes both men were sentenced to 12 months in prison for manslaughter.



Local History Society

Our village has been here for over 1,000 years and has lots of interesting stories to tell. We think it is important to discover and record those stories and we suspect that we aren't the only people who feel that.

So we thought it might be fun if those of us interested in the history of the village and the people who have lived here meet occasionally to share stories and research. You don't need any historical knowledge, just an interest in it.

If you are interested in being part of this, please contact either
Jeremy Lee (email: lee984@btinternet.com, Tel: 01296 720608)
or
Ann Lynch (Tel:01296 720742)



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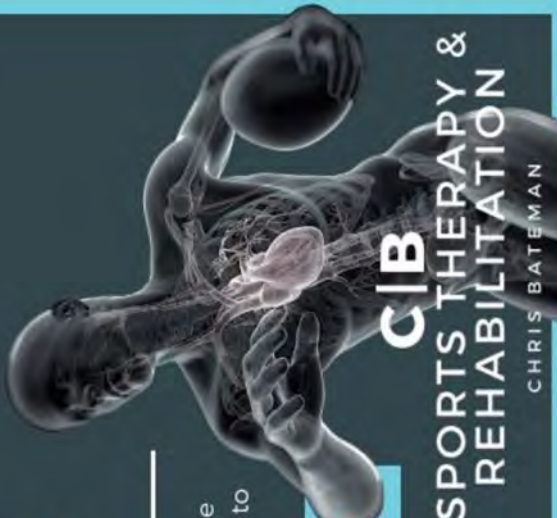
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Jobs for the garden in May

- Regularly hoe off weeds, they have loved the wet weather so get rid of them as soon as possible. Mulch around newly planted trees and shrubs to reduce weeds and retain moisture
- Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs, cut back Aubretia when it has finished flowering.
- Start planting up hanging baskets and containers but bring back inside if frost is likely;
- Plant out summer bedding at the end of the month (unless it is still very cold)
- Stake border perennial varieties now that are tall growing and that tend to flop over
- Prune early flowering shrubs back so that they have time to make new growth and flower buds for next year
- Open greenhouse vents and doors on warm days
- Earth up potatoes, and promptly plant any still remaining
- Begin to cut the grass regularly and fill in any bare spots by slightly loosening the surface of the soil and sow a good quality lawn seed over the area evenly

Topical Tips – The Chelsea Chop

- So called because it is usually carried out at the end of May, coinciding with the Chelsea Flower Show, this is a method for controlling the size, shape and flowering time of certain summer-flowering plants. Plants will not be so tall and leggy, will need less staking and the flowers may be smaller but more numerous.
- Clumps of perennials can be chopped back by one third to a half using shears or secateurs. If you have several clumps of one plant, try cutting back a few, but leaving others. Cuttings can sometimes be used to propagate more plants.

With many thanks to Gill Gallon (formerly of Potash Nursery)

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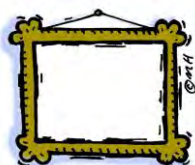
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We are very grateful to our regular contributors but would love to have more to share with you. Please help us to keep your Village News going by sparing a few minutes to send us some content for future editions:

Tell us about future events, your hobbies and interests, reviews of anything you think might be of interest to other villagers (books, movies, TV, places etc), recipes, memories of the village; your answers to the usual '30 mins with' feature etc

Don't worry about the format: it can be emailed or handwritten; and we can add pictures and sort out the presentation.

LINDA'S UPDATES

FEDORIW LIGHTS - Thank You from Emily's Star

16th February 2023

Dear Linda,

On behalf of Emily's Star, I would like to thank you for your extremely kind donation £225 raised by having Christmas Lights on your home!

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Once again, thank you for your generous donation.

Sincerely,



Katie Mainwaring
Emily's Star

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Every skip completed and every pound raised will help
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VPA NEWS

Well we are hitting this year running!!

So much in the pipeline, to start off with we are holding Drayton Parslow's very first **Charity Duck Race**. This will take place on **Sunday 2nd April at 11am** on the stream at the bottom of Highway, near the footpath. It will be sign posted nearer the day.

We have already started to clear away the brambles and debris from the stream, just a little more work needed.

Come along to a fun event for a good cause (Charity to be decided).



Coronation Weekend



Saturday 6th May: We will be having a **Fun Family Treasure Hunt** around the village. More details to follow later.

Sunday 7th May: We are having a **right Royal "Street" party** in the marquee on the recreation ground. More details to follow.



Don't forget our **Annual VPA Show on August 12th**. Schedules will be out end June/beginning July.

Another new event.....

The **Drayton Parslow Ball**, in September. Date to be confirmed. Get your posh frocks and dinner suits sorted. This will be a non profit event, just need to cover costs.

We would welcome some new members to help us out with our projects. If you think you'd like to join us contact

Linda Fedoriw

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