

# Dry Drayton Newsletter

November 2023

Issue Number 474



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# NEWS in Brief

## Marquee team seeks drivers to help tow a trailer

**I**s your car equipped to tow a trailer? If so, could you help the Village Marquee Team next year?

The village owns a marquee that is rented out in summer months for parties, fund-raisers and concerts in the local area. The marquee is driven to the locations on a trailer and put up and taken down by a team of volunteers. The funds raised go to support the school and village. (For example, buying teaching materials or equipment for the school or helping cover this newsletter's printing costs.)

The Marquee Team would love to find some more drivers with suitably-equipped vehicles to join the towing rota for

2024. Drivers – who can be paid per-trip if required – would each be asked to do around three trips over the summer, driving the trailer short distances to surrounding villages or into Cambridge and then going back to collect it a few days later.

*If you can help, please either email Neil Harris ([nrp.harris@gmail.com](mailto:nrp.harris@gmail.com)) or message Chris Turner on 07766 255637.*



## Dry Drayton Friendship Club

**M**embers met on a rainy afternoon for the October meeting when Alec Hawkes showed some more of his “Fragments of Time” videos. These are recordings of conversations with village residents from the past. Following the presentation we all enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea prepared by Carol Doyle and Angie Martin.

### PLEASE HELP

We are desperately in need of new folk to keep our Friendship Club going. We meet on a Wednesday afternoon for tea and a chat and sometimes a speaker or quiz, but we are all getting older and need new blood to keep going. If you think you could help we would love to hear from you. Please contact Marlene.

Everyone, whether you have been before or not, or whatever your age, will be very welcome to come along to our meetings at 2:30 on the third Wednesday each month.

Marlene Northrop, tel: 01954 789525  
email: [marlene.northrop28@gmail.com](mailto:marlene.northrop28@gmail.com)

## December Newsletter deadline

**T**he next Newsletter is the December/January double issue. If you have any contributions (text and/or photos), send them to [drydraytonnews@gmail.com](mailto:drydraytonnews@gmail.com) by 20th November at the latest. Thank you.

Many thanks also to all the Newsletter production team, regular contributors, and the volunteers who deliver the monthly Newsletters to your door. We couldn't do it without you!



# NEWS in Brief

## Village Coffee Mornings

**Village Coffee Mornings continue to run on the first Wednesday of the month, 10:00 – 12:00 at the Village Hall.**

Join us on Wednesdays 1st November and 6th December to enjoy a slice of homemade cake and a hot drink for just £3. We have gluten-free and vegan options available and you can get it to takeaway if you don't have time to stay.

### Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support in October

"I would like to thank everybody who so very kindly donated to Macmillan Cancer Support at the Coffee

Morning on 4th October," writes Becky Greed. "Your generosity was totally amazing – and I cannot thank you enough! The sum of £267 was raised at the Village Hall but donations in total rose to £609.

"Having unfortunately been on the receiving end of cancer twice myself, this fundraiser was something I needed to do. How wonderful the result was! So from the bottom of my heart, I thank you all so very much. In future, maybe the latter part of next year if the Village Hall Committee allows, I am hoping I can manage to organise another fund raiser for possibly Milton Hospice for sick children. Thank you all so much. Now I had better get on and make some more jewellery! With kind regards, Becky Greed. (Or Becky 'Bead', as someone called me!)"

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## Caring for creation at St Peter and St Paul's Church

The local church community has long been committed to creation care through deliberate strategies to maintain our beautiful rural churchyard as sensitively as possible, *writes Lynda Taylor*. In 2022 our efforts were rewarded by the local Wildlife Trusts with their Bronze Award.

This year the Parochial Church Council (PCC) agreed we should seek to build on that achievement by reviewing our commitment to environmental stewardship in other areas of our life together: worship and teaching; building and land; community and global engagement; and lifestyle.

To help us do this, we are using resources from a Christian environmental charity, A Rocha. Their EcoChurch scheme is helping us to audit each of the key areas, highlighting where we are already doing quite well and, more importantly, those areas we need to work on. In October 2023 we applied for and successfully achieved the Bronze EcoChurch Award. It is now on display in church along with more details of the scheme.

Over the coming months we shall continue to look for ways we can strengthen our environmental credentials

– as individuals, families and as a whole church community.

We are now formally registered as a Fairtrade Church, using fairly traded products such as coffee, tea and sugar in our church kitchen, as well as fairly traded communion wine and linen for our services.

This term the church Bible study group is exploring environmental concerns from a faith-based perspective, and a new outdoor 'Forest Church' service takes place once a month on a Sunday afternoon.

In October we held two churchyard working parties on successive Saturday mornings to help keep our churchyard in good order – trimming hedges and overhanging branches, clearing weeds from graves, and tidying pathways. Our aim is to ensure that the churchyard, with a public footpath running through it, remains a welcoming and well-managed habitat for flora and wildlife as well as a safe and pleasant space for human recreation and contemplation.

We know that many in our congregation and in the wider village make a range of lifestyle choices that reflect personal commitment to environmental care and concern: whether in relation to sustainable travel, or careful recycling, or reducing plastic, or creating a wild space in their garden, or purchasing fairly traded



# Advent Window Trail

## **D**o you have a window that can easily be seen from the street?

We are looking for 24 houses in the village who will sign up to decorate a window with a 'seasonal theme' and reveal it on their assigned day in Advent. By the 24th of December, all advent windows will be revealed, and villagers can enjoy a magical stroll through the village while spotting the windows.

You can be as creative as you like in decorating your window, which will, of course, add a holiday touch to the inside of your home while at the same time adding charm to our Dry Drayton community. The pictures included are examples of windows in other villages where this is an annual event. Our event will also raise money for the replacement of the 'Trim Trail' equipment in the school playground.

We would ask that the decorated windows should remain in place until 2nd January, which will give time over the holidays for them to be enjoyed by villagers and visitors alike. If your window is not near the street but you'd like to be involved by

helping someone else decorate a window, please let Hilary or Diane know.

If you'd like to join in this exciting new event or find out more, please contact Hilary Smith at [hilary.smith@xtranex.co.uk](mailto:hilary.smith@xtranex.co.uk) or Diane Harris at [da\\_harris\\_2000@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:da_harris_2000@yahoo.co.uk)

*Sponsored by the Dry Drayton S & VA, Registered Charity Number 269765*



products, or volunteering for local projects.... the list goes on! We look forward in the coming months to interacting more closely with other local creation care projects in Dry Drayton, such as The Edwards Woodland, and to benefitting from the knowledge and skills of neighbours and friends as we continue to care for our church building and land.

Our EcoChurch project is intended as a whole church initiative designed to help us all live more faithfully and lightly on the earth, and at the same time convey a message of hope to and for the world in an age of climate anxiety and environmental challenge. It is about a whole church commitment to making St Peter & St Paul's care even better for the world which we believe God created and sustains in love.

We plan to build on the achievements of the past 2 years so we can apply for the EcoChurch Silver Award in 2024!

If you have any questions or concerns, then please share them with a member of the Working Group (see below). The Group reports regularly to the PCC and we welcome ideas and suggestions from the wider congregation and community to help us move forward in an appropriate way.

*Lynda and Nigel Taylor,  
David & Sue Wyatt,  
Carole Lunn*

# School News

**W**e were very proud to be presented with our Gold Sports Award just before half-term.

Claire McDonnell from South Cambs Sports Partnership joined our Monday Collective Worship to surprise our sports teacher Mrs Scarrow with a framed certificate and special badge.

Mrs Scarrow has transformed the sport at Dry Drayton Primary School and inspired children to keep active at lunch times and in after-school football and gym. Children also take part in many tournaments in the county – for example, the up and coming cross country competition which Jack won last year with his team mates close on his heels.

You can see this picture of Jack and Fergal last year at the cross country coming in first and second places! We are hoping for a repeat performance next month – can Jack keep his winning streak?!

He won medals recently in the Town and Gown 3k Race in Cambridge in mid-October where he came second in the boys' 9-11 age group. He told us that his friends and Mrs Scarrow had inspired him to take up running.

Well done Jack and a huge 'thank you' to Mrs Scarrow!

If you would like to be part of our fantastic team here at the school, we are always looking for volunteers to hear readers, run a chess club, or share their expertise to enhance the children's learning at school.



Do contact the office if you would like to share your experiences or give some of your time. Thank you.



# Little Owl Christmas Fair

Come to our fundraiser on Saturday 25 November!



**T**he Little Owl Pre-school will be holding its fabulous Christmas Fair on Saturday 25th November at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Dry Drayton.

Please join us from 3:00 – 5:00 pm for an afternoon of festive fun! This will include a winter raffle, mulled wine and mince pies, Christmas crafts, festive stalls, carols sung by the children and a visit from Father Christmas!

All proceeds will go towards maintaining our wonderful Little Owl Preschool, After School and Holiday Club offerings. So please do come along and show your support and let us get you into the Christmas spirit!



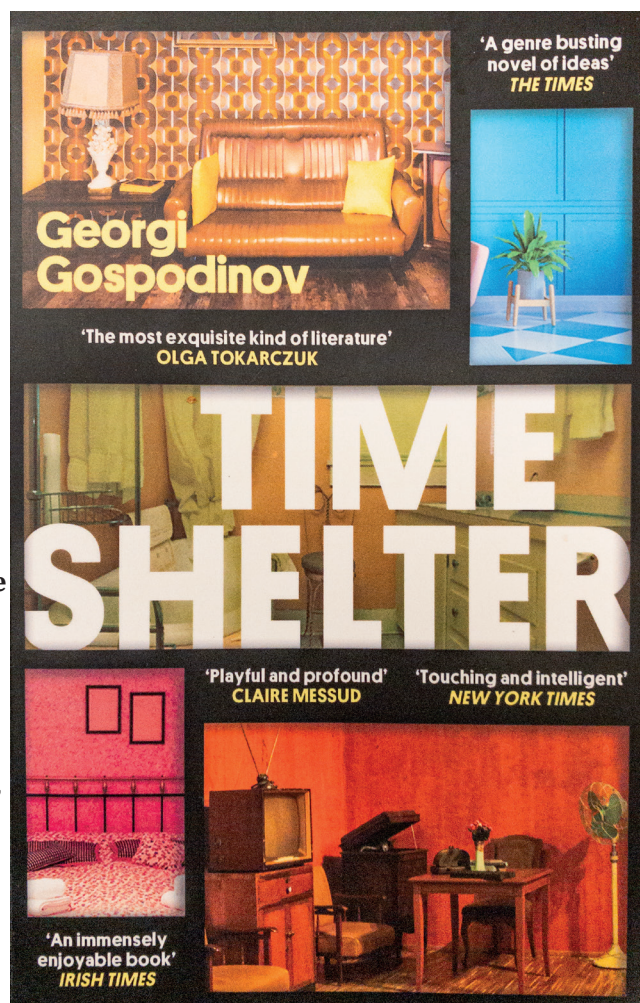
# The Book Group reads 'Time Shelter'

## Time Shelter Georgi Gospodinov

**A**t our October meeting we were delighted to welcome a new member to the group who has recently moved into the village. The focus of discussion was *Time Shelter* by Georgi Gospodinov which won the International Booker Prize 2023. A mysterious fictitious therapist, Gaustine, establishes a clinic that treats patients with Alzheimer's by recreating the times in which they felt most secure. The "past-clinic" begins with different rooms and floors appropriately decorated with carefully curated furnishings from the past. As the rooms develop they recreate the smells of the period, as well as reprinting the daily papers from that time. These and many other tactics make the rooms more convincing of the time they depict which gives solace to the patients in the clinic.

From this starting premise the book then looks at the unintended consequences which arise when an increasing number of healthy people seek out the clinic as a 'time shelter', hoping to escape the realities of modern life. The narrator meets with old friends in Bulgaria who run a re-enactment organisation, recreating some of the famous protests and marches in Bulgaria's history with devastating consequences. Meanwhile across Europe the notion of political parties promoting different decades in their national histories is explored with referenda being fought on which particular past era and events will best characterise a country's identity. The final part of the story depicts the narrator's failing memory and his own mental return to safe periods in his past. *Time Shelter* is a contemporary book written in the period between the Brexit referendum and the Russian invasion of Ukraine both seismic events, which some might view as trying to control the future by selecting and promoting particular aspects from the past.

The group agreed that this was an excellent translation of a brave, cleverly written book which tackled some difficult subjects. There was general agreement that the first section depicting the "past-clinic" was well described and enjoyable. However as the book progressed many of the group found it to be disjointed and in many cases left them wondering what it was about. Other members of the group enjoyed the, often dark, humour in the text. The discussion which followed explored individual's thoughts on whether we could, and would want to, identify a period from our own pasts to provide safety for our own memories. It also posed the question "when do our memories become history" which gave rise to some interesting thoughts but no resolution. The writer's statement



that "Nationalism stole my country" also rang true for some members of the group given events in their earlier lives. Whilst this is obviously fiction, the group agreed that it does not read as a novel but rather an extended essay that was an absurd, humorous, yet thought provoking meditation on memory.

The book we will be reviewing at our November meeting is *Death at La Fenice* by Donna Leon. Set in Venice this follows the investigation into the death of Maestro Helmut Wellauer, a world-renowned conductor, who died from cyanide poisoning during an intermission at La Fenice. This is the first in an extensive series of novels by Donna Leon about Guido Brunetti the Vice-commissario of police in Venice. who she introduces in this novel.

*If you would like to find out more about the group please contact Hilary Smith  
Email : [hilary.smith@xtranex.co.uk](mailto:hilary.smith@xtranex.co.uk)  
Mobile : 07786 073220*

# Newsletter seeks editor

**The village newsletter is looking for a new editor to take over after Christmas.**

After six and a half years, current editor Rachel Gardner will be stepping down after the December issue. She says: "I've really enjoyed the role but it's time for a new editor who can bring some fresh ideas to the newsletter.

"There are many issues affecting Dry Drayton from the long-discussed cycle path, and efforts to slow down the traffic speeding through the village, to the new travel hub planned to be built by Scotland Farm. So there's lots of important news to cover."

The newsletter is a real team effort and has a great group of volunteers behind it. S&VA committee member

Cinnamon Bair creates the advertising pages and S&VA Treasurer Roger Swain collects the revenue from advertisers and pays the printers.

Seunghee Hill has been doing much of the design and layout, while Jean and John Harding distribute the newsletter to the volunteers who deliver the newsletter to every household in the village and to the school. So the editor can focus on the content that goes into the editorial pages.

**If the editor's role might interest you – or you could be up for 'guest editing' an edition – and you'd like to know more, please contact Rachel for more details.**

Email [drydraytonnews@gmail.com](mailto:drydraytonnews@gmail.com)

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## Community Car Scheme

**This Car Scheme is available for anyone requiring transportation to essential medical or social destinations and has no other means of transport.**

**To book a driver**, please contact one of our Co-ordinators:

**Derek Evans    07464 052 521**  
**Lizzie Coe      07387 395 296**  
**Gill Stott        07464 069 483**

**Please call between  
8.30am – 6.00pm, Monday – Friday only**

To enable a suitable driver to be arranged, please call at least 48 hours before your appointment. Please do not call on weekends and bank holidays.

Our drivers can **ONLY ACCEPT CASH PAYMENTS**. Card payment will not be accepted.

**The Scheme is run entirely by a dedicated team of local volunteer drivers and co-ordinators, kindly offering their services to help those in need of transport.**

We are always looking for more drivers and co-ordinators - if you would like to join our wonderful supportive team serving our community, email Sheila Stephenson on [sheila1pc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sheila1pc@yahoo.co.uk) or call 01954 210638.

Drivers are reimbursed mileage costs at 45p per mile, part paid by the passenger and a subsidy from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.

**READ MORE ABOUT THE CAR SCHEME ON THE WEBSITE AND HOW TO VOLUNTEER**

[www.DryDrayton.net/carshare.asp](http://www.DryDrayton.net/carshare.asp)

**Please note:**

Our drivers will not tolerate any verbal abuse or other bad behaviour. We reserve the right to refuse further help in such cases.



# A message from our Minister

## Launch of a Fundraising Appeal

**D**ear Friends, we will soon be writing to you about a new Fundraising Appeal that we are launching in early November to ask the village for any help you can please give us again.

Like so many others, we are facing increasing running costs and are struggling to meet them. It has become harder to find the funds to keep the church lit, heated and maintained so that it's safe to use. We need to work hard to keep the church open as a space that the village is welcome to use – and has done, for everything from school Harvest Festival services to Christmas concerts to Feast Week ceilidhs.

It costs over £70 a day to run the church but our regular income falls far short of that. So we are increasingly dependent on donations and fundraisers to make up the shortfall.

For centuries St Peter and St Paul's has been at the heart of village life. Baptising a much-wanted child, or supporting a grieving family as they say their final goodbye to a loved one; meeting to share the joy of Christmas, or to remember those who gave their lives for their country; celebrating the crowning of a new king; collecting donations for our local food bank; hosting well attended musical events; or supporting the children at Dry Drayton School. These are some of the many ways the church supports the village.

**"It costs over £70 a day to run the church but our regular income falls far short of that. So we are increasingly dependent on donations and fundraisers to make up the shortfall."**

We are immensely grateful for all the support we have had over the years from so many in the village, and to those who live nearby. Thank you to all those who gave so generously in our 2020 appeal; your help made a real difference at a very difficult time for us all. We are also very grateful to volunteers in the village who give a lot of their time to keep the church going.

We are looking forward to a busy – and musical – run up to Christmas. Thank you for your support, we are very grateful for all your help.

*God Bless, Clare*





# Services in November

## St Peter & St Paul

St Peter & St Paul is part of the Lordsbridge Team of Churches and the Diocese of Ely.

<https://drydraytonchurch.co.uk/>

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Tel: 07818 618795. Email: [clarecoates@lordsbridge.org](mailto:clarecoates@lordsbridge.org)

**Assistant Minister:** Revd Canon Sue Wyatt

Tel: 01954 780775. Email: [sue.e.wyatt@btinternet.com](mailto:sue.e.wyatt@btinternet.com)

## Sunday 5 November

5:30 pm **Choral Evensong for All Souls** with Revd Clare and Nigel Taylor. All welcome.

## Sunday 12 November: Remembrance Sunday

10:50 am with Canon Sue. All welcome.

## Sunday 19 November

11:00 am **Morning Worship for All Ages.** With Revd Clare and Gabrielle Clark. All welcome.

## Sunday 26 November

10:30 am **West Cambridge Churches joint service for Christ the King,**  
**Comberton Leisure Centre.** All welcome.

3:00 – 4:00 pm **Forest Church** in the churchyard with Revd Clare.

**A brand new service suitable for all ages, whatever the weather! All welcome.**

## Zoom Services

Worship at Home – All Lordsbridge Zoom Service

Every Sunday, 11:00am. Join any time from 10:50am.

<https://zoom.us/j/82311473640>

## Wednesdays in term time

### Prayer and Praise

**2:00–3:00 pm**

In the church. A time for worship, prayer and quiet reflection.

Followed by tea and cake! All welcome.

# November at The Black Horse

**M**any of you will know that the lovely tree in the pub garden came down completely unexpectedly one evening last month. The 'Tree of Heaven' was in full leaf and thriving as far as we could see so it was something of a shock to say the least. Thankfully it fell entirely into the car park area and we were not open so there were no cars parked up at the time. It was also extremely fortunate that no-one was walking through the car park. We were hugely relieved to have escaped any significant damage.

As a result, we must remind everyone that **the public footpath around the pub grounds actually runs from the driveway barrier alongside the school fence at the front of the building and then to the side of the pub car park and up into the meadow.**

Obviously a handy shortcut is through the pub car park but this is private land and the fallen tree incident has made it essential to clarify that the car park is not a public right of way. We have installed more footpath 'way markers' to make the route clear. Sorry to add a few more steps to your walking journey but our obvious priority is everyone's safety.

## Autumn Specials

In other news... we have re-introduced our 'Autumn Specials', from Caramel or Hazelnut Lattes to Mulled Wine, Cider and Apple Juice in the Bar. Warming homemade soup will be on the lunchtime menu, toasts are back – as are hearty evening specials and warming puddings with lashings of custard too!



The lovely people at Gourmet Brownie have supplied us with the Hazelnut Caramel Brownie again (each one topped with a Ferrero Rocher) and we have many other homemade Cakes and Bakes to go with your tea or coffee.

## Pizza evening Saturday 18 November

Pizza Passione will be with us on Saturday 18th November. Please order directly with Sandro and book a table with us if you'd like to eat in.

## Heads up on our Christmas plans

(We know, we know....but people are booking already!) We will be serving a traditional Christmas Lunch on Sunday 10th and Sunday 17th December, all details will be on the website. Booking is essential, please. For get-togethers at other times do contact us so that we can make the necessary arrangements.

## Christmas Week

In Christmas week, on the Thursday, Friday and Saturday, we will open our normal hours with our usual lunchtime and evening menu. On **Christmas Eve** we will be open for Brunch (11am-3pm). On **Christmas Day** we'll be open for Drinks only from 11.30-1.30pm. Brunch will be available on Thursday 28th, Friday 29th and Saturday 30th December, and also on Monday 1st January 2024.

On **New Years Eve** we will open between 11am - 5pm with a timely theme that will offer something for everyone. More details on this and what it will include, and everything else for December will feature in the next newsletter.

**D**ry Drayton Village Newsletter is published on behalf of Dry Drayton School and Village Association (a registered charity, number 269765). Copies are delivered to houses in the village and the Newsletter is also published on the Dry Drayton website newsletter page: [www.drydrayton.net/newsletter.asp](http://www.drydrayton.net/newsletter.asp)

*Please note, the Editor reserves the right to accept, edit or reject any material for publication and to exclude from publication any remarks which may be construed as personal criticism of other residents. The views expressed in the newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial team of the School & Village Association, or of Victoire Press, the printers.*

*In between the monthly Newsletters you can keep up to date on village news by subscribing to the village e-mails created by our Dry Drayton webmaster. To do so, e-mail: [webmaster@drydrayton.net](mailto:webmaster@drydrayton.net)*

# News from the Parish Council

## Installation of 40 mph buffer zones around village to go ahead

**I** was unable to attend the October meeting of the Parish Council due to illness, *writes Chair Stephen Aldersley*. As per usual, all items discussed will be summarised in the minutes of the September meeting, but points which I think may be of broader interest are summarised below. Unfortunately, they are points which have been covered on previous occasions and are yet to be resolved.

### **NMU (Non-Motorised User) Access - update**

As in previous months, the situation has not changed. I have contacted Highways for an update on the acquisition of the necessary land required for the NMU but have not had a response. I shall continue to follow-up on this and shall also enlist the help of our County Councillor. However, I am concerned by the silence and so my next task will be to contact other parishes who did not receive funding for NMUs to find out what actions they are taking. More news as and when.

### **Scotland Farm Travel Hub and NMU (Non-Motorised User) Access**

As was mentioned in last month's newsletter, Kerry Allen, the Project Manager for the NMU to the Scotland Farm Travel Hub visited Dry Drayton on 3 October. My fellow councillors attended the site meeting and as mentioned in the forthcoming minutes, investigations are being carried out for a proposed NMU to link the village to the travel hub at Scotland Farm using a route either by Callow Brook, or by Scotland Road, or a combination of the two. Uncertainty has already been expressed about the suitability of a route by Callow Brook and I know from feedback from residents that this is not a preferred option for various reasons.

Kerry is expected to report back to the Parish Council sometime next month, and whilst the suggestions may not be feasible, they would represent a starting point for discussions. However, as I pointed out in last month's article, there is no local funding available, and if it happens, it would have to be funded through government funds.

### **Cambridge Road, Madingley**

The Parish Council has objected to the closure of Cambridge Road, Madingley and Cllr. Granger has sent details of the objections to Clare Rankin who is the Principal Active Travel Officer at Cambridgeshire County Council.

The Parish Council has to discuss the response we have received from Clare Rankin at our next meeting, but she stated that our "negative feedback" (aka objections) to the scheme will be made clear in the committee report. Reading between the lines, I am not optimistic that any changes will be made to the scheme.

### **Local Highways Improvement (LHI) application**

As has been mentioned previously, Dry Drayton has been successful in our application for the HGV weight advisory signage and the 40mph buffer zones at the entrances to the village. It has been requested that the buffer zones on the approaches to the village from the A428 and A1307 be extended to the nearest junctions, thereby removing the short distances which would have a limit of 60mph. I am waiting for a response to this request.

### **Traffic calming measures – 20mph village wide application**

Unfortunately, our application was unsuccessful, and we were ranked 59th out of 76 applicants. There will be the opportunity to apply once again at the beginning of 2024 and whilst this year's application can be rolled over, I need to determine what could be done to ensure that the application stands a better chance of success.

### **Next meetings**

The next meetings of the Parish Council will be Tuesday 7 November and Tuesday 5 December, both at 19.00.

*Cllr. Stephen Aldersley*

[cllr.aldersley@drydraytonpc.org.uk](mailto:cllr.aldersley@drydraytonpc.org.uk)

*As a reminder, you can find detailed minutes from all meetings on the Parish Council website at: [http://www.drydraytonpc.org.uk/Meetings\\_26385.aspx](http://www.drydraytonpc.org.uk/Meetings_26385.aspx)*



# Bin Days

All dates on Thursday unless otherwise noted.

Source: [www.scambs.gov.uk](http://www.scambs.gov.uk)

NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
2	blue/green	7	black
9	black	14	blue/green
16	blue/green	21	black
23	black	29*	blue
30	blue/green		*Friday

Note: Dates above correct at time of printing.



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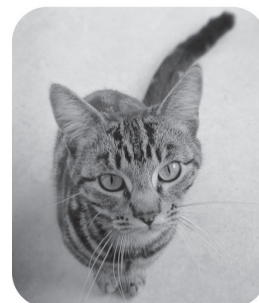
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