

# TOWN COUNCIL NEWS

## PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENTS - CROFT WAY AND DALELANDS

Croft Way is the turning off Prospect Road opposite the Beacon Centre in Market Drayton – the Play Area is at the bottom. It sits on the border between the Croft Way estate and the new housing development at Blandford Way, so it now serves a much bigger community. Invitations to tender for the upgrade went out in January and work is expected to start in May or June this year. Next on the list for improvement will be the Dalelands Play Area where upgrading is planned to take place later in the year.

Plans are in hand at the Town Council to install additional floral displays and some new benches in Queen Street. Look out for these as we move through spring towards the summer.

### SMALL AND LARGE GRANTS

Town Council funding is available for projects which benefit the community. Grants of up to £300 can be

requested under the Council's Small Grants scheme. Twelve such grants of £300 each were awarded in 2021 to groups that were able to show they had 'community aims whilst benefiting the residents of Market Drayton'. Larger grants of up to £5000 may be applied for too. The rules for both types of grant are available to see on the Town Council website.

([marketdrayton.gov.uk/small-grants](https://marketdrayton.gov.uk/small-grants)).

## SAVE THE DATE

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration is set to take place in June. The early May-Day bank holiday had been moved to Thursday 2nd June and an extra bank holiday on Friday 3rd June has been created for the Jubilee - So it will be a 4 day weekend (2nd - 5th June)! The Town Council have plans on the drawing board for a jubilee celebration on Thursday 2nd June, so save the date and keep an eye on the Town Council Website: [marketdrayton.gov.uk](https://marketdrayton.gov.uk)

## MARKET DRAYTON TOWN COUNCIL - ENGAGING WITH THE COMMUNITY:

The Town Council has been considering ways in which it can engage with members of the public and encourage them to get involved in local affairs.

Councillor Manton, Chair of The Finance and General Purposes Committee has given the following update on work being undertaken by that committee:

It is crucial that the Town Council has a website that can be seen as a 'go to' place for information, events, activities and advice etc. Ours is currently undergoing a creative upgrade, with the intention of not only modernising it, but also making it much more user friendly. There's more to come, but already you'll see a big improvement: it's fresher, livelier, more colourful and shows important news and information right from the landing page via quick access tabs under the main page picture.

Town Council Meetings are now broadcast live, you can hear events unfold in real time from the comfort of your own home thanks to investment in a new digital

microphone system at the Town Hall. Links to meetings are published on the Drayton Crier Facebook page, and on the new Town Council website. These links not only allow you to listen in, but also contextualize the proceedings through links to obtain the agendas and now (a new addition to the website) their appendices relating to the subjects under discussion.

The Town Council and local police are liaising on a regular basis through a newly made, formal arrangement known as the 'Policing Panel' which meets on average every 6 weeks. It is attended by the chairperson of each of the Town Council Committees with the objective of getting something done about specific issues identified as problem areas in Market Drayton. Domestic violence is a hidden crime of particular concern, and a big impact has been made on drug related crime, although for operational purposes, details of actions cannot be made public. Positive outcomes have also been achieved regarding anti-social behaviour with the police staying in touch with local licensees, and schools – and every two months Town Councillors accompany police officers in a 'town walkabout' with the aim of identifying problem areas that need attention.



Hamish Armytage reports on a visit in January 2022.

The Birks is a large two story building on several levels that sits at the end of a forestry track in the Valley of Duddon in the Lake District. It began its life as a farmhouse, probably more than 400 years ago, but now has a special relationship with Market Drayton, and is undergoing a transformational change to a 21st Century field centre.

its connection with Market Drayton began in 1967 when the Grove School boldly grasped the opportunity to rent it from the Forestry Commission. In the years that followed, every Grove student was offered a chance to spend a few days in residence. Over that period the school made



improvements, and so was able to buy the property outright at a favourable rate in 1985. The Birks is now held in charitable trust.

As Steve Murphy, trustee of the charity 'Friends of Grove school', puts it: "The Birks is entering its third phase of existence. It is now an outdoor centre with the kind of facilities that make it an attractive proposition for any educational or outdoor training organisation. Its primary role, however, remains that of a community asset for Market Drayton, and to provide benefit to Grove School students. Other groups, of course, can base themselves there and it is open for private bookings by those who want a genuine Lake District Experience. The details are on our website: [www.thebirks.org](http://www.thebirks.org)"



Market Drayton area, that has given consistency to the project. New windows and doors; showers; toilets; central heating and a magnificent stainless steel catering kitchen have replaced the original facilities. There are 8 dormitory rooms with comfortable beds: enough accommodation for 28 people.

In recent years, successive working parties of volunteers from Market Drayton, have worked incredibly hard to modernise and upgrade the place – it is this support, by people and businesses in the



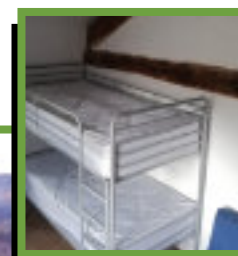
In January this year, I drove the 150 miles from Market Drayton to lend my hand to a team of regular volunteers. The tranquillity of the area made the drive more than worth while - not that I had a lot of time to spend admiring the view. When I arrived daylight was in short supply and machinery was on hire; I was given my instructions as I drank a welcome cup of tea.

The aim throughout the project has been to meet modern building standards whilst retaining as many original features as possible. This left a significant hurdle to be overcome on part of the ground floor which was originally an animal barn. In the 1970's it was used as a classroom, but it fell far short of the 2.3m of headroom demanded by current regulations. Raising the ceiling was out of the questions, so the only option was to lower the floor by excavation. A previous working group had made spectacular progress by removing the original concrete floor, mainly with hand barrows and muscle – I had come to help with the final stages which involved further digging out to achieve the requisite level for the new floor to be installed.



Chris skilfully manoeuvred his mini digger through the barn door with just centimetres to spare, and set about removing earth and rock, taking care not to disturb those foundations that were laid so long ago. I was given the comparatively easy job of driving a dumper truck – in which the spoil was deposited for removal to an appropriate spot. The old barn is now waiting for the appointed builder to lay a fresh concrete floor allowing for the regulatory 2.3m of room height.

The journey to complete this most recent phase in the Birks' history is almost over, and when it is, the Birks will be ready to operate 'self sufficiently' – drawing enough income from resident groups to finance ongoing maintenance and improvement. It is thanks to the hard work, dedication and vision of all those who have contributed in so many ways, that this wonderful asset exists for our community and Grove students, past present and future.







All talks start at 7.30 pm at  
The Beacon Community Centre,  
Prospect Road,  
Market Drayton, TF9 3BN  
Wildlife Trust members £3,  
Non-members £4.  
Please book for all events using  
the contact details below.

**Wednesday, 20th April**  
**Talk: Water Voles, Past,**  
**Present and Future**

Our short AGM will be followed by  
a talk by Malcolm Monie.  
Surveys in 2006 showed that  
Whitchurch and Whixall were a  
hotspot for water voles. The  
Whitchurch Water Vole Project  
was set up to do conservation  
work to encourage these delightful  
creatures. Malcolm Monie will tell  
us about this project and his  
involvement in it.

**Wednesday, 4th May. 6.50 for 7pm**  
**Walk: Burleydam Farm-Another**  
**Way of Farming**

Richard Tomlinson takes us around his  
farm. He produces commercial arable  
crops using the "no till" method. This  
increases soil invertebrates and  
encourages biodiversity.

**Friday, 24th June. 9.30am**  
**Outdoor talk:**

**Moths and Moth Trapping**

Barry Probin talks about moth  
trapping and the moths caught over  
the previous night in the moth traps at  
the Manor House, Natural England's  
Whixall Moss base.



**Monthly working parties at**  
**Old Church Farm or**  
**Quarry Wood, Hinstock**

These are usually on the second  
Saturday of the month. If you want  
further details or are interested in  
helping and can come along at any  
time between 10.30am and 3.00 pm,  
then please contact Clive Dyer on  
01630 654546 or

[marketdrayton@shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:marketdrayton@shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk)

We would particularly welcome new  
volunteers from the Hinstock area.





# WALKMILL MEADOWS ENGAGES WITH ARTISTS AND NATURALISTS



**Walkmill Meadows**, Market Drayton's green oasis close to the Dalelands Estate, (grid reference SJ668332), may well have more visitors than usual in the future.

Whilst it has been a favoured location for local dog walkers and residents for countless years the site has generally not been that well known by others or easy to find. Towards the end of 2021, however, Shropshire Council staff erected sign posts at the start of the three main pathways that provide public access from Salisbury Hill View and Walkmill Road.

The installation of the new sign posts may lead to more people enjoying the Meadows in the coming months but it is not the only recent development.

At a meeting of the town working group engaged in the development of Walkmill Meadows last November it was agreed that a new information board would be installed by the main



entrance to inform visitors about the wide range of flora and fauna that can be seen. Another exciting development is the possibility of a range of creative activities that the local community can join in. A Shropshire arts collaboration of professional artists, storytellers and performers will hopefully be offering fun participatory events, for all ages that engage and connect with the special landscape. The events will promote health and well-being.

Members of Shropshire Wildlife Trust have also indicated their willingness to run a number of events at the site this spring and summer. Whilst these will help members of the public obtain a deeper appreciation and understanding of its flora and fauna an important consideration is the protection of and safeguarding of the wildlife. Events currently under consideration include a dawn chorus walk, a pond dip and visits to see plants, moths and butterflies.

Please keep watching the local media for more information on all the above activities.



Walkmill Meadows is currently managed by Shropshire Council under a ten year lease with Severn Trent Water, which provides £12,000 per annum to help meet salary costs and ongoing expenditure on site work. Although sections of the site can flood in lengthy periods of wet weather it is a normally a great place to visit to get away from the stresses of everyday life or simply to enjoy the countryside.

**By Alan Cartwright**





# Market Drayton 10k UPDATE.

[www.marketdrayton10k.co.uk](http://www.marketdrayton10k.co.uk)

The annual Market Drayton 10K takes place on Sunday 8th May 2022 where we expect to see another sell out event with over 3000 runners taking part in the event. Runners from all over the country turn up to run the route which goes through Market Drayton town centre and ends up back at the school. Tim Beckett, race director, has been working hard behind the scenes to get the race going this year, and thanked his team of organisers, marshals and volunteers for their help.

Spaces are still available for the 2022 race and the entry link can be found on our website, [www.marketdrayton10k.co.uk](http://www.marketdrayton10k.co.uk).

There is also a fun run for all ages under 15 and the link for the fun run is also on the website.

The 10K event always need more help as a total of 150 personnel are required to put this race on. Tasks include helping put goody bags together, marshalling on the course, giving out race numbers and t-shirts and assist at the finish line. If anyone can assist in helping putting this event on they can either e-mail [marketdrayton10k@gmail.com](mailto:marketdrayton10k@gmail.com) or contact race director Tim Beckett on 07808 144348.



**MARKET DRAYTON ROYAL  
BRITISH LEGION (RBL)**

## EVENTS AT THE ROYAL BRITISH REGION

**Prize bingo on Thurs 31st March**

**Race night on sat 8th April**

**Easter egg hunt on 17th April**

**Church Street, Market Drayton, Shropshire,  
TF9 1AF • Telephone: 01630 652150**



## MARKET DRAYTON PATIENTS' GROUP HEALTHCARE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS SURVEY

Even the simplest healthcare visit can be an anxious experience if the journey to and from the centre or hospital is difficult. Investigating this, the Market Drayton Patients' Group Forum commissioned a survey (which appeared in the October '21 Messenger), inviting people to describe their experiences. The survey suggested that travel for healthcare appointments or hospital visits is a significant undertaking for many.

Approximately 60% of responses expressed little or no satisfaction with current travel arrangements. Even among private car users, the availability and cost of parking was identified as a problem. Other individuals, experienced a variety of difficulties arising from cost, convenience and availability of transport.

For those who use buses, the absence of a direct service to hospitals in Shrewsbury and Telford and the (in)frequency of services featured strongly, with hospital visits associated with "a

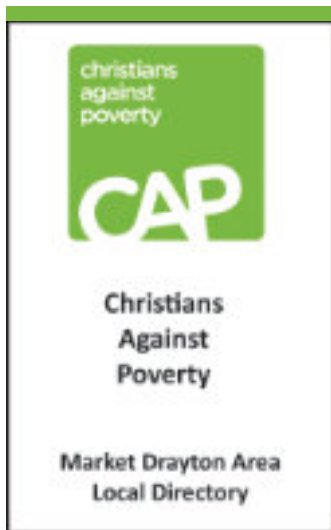
long day" when travel time was included. The availability of Taxis was similarly criticised and they were seen as "too expensive".

Most respondents self-identified as being aged 65 or over, and although the survey received only 64 responses, a total of 342 healthcare visits were described. Private cars were used for two-thirds of visits, but mode of travel by 20% of respondents potentially changed from visit-to-visit, suggesting that, for some, travel for healthcare is a complex exercise. Some appointments had to be re-arranged to meet travel options and in one instance, an appointment was missed because travel was unaffordable.

Almost 87% of respondents believed that if a specific vehicle were to be provided for healthcare visits they would be 'very likely' or 'sometimes likely' to make use of it, irrespective of their current travel arrangements!

The Patients' Group plan to explore opportunities for transport funding, and would like to thank The Drayton Messenger, Market Drayton Civic Centres, local pharmacies and Churches for their support in distributing the survey, together with a thank you to Robin Bladen-Hovell, Emeritus Professor of Economics at Keele Business School for analysing the survey responses.





## NEW DEBT CENTRE MANAGER IN MARKET DRAYTON

A local debt charity is encouraging people to seek help for their finances after what has been a difficult couple of years.

Carolyn Lawrence, is the new Market Drayton Debt Centre manager for the charity, Christians Against Poverty, who offer free debt help to anyone who is

concerned about the amount of money they owe. The Debt Centre has been running in Market Drayton for 7 years and has helped many people in the area to become debt free.

Carolyn explained that there are many different reasons for people getting into debt and the Covid pandemic has created extra problems for many.

She says, 'There are extra pressures on people at the moment with concerns over job security, rising cost of living and changes in benefits and this can add to people's worries about their finances. Being in debt can cause people to feel embarrassed, isolated and even suicidal, and many bury their heads in the sand and hope the problems will go away. It is so important to

seek help and we can offer assistance in a supportive way.'

The charity also run several courses, one of which is a money course aimed at helping people get organised with their finances and covers subjects such as setting a budget, how to save and ways of dealing with debts.

Carolyn says, 'Over 10,000 people a year do this course nationally and many of them are not in debt. You can look at it as a kind of MOT for your money! The course is available to anyone and is free, fun and very practical. The important thing to remember is that no financial problem is insurmountable and there is always hope. You are not alone and help is available to anyone who needs it.'

Other support available includes a Job Club to support those seeking employment and a Life Skills course to learn things like cooking on a budget. All the courses are free, relaxed and aimed to be fun.

If anyone wants to seek help with debt they can call free phone 0800 328 0006 or contact Carolyn on 07494 272 388 for more information about any of our courses. To find out more about the charity go to [www.capuk.org](http://www.capuk.org)



# The Fraud & Scam Bulletin



## A message from West Mercia Police on the latest scams and frauds – January 2022

Welcome to our first monthly Bulletin highlighting current fraud trends in our area. This month we are focusing on two types of Fraud about which we have had multiple reports from the public and how you can keep safe.

### Romance fraud – What is it?

You are convinced to make a payment to a person you may have met through social media platforms, dating websites and Apps, or Gaming sites.

- Fake profiles are used by criminals in an attempt to build a relationship with you – this is often known as "Catfishing".
- Criminals use information found on social media to create fake identities to target you with the scam, often looking for profiles saying you are single, widowed or divorced.
- They will go to great lengths to gain your trust and convince you that you have found a genuine relationship before appealing to your compassionate side to ask for money.
- Criminals use language to manipulate, persuade and exploit so that requests for money do not raise any alarm bells.
- These requests might be highly emotive, such as criminals claiming they need money for emergency medical care, or to pay for transport costs to visit you from overseas.
- If you are speaking to someone online that you have not met in person, stop and think. It could protect your heart and your money.

- Never give your bank details to someone online that you have never met, and if you are in any doubt about the person's honesty, speak to a friend or family member. If they have tried to take money from you, report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or via the website: [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

A rising number of similar Frauds using WhatsApp have been seen in recent weeks in our area which residents need to be aware of.

### NEW WhatsApp FRAUD –

- The suspect will send the victim a message via WhatsApp claiming to be

their son/daughter/friend and that they have had to change their phone number.

- The suspect then asks for money for debt repayment/to buy a new phone/asking to pay outstanding bills.
- The victim then ends up sending money to the fraudster believing this is going to an actual relative or friend.
- This type of Scam is becoming more frequent.

#### Always remember:

- **STOP** : Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.
- **CHALLENGE** : Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.
- **PROTECT** : Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen for a scam and report it to Action Fraud.

For further information visit: [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) and [www.takefive-stopfraud.org.uk](http://www.takefive-stopfraud.org.uk)

## Library Seed Exchange

Try growing something new!

Bring in your excess seeds and swap for something you haven't got.

Share your seeds before they go to waste

Variety is the spice of life!

Running from Feb to April! - just pop in!

Shropshire Libraries  
Learn, Imagine, Grow

www.shropshire.gov.uk/libraries  
Follow us on Twitter  
@MDaytonLibrary  
Find us on Facebook

## Hearing Aid Clinic

Book an appointment for hearing aid tube changing, battery collection and advice on hearing aid care.

at Market Drayton Library  
10 am - 12 noon  
4th Wednesday of every month

23 February, 23 March, 27 April  
Appointments must be pre-booked by calling 01743 342168

Shropshire Libraries  
Learn, Imagine, Grow

www.shropshire.gov.uk/libraries  
Follow us on Twitter  
@MDaytonLibrary  
Find us on Facebook

## MDThC

Market Drayton Theatre Club

We are a friendly group of theatre lovers who organise trips to many different theatres, including coach travel from Market Drayton to theatre door and back. Membership is only £5 per year and includes 6 newsletters detailing a choice of 30 different events. These range from comedy plays to classical concerts and much in between.

Interested in joining us?

- Please email Joan on : joandoro@hotmail.co.uk or phone: 01630 653569

Also find us on Facebook:  
search for 'Market Drayton Theatre Club'

## MARKET DRAYTON BUGGY WALKS

Get out of the house; meet other parents; be active and feel fitter! We meet on Thursdays at 10am during term time at Buntingsdale Park for a 2 mile walk.

It's free to attend and open to all parents, childminders, grandparents etc. with children under 5 years of age.

No booking required. More information can be found searching for the Facebook page "market drayton buggy walks". Or via eventbrite.



Market Drayton Ramblers are back, fully vaccinated, and ready to go. We have a full programme of walks on Tuesdays, Sundays and the first Saturday of each month. Our team of path repairers are also in full steam. They have been active throughout the Pandemic and do a fantastic job keeping stiles and paths in good order in the Market Drayton Parish area and also in some borders with Staffordshire.



## Locksmith

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darren.orwell@hotmail.co.uk  
www.orwellandsonslocksmith.com

**CALL 07557 902294**  
24 hrs 7 Days a week



If you fancy joining any of the walks or having our programme for the next 4 months, please ring one of the numbers given below. You can also access Market Drayton Ramblers on Facebook groups.

Please contact Will Haworth (Publicity)  
Tel. 07962 848 212, email: willhaworth2@yahoo.co.uk  
or Heather Morris (Secretary)  
Tel. 01952 250948, email heatherjm13@gmail.com





### Dominic Kirwan

Ireland's international Hit recording Star, Dominic Kirwan, takes to the road again in 2022 with his new show 'Dominic Kirwan - Through The Eyes Of An Irishman.' Hear all of Dominic's big hits, along with some of those lovely Irish favourite songs.

**Thursday 7th April 7:30pm**



### The Greatest Magician

A DAZZLING new MAGIC SHOW - presented by the magician most famous for jamming the BBC switchboards after he correctly predicted the lottery. This astonishing, enigmatic, five star rated magic show will leave you aching from laughter and dizzy in disbelief.

**Thursday 14th April 7:30pm**



### Spirit of the Blitz - VE Day 75

To celebrate this very special anniversary, we open the 1940s songbook for a tribute to the legendary stars who kept us smiling through our darkest days. Spirit Of The Blitz recaptures the tenacious optimism of war-torn Britain on the long road towards peace.

**Saturday 30th April 3pm**



### Tony Christie

Tony Christie is a legendary English singer and international hit maker. This exciting new tour sees Tony perform all of his Greatest Hits including Walk Like A Panther, Avenues & Alleyways and the Number 1 single (Is This The Way To) Amarillo. Joined by his superb band, this is an evening not to be missed!

**Saturday 14th May 7:30pm**



**The Queen's Award  
for Voluntary Service**

[www.festivaldraytoncentre.com](http://www.festivaldraytoncentre.com)

Box Office: 01630 654444

Frogmore Road, Market Drayton, TF9 3AX



## MDCE NEWS



**DraytonArtsFest.org**

### COVID MEMORIAL.

The MDCE Covid Memorial sculpture is soon to be installed on the grass opposite the library clock (see artists impression in the image here). A stainless steel plaque bearing the words: 'Covid Tribute Memorial, dedicated to all NHS, Care and Key Workers in Market Drayton.' will accompany the sculpture which was created by artist Kevin Nutley of Concept Stained Glass. The memorial was commissioned and financed by Market Drayton Community Enterprise.

### GREEN BURIAL.

The MDCE is lobbying for a local 'Green Burial' site close to Market Drayton - possibly in the Tern Hill area. Eric Davis, Secretary and trustee of the MDCE said

"In a typical green burial, the body is not cremated, It is simply placed in a biodegradable container and interred in a grave-site to decompose fully and return to nature. Eric would be interested to hear from anyone supportive of the idea of having a local site. See his contact details below.

### MDCE FESTIVALS 2022.

The following one-day festivals will be held at the Festival Drayton Centre during 2022: **Festival of Health and Well-being:** Wednesday 27th April ••• **Go Green Festival:** Wednesday 13th July ••• **Festival of Creativity, Culture and Leisure:** Saturday 29th October (to coincide with the Drayton Arts Festival weekend).



# MARKET DRAYTON SQUARES UP TO CLIMATE CHANGE

It has taken Market Drayton a little while to begin to respond to Climate Change but things are definitely changing.

Last summer local resident Nancy Stewart was dismayed to find no events were taking place in the town or elsewhere in Shropshire to mark the staging of a National Climate Day given worldwide concern about climate change in recent years and with so many national and international promises having been broken. It was obvious our community lacked any group that was taking a lead on helping it stand up to environmental problems.

Fortunately an opportunity to rectify the situation came in October when Market Drayton Community Enterprise held its first 'Go Green Festival' at the Festival Drayton Centre. During the festival, which was attended by Town and Shropshire Council councillors as well as members of the public, a large number of people showed they held similar concerns to Nancy and wanted to get involved in doing something to address them.

As a result of that show of support and subsequent spadework by Nancy and several others – Carly Brown, Sarah Hopkins and Eric Davis – Market Drayton's Climate Action Group held its opening meetings at the Mencap Centre in January. (One of the first decisions at the opening meeting was to drop the word 'Group' from the name in order to place the emphasis on



'Action', as evidenced by the draft logo image.) Despite Covid restrictions there was strong support for the group with full capacity at the initial meetings, when representatives of Palethorpes, McDonalds and Fordhall Farm were amongst those taking part.

No specific aims or objectives were set prior to the first meeting although it was hoped the group would help to bring about change in the town through the improvement of people's habits, the sharing of knowledge and the lobbying of politicians and officials. Since its formation Market Drayton Climate Action has continued to clarify its way forward and also begun to identify the various risks to the environment and the steps that can be taken to reduce or eliminate them. Separate working parties have been set up to look into: community awareness, education and networks; the town's transport arrangements; biodiversity and green spaces and potential reductions in consumption. A further working party is looking into the subject of lobbying.

Many local issues have been raised to date, which the group plans to address. For instance, how can Market Drayton residents reduce their dependence on motor vehicles when making journeys in the absence of adequate public transport arrangements? How can they reduce their consumerism with no local repair facilities or sharing mechanisms for major expenditure items that may only be required once or twice per year?

— This article was written by Alan Cartwright

For further information about **Market Drayton Climate Action** or to get involved please contact Nancy Stewart via email: [nancystewart.stewart@gmail.com](mailto:nancystewart.stewart@gmail.com) or mobile: **07500993973**.



Ginger and Spice Festival, Market Drayton, Shropshire.

The annual Market Drayton food, drink and heritage festival dedicated to all things ginger and spice will take place for the 6th year this September! The festival champions the locally made, Billington's Gingerbread, the oldest gingerbread in the country still made to a secret recipe and traditionally dunked in Port!

## WHAT'S ON

Visitors can enjoy a vibrant spicy street market including everything from hand iced gingerbread, boozy ginger cakes, chai fudge and cinnamon ice-cream to ginger ales, aromatic gins and hot spicy street food. There will be a food theatre located under the historic stone portico Buttercross with national, regional and top local chefs. Other events include a floating market on the



nearby tow path of the Shropshire Union Canal, a Fodder and Tipple trail with tasty stop offs including beer sampling, street entertainers, children's cookery classes, live comedy, and a grand finale jazz concert in the historic St Mary's Church in the centre of the town.



There will be several competitions including gingerbread decorating and new for 2022 - a gingerbread biscuit eating contest!

The festival is also committed to exploring the town's historic cross-cultural connections through collaborative events and activities both in person and online.

The multi award-winning festival takes place during, British Food Fortnight, a national celebration of all that is local and seasonal during the traditional harvest time.



Most events are free of charge, but some fringe events are ticketed - see the website [www.gingerandspicefest.co.uk](http://www.gingerandspicefest.co.uk) & go to the What's On section for further information.

Website: [www.gingerandspicefest.co.uk](http://www.gingerandspicefest.co.uk)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/gingerandspicefest](https://www.facebook.com/gingerandspicefest)  
Twitter: [www.twitter.com/gingerandspicefest](https://www.twitter.com/gingerandspicefest)  
Instagram: [@gingerandspicefest](https://www.instagram.com/gingerandspicefest)  
Podcast: [www.anchor.fm/ginger-and-spice-festival](http://www.anchor.fm/ginger-and-spice-festival)

Date: Main date is Saturday 24th September 2022. However, there are fringe events taking place at town venues from Wednesday 21st September 2022.



# A TALE OF TWO MARKET TOWNS



Anyone who knows Market Drayton will be familiar with its Wednesday street market and its reputation as the home of gingerbread. Market Drayton's involvement in food production is also reflected in the local factories, the community-owned farm, the many privately owned cafes, and the presence of shops selling locally produced meats, cheeses, bakery products, and delicatessen.

Market Drayton also boasts local hero, Clive of India. Whether Clive really deserves his civic acclaim is open to question since as a young man, he reputedly ran a protection racket in the town and was a thorn in the side of local shopkeepers. His role in establishing British rule in India also attracted mixed views even at the time, but whatever else one may think of him, he clearly liked his food. On his journey home in 1767, returning via the French town of Pezenas, he stopped and requested a local bakery to make him up some pies to his own recipe. Whilst not surprising to a British palate and a regular dish in our Drayton pubs, meat pies are virtually unknown as a food in much of Europe. So taken were the people of Pezenas with this new food, that they made the pie the emblem of their town council and the local bakers continue to make Clive's pies which are a mix of mutton and sweetened lemon peel.



## TWINNED WITH PEZENAS IN SOUTH FRANCE

Pezenas is located between Montpellier and Perpignan on the Mediterranean coast in the Languedoc region of France. Whilst famous for its vineyards and local cuisine, Pezenas also boasts the Chateau of Martin de Graves, the roman bridge at Saint-Thibéry, the windmill at

Concasseeur, and numerous historic churches, buildings and museums. Its history is kept alive by its bustling and beautiful mediaeval streets lined with shops specializing in local crafts, particularly mosaic art and woodworking but also handmade hats, toys, ice-cream, sweets and many more. Although it feels similar to Market Drayton in its thriving and friendly local community and its distance from city life, the Mediterranean weather and plentiful street cafés and restaurants make it clear you are in Southern France.



Pezenas has also maintained its historic link with Market Drayton over the years. A number of local people have made permanent homes there, and the twinning group also makes regular

biennial trips there to enjoy the local cuisine, sight-seeing and hospitality. While there, we stay in the homes of local French families who have volunteered to host us. Every other year, we welcome a local group from Pezenas here into our homes and show them the sights and traditions of our locality. I personally have really enjoyed the opportunity to stay in the heart of a French family and experience ordinary French life away from the tourist glamour. We all get on in a mix of French, English and Franglais according to our personal language skills and my children's language learning has been enormously helped by spending time with French children their own age. Efforts are made to pair people up according to their age and interests and need to stay with someone they can communicate with.



Our next trip to France will be in May 2022, Covid permitting. Naturally, the visits have been on hold during



the Covid lockdown so we are all excited to get back there. The visit will be particularly special because Alison Bates, secretary of the local twinning committee, is being admitted to the Pezenas *Confrérie du petit pâté de Pézenas*, an

organisation created in Pezenas in 1991 to preserve and promote the tradition of Clive's pies. It is the equivalent of being given honorary membership of the town and the French make the most of it with a ceremony and the award of a symbolic pie! If you are interested in joining us on our trip, would like to host a French family when they come here in 2023, or would simply like to know a bit more about it, please contact via email: [alison@bates-family.net](mailto:alison@bates-family.net) or our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/EnthusiasticTwinners](https://www.facebook.com/EnthusiasticTwinners)



# IAN PICTON ROBINSON

his involvement with Market Drayton Museum and Resource Centre. Ian sadly died in September of last year.

Ian first came to the museum to catalogue a collection of documents and memorabilia collected by Francesca Upton, following the closure of Gower and Sons, a local manufacturer of agricultural tools and equipment in Stafford Street.

This he extended to completing the cataloguing of the Museum Archives generally (nearly 10,000 items).



For the next twelve years he was not only committed to the Museum and the Society, but was also friendly, kind, and considerate to all who both worked in and visited the building.

On behalf of the Museum, he welcomed items from a succession of donors. There are many people, including parties of schoolchildren and former Draytonians, who can attest to his friendliness, kindness

and enthusiasm as well as lively conversation about what they saw. In fact, a visit by two clandestine assessors from The

On behalf of Drayton Civic Society, Mike Higgins writes: We have been asked to write a few words about Ian Picton-Robinson and

Heritage Lottery Fund (one of the Museum's sponsors) led to him being publicly praised for just that.

He will be greatly missed, and very, very difficult to replace.

Ian's family have asked that any donations in Ian's memory are made to the Market Drayton Museum and Resource Centre.

If you would like to make a donation in Ian's memory, you can obtain details by contacting Mike Higgins

Mobile: 07920 553416

email [draytoncivicsociety@gmail.com](mailto:draytoncivicsociety@gmail.com)

You can also send to Market Drayton Museum,  
53, Shropshire St, Market Drayton, TF9 3DA.



## u3a Programme of General Meetings 2022

Starting at 2.00pm at the Festival Drayton Centre (tea and biscuits afterwards) — Non members welcome for only £1.00 or become a member for only £12.00

21 Apr. 2022 - Captain Webb's Life, Swimming the Channel.  
Alan Highway.

19 May. 2022 - From Computing to Crime Author: Dave MaCaddon.

16 Jun. 2022 - Life from Barrow to Baghdad & Back. Philip Cairne.

21 Jul. 2022 - MD u3a Social Event.

15 Sept. 2022 - Annual General Meeting.

20 Oct. 2022 - Adventures of a Dyslexic Author: Nigel Macnight.

17 Nov. 2022 - Watches, A Celebrated History & Uncertain Future.  
Marc Brimble.

**No Festival Drayton Centre meetings  
are scheduled for August & December.**

## A message from: Rev Mark Lawrence (Methodist Superintendent Minister)

The Psalmist said,

*"I said, "Oh, that I had the wings of a dove! I would fly away and be at rest." (Psalm 55:6)*

During my 25 years of ministry I've been called many things! One of the more polite ones is 'Sky pilot'! Apparently, this is a slang term for a member of the clergy! Guilty as charged! As a full-time Christian minister who has the great privilege of serving the most powerful and wonderful boss imaginable, I'm also rather fond of various other 'transports of delight' namely aircraft and trains. I'm also a full qualified bus driver too! My wife calls me a 'transport geek' amongst other things! I have several hours in my pilot's log-book but have never had the time or inclination to go through all the expensive training to qualify for my Private Pilots' Licence. However, if I ever have the chance to get behind the yoke I do. Whilst a missionary in South America a few years ago I had the honour of flying a turboprop for 50 minutes over the Amazon rain-forest whilst coming back from the Kaieteur Falls – with the pilot's consent of course as pictured. Thankfully I was familiar with the Cessna Grand Caravan controls as I've got it on my Flight Simulator at home, which is a much cheaper flying

option! Flying does give you a tremendous perspective on the world below. The vastness of the sky and the small details of the ground below help you to realise that we're small and that God and His creation are big! For me, that's a great truth to be reminded of. Whatever situation you're in right now, which may seem all-consuming, God is bigger. The psalmist in the verse above was having a bad day and wanted to clear off and get some rest. Know the feeling!? However, we can't always do that. Running away isn't an option, but we can be at rest knowing that God is with us. There is a lovely verse in the Bible which says, *"Cast all your anxiety on Him (God), because He cares for you."* (1 Peter 5:7) Whether you're in the air (metaphorically or physically) or you have your feet firmly planted on the ground – the Bible tells us there is a God in heaven who loves and cares for you. He cared enough to send Jesus Christ to save and heal and forgive and renew you.

*Bon voyage.*

Rev Mark — email: [revmark@live.co.uk](mailto:revmark@live.co.uk)  
0752 779 6319 — [www.mdmc.org.uk](http://www.mdmc.org.uk)

