

# DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: **Derek Pooley**

Volume 26, No. 3

April 2003

## LOOK! YOUNG PEOPLE, LOOK!

A questionnaire is being prepared by young people for young people. Please look out for it in the near future. The purpose is to find out what we need in this village. Please pick one up, fill it in and return it as directed.

This is your opportunity to say what you want.

*Jamie Rivers and Mark Fisher.*



## CLICK! EVERYONE, CLICK!

It is a shocking fact that a child dies every 15 seconds through drinking dirty water. For over a billion people, turning on a tap is not an option.

It is horrific but we can all do something about it. The European plastics industry has agreed to fund WaterAid to deliver safe, clean water and sanitation to people in Africa. All we have to do to raise these funds is to click on the weblink below. It takes only a few seconds and doesn't cost you a thing yet, every day you click, the European plastics industry will donate 10 eurocents to WaterAid. WaterAid is hoping to reach the target of 1½ million clicks by 22 June 2003 to raise a donation of 150,000 euros for WaterAid. As it costs less than 22 euros (£15) to provide a person with safe water and sanitation for life, this will help 7,000 people take the first steps out of poverty.

WaterAid's vision is of a world where everyone has access to safe water and effective sanitation. Over the last 50 years, enormous gains have been made in the provision of clean water and sanitation throughout the developing world. Infant mortality has been halved and twice as many people have access to safe drinking water compared to 30 years ago. There are plenty of grounds for hope, but the problem is extensive and much remains to be done.

So please make a difference and click <<http://dotm1.net/t.asp?l=13728&i=3062274>>. And also tell your colleagues and friends and encourage them to click every day too. You can make the web page your internet homepage (so you can click every time you log on) by clicking on the 'Make this your homepage button'. Thank you for your help. It will make a difference.

*Diana Hasting*

WaterAid: Tel: 020 7793 4500  
Email: [wateraid@wateraid.org.uk](mailto:wateraid@wateraid.org.uk)  
Website: [www.wateraid.org.uk](http://www.wateraid.org.uk)  
Association of Plastics Manufacturers in Europe: Tel: 00-32-2 676 17 32;

## CARE! for DRAYTON, CARE!

Yes, the Best Kept Village Competition is here again and Drayton has committed all of £12 to being part of it. The initial judging runs from 3 to 18 May so it is not too early to blitz the litter.

Litter is a great problem in Oxfordshire right now and Drayton is not immune from it. Volunteers clear the Millennium Green but please try also to care for your part of Drayton by removing litter from the street and verge near you to your bin for collection.

However, the exercise is not just a matter of appearances. Anything people are doing to improve the village may count in our favour. Please contact Maria Wysocki-Jones, (our parish clerk, tel: 225909) with details or to suggest other ways in which we are trying or could try to improve the village.

*John Killick*



Spring comes to the Millennium Green

### In this issue:

- p1 and 9: Drayton's Young People
- p5: Prayers for each other
- p8: Learn to Save Energy

- p1: Click for WaterAid
- p5: Community Trust AGM
- p8: See the Hired Man

- p4: Prayers for our Leaders
- p6: Have you lost a necklace
- p9: Beware of Thieves

## DRAYTON ART GROUP

### Annual Exhibition & Sale

Saturday 12 April 2 pm to 4 pm



Caudwell Day Centre

Free Admission

Usual Stalls & Raffle

Tea Available



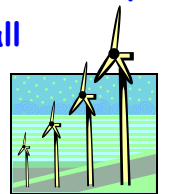
## STEVENTON ENERGY DAY

Save energy costs and protect the planet  
Tuesday 8 April 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm



Steventon Village Hall

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More details on page 8



## CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The **May Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Friday, 25 April 2003** from **Margaret Armstrong, 1 Crabtree Lane, (521122)** who should be contacted by any Agents requiring copies additional to their allocation.

The Editor will be **Tony Holmes, 53 Whitehorns Way (531180)**. Contributions should be emailed to the issue editor or placed in the Chronicle letter box, which is outside Vickery's hardware store on Drayton Green,

**no later than 5.15 pm on Monday, 14 April 2003.**

After this deadline, only urgent items will be considered for inclusion and only then if emailed or delivered directly to the Editor by the following Wednesday.

### THE FOLLOWING THREE MONTHS

Issue for	Copy for publication and return of Agents Lottery Packs needed by Monday:	Chronicle published and available for distribution on Friday:
June	19 May 2003	30 May 2003
July	16 June 2003	27 June 2003
August	14 July 2003	25 July 2003

### NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

Contributions to the Chronicle are most welcome. Be sure to include your name, address and (in case clarification is necessary) telephone number.

A contribution can be made in one of several ways:

1. By **email** to the relevant editor. These contributions should be in plain text or attached as a rich-text or Microsoft Word document; we do not have all word processing packages! Please use a subject or filename which is unique to you; 'Chronicle May' is not very helpful. The editors email addresses are:

Tony Holmes                    [tony-holmes@ntlworld.com](mailto:tony-holmes@ntlworld.com)  
 Geoffrey Long                [geoff.long@talk21.com](mailto:geoff.long@talk21.com)  
 Derek Pooley                 [derek\\_pooley@talk21.com](mailto:derek_pooley@talk21.com)

2. On a **3½" disk**, in PC format, preferably as a Microsoft Word file. *Please include your address* if you want the disk returned to you.

3. As a **good, fairly large, black typescript, without underlining** on white A4 paper or smaller. Our optical character recognition software can read typescripts but only imperfectly so careful editing is needed. Even so, this is still much easier than re-typing.

4. Any **hand-written items** are dictated directly to the computer or typed up by a willing team of typists. **Please write the names of people and places in capital letters.** This does save a lot of mistakes.

The Editor clears the box at Vickery's from time to time during the previous week. It can therefore be a great help if items are left in the box a few days before the closing date. Many contributors are indeed doing just that and it really does help. Thank you.

### ADVERTISING RATES

Advertiser Category:	For a 1/10th page Block Advert				Small Advert
	---- Number of Inserts ----				
	1	3	6	12	per word
Drayton Resident	£4.00	£10.50	£21.50	£40.00	<b>3p</b>
Non-Drayton Resident	£5.00	£13.50	£27.00	£50.00	<b>4p</b>

**Half-size** adverts are charged at **half** the above rates, **double-size** adverts at **twice** the above rates.

All requests **must** be accompanied by a cheque made payable to 'The Drayton Chronicle'

They may be placed in the Chronicle Letter Box, outside Vickery's Hardware Store on Drayton Green, in shopping hours.

Phone **Jane Pimm**, the Chronicle's Advertising Manager, on 531597 to discuss requirements.

## CHRONICLE LOTTERY

**Daphne Samworth, Hon. Promoter**

### RESULTS OF THE March LOTTERY

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	2559	G Tilsley, 7 Lesparre Close	Brenda Whiting
£20	1012	D Stimpson, 32A High Street	Mary Alexander
£15	1583	F Bray, Steventon Hill, Steventon	Sarah Church
£10	2279	Mrs Busby, 47 Hilliat Fields	Brian Lewis
£10	0846	D Poulton, 4 Cheers Drive	Margaret Long
£10	0607	N White, 52 Abingdon Road	Nadine White
£10	1854	Mr Murray, 100A Whitehorns Way	Terry Arnold
£10	0496	J Oliver, 1 Rippington Court	Margaret Armstrong
£10	1993	P Lacey, 15 Whitehorns Way	Trudi Buckner
£10	2009	J Hager, 27 Whitehorns Way	Trudi Buckner

The winning tickets were drawn by members of the Drayton Art Group from the 1924 tickets sold

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## YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor,

A big thank you to everyone who sent cards of sympathy and lovely flowers. Also I would like to thank everyone for their generous donations given at David Strong's funeral on the 1st February at St Peters Church Drayton. The amount collected was eight hundred and ten pounds. This will go to the charities that Dave supported, which are R.N.L.I. (Life Boat) & R.S.P.B. (Injured birds) also TEAR FUND which helps children in under privileged countries to have schooling, a meal each day and Sunday school. Dave will be missed by so many people, his cheery smile, always friendly and helpful to everyone he met. His business partner was Alan Haward at the settee shop (HCS Supplies) on Abingdon Road, Drayton. He was a close friend of Dave's and it proved to be a very happy relationship that kept the business sound for thirty-five years.

So, on behalf of the late David Strong and me, thank you so much.

*Janet Strong*

Dear Editor,

The family of Mrs Ethel Sibley would like to thank all those people who assisted her during the 12 years she lived in Drayton. Those who escorted her to and from all the various activities she attended - whist drives, lunch clubs, hair appointments, church services, even the chiropodist. We are very grateful to you all.

Also, thank you to everyone who sent us cards and letters and gave us great support; you will never know how overwhelmed and humble we feel. Thank you to all who attended the church with us to celebrate her life and say goodbye. Finally, a special thank you to the Rev Dorothy Derrick, for whom I know Mum had great respect, and to Mirrie for giving Mum a purpose in life through friendship.

Yours sincerely

*Ann Webb and family*



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Turn up on the night or contact A or R Clewley (831206)

⇒ Dear Editor,

Drayton School has recently benefited by £76 thanks to the residents of Dayton recycling their waste aluminium.

In future there will be two bins at Vickery's Shop, one for aluminium cans and one for aluminium foil. Apparently if these items are separated out we will receive more money, particularly for the foil.

Thank you again to every one who has supported this very worthwhile scheme. The school is very grateful, especially to Lawrence Vickery for acting as the agent.

*Claire Soper for Friends of Drayton School Association*

## NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

A warm welcome to Sam & John Greenall, baby Max and dog Sadie, who have come to live in Whitehorns Way.

Welcome also to Drayton to Emma Tizzard, Kelly Brown, Glen Thompson, Mo Islam and their dog Kaley – new residents of Church Lane.

## COURTENAY TEXTILES

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# ST PETER'S CHURCH

**Priest in Charge** Revd Dorothy Derrick.....531374  
The Vicarage, 8 Gravel Lane, Drayton

**Licensed Lay Minister** Dr Peter Barton.....523702

**Churchwardens** Mr Peter Cline..... 530519  
Mrs Terry Fleming.....534124

**Organist/Choirmaster** Mr Adrian Thompson

## REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday 8.00 am Holy Communion (Common Worship - Traditional)

10.00 am Sung Eucharist (CW), except 2nd Sunday when there is a non-Eucharistic Family Service

6.00 pm Evening Prayer (CW)

Mon - Fri 8.15 am Morning Prayer (CW) in Lady Chapel

Wed 10.30 am Parents and Toddlers Service in Church Room

6.00 pm Evening Prayer (CW) in Lady Chapel

Thurs 9.30 am Holy Communion (CW) in Lady Chapel.

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Sunday 10.00 am Sunday Pebbles & Rocks Church Room

Monday 7.45 pm Bell Ringing Practice Bell Tower

Friday 7.15 pm Choir Practice Church Room

## CALENDAR FOR APRIL

Tues 1st 8.00 pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting Church

Sat 12th 10.00 am Coffee Morning in aid of Children's Society  
Until 12.00 noon Church Room

Sun 13th 10.00 am Palm Sunday Family Service Church

6.30pm Palm Sunday Service

Thur 17th 8.00 pm Maundy Thursday Service Church

Fri 18th 10.00 am Good Friday Family Service Church

12.00 am Good Friday Liturgy, until 3.00 pm Church

Sun 20th 5.00 am Service of Light Church

8.00 am Easter Morning Holy Communion Church

10.00 am Easter Eucharist Church

## PARISH REGISTER

### Funerals in Church

27th February Ethel May Sibley

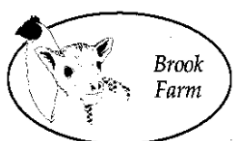
14th March Ivy Florence North

### Baptisms

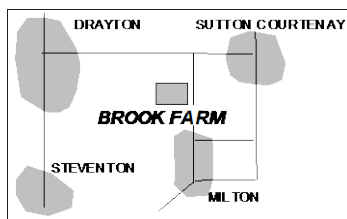
9th March Phillip John Baker  
Cheryl Ann McLeary  
Charlotte Elizabeth Meggs  
Nicholas Silcox  
James John Woods



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## Letter from The Revd. Dorothy Derrick

Dear Friends,

This morning, Monday 17th March, dawned fine and frosty. As the sun grew stronger it became a warm, sunny spring day. I spent the morning following a walk recommended to me by someone from the village. It took me through wonderful countryside around Letcombe Regis.

I had time to reflect and count my blessings, surrounded by so much peace and beauty. Time to wander freely in the tranquil landscape; freedom to walk with the person I love; peace to travel undisturbed, save for the cackling crows as they built their nests high in the copse; secure in my own safety.

I could not help but make the comparison with those who live in Iraq under imminent threat of war. They have no time to take simple pleasures; no freedom to walk with loved ones; no peace in their time; no security in their own place. They who dwell under the same blue sky as we do are in peril.

The psalmist said "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord who has made heaven and earth." Psalm 121. As I looked up at the gentle rolling down-land from where I was standing I prayed for peace. This is the best we can do. The decisions are taken for us.

At St. Peter's we have been using the following prayer for the leaders of the nations:-

**O God our heavenly Father,  
whose love sets no boundaries  
and whose strength is in service;  
grant to the leaders of the nations  
wisdom, courage and insight  
at this time of darkness and fear.  
Give to all who exercise authority  
determination to defend the principles of freedom,  
love and tolerance,  
strength to protect and safeguard the innocent  
and clarity of vision  
to guide the world into paths of justice and peace.  
This we ask through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Please use this prayer at home. If it is helpful please come into Church to pray. The doors are opened on weekdays at about 8 o'clock and locked sometime during the afternoon. Feel free to come in and pray. If war is declared there will be special prayers for peace advertised. Thank you to all who came to pray at our Peace Vigil on 22nd February. Prayer is the way for us to communicate with God and for God to communicate with us. Why not give it a go! It may surprise you to know that you do get prayed for regularly - see separate article.

Easter is late this year, 20th April. Please join us for this festival. Services will be well advertised but may I draw your attention to one or two. On Good Friday you are invited to join us as we walk behind the cross from the Green at 9.45 am to Church for 10.00 am Family Service followed by hot cross buns. Easter Morning at 5.00 am we celebrate Easter. This has become the highlight of Easter for a good number of us, beginning the service in the darkness and celebrating the risen Lord as dawn lightens the skies. Do come and see! All are welcome!

*Yours prayerfully, Dorothy*

## BAPTIST CHURCH

**Pastoral Co-ordinator:** Mr Roy Brown.....Tel. 531296

**Home Visitor** Mrs Norma Russell.....Tel. 531655

### REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

- 11.30 am Family Service with Sunday School  
6.00 pm Evening Service. A traditional form of service frequently with guest speakers. Communion every second Sunday of the month.

### EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME

Many thanks to all who contributed cakes, plants etc., and supported our 'All-Day Breakfast' on 7th March. It was a wet day, but lots of people came and we were busy all day.

Due to generous donations as well, we were able to send £205 to cancer research. Thank you again for such a generous response.

*Valerie Hale*

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### YOU STAY - WE PRAY!

**Diana Hasting**

People often ask "What does the Church do for me?" but seldom get an adequate answer. Well, in Drayton we can tell you that St.Peter's Church prays for you, regularly, without any strings, without any expectation that you owe us anything or will come to church, but with every expectation that our prayers will benefit you all.

For each month there is a Prayer Diary, listing (among others) various areas of Drayton which are being prayed for at specific times. These prayers are used every day at Morning Prayer and during the main Service on Sundays, as well as by many individual members of St.Peter's congregation in their own personal prayers. Each cycle lasts for 13 weeks, so everyone is prayed for four times a year. The Prayer Diary is available in church - please feel free to take a copy from the table just inside the South door (where you come in). If you have a special request for prayers, please put it on the Prayer Request Board in Church or get in touch with the Revd Dorothy Derrick by phone on 531374 or by e-mail at <[jdderrick@compuserve.com](mailto:jdderrick@compuserve.com)>.

During April 2003 we will pray for all the people who live and work in these roads:- 6-19 April; Lockway and Whitehorns Way. 20-26 April; Comeville Road, Crabtree Lane, Lesparre Close. 27 Apr-3 May; Drayton Rd, Milton Rd, Marcham Rd, Fisher Cl, Meads Cl, New Cut Mill, Stone Hill



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## NOTICE BOARD

### DRAYTON COMMUNITY TRUST

The Annual General Meeting of the Drayton Community Trust will be held on Tuesday 22 April at 7.30pm in the Caudwell Day Centre. Anyone interested in the Trust's activities and in the development of village amenities is welcome to attend. Further information can be obtained from the chairman, Andrew Bax, telephone 531512.

### DRAYTON ALMSHOUSE CHARITY

A vacancy exists for one of the Drayton Almshouses. Are you interested or do you know of anyone else over the age of 60 who might be interested? For an application form please apply to the Clerk to the Trustees, Camilla King, Gothic House, Drayton; Tel. 531253


### DRAYTON YOUTH CENTRE CHARITY

Written applications for financial assistance are invited from any youth organisation in Drayton. They should state the purpose for which the grant is required and should be sent to the secretary, Mr Graham Bird, 9 Gravel Lane, Drayton. OX14 4HY. Please include a contact address and phone number.

Applications must be received by 26th April 2003

### SUTTON COURTENAY PASSIONTIDE MUSIC

On Sunday 6th April at 7.30pm, at All Saints Parish Church, Sutton Courtenay, the All Saints Singers will perform Haydn's 'Stabat Mater', complemented by a Handel concerto, motets by Brahms and Grieg and sung prayers by Arensky and Mendelssohn. Soloists are Quentin Hayes, Lorenzo Carola, Angela Ayers and Pamela Davies. Tickets (phone 848205 or at the door) - £7, concessions £6.



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## ALL AROUND

### BOWLS CLUB

### Roll up

At Lakeside, Hayling Island in February, some of our members took part in competitions with over 100 bowlers. Tony Wright and Olive Brown got to the semi-finals of the pairs competition and Tony Wright and Barbara Carter got to the quarter-finals of the singles competition. Well done all of you.

On Sunday 2nd March a party of 24 bowlers and some supporters from Swansea came to Drayton for the day to take part in a friendly match. This is the third time the match has been played. This year Swansea won the match by the smallest margin, the result waiting on the very last game of the day. The whole day was organised by Val Locke who did a grand job. Many thanks Val, from all who took part.

The Rollers continue to do well in the League. The Wasps and the Hammers are still maintaining their respective places in the line up,

We still have a few vacancies for players old, young, experienced and not so adept, just come along Monday or Thursday afternoons or Wednesday evening.

### TABLE TENNIS CLUB

### John Gould

It has been several months since our last report, but during that time the Ping Pong has continued unabated. We have 6 teams entered in the Didcot Table Tennis Association League and are nearing the end of the current campaign. There are mixed fortunes for the Club.

The A team are in Division 1. That is widely regarded as the strongest League in the Thames Valley area and many county and England-ranked players compete. The A team have struggled and are probably going to finish in the bottom two. The B team however are leading Division 2 by a considerable margin with Matt Davies (ranked number 2 Junior in Oxon), David Hudson, John Gould & Michael Street looking to win promotion to the elite.

The C team is also in Div 2 and, although at the wrong end, will hopefully avoid the drop. The D team, a mix of experience and youth, play in Division 3 and are mid table - with Robert Hudson averaging over 50 in his 1st season at a higher level.

The E & F teams are in Div 4. The F team, expertly captained by Farid Amirsedghi in his 1st season of League TT, has won every match and will win promotion. The team of Farid plus Iain Stuart, Allan Lovelock, Kevin Davies, Steve Shepherd and Tim Wilde are too good for the opposition. ⇨

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⇨ Drayton E, again a mix of youth and experience, are 4th and captain Beverley Rayner is pleased with the progress of youngsters Adam Rickard, Ben Collins & Dave Portman ably supported by experienced Div 4 campaigner Andrew Gould.

The Club has also won the Bidmead cup for the last two years - this played for by all the Clubs in the League and we have reached the semi finals to date. A hat trick of wins would be quite an achievement.

Finally we are holding another Quiz Night at Drayton School on Friday 5th May 2003. Cost of £12.00 per team (max 4 persons), to include buffet. This is our third Quiz Night and we hope it will be as successful as the first two. Telephone either 531328 or 205111 for details and entry. You are guaranteed a fun time.

### DRAYTON PLAYERS

### Jean Hager

Life seems very quiet and rather flat after the intensive rehearsals in the new year for our production of Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass. This was a play in which our junior section was heavily involved and therefore provided much of the entertainment, and they certainly came up trumps. It is really great to see how they all have developed over a period of some years, and their teamwork and support of each other is to be admired.

It is not difficult to deduce, from the above, that our latest offering was received very well by all our audiences. We thank you for coming along and being so appreciative. A word of thanks to our backstage staff who also had to double up on stage - and even remembered when to which! Also to our wardrobe mistress Georgia Alston who excelled with wonderfully inventive and colourful costumes. We thank all those unseen helpers without whom we could not function. We know how hard you work and almost grateful for your cheerful assistance. Now we have to think about our coming productions and details about these will be given him the Chronicle in due course.

We are starting a costume-hire project which would be of interest to anyone needing a fancy dress outfit for a special occasion. The range is quite large and there are many choices in animal, children's and period ensembles. Rates are very reasonable and the number to ring for further details is 531425

### LOST AND FOUND

Two pearl necklaces, found in Drayton at different times, are now at at Vickery's. Please contact Lawrence if you have lost one.

## MORE ALL AROUND

### TODDLER GROUP

**Joanna Selby**

I would like to thank Esther, on behalf of everyone at Drayton Toddler Group, for her 'sterling' work as treasurer during the last 4 years. Debbie Bargas has kindly agreed to take over this role.

A warm welcome to all of our new members. I hope that you and your children enjoy the sessions with us over the coming weeks and months.

At the beginning of March we had a visit from the photographer and everyone who sat still for long enough should be receiving their photographs shortly.

On the 11th and 13th March we held events and activities in aid of Comic Relief. The children made 'Tweenies' masks and wore red clothing, while the mums brought (and consumed) homemade cakes, all in the name of charity! To date we have collected £36, so thanks to everyone for their support.

Finally we are hoping to participate in the Barnado's sponsored toddle again this year, which will be held on 18th June at Beale Park. So **please** put the date in your diaries and watch the notice board for further information.

### SCHOOL REPORT

**Clare Ventom**

The whole school participated in fund raising for Red Nose Day. Everyone dressed up for the occasion and much gel and red hair spray was involved in creating 'big hair-do's'. Home made cakes were sold and the children in years 5 and 6 took part in a sponsored run round the village. It was a very enjoyable day and raised a considerable sum of money for Comic Relief.

Improvements to the Lower Unit outside play area continue. They now have a very fancy looking wooden playhouse and a bird table to enjoy. The Lower Unit children have been creating some beautiful spring pictures this term which they have combined into one large collage. This is on display in the corridor outside their classrooms. There are paintings of daffodils and crocuses made out of coloured paper and it looks very effective.

The fashion show organised by FODSA was a great success and raised £420 for the school. Thank you to everyone who participated. There will be more fund raising information next month.

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### ABINGDON OPERATIC SOCIETY

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Melvyn Bragg (book) and Howard Goodall (music and lyrics)

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*or Newbury Building Society, West St Helen  
Street, Abingdon.*

### DRAYTON WIVES

**Margaret Long**

Our annual birthday dinner in March was a very enjoyable social occasion as usual. Not everyone felt that the meal was as good as last year, but the crême brulee I had was simply gorgeous.

Our coffee mornings are being very successful at the moment -- twenty of us chatted and enjoyed coffee at Trudi Buckner's in March.

Please don't forget our jumble sale on Saturday April 12th in Drayton Hall. All jumble should be brought to the hall from 12 noon onwards but please not after 1.15 at the latest. We shall need helpers as usual and if anyone has a gift for the raffle we shall be pleased to accept it.

Please remember, too, that our Annual General Meeting will take place on April 29th and new members are always welcome. May I remind you that our membership subscriptions of £5.00 were due in January so please see Trudi with your cash as soon as possible to keep us solvent!

Dates for your diary in April -

Mon 7th	10.30 COFFEE	Daphne Barrand	30 Whitehorns Way
Mon 21st	7.15 WHIST	Joan O'Hare	Caudwell D.C.
Tue 29th	7.30 MEETING & AGM	and <i>Story Teller</i> ,	Marguerite Osbourne

### W.I.

**Gwen Price**

Our March meeting was our AG.M..We were pleased to welcome Anne Webb as our president for a further year. We offered our condolences to Anne on the death of her mother, who had been an enthusiastic member of our W.I. Our charity for the year will benefit Summerfield House in Abingdon, having successfully supported Douglas House last year.

Next month's talk is called The Age Before Plastic. I wonder how many people can remember that time.

### ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

**Pearl Stanbridge**

Thanks to all who supported our Easter Draw also the ticket sellers and generous donors of prizes..

The next Committee Meeting will be held on Easter Draw night Monday 14 April at 7.30pm.



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### THE HIRED MAN

Geoffrey Long

"The Hired Man" is being performed by Abingdon Operatic Society as part of the 2003 Abingdon Arts Festival. The dramatic and moving story is from a stirring novel by Melvyn Bragg, following his Cumbrian family's journey in the early part of the 20th century from land labourers to soldiers, to colliers and finally back to the land. With an enthralling story and superb atmospheric music – a succession of chorales, duets and foot-stomping rhythms – from Howard Goodall (well known for the TV theme music for Blackadder, Mr Bean and Vicar of Dibley) this production promises audiences an evening of memorable musical theatre. For details see advert on p 7

### FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS Jean Hager

If you are lonely, isolated or in need of company for whatever reason, do come along to our tea and chat occasions which are held on the first Tuesday of every month in St Peters Church room. Drop in any time between 3:00 PM and 4:30 PM. You can be sure of a very warm welcome. Our next two dates are 1st April and 6th May. If you need help with transport, or would like an initial chat before coming, do please give me a call on 531558

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# COUNCIL REPORTS

## YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR COLUMN

### Beware - Crime in the Area

There has been a spate of robberies in Drayton and other local villages recently. Money has been stolen from elderly people. I understand the thieves, a mix of adults and youngsters, have knocked on the front door and made an excuse to gain access to the property, for example to ask to use the toilet. Once inside the home, money is stolen from purses or wallets. Another ruse is unlawful collecting for charity. Ask the collectors to show you their collection authority. Legitimate collectors should have this with them. Please be on your guard when answering the door and can I ask you to advise any of your elderly friends and neighbours accordingly.

### Flooding Initiative

Who is responsible for taking action to prevent flooding in the district? Unhappy with the bureaucratic arrangements, the Vale's Environmental Policy Overview Committee, of which I am a member, met recently to determine a policy of ownership and action. Currently responsibility for flood preventions and clean up is ambiguous in some areas but can be shared between the Environmental Agency, OCC, the Vale and other organisations like Thames Water, Railtrack and other landowners. The decision made by the Committee was that the Vale would develop a Flood Enforcement Policy. This sets out the way your Council intends to reduce or manage the risk of flooding in the area. The Council has the power to take action to ensure flood alleviation works are carried out. In future if the responsible party is a landowner, whether private or public, like the Oxfordshire County Council, Railtrack or a local farmer, if remedial work is required, then it will be the Vale who will take action. The policy also ensures that critical ordinary watercourses at risk of flooding will be inspected regularly to minimise the risk of flooding by the VOWHDC. A schedule assessing the level of risk, determined on specific criteria has been introduced. Then follows the level of enforcement. In serious risk cases, if there is no adequate response within 21 days to the Vale's request for preventive action to be carried out, a legal notice under the Land Drainage act will shortly follow.

### Flooding in Drayton

There was serious flooding in the south of the village earlier this year. The main causes appeared to be a congested culvert and obstructed drainage channels. The Vale has written to the Oxfordshire County Council and to the local farmer asking them to take remedial action.

I am still awaiting a response from the OCC relating to the problem in Whitehorns Way. The OCC carried out the repairs previously.

### Village Youngsters

This is an update on further outcomes since the Public Meeting on Youth Crime.

A number of the audience at that meeting offered their services to work with Rita Atkinson and the Damascus Project team to help improve the communication link with the youngsters.

Another meeting, chaired by Rita Atkinson with valuable local support from the Damascus team, was held with the adults. The ground rules were established. The meeting was very positive and a number of ideas were identified.

I have attended a meeting with some youngsters and representatives from the Damascus Project to take forward the issues and possible resolutions. A meeting between the groups of adults and the youngsters has been arranged for later this month (March).

I am waiting to learn of the developments by the Parish council in extending the Neighbourhood watch scheme. I am in regular communication with the Police.

### Reminder

The next Surgery will be held at 9.00 at the Village Hall on Saturday 5th April. I look forward to meeting any Drayton residents who wish to come along and discuss their concerns.

Regards,

*Grahame Ash (Your Community Councillor)*

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## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The meeting of **3rd March 2003** was chaired by Paul Knight. All the councillors (now 7) and one member of the public attended. Will we have a Parish Council in 2003?

It was the last meeting for Keith Clough who was thanked for having served the Council for 8 years, including Chairing the Finance Committee. We fear that we shall be very short of parish councillors after the election in May and this Chronicle may or may not reach residents before the final closing date of 1 April for nominations. **If** there is still time, volunteers contact Paul Knight on 531678 or Maria Wysocki-Jones on 225909 please!

### Finance

The Council made a grant of £1500 to the Millennium Green Trust (less the cost of a dog bin!) We accepted a quotation from Mr N F Green for £228.67 per month for grass cutting; although this is an increase of 8%, the contract will run for 3 years. A draft statement on new Burial Ground fees was approved after making small changes.

### Planning matters: the end of a long-running saga?

Of the planning applications seen this month, the Vale had permitted that at 8 High Street despite our objections. Three related to Manor Farm. The Secretary of State had finally ruled on the stopping-up of the Green; the result was that the original decision stands apart from very minor changes. Let's hope this is finally tied up, and brings the hoped-for hefty cheque to the village.

### Best Kept Village Competition

Yes, this is here again and Drayton has committed all of £12 to being part of it. The initial judging runs from 3 to 18 May so it is not too early to blitz the litter, and tell Maria (225909) how we are trying to improve the village.

Finally, problems were reported on 3 footpaths and one (by the sewage works) had been cleared. The Parish Meeting and the next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 7 April 2003 at 7.45 pm in Caudwell Day Centre.

*John Killick*

**Don't miss the  
DRAYTON WIVES JUMBLE SALE**  
Drayton Village Hall  
2.00pm on Saturday 12th April  
Bargains Galore ... Raffle ... Refreshments

**DIARY FOR APRIL**

Fred Hays has been the Chronicle Diarist since it began but has now decided he must hand over to someone new. We thank Fred for his dedication over such a long time and hope that someone will come forward to take over.

If you are interested please call Dr Geoffrey Long on 531321

Thurs	3	8.00 pm	Sequence Dance (weekly) tel. 531701
Fri	4		Private Party
Sat	5	9.00 am	Councillor G Ash surgery (until 10.00 am)
		7.45 pm	Spring Music Concert (Portamente Singers)
Mon	7	7.30 pm	Parish Council <i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
		7.30 pm	Scouts (14 to 18 yrs) New members welcome
Tues	8	1.30 pm	Village Energy Day <i>Steventon Village Hall</i>
Sat	12	2.00 pm	Art Group Exhibition (until 4.00 pm)
Mon	14	9.15am	<b>Chronicle Lottery deadline</b> <i>Vickery's</i>
		5.15pm	<b>Chronicle copy deadline</b> <i>Vickery's box</i>
Thurs	17	8.00 pm	Sutton Courtenay Angling Club AGM
Tues	22	7.30 pm	Community Trust AGM <i>Caudwell Day Cntr</i>
Sat	26		Private Party

**REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS**

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

**MONDAYS**

9.15 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
1.30 pm	Afternoon Social	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
5.45 pm	Beavers (Boys / girls, 6-8 yrs, Tel. 512834)	<i>Steventon Hall</i>
7.00 pm	Scouts (Boys / girls, 8-10 yrs, Tel. 512834)	<i>Steventon Hall</i>
7.00 pm	Badminton (Private Group)	
7.15 pm	Drayton Wives Whist (3rd Monday)	<i>Caudwell DC</i>
7.30pm	Youth Club (until 9.30pm)	
7.45 pm	Parish Council (1st Monday)	<i>Caudwell DC</i>
7.30 pm	Senior Table Tennis, League (for 2 hours)	<i>School</i>
7.45 pm	Bell-ringing (for 1½ hours)	<i>St Peter's</i>

**TUESDAYS**

9.15 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
9.30 am	Parent and Toddler Group	
3.30 pm	First Tuesday Connections (1st Tuesday)	<i>Church Room</i>
1.45 pm	Drayton Art Group (until 4 pm)	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
3.00 pm	Junior Netball (for 1 hour)	<i>School</i>
6.00 pm	Ladies' Netball (for 1 hour)	<i>School</i>
7.30 pm	Senior League Table Tennis	<i>School</i>
7.30 pm	Drayton Wives (Last Tues in the month)	

**WEDNESDAYS**

9.15 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
10.30 am	Parent and Toddler Service	<i>Church Room</i>
2.00 pm	Whist - now each week	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
2.00 pm	Drayton Computing Club: Absolute Beginners	
2.15 pm	Badminton	
6.15 pm	Brownies	
6.00 pm	Evening Prayer	<i>St Peter's Lady Chapel</i>
6.15 pm	Cubs (Boys / girls, 8-9 yrs, Tel. 512834)	<i>Steventon Hall</i>
7.00 pm	Junior Table Tennis, Age 9+ (for 1 hour)	<i>School</i>
7.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
7.30 pm	Bingo Session	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
8.00 pm	Senior Table Tennis	<i>School</i>

**THURSDAYS**

9.15 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
9.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>St Peter's Lady Chapel</i>
9.30 am	Parent & Toddler Group	
9.50 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	<i>Haywards Rd</i>
10.15 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	<i>The Green Car Pk</i>
2.00 pm	Darby & Joan Club	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
4.00 pm	Dancing Classes (3 to 6 years). Tel: 764433	
6.30 pm	8/12 Club (1st & 3rd Thursday in the month)	<i>School</i>
7.45 pm	Women's Institute Meeting (2nd Thursday)	
8.00 pm	Sequence Dancing. Tel: 531701	
8.00 pm	Wilt/Berks Canal Group (3rd Thursday)	<i>Caudwell DC</i>

**FRIDAYS**

9.15 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>Sch'l Ground Bldg</i>
11.00 am	The Friday Club (to 3.30) 202466	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
7.15pm	Choir Practice	<i>St Peter's</i>

**SUNDAYS**

8.00 am	Holy Communion	<i>St Peter's</i>
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (Family Service 2nd Sunday)	<i>St Peter's</i>
11.30 am	Family Time	<i>Baptist Church</i>
6.00 pm	Evening Worship	<i>Baptist Church</i>
6.00 pm	Evening Prayer	<i>St Peter's</i>

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