

# DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Derek Pooley

Volume 26, No.9

October 2003

## OPERATION VIP - VILLAGERS IMPROVE POND

The Easter holiday was a dangerous time for me, an idle day off, looking out of the window over the Sutton Wick pond. A pond which, in days gone by, had been a beautiful spot to come to from any corner of the village – I even remember a special school trip out to it!!

Now it was black, full of protruding branches, dark and dingy with the overhanging trees and covered in weed, almost an eyesore!!

We set to work. Netting off the expanses of duck weed thanks to help from Tony Price's whaling net! However, as we were doing so, grand plans for a regeneration project started to emerge. I alerted the Sutton Wick residents of the idea and asked any experts to come forward. Thanks to everyone who offered advice; I hadn't realised how much there is to know about these glorified puddles!

With limited knowledge, we embarked on the first stage – draining and dredging.

This is where I must praise the Webb family as well as Pete Roberts and helpers. Without the immense amount of time they invested in our pond, it would have been a mess still today

It was a hive of activity when Brian Webb was around, with up to 4 tractors out in the lane and in the pond; scraping up muck, sucking up muck, dumping muck etc...

It was incredible watching them majestically manoeuvre the vehicles around, just millimetres from potential catastrophe!

After the majority of the mud was out, the gravel base came in to help seal the bottom and provide a sturdy base for future netting and weeding!! This stage helped along by the dedication of the Brock boys.



Then the grand filling – although supposed to be filled by the fire service, much to the delight of the female Sutton Wick population, it ended up being garden hosepipes. Thanks to everyone who lent theirs!

Once full, it was time to plant and this is where expertise is still required. We bought a variety of plants which went in a few weeks ago, however there are quite strict guidelines for native pond planting. If you know something about this or if you have spare plants, do get in touch, please do not just throw plants in, they may cause more trouble than good!

### TRANSFORMATION!



Having spoken to BBont, I am told a new pond (which effectively ours is now) will suffer algae and duckweed for the first couple of years until the other plants have got established and dominate! Much as I'd like to say, it is not an overnight job, these things take time.

Special thanks to our sponsors: Drayton Community Trust, Millennium Green Trust, Parish Council and Sir Tom Shebbeare. Also thanks to Keith Clough for the library of pictures.

Do pop over to see it, hopefully as it progresses towards a beautiful spot once again! We look forward to seeing you here soon!

*Justin Denno*

### Also in this issue:

- p4 Harvest Songs of Praise
- p8 Hooray Henley is next

- p3 A good cycleway to Abingdon at last?
- p5 Not the best-kept village but -
- p9 Pesticide ban

- p3 Look out for footpath faults!
- p6 School-high sunflowers
- p9 Transport consultation

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## CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The **November Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Friday, 31 October 2003** from **Margaret Armstrong, 1 Crabtree Lane, (531122)** who should be contacted by any Agents requiring copies additional to their allocation.

The Editor will be **Derek Pooley, 11 Halls Close (559454)**. 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, 20 October 2003.**

After this deadline, only urgent items will be considered for inclusion and then only 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:
December	17 November 2003	28 November 2003
Jan/Feb 2004	05 January 2004	16 January 2004
March 2004	16 February 2004	27 February 2004

### 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 November' is not very helpful. The editors email addresses are:

Tony Holmes                      tony-holmes@ntlworld.com  
 Geoffrey Long                      geoff.long@talk21.com  
 Derek Pooley                      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, during shopping hours.

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

## CHRONICLE LOTTERY

**Daphne Samworth, Hon. Promoter**

### RESULTS OF THE September LOTTERY

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	2347	P Manthorpe, Windy Ridge	Claire Soper
£20	2444	Mr McCall, 3 Newman Lane	Jean Oliver
£15	0983	P Cline, 31 High Street	Mary Alexander
£10	0711	Mrs Botley, 1A Church Lane	Susan Brooks
£10	2264	Freda Palmer, 31 Lyford Close	Freda Palmer
£10	2370	Mr Cassingham, 143 Drayton Road, Sutton Courtenay	Claire Soper
£10	0201	Mr Turner, 27 Corneville Road	Gerald Redman
£10	0921	Mrs Poulton, 4 Cheers Farm	Margaret Long
£10	2006	Mrs Greenall, 19 Whitehorns Way	Trudi Buckner
£10	1057	Jenny Pooley, 11 Halls Close	Mary Alexander

The winning tickets were drawn by members of the Bowls Club from the 2092 tickets sold

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### Letters to the Editor

The Editor reserves the right to shorten, clarify or reject any letter. Each letter **must** bear a legible name & address. A telephone number is also useful if clarification is necessary

## YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor

Through the Chronicle, I would like to thank once again the residents of Sutton Wick Lane, Greenacres & Newman Lane who contributed £130.89 during Heart Weeks 'Doon to Doon' collection. Many thanks also to Sabina's Hair Salon who sold £20 worth of red heart ribbons.

Total for the village was £150.89. Very many thanks to all

*Doreen Eato, Chairman of the Abingdon Branch of the BHS*

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## NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

Congratulations to Laura Taylor and Craig Watton, of Henleys Lane on the birth of Eve Ruth on 24 June 2003.

Congratulations to David and Annette Mitchell on the birth of their son Sam, a brother for Holly. And lots of love from Mum and Dad!

## NOTICE BOARD

### HOME FARM TRUST

**Tim and Sally Owen.**

A coffee morning will be held at 71 High Street from 10 am to 12 pm on Wednesday 15th October in aid of The Home Farm Trust. The Armitage family will once again join us and they look forward to meeting their friends and old neighbours.

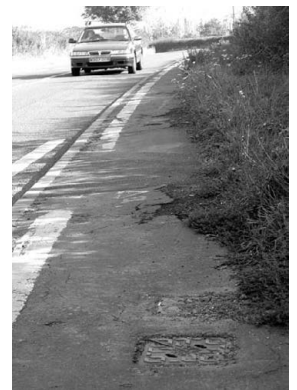
Christmas Cards, calendars and other seasonal gifts will be on sale, together with home-made marmalade and chutneys.

A warm invitation is extended to all.

### DRAYTON to ABINGDON CYCLEWAY **Maria Wysocki-Jones**

Oxfordshire County Council are expecting to issue the order for the improvement work during mid to late September. Following this there will be a 4-6 week preparation time for the contractor and work should commence in November and last approximately 3 months.

**Note:** Maria is Clerk to the Parish Council. She can be contacted at 47 Truelocks Way, Wantage, OX12 7EG or by phone on 225909 or by fax to 223092. Her email address is [uwjfordpc@aol.com](mailto:uwjfordpc@aol.com).



### DRAYTON FOOTPATHS

**Jenny Pooley**



Drayton has an excellent network of footpaths and bridleways. All occasionally need maintenance, which is the responsibility of the Parish Council's Rights of Way Working Group. If you use our footpaths/bridleways and find a problem, such as a damaged stile or excessive nettle growth, please let me know.

**Note:** Jenny is chairperson of the Parish Council's Rights of Way Working Group. She can be contacted at 11 Halls Close, Drayton, by phone on 559454 or by email to [jennifer.pooley@talk21.com](mailto:jennifer.pooley@talk21.com)

## HOMOEOPATHY PRACTICE IN DRAYTON

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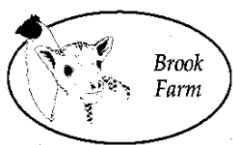
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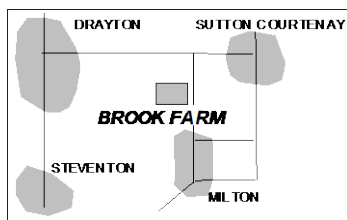
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**Licensed Lay Minister** Dr Peter Barton .....523702

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

**Organist & Choirmaster** Mr Adrian Thompson.....01865 714801

## 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' & 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 7.00 pm Choir Practice Church Room

## CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

Tues 7th 3.00 pm First Tuesday Connections Church Room

Sun 12th 10.00 am Harvest Festival Church

11.00 am Sale of Fair Trade goods Church

4.00 pm Harvest Songs of Praise Church

Sat 18th 10.00 am Sale of Fair Trade goods (until noon) Church

Sun 19th 11.00 am Sale of Fair Trade goods Church

Tues 21st 7.45 pm PCC Meeting Church Room

## PARISH REGISTER

### Baptism

31st Aug Isobel Grace Dunsdon

### Funeral at the Crematorium

2nd Sept Dennis Carter

### Burial of Ashes

5th Sept Dennis Carter

## YOU STAY - WE PRAY

During October we will pray for all the people who live and work in these roads: 5-18 October; Lockway and Whitehorns Way 19-25 October; Corneville Road, Crabtree Lane and Lesparre Close 26 Oct-1 Nov; Drayton Road, Milton Road, New Cut Mill, Fisher Close, Marcham Road, Meads Close, Rippington Court, Stone Hill

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### MISSED OUT ON YOUR CHRONICLE?

If so you can collect a copy from Vickery's shop in the week after normal delivery time.

## Letter from The Revd. Dorothy Derrick

Dear friends,

I wonder how many of us have been taking the opportunity of seeing the planet Mars, which is clearly visible in our night sky as its orbit brings it close to planet earth.



When I was a child, I used to enjoy reading the exploits of Dan Dare in the Eagle comic. I also had a passion for the radio serial "Journey into Space" following the adventures of Jet Morgan, Doc, Mitch and Lennie. Both these series referred to Mars as the "red planet", not that we notice that with the naked eye from here.

What was it that so intrigued me about those stories? I think that it was something to do with exploring the unknown, trying to enter into the mystery of things beyond this world and realising that as human beings there is something more to life.

Faith is also about exploring the mystery, about looking beyond ourselves, about making a journey into the unknown. As we human beings seek for God we find ourselves on a journey of exploration. For some that faith journey begins with Baptism as a child. For others that journey starts much later when we have the first promptings to search for God.

Jesus called people to start their journey with the requests "follow me" and "come and see". He called all sorts of people - he still calls all sorts of people and his invitation reassures us that he will accompany us on our journey if we "follow him", and "come and see him". If we step out in faith that journey will lead us beyond ourselves and we shall be caught up from time to time in the mystery of God. If you like excitement and mystery why not try it? The sure thing is that the journey will change our lives because as we experience the love of God in our lives, so we shall want to share that love and concern with others. Somebody once wrote faith is spelt RISK.

Enjoy your journeying!

Yours prayerfully

Dorothy

## Harvest Songs of Praise at St Peter's

At 4.00 pm on Sunday 12th October

Please come and celebrate with us. The Church will be decorated with harvest gifts and various groups from the village will be telling us about the hymn they have chosen. Our gifts of money this year will be for the USPG harvest appeal for Africa; fruit and vegetables will go to Home Farm Trust and groceries will go to the Porch supporting the homeless in Oxford



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## 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**

## OTHER LOCAL PLACES OF WORSHIP

### Roman Catholic Church

Christ Church, Frilsham Street, Sutton Courtenay  
Mass times: Sunday 8.45am. Reconciliation before Mass  
Priest: Rev Simon Thomson, Tel: 01235 812338,

### Methodist Chapel

High Street, Milton, (near the Post Office)  
Sunday Service: 10.30 am  
Local contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409

## FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS **Jean Hager**

As we approach our October get-together for tea and chat I have realised (with some surprise) that it will be, in fact, our first birthday. We have certainly proved how time flies when we are enjoying ourselves!

Our September Connections afternoon was interesting - no power, no hot cuppa! However, the power of speech was definitely not affected and refreshing fruit drinks all round kept the conversation going nicely. On 7th October we shall be welcoming an age concern adviser to give a brief overview of its function and what it has to offer. This interesting and very informal talk will be at 3:30 pm for about 20 minutes, so there will still be plenty of time for our usual conversation. Do come along and join us, especially if you are feeling isolated, lonely or in need of some friendly company. Our welcome is very warm and hopefully (power cuts permitting) the tea will be good and hot! We will be in St Peters Church Room from 3 to 4:30 pm and hope to see you there. If you cannot manage our October date, come along on 4th November - same time, same place. If you need further information, or are in need of transport, please contact me on 531588.



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## NOT YET the best kept village

Drayton did not win its 'large village' class in the recent 'Best Kept Village' competition, but the judges said many nice things about it. Here are some quotes from their report:

'In the residential part many of the older houses had attractive gardens and gave the appearance of being well cared for, as did most of the newer properties situated on estates, although in some cases this was not quite so obvious.



Both the pubs looked inviting and there were more shops than the entry form led us to expect, including an **outstanding ironmonger's**.

The garage forecourt looked quite tidy and the industry unobtrusive.

It was pleasant to note the comparative absence of fly posting.

Behind the Church lies the newer burial ground, in the charge of the Parish Council and looking in very good condition. Access is also given to the allotments which are nicely laid out and seemed to be mainly productive.

The feature of which we suspect that the village is perhaps most and justly proud is the Millennium Green which is a sheer joy to walk around and must be the envy of other villages. It shows a considerable community spirit and when mature will be even more attractive. It is a **great asset to the village**'.



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## ALL AROUND

### TODDLER GROUP

**Joanna Selby**

By the time this Chronicle is distributed we will have held our Fun-day. I am sure everyone will have had a good time but I will update you with events in the next issue.

Anna Loughlin has kindly offered to take over some of the responsibilities of running the Toddler Group but as she already has her hands full with two children of her own she could do with another volunteer or two stepping forward to help out.

Finally welcome to all our new members, we hope that you will be very happy at Drayton Toddler Group.

Don't forget, if you have a baby or toddler you can join us on Tuesdays and Thursdays (9.30 – 11.30 am). Please call Jo on 01235 525983 or Anna on 01235 206170 for more information.

### PRE-SCHOOL

**Anita Hedditch**

The new term has started with new faces, times and sessions which is keeping our teachers busy. We say hello to Caroline, Phoebe, Hannah, Brandon, Leanne, Reece, Georgia, Frankie, Heide, Luke and Tiler. Lots of new faces which is a healthy sign of a happy Playgroup. We wish them all well in their new starts.

We have opened up another session on Monday afternoons and what seems to be a popular lunch club on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This means that for two days in the week we are offering full day care - useful for some working mums we hope. We have also changed our opening time in the morning to 09:00 (to 11:30) to allow more time between sessions and to reduce what can be a wet wait between school and playgroup start times. One request! Please, when dropping children off by car do not park in the turning area next to the school gates - it is for turning your car around on leaving as the name suggests! Themes this term are once again looking towards Divali and 'In the Countryside'. So, we are awaiting some artwork to cover our display areas.

We held a WET Barnados toddle in the summer, a dash round the school perimeter and back for a picnic. Mis-timed prior to such a dry summer. As yet we do not know how much was raised for Barnados. Let's hope it is similar to last years donation.

The pre-school telephone number is 536094 for any inquiries.

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## DRAYTON SCHOOL

**Claire Soper**

You may have noticed a slight change to the name at the top of this month's report. The baton has been passed on! I would like to thank Clare Ventom for her past efforts in keeping everyone informed about what's been happening at Drayton School. I will endeavour to do the same, and encourage anyone with news of interest to contact me

As we all returned refreshed from the long summer break it was wonderful to be greeted by the Lower Unit's exceptional sunflower display. The children had all been involved in planting the seeds earlier in the summer and were very grateful to Kath Maidment for continuing to water them over the holiday. The tallest was as high as the school, and the children have been doing lots of measuring.



We welcome three new pupils this term, Callum, Katie and Thomas and hope they soon settle in to their new surroundings. Everyone else in school has been working hard too, adjusting to new classes and settling down to a routine again, parents included!! Why is there never enough time in the morning?

It was good to hear from Mrs Higgs at our first Family Assembly how polite the children had been on their return to school. And also reports of some children's acts of kindness over the holidays to a local resident. Incidents such as these make us all as parents very proud to be associated with the school.

We also have very exciting news of our brand-new web site, which is now up and running, thanks to Rachel Sykes and Martin Honey. Please do log on to it at [www.drayton-pri.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.drayton-pri.oxon.sch.uk) if only to read the stunning descriptions that the children have written about their teachers. Rachel and Martin would welcome feedback and our school prospectus can be downloaded.

Moving on to news of special topics that the children will be studying in the next few weeks makes me very envious, I'm sure we never had quite so much fun in my day!

The Lower Unit will be looking at "People who help us", they will have various guest speakers to talk to them about their particular jobs. If you feel you fit into this category yourself and could spare half an hour please contact school on 01235 531316.

The Middle Unit are covering "Teeth and Eating" as part of their science topic and will also be finding out about the Vikings with a special "Viking Day" which sounds very intriguing.

Finally the Upper Unit will be studying the Victorians and exploring all about their way of life.

Continued opposite ⇨



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## MORE ALL AROUND

⇒ The teaching staff would be pleased to hear from anyone in the community who might have an hour or two to spare each week to help listen to children read or assist with cookery. If you are interested in volunteering for either of these activities again please contact school, where Mrs Higgs will be able to discuss with you the various checks that need to be carried out for volunteers.

I make no apology for finishing on a more sombre note. Throughout the summer holiday and into the early part of September teachers and parents have regularly been clearing up large quantities of beer cans, bottles and more worryingly broken glass, from the school grounds. In addition on the evening of September 9th further wanton vandalism occurred resulting in several broken windows in school plus the destruction of all the windows in the Lower Units recently purchased playhouse.

The Teachers, Governors and Parents appeal to anyone in the community who may have information about the culprits to contact the school. Evidence related to these incidents is being gathered and the school continues to work with the local police in order to secure convictions. We would also ask any local residents to contact Abingdon Police Station on 01235 776000 if they witness any further intrusions or vandalism. No-one should be on the school premises without the authorisation of the Head Teacher and this also includes dog walkers who we would politely ask to refrain from this activity in the interests of health and safety. We take a great deal of pride in our school and it's grounds and enormous efforts have been made to improve the facilities for the children. It is therefore very disheartening to witness these efforts being destroyed by people with nothing better to do. Perhaps they would like to come and help at our next school tidy up if they continue to have so much time on their hands? I would be delighted to hear from them.

Next month I will be reporting on all the Autumn activities and give you a preview of what might be in store in, dare I say, the run up to Christmas!



**Note:** The Chronicle has heard (not from Claire Soper) that some youngsters are even lighting fires with white spirit near the village hall so perhaps also near the school. Parents need to remember that fires can be devastating to people, especially children, and to property, especially when everything is as dry as it is right now.

### THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Pearl Stanbridge

We are hosting the V.O.W.H. Group A.G.M. at the Lantern Restaurant, Steventon on Monday 13 October at 8pm and all members are invited to attend.

Please support your local Poppy Appeal; house-to-house collections commence on Monday 27 October.

Our best wishes are extended to Mr Cyril Boughton - our Treasurer and Standard Bearer- who has moved to the West Country and hope he will enjoy his retirement.

The next committee meeting will be held on Monday 20 October at 8 pm.

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### W. I.

### Ann Webb

With our produce show only two days away, we did not have a speaker at our last meeting. This allowed the final preparations to be completed at an un-pressured pace. The Knit-athon will take place on Saturday 25th October at 10.00 am in the Day Centre. Trips to Tackley, our new county office and to the Calendar Girls film at Wallingford will be finalised next month. At the moment Drayton has no thoughts on a calendar so you can rest easy. The group meeting is at Steventon on the 7th October; tickets still available from me.

An Advance Notice: 'Wit and Wisdom' time is approaching; quiz night will be 14 November; apply now, 4 to a team. After making the arrangements for this event, members took part in two 'practice' quizzes, one on Drayton and one on the surrounding area - great fun and very educational. Thank You.

### Grow, Cook and Sew

I think this year's show was one of the best supported for a few years. The vegetables and flowers were down a little; that is not surprising following the dry summer. The cooking section was well supported and the younger children section was also very well supported and of a very high standard.

This year's winners were as follows:

- |                             |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| • Playgroup Cup (under 10)  | Amelia Wright  |
| • Goddard Cup (10 and over) | Oliver Wright  |
| • Red Lion Cup              | Sheila Cook    |
| • Louisa Vase               | Betty Armitage |
| • Barnes Rose Bowl          | Terry Fleming  |
| • Debney Cup                | Iris Moylan    |
| • Mary Bisby Trophy         | Val Cross      |
| • WI cup                    | Ann Webb       |
| • Fiddler Cup               | Pansy Smith    |
| • Glad Tinson Vase          | Val Cross      |
| • Caude Cup                 | Ann Webb       |

Forty-three persons entered the 58 classes and 10 children entered the children section. The show has made a small profit - mainly due to the hard work and generosity of members and friends. We thank you all. See you next year

Yet more All Around on page 8 ⇒





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## YET MORE ALL AROUND

### BOWLS CLUB

### Roll up

In the Summer League, The Rollers have won their section and now have a final play-off against Wootton. On Sunday 14th September Julie Brain, Pam Leather and Bryn Jones won the Beryl James Memorial Trophy.

Best Wishes to Marian and Cyril Boughton, founder members of Drayton Short Mat Bowling Club, who have moved away to Devon. Congratulations to Doreen and Bryn Jones and Jean and Tony Mullins who all celebrated their Golden Weddings recently. Greetings to Eileen and Fred Long who have moved into Binning Close from Abingdon.

As ever, if you wish to have a go at Short Mat Bowling call at the Hall on Monday or Thursday afternoons or Wednesday evening.

Dates for the Diary: Finals Day - November 23rd; Annual Dinner and Prize giving - January 16th 2004 (more details later).

### DRAYTON PLAYERS

### Jean Hager

Our production of 'Key for Two', a riotous comedy, is now imminent. We are presenting three performances, 23rd to 25th October inclusive. For tickets (priced £5) and further information contact 200350. Refreshments will be tea and coffee on Thursday and Friday and on Saturday a bar will be open from 7.00 pm. Curtain up is at 7.45 pm for all performances. Book your tickets now for what promises to be a hilarious couple of hours entertainment. (Note: As this play contains some adult material we do not recommend it for family viewing).

'Hooray Henley', our musical play for February 2004, is now also in rehearsal, still concentrating mainly on the dance element. The director is on the lookout for some more young men to join the cast; no previous experience is needed. If you are interested please give him call on 534001 for details. It could be Drayton players for you today - and who knows where tomorrow!

I would like to remind you of our costume hire service, now up and running. The nights are beginning to draw in and we are fast approaching the season of parties and dressing up. The range on offer is wide and very reasonably priced, so call our wardrobe mistress on 531425 for choice and availability, or make a note of the number for future reference.



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### DRAYTON WIVES

### Margaret Long

Once again the wives met for their Jacob's Join evening on August 26th in Jean Taylor's garden and once again the weather was kind to us. It may have been cloudy but the evening was warm and calm. We enjoyed our supper as usual as well as the violin music that accompanied it. Some of us even went home with apples and greengages from the garden. Many thanks as always, Jean.

We basked in the sunshine on Daria Stimpson's patio at the beginning of September when she hosted a coffee morning. This has been an incredible summer and the weather on the particular morning was perfect. I would like to express my thanks to the Wives Group for many very happy occasions over the years.

Dates for your diary in October: -

Mon 6th	10.30 COFFEE	Daphne Barrand	30 Whitehorns Way
Mon 20th	7.15 WHIST	Joyce Simmonds	Caudwell D.C.
Tue 28th	7.30 MEETING	<i>From Oxford to the Thames Barrier</i>	
			Mr Cherry

### CHRONICLE TECHNOLOGY

### Derek Pooley

If this Chronicle arrives late or has garbled pages it may be because we hope to make it the first for which we send the copy to the printers by email. We hope this will save the editors' having to print high quality copy and take it to the courier, as well as saving our couriers' having to take it to Oliver's, who have now moved to Botley. But it's perhaps a bit soon to issue redundancy notices to our volunteer couriers!



## COUNCIL REPORTS

### YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR COLUMN

#### Pesticide Ban

At short notice the Dept of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has banned the sale of some 80 pesticide products. Householders will have to use their existing stocks by the end of this year. Gardeners, I believe will be allowed to store them until the 31st of March 2004. After that date they will have to hand over any left-over products to the local authority. That is where the Vale comes in. There has been no communication at all between the local council and the government. What we do know is the Vale will have to meet the bill for their clearance. The government has conveniently passed on this responsibility without any compensation to cover the costs. An estimate has been made by the Local Government Association that as the waste is of a hazardous nature the cost could be as high as £100,000. This looks like another stealth tax, and you (and I), as ratepayers will have to pay for this assignment.

#### Pesticide Products

Just in case you need to know further details of the banned products, they all contain one of the following six ingredients – 2,3,6 –TBA, dichlorprop, dikegulac, resmethrin, tar acids and triforine. The majority are weed killers and well-known products such as Roseclear 2 are included. Expect to see more roses with black and green foliage! I will let you know the collection arrangements by the Vale as soon as they have been determined.

#### Forum and Area Committees

This year there has been a change to the number of Area committees in the Vale, reducing from six to five. The Vale recognized there were some opportunities to save money without significantly effecting services. Drayton is now linked with Abingdon and Sutton Courtenay. That doesn't mean that if there is an issue that affects Drayton and say the new Wantage and SE Vale that I shouldn't attend. The meeting of Abingdon area was held in early September. I, unfortunately was away on business, so will update you of the outcome next month.

#### Did You Know

That the Vale operates a four-year forward view of service and financial planning. This has enabled the council to ensure that the promises made in the manifesto are adequately resourced and delivered. It has also helped the Vale deliver a steadily falling rate of increase in the district council portion of the council Tax rise, with this year's rise falling to just below 6%. Most other local councils were forced into rises of over 10%. The projection for coming years is for a continuing fall in increases.

#### Council Rates Are Still Too High

The tax is regressive and does hit the poorest residents hardest. The leader of the Vale has said for some time "Council tax is unfair and must be changed." The Vale is pleased to learn that at long last the government is now giving some consideration to alternatives. In the meantime the Vale is working to keep Council Tax as low as circumstances permit and is making sure that the money raised is spent carefully for the benefit of all residents. ⇨

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#### ⇨ More Law Changes

Just an up-date to advise that councils can now delegate business decisions to individual members of the Executive and to Officers. Originally the change in legislation was to make it harder for fraud to be committed by individual councillors. This section of the recent Local government act seems to make it easier! The Vale being aware of the situation has introduced certain conditions into this scheme of delegation. From now on any Executive member making decisions under this scheme has to take advice from the director of the relevant department; in addition, in cases where the decision could attract legal consequences and/or financial consequences then the Directors responsible for legal and financial matters have to be consulted. Finally any such decisions can be reviewed by the Scrutiny committee to see if the correct procedures have been followed and implemented. Hopefully these additional measures will prevent any wrongdoings.

#### Reminder

The next Surgery will be held at 9.00 at the Village Hall on Saturday 4th October. I look forward to meeting any Drayton residents who wish to come along and discuss their concerns.

Regards

Grahame Ash (Your Community Councillor)

### PARISH COUNCIL

**Daniel Scharf**

Meeting of 1 September 2003:

On the transport front there is plenty to concern the village. Those mourning the loss of the 32 should be aware that in fact the Abingdon buses connecting with the 2000, 2300, and 0240 from Oxford all come through Drayton (and not Culham). A Newbury Bus has been seen in the village and I would be pleased to hear from anybody who know when this runs and to where. Perhaps Whites would also like to put their timetable in the Chronicle? This disjointed service makes the inability to transfer tickets between services quite ridiculous when buses are meant to be made more attractive.

A public meeting between the Abingdon and Didcot consultation transport groups is scheduled for the Drayton Village Hall 4.00 to 9.00 on 26 September. The draft structure plan consultation will shortly be going the rounds with public meetings in Wantage Civic Hall (8 October) and Oxford Town Hall (13 October).

If anybody has proposal of where some amenity shrub and tree planting could take place then let a parish councillor or the clerk know as there is money available from the Vale. Drayton is not the Best Kept Village for this year although the judges were very impressed by many aspects of the village, especially the Millennium Green.

## DRAYTON DIARY

### FOR OCTOBER

All events are at Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise  
(To book Drayton Hall call 531501)  
Regular Events are listed opposite

Fri	3	9.30 am	Computer Course	
Sat	4	9.00 am	Councillor G Ash surgery (until 10.00 am)	
Mon	6	7.45 pm	Parish Council	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
Tues	7	2.00 pm	Blood Donor Clinic (until 8.30 pm)	
Fri	10	9.30 am	Computer Course	
Sat	11		Wedding	
Sun	12		St Peter's Supper	
Fri	17	9.30 am	Computer Course	
Sat	18		Private Party	
Sun	19		Drayton Players set up	
Mon	20	9.15am	<b>Chronicle Lottery deadline</b>	<i>Vickery's</i>
		5.15pm	<b>Chronicle copy deadline</b>	<i>Vickery's box</i>
Thur	23	7.45 pm	Drayton Players present 'Key for Two' Also on Friday and Saturday	
Fri	31	9.30 am	Computer Course	

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## St Peter's Church

Drayton

Sunday 12th October

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in our community of Drayton



## REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

### MONDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
12.30 pm	Pre-School Playgroup afternoon session	
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)	
7.30 pm	Senior Table Tennis, League (for 2 hours)	<i>School</i>
7.45 pm	Parish Council (1st Monday)	<i>Caudwell DC</i>
7.45 pm	Bell-ringing (for 1½ hours)	<i>St Peter's</i>

### TUESDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
	followed by lunch club and afternoon session	
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

9.00 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

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
	followed by lunch club and afternoon session	
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

9.00 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>
8.45 am	Mass	<i>Roman Catholic Church, Sutton Courtenay</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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