

# DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Derek Pooley

Volume 27, No.1

January/February 2004

## DRAYTON DELIGHTS:

### Beautiful

Many of you have commented on the St Peter's Christmas card for 2003, showing the Mother and Child carving.

The St Peter's Parochial Church Council (PCC) commissioned this carving from Malawi. It was purchased with the money bequeathed to the parish by my predecessor, Canon Dr. Susan Cole-King. The PCC felt that, as Susan had been so much connected with Malawi, this would be a good way to spend her money and for us to be reminded of her work in Drayton.



After much waiting the carving of Mother with Child arrived in the early autumn of 2003 from the KuNgoni Art Craft Centre in Mue. Many thanks to Barbara McGregor who has worked with her son-in-law, Tim, to bring this project to fruition.

The service of dedication was in November and Susan's brother, the Reverend Martin Wilson, preached and dedicated the carving in her memory. Other members of her family also attended the service to celebrate with us.

I am sure this carving of mother with child will be a spiritual blessing to us at St. Peter's and a fitting memorial to Susan and her ministry both here in Drayton and in her beloved Malawi. Many people have expressed their appreciation of the carving and of the position near the main altar. Please do call into Church to have a look for yourself. I am personally delighted and have spent much time gazing at the work and being drawn to touch and admire the skills of Thomas Mpira, the carver.

*Dorothy Derrick*

### Functional



So! Drayton is at last getting its new cycle track and footpath into Abingdon!

Cyclists and Drayton Councillors have fought for several years to upgrade the path into Abingdon, from a narrow, pot-holed track right alongside fast-moving traffic to one which can be cycled or walked safely and comfortably. The work is now well advanced and it's amazing how the contractors have been able to make

narrow paths into wide ones where there seemed not to be enough space.

The work has delayed car drivers somewhat, but the long-term benefits of reduced air pollution and traffic and parking congestion, whilst keeping some people fitter, should make it worthwhile.

*Editor*

### Entertaining

Remember to get your seats booked for the World Premiere presentations of 'Hooray Henley', a musical written and directed by Richard Webber, a long-time member of the Drayton Players! After a short Christmas break, rehearsals are now well underway with songs, choreography and action getting together well. This is a show for all the family, so do book early to make sure of your seats. There will be five performances from 18th to 21st February, including a matinee on the Saturday. For tickets (£5 and £4 for children) please phone 200350. Don't miss the opportunity of being part of this exciting and entirely new work. See you at Drayton Hall in February!

*Jean Hager*

#### Also in this issue:

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p4 Yet more probes to Mars

p9 Caretaker job description

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### Drayton Village Caretaker

**Would you like a flexible, part time job?  
Then why not help look after our village?**



The Parish Council is looking for a **self-employed** village caretaker. Working hours are flexible but the Council wants to buy around 40 hours/month during the summer months and 20 per month in the winter. Payment rates are negotiable.



See page 9 for more details or call Maria Wysocki-Jones on 225909

### 'Hooray Henley'

**See the Drayton Players' World Premier!  
A new musical by Webber and Russell!**



**Drayton Hall  
18th to 21st February  
Tickets £5, children £4**



See above and back page for more details or call 200350

# CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The **March Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Friday, 27 February 2004** from **Helen Brasington, 1 Cheers Farm, (534045)**, 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, 16 February 2004.**

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:
April	15 March 2004	26 March 2004
May	19 April 2004	30 April 2004
June	17 May 2004	28 May 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; too many 'Chronicles' are 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	For a 1/10th page Block Advert				Small
Category:	1	3	6	12	Advert
Drayton Resident	£4.00	£10.50	£21.50	£40.00	3p
Non-Drayton Resident	£5.00	£13.50	£27.00	£50.00	4p

**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 JANUARY LOTTERY

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	0529	D Scharf, 122 Abingdon Road	M Armstrong
£20	0546	M Hillier, 33 Crabtree Lane	Joan Sinclair
£15	2437	G Cox, 1A High Street	George Cox
£10	1107	J Woolley, Red Lion, Abingdon Road	Sheila Cook
£10	2149	Freda Palmer, 31 Lyford Close	Freda Palmer
£10	1767	J Lapwood, 110 Whitehorns Way	Terry Arnold
£10	1021	M Jones, 1 Halls Close	Mary Alexander
£10	0094	Mr Border, 97 Abingdon Road	Carol Arnold
£10	1095	J Woolley, Red Lion, Abingdon Rd	Sheila Cook
£10	0800	M Long, 62 High Street	Margaret Long

The winning tickets were drawn by teachers of Drayton School from the 2200 tickets sold

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## MISSED OUT ON YOUR CHRONICLE?

If by any chance your Area Agent is unable to deliver your Chronicle one month you can collect a copy from Vickery's shop in the week after normal delivery time. Lawrence has very kindly agreed to keep a small stock for us each month.

## CHRONICLE NEWS

Good news this month! Your Chronicle distribution for 2004 is now assured, since Shirley Thomas, of Henleys Lane, has very kindly agreed to become a Distributor, taking over from Terry Fleming. Shirley joins Margaret Armstrong and Helen Brasington in the team of three Distributors who, working in rotation, prepare and deliver the Chronicles and lottery packs to the Area Agents each month. Many thanks to Shirley, and to Dixie who I am sure we shall find helping Shirley on her 'rounds'.

We now also have a full-time agent for Haywards Road and part of Binning Close. Judith Dunster, who lives in Binning Close, has agreed to take over the agency from Pat Nimmo. Many thanks, Judith, and a big welcome to you and to Shirley to the Chronicle team.

But as they say – you win some, you lose some. George Cox feels that the time has come to retire as agent for Conifer Drive and part of High Street. Many thanks to you, George, for all your efforts in covering this area since the houses in Conifer Drive were built – and for ensuring that a copy of the Chronicle is delivered personally to the Bodleian Library each month to be retained for reference, for ever. George has kindly said he will be happy to continue to do this for us.

Other areas have been without a full time Agent for some time now – which is worrying. We do rely on sales of lottery tickets to pay the cost of printing each month, and this has to be paid for whether the Chronicles are delivered or not. So why not make a belated New Year's resolution – to help the Chronicle go forward into the next twenty-five years as strongly and successfully as it did in its first twenty-five?

The areas for which an Agent is needed are:

- Conifer Drive/part of High Street, (see above)
- Fisher Close (Sally Dixon delivers Chronicles there, but does not sell lottery tickets – this was intended to be only a temporary arrangement.)
- Manor Close has been without an agent for some time
- Part of Hilliat Fields. Shirley Schofield is delivering Chronicles but a helper to sell lottery tickets is needed.

If you feel you could help as an agent or 'part agent' please telephone me on 531321 and I will be glad to give more details of what is involved – without any commitment at this stage.

*Geoffrey Long, Chronicle Co-ordinator*

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## YOUR LETTERS

Dear Sir

My wife and I would like to thank Brian Bray for the story about Edward John Mott in last month's Chronicle. Jack was my father, and I am his youngest son Bernard Roy Mott, but there was some detail that we did not know about.

We came to New Zealand in 1965 and have lived here (now in New Plymouth) since then, but have had three trips home to see family. We get the Drayton Chronicle regularly, sent out by Angela Buckle, and we really appreciate it, as it is so nice to keep in contact and know what is going on. Many thanks.

Yours sincerely,

*Roy and Margaret Mott*

Dear Editor,

Please pass on my thanks to those people who contributed towards our sending £251.33 for the Pace Centre in Aylesbury. This centre provides intense physical and mental stimulation for badly handicapped children, including our Natasha.

Yours sincerely,

*Judy Henman*

Dear Sir,

I would like, through the Drayton Chronicle, to express my regret at the passing on of 'Shuggy', my collie cross. The grand old man was 17 1/4 years old and was part of the village, being loved by adults and children alike.

Many thanks,

*Don Osborne*

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# ST PETER'S CHURCH

<b>Priest in Charge</b>	Revd Dorothy M Derrick ..... 531374 The Vicarage, 8 Gravel Lane, Drayton
<b>Licensed Lay Minister</b>	Dr Peter Barton ..... 523702
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Mrs Terry Fleming ..... 534124 Mr Peter Cline ..... 530519 Mr Adrian Thompson.....01865 714801
<b>Organist &amp; Choirmaster</b>	

## 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 END OF JANUARY

Tues 20th	3.00 pm	PCC Meeting	Church Room
Wed 21st	8.00 pm	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service at Steventon Methodist church	

## AND FEBRUARY

Sun 1st	4.00 pm	Christingle Service	Church
Tues 3rd	3.00 pm	First Tuesday Connections	Church Room
Sun 15th	11.15 am	Sale of Fair Trade goods	Church
Wed 18th	7.45 pm	PCC Meeting	Church Room
Wed 25th	8.00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service	Church

## PARISH REGISTER

### Funeral

12th December Martin Thomas McMahon

### Burial of Ashes

17th December Vera Emily Caudwell

## YOU STAY - WE PRAY

During January and February we will pray for all the people who live and work in these roads: 4-17 January; Lockway, Whitehorns Way. 18-24 January; Corneville Road, Crabtree Lane, Lesparre Close. 25-31 January; Drayton Road, Milton Road, New Cut Mill, Fisher Close, Marcham Road, Meads Close, Rippington Court, Stone Hill. 1-14 February; Steventon Road, Eastway. 15-21 February; Church Lane, Henleys Lane, Caudwell Close, Gravel Lane. 22 Feb-6 March; Abingdon Road, Oday Hill, Binning Close, Haywards Road.

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## Letter from The Revd. Dorothy Derrick

Dear Friends,

A Happy New year to you all! By the time you read this letter the first month of 2004 will nearly be over and possibly new year resolutions will be forgotten. However it is good to look forward to the future with hope and optimism.

In the last few weeks the Mars probes have had very different outcomes as scientists try to seek out the unknown planet. So I have decided to write a modern day parable - Jesus used parables (stories) as a way to convey his message of truth and love.

"Once there was a scientist who sent off probes to Mars. Some did not even get out of the earth's atmosphere, some made it into orbit but collided with space debris and were destroyed; some lost their way and burned up in space; some crash landed on the planet surface and could do nothing; some fell into a chasm and were never heard of again; some landed on good sites and began to explore and send information home, communicating the knowledge to those back home." (Inspiration for my story comes from the Bible; Luke 8 : 1 - 8, The Parable of the Sower.)

My story is to illustrate that people can tell the good news of the love of God, but only sometimes is it received by the hearers. However like the scientists we have to be persistent in our efforts. Only as people receive the good news that they are loved and special to God will they come to recognise that this applies to other people as well. When we find God and begin to understand and be enlightened, we shall be able to communicate and share his love.

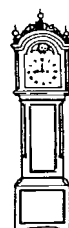
When we really believe that, then we shall begin to value each other and that will change the way that we live our lives. There will be no more hatred, greed and destruction; there will be no more war and injustice. It sounds like a new creation, which is exactly God's promise to us as foretold in Revelation 21 "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth....."

Some people think that we should just sit and wait for God to do this - then eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die syndrome. Others know that as human beings, made in the image of God, we are called to care and share with others; to live in community with them and work to bring in that new way of living and loving, to shine some light in the dark places of our lives, our communities, our country, our world, our universe.

Yours prayerfully

*Dorothy*

PS On February 1st at 4 pm there is a special Christingle Service in Church which will vividly display the contrasts between darkness and light. Please come and receive a Christingle which will be lit in the darkness. The collection will be for the Children's Society supporting their work with children living in the darkness of being bullied at school.



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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 I write this, our January tea and chat afternoon is just a few days away and I hope we shall have seen old and new friends on that occasion. Our next two dates for will be 3rd February and 2nd March and you are most warmly invited to come along and join us for good company and friendly conversation, with the tea pot always at the ready. If you are feeling isolated, lonely or in need of a break for whatever reason, drop in at anytime between 3.00 and 4.30 pm at St Peters Church room. If you need transport or would like further information please call me on 531 558.

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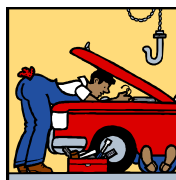
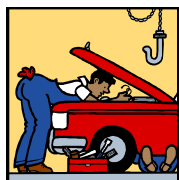
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## A LITTLE STORY TO MAKE YOU SMILE

A frog goes into a bank and approaches the teller. He can see from her badge that her name is Patricia Whack (Patti). So he says, "Ms Whack, I'd like to get a loan to buy a boat and go on a long holiday."

Patti looks at the frog in disbelief and asks how much he wants to borrow. The frog says £30,000. The teller asks his name and the frog says that his name is Kermit Jagger and that his dad is Mick Jagger, and that it will be okay as he knows the bank manager.

Patti explains that £30,000 is a substantial amount of money and that he will need to provide some collateral against the loan. She asks if he has anything he can use. The frog says, "Sure. I have this", and produces a tiny porcelain elephant, about half an inch tall, bright pink and perfectly formed.

Very confused, Patti explains that she'll have to consult the manager and disappears into a back office. She finds the manager and says, "There's a frog out there called Kermit Jagger who claims to know you and wants to borrow £30,000. He has offered this as collateral."

She holds up the tiny pink elephant. "I mean, what is it?"

The bank manager looks at her and says. "It's a knick-knack, Patti Whack. Give the frog a loan. His old man's a Rolling Stone."

**Editor's note:** This piece was taken from the 'Delabole Slate', a Cornish equivalent of the Drayton Chronicle. Do you have any stories or jokes as good (or as bad) as this one we could print?

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# ALL AROUND

## TODDLER GROUP

Anna Loughlin

Happy New Year to all our readers and best wishes for 2004!

The Toddler Group Christmas Party was a huge success as usual! The children thoroughly enjoyed party games and Christmas goodies, they gave their undivided attention to childrens' entertainer Rosie, and were enthralled by a visit from Father Christmas! The adults tucked into mince pies while trying their luck on the Tombola, and a great time was had by all. Thanks to all the Mums and Dads who lent a helping hand.

Toddler Group is a great place to bring your little ones (0-5) as mums can relax while their children play in a safe, stimulating environment. There is a good selection of toys, games, puzzles and creative activities to occupy the children.

For mums, Toddler Group offers a change of scenery and a chance for a friendly chat with a lovely group of mums and carers, in the knowledge that you are creating opportunities for your child to develop and progress by socializing, playing and learning in a stimulating way. Toddler Group runs on Tuesday and Thursday morning from 9.30 to 11.30am. You can turn up any time and will be made to feel welcome...so what's stopping you? Make a New Year's Resolution and come along!

Finally we all offer our congratulations to Trudi and Mark, who tied the knot over the Christmas break. We all wish you a long and happy life together. Congratulations also go to mum Sam and her son Max, and new baby boy Jude, and also to mum Sam and her daughters Jessie and Erie, and their new baby boy, Charlie.

## PRE-SCHOOL

Anita Hedditch

I apologize for missing last month's Chronicle deadline; busy lives!

Playgroup continues to thrive. We are opening another session for the January term to accommodate still rising numbers. Hopefully the teachers will withstand the changes! We wish Connor, Kelsie and Merrin good luck as they start school and farewell to Jack as he moves to Somerset. There are a number of new faces for the January term, we offer them a welcome and look forward to meeting them.

Last term was exciting with Christmas preparations, secret Christmas card making, calendars and the like. Congratulations go to Jessie Gibbard in coming second in a county-wide Christmas card competition. She obviously worked hard and deserves her position as there were many entries.

On a sadly regular note, we are still having problems with the playgroup being what feels like targeted by vandalism. We have had to claim on insurance this time which has consequences for potential future claims. The School is making efforts to secure the grounds more appropriately, with little consequence to us. We are investigating the possibility of protective covers for our windows... A sad state of affairs, after all it is a place for our children with only childrens' toys inside.



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At the end of term we had our annual Christmas sing-a-long, which was the best attended and enjoyed in my time as Chair. The annual raffle is held at this time and this year raised £165. A big thank you to the local companies/shops and individuals who donated prizes and to those who bought tickets. The term finished with the Christmas party – jelly being the most popular food on that day, entertainment by Rosie and a visit from Father Christmas. Great excitement!

## BOWLS CLUB

## Roll up

We are well into the winter league, with Rollers well placed in Division one of the South Oxon League; they are in 2nd place @ the half way mark. Unfortunately, the Hammers and Wasps are in the wrong half of their leagues! This is mainly due to bleeding new members to the competitiveness of bowling in the league, but we hope they are enjoying the experience. Finals day was held @ the end of November, a great day's bowling ensued and the following took the honours for the year 2003:

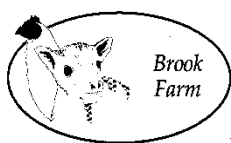
- |                                   |                                |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ▪ Didcot Windows open singles     | B. Jones                       |
| ▪ Derrick Messenger Ladies Single | J. Mullins                     |
| ▪ The Attwood cup                 | B. Jones                       |
| ▪ Henry Bunce Handicap Pairs      | B. Jones; D. Jones             |
| ▪ Beryl James Triples             | B. Jones; J. Brain; P. Leather |
| ▪ Don Alexander Single, pairs.    | J. Hyde; P. Madley; R. Gleed   |
| ▪ Rose Bowl Triple (League)       | A. Holmes; D. Jones;           |
|                                   | J. Goodacre                    |
| ▪ John Berry Fours (League)       | A. Holmes; I. Harrison;        |
|                                   | W. Weightman; J. Goodacre      |
| ▪ Ladies V Gents                  | Gents                          |
| ▪ Friendly Fours                  | Drayton (J. Mullins; J. Hyde;  |
|                                   | R. Gleed; B. Jones)            |

Talking about winners, congratulations to Val and Lyndon Locke who, on a bowling holiday recently, won the mixed fours with a couple from Wales. Well done! especially as there were 280 bowlers competing in the competition.

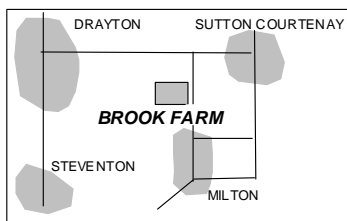
And to close these notes, we will be holding our annual, dinner-and-dance presentation night at Abingdon United F.C. on the 16th Jan 2004. Wishing all members, old and new, a very happy and healthy New Year!

Continued opposite ➡

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# MORE ALL AROUND

## SCHOOL REPORT

Claire Soper

As I write this month's school report Christmas is past and the January sales are upon us. Most parents will be preparing for the start of the new school term with frantic searches for P.E. kits and homework long forgotten in some dark corner, or is it just me?

December was a very full month for everyone connected with Drayton School. The start of the month saw much activity as staff and children rehearsed for the two Christmas productions. The Lower Unit performed the 'Little Fir Tree' on the afternoon and evening of December 9th and enchanted everyone with a refreshing look at the Christmas Story seen through the eyes of the smallest tree in the forest, who ends up in the Children's ward of the hospital. All this in spite of new windows being installed, which meant the children and staff moving from one area to another around the workmen. However I'm sure the inconvenience will have been worth it!

The Middle and Upper Units choose 'Alice in Wonderland.com' a modern interpretation, where Alice disappears into a computer instead of a rabbit hole. She is accompanied on her journey by her guide Virtual Alice. The singing, acting and narration was first class and the children performed the play on three separate occasions.

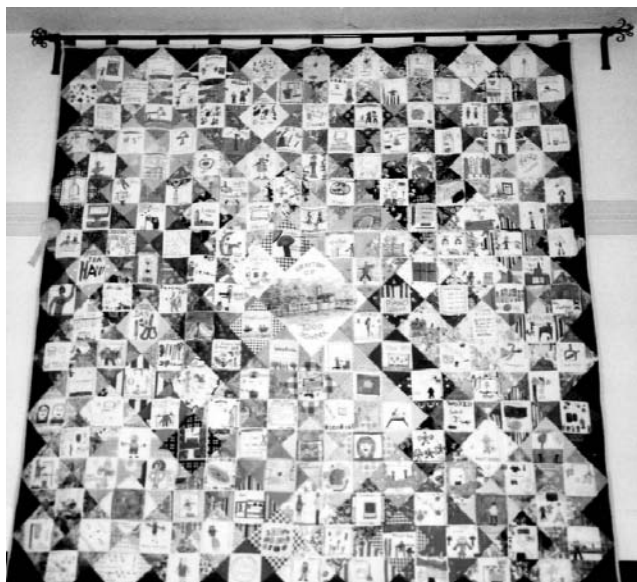
Congratulations to all the children and staff who worked so hard to make both productions so successful. Thanks also to the many parents who helped with costumes and endlessly listened to lines and songs being learnt.

Congratulations are also due to Rachel Sykes and her husband on the early arrival at 27 weeks of baby Sean, born in Hertfordshire on 13th December, an unexpected Christmas present! We hope to have more news next month on Sean's progress and send our best wishes to the new family.

The annual Carol Service took place on 18th December and was well attended by family and friends of the school. The children from each unit choose and sang their favourite carols and read stories they had written about the nativity, finishing with prayers. Mrs Higgs complimented the children on how polite they had been during the last week of term, particularly at their Christmas Party.

Fundraising has once again been very successful with aprox. £750 being raised at the Christmas Fair, thanks to all those who helped on the day with stalls and to those people who came and spent their money. Well done also to Keziah and Georgia Thomas and Jasmin Burnage for raising £119 at their Blue Peter Bring and Buy Sale for children with Learning Disabilities, a brilliant result!

As we start a New Year I thought it would be appropriate to respond to a query about the schools Millennium projects. I can report that the Millennium quilt, which included a square representing each child and member of staff and organisations, is now permanently displayed in the school hall for everyone to admire and enjoy. ➡

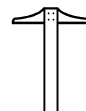
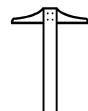


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➡ The tile handprints, which originally surrounded the seating area of the Millennium Green, have been returned to the individual children. The tiles were removed when they began to loosen due to frost damage.

Finally before I sign off for this month, thank you to those residents of Drayton who continue to recycle their aluminium cans and foil through Vickery's Shop, this directly benefits the school funds. I have been asked to remind everyone that only aluminium products should be collected.

## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Pearl Stanbridge

At the recent AGM Mr Rod Clewley was appointed as the new treasurer and Mr Pat Bucklan as standard bearer; all other officers were returned unopposed.

Please 'HELP US TO HELP THEM' by supporting our Easter Draw. All profits will be donated to ex-service charities.

The next committee meeting will be held on Monday 16 February at 8 pm.

## DRAYTON WIVES Margaret Long

Once again Christmas is over, the year turns and we look forward to restarting our activities. May I wish you all a very Happy New Year. Our Christmas coffee evening in the Caudwell Day Centre proved to be very successful as our numbers are getting a bit overwhelming for a private house. We all enjoyed the conviviality, the refreshments and the entertainment. Our exchange of presents always gives a fillip to the evening and I admire everyone's ingenuity in the variety of gifts.

Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way.

There is always a down side to the New Year in that I have to remind you that subscriptions for 2004 are now due.

Dates for your diary in January:-

Mon 19th	7.15 WHIST	Daria Stimpson,	Caudwell D.C
Tues 27th	7.30 MEETING	The Prince's Trust	Sir Tom Shebbeare

...and in February:-

Mon 2nd	10.30 COFFEE	Daphne Barrand,	30 Whitehorns Way
Mon 16th	7.15 WHIST	Gillian von Hoven,	Caudwell D.C
Tues 24th	BIRTHDAY LUNCH To be announced.		

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## NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

We extend a warm, if belated, welcome to Maria, Chris, Lauren and Melissa Neal who have moved into Binning Close from Abingdon.

Also to Diane, Guy, Dominic and William Simmons who have moved into Binning Close from Steventon.

And finally to Pat Kelly who has moved into the High Street.

We hope that they all will be happy in Drayton.

Congratulations to the O'Neill family in the High Street, on the birth of Paul on 22nd December, a little brother for Lisa.



Also to the Greenall family in Whitehorns Way on the birth of their new baby Jude

We are delighted to congratulate Rita Atkinson of Sutton Courtenay, appointed an MBE (Member of the order of the British Empire) in the Queen's New Year Honours list. The honour recognized Rita's work in the local community, including the DAMASCUS youth project which covers Drayton, Appleford, Milton, Sutton Courtenay and Steventon.

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### **SLOW SUN OR FAST EARTH? Derek Pooley**

You may have noticed that mornings get darker rather than lighter in late December and early January, just after the shortest day. Isn't that puzzling?

The shortest day is the one nearest the winter solstice, when we in the northern hemisphere face further from the sun than at any other time in the year. This year the solstice point was a bit late, as it always is in the December before a leap year. It was at about 7 am on the morning of December 22nd, roughly an hour and a quarter before sunrise that day. (For those readers who like geometry, the exact time of the solstice is when the plane defined by the position of the sun and the line of the earth's axis of rotation becomes precisely perpendicular to the plane of the earth's orbit round the sun).

No matter! If the days immediately start to get longer after the solstice (as they do) why do the mornings get darker rather than lighter for a couple of weeks? The reason is that the sun is falling down on its job and taking more than 24 hours to complete its day. Because our modern clocks keep time with precisely 24 hours in each day, this means that the solar noon gets later and later each day at this time of year, as measured by our clocks. For a while after the solstice the sun loses more time each day, and noon therefore slips further back, than the day gains in length, so mornings get darker for a while!

What is he saying, I hear you cry? How can the sun be falling down on the job and changing the length of the day, when we all know that day and night are caused by the earth's rotating on its axis? You are right! The fault is not with the sun but the earth!

Not that the earth's rotation rate is changing – terrible things would happen if it did and Hollywood would have made a disaster movie about it. The root cause is that the solar day is always a little bit longer than the time taken for the earth to rotate on its axis, which is actually only 23 hours, 56 minutes and 4 seconds, because the earth also moves significantly around the sun in that time. It therefore has to rotate more than a complete revolution to return the sun to the same position in our sky as the day before. This extra rotation varies through the year, depending on how near the earth is to the sun and how quickly it is moving in its orbit round the sun. At this time of year the earth is at its closest to the sun and moving at its fastest, so that even more time than usual is needed for the sun to get back to the same position in the sky and the sun seems to us to be going round us too slowly.

If you ask a silly question.....!



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# NOTICE BOARD

## VILLAGE CARETAKER Job description

The Parish Council believe the role of Village Caretaker to be an important one and the work of the Caretaker a valuable contribution to our community. He/she needs to be flexible in the approach to the work and able to set priorities during the changing seasons.

The tasks to be carried out by the Caretaker are varied and he/she needs to establish an organised method of working. Duties will include:

- Litter Picking through the Village and to the Boundaries
- Weeding and Strimming
- Hedge cutting and Pruning
- Clearing footpaths
- Inspecting playground safety and maintaining a written record of conditions.
- Keeping the burial ground tidy and well cared for

The Caretaker would be self-employed and charge the Council an agreed hourly rate for work done. He/she would need to claim payment for hours worked with a monthly report to the Clerk. The Report should detail when playground inspections were made and set out when litter picking and other tasks were carried out during the month. It should also include recommendations to the Parish Council of any actions which may need to be taken and any areas of concern.

Hours of work are flexible subject to current needs and weather conditions. The caretaker would need to be able to offer around 20 hours per month during winter months (October – February) and 40 hours per month during summer months (March – September).

To apply or seek more information call the Parish Clerk, Maria Wysocki-Jones on 01235 225909.

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## EMAIL SCAMS

## Richard Everett

There is a section of the Thames Valley Police web-site that deals specifically with the various email scams currently doing the rounds, with a link to report them to the Fraud Unit. This is available at <http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/crime-reduction/internet-crime8.htm>



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## CALLING THE POLICE

## Michael Page

We have introduced a new number for **non-emergency phone calls** to Thames Valley Police. The number is **0845 8 505 505** and should make it easier for you to contact us than by calling local police stations, though it will run in parallel with our other non-emergency numbers for a year. The new number gets you straight through to our Police Enquiry Centres (PECs) which are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Some local police stations are not open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and calls direct to them cannot always be answered. Calls to the new number will be charged at local rate, as were the ones to your local stations.

**Please continue to use 999 for emergency calls to the police or other emergency services.**

I am aware that some concern has been expressed that PEC operators will not have the same local knowledge as officers working in your local station, but the staff are highly trained and have a vast amount of information at their fingertips. Using PEC staff instead of highly-trained police officers to answer your phone calls enables us to have more officers on the streets and in the villages. We have also issued every operational officer in Thames Valley with a mobile phone. This, combined with voicemail, enables messages from the public to be passed to the relevant officers, via the PECs, much more quickly.

We fully appreciate that the service provided for non-emergency calls earlier in the year was poor but an extra 16 operators have now been recruited to work in the PECs to deal with the more than **30,000** non-emergency calls Thames Valley Police receive **every week**. I am pleased to be able to tell you that we have made some progress in giving a better service, although we still have some way to go. The number of abandoned calls to the PECs and to our switchboard has fallen significantly, and the number of calls answered within 20 seconds by PECs and switchboard staff has increased.

A unit is now in place to monitor and handle complaints from the public about our call handling and response times. This will enable us to analyse more accurately where we are failing to meet public expectations. If you have concerns please email the Quality of Service Unit at [valerie.copping@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:valerie.copping@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk) or phone the Unit on 01865 846319.

**Editors Note:** Michael Page QPM, BA is Assistant Chief Constable, Community Services in Thames Valley Police. Richard Everett is the Internet Officer with Thames Valley Police

# COUNCIL REPORTS: 1

## Your District Councillor Column

### Oxfordshire County Council draft Structure Plan

**Editor's Note:** Grahame gave us this first part of his report in time for the December issue of the Chronicle but Tony ran out of space!

This document details the intentions of the OCC over the next few years regarding planning and development in the county. It is a sizeable document so I have focused on its aims and how the Vale will be affected.



The aims are to:

- protect and enhance the environment and character of Oxfordshire
- encourage the efficient use of land, energy and natural resources
- support progress towards a better quality of life for all Oxfordshire's people
- sustain prosperity by supporting sustainable and appropriate economic development

The key features of the Structure plan strategy affecting the VOWHDC are as follows

- focus development in the larger urban areas (eg Abingdon, Wantage/ Grove, Botley and Farrington)
- provide 36,500 dwellings between 2001 and 2016 (the government informs the OCC of the number of dwellings for the County)
- continue with the development currently planned for Didcot in the adopted Structure Plan to 2011 (part of this development is in the Vale)
- develop 2100 houses at Grove by 2016. This will require improved secondary school provision, improved public transport services. The Plan suggests that the transport improvements should be in place before the development is occupied. (Please note the Vale has made it a condition of planning approval for Grove that the local infrastructure services are in place prior to the houses being occupied.)
- provide at least 50% of the new housing as affordable homes (current Vale policy)
- develop 55% of the housing on previously developed land in towns and villages
- after 2016 there could be further development at Grove and Didcot (with an extra 3,000 – 4,000 homes each, they could grow to towns with about 45,000 people). As an alternative to further long term development at Didcot and Grove consideration should be given to a new community beyond the Green Belt. (Please note the Vale's policy is to develop non-green belt land.)

The Sutton Courtenay and South Wick areas in the Vale are no longer identified as locations where the principle of sharp sand and gravel working is accepted.



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### ⇒ Vale of White Horse District Council & The Reservoir

At the December Full Council meeting, the Lib Dems made clear their views by putting forward a motion opposing any prospective reservoir. As you know there is again local concern over this matter and the council used this meeting to clarify its views. It is not a question of "not in my back-yard", but a matter of concern over the weak management of local water resources by Thames Water (TW).

Cllr. Crawford (Lib Dem) who has carried out an in-depth study on this issue, referred to the fact that whilst TW provided daily some 2.8m litres of water, another 1.1m leaks away - a loss of 25%; (my own view is that if any other company lost 25% of their raw materials the board of directors should be replaced). Cllr. Crawford pointed out that TW has the best performance of all the (UK water) companies from a share-holder point of view. He said the average investment over the last 10 years was chicken feed compared to the profits. Cllr. Crawford sought to urge Thames Water, the regulatory authorities Ofwat and the Environment Agency to review the situation. The motion was carried to oppose any campaign to have a reservoir in the area. The focus should be on TW to improve its water leakage problem.

Thames Water has advised that their main concern of leakage is in the London area where the pipes are in poor condition. They say they are embarking on a large programme of mains replacements. To me it just seems a pity that Thames Water decided to sell off a reservoir in south London a few years ago for residential development. Retaining this London reservoir could have done much to alleviate the London water problem, but then selling land in the London area was highly profitable and helped keep profits high which in turn keeps shareholders happy.

And Finally.....

The next Surgery will be held at 9.00 am at the Village Hall on Saturday 7th February. 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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# COUNCIL REPORTS: 2

## PARISH COUNCIL Maria Wysocki-Jones

### MEETING on 3rd NOVEMBER 2003

No members of the public attended the meeting.

#### Didcot Integrated Transport Strategy

Mr Cross and Mrs Mackenzie attended a steering group meeting regarding the Didcot Integrated Transport Strategy. The meeting had summarised the presentations on the 26th September held by Halcrow. The majority of Parishioners who had attended the presentation had commented that whilst they wanted the speed of vehicles cut, the feeling was against speed humps.

#### Finance

The Council approved a donation of £600.00, subject to provision of accounts, towards the work currently being undertaken at Sutton Wick Pond. The Clerk noted thanks to Justin Denno for all the time and effort he had put into the project.

#### Planning

A Planning Meeting had been held before the main council meeting. The following issues had been discussed: Planning Training for new Councillors, OCC Local Plan and Manor Farm update.

Mr Knight declared an interest and withdrew whilst the Council discussed the application for Barton Garage, 1 The Green, regarding the erection of 1 x 2 bedroom flat, 2 x 2 bedroom and 8 x 3 bedroom terraced houses with associated highway access, garaging, parking, screening and landscaping. Following a full discussion the Council concluded that whilst they were keen that this area be developed to improve its current situation they felt that it should be appropriate not only in terms of design but also safety and adequate on-site parking. The Council felt that these issues were not resolved satisfactorily within the current application. The Council were keen to liaise with the developers and were positive about developing this area and providing affordable housing.

#### OCC Local Draft Deposit Consultation 2016

The Council noted that the draft followed the same principle of the VWHDC's Local Plan and could find no real issues to object to. They noted however that the content of the plan was very non-specific and as such the lack of detail did in effect make it quite difficult to object to a non-specific issue. These comments were passed to OCC.

### MEETING on 1st DECEMBER 2003

Due to illness and work commitments only four Councillors were able to attend the meeting. One member of the public attended.

#### Abingdon Integrated Transport Strategy

The Clerk has written to Jacqui Cox, Senior Transport Planner OCC, requesting an update of Abits plans in particular relation to Drayton. It is proving difficult to establish what consideration has been given to Drayton.

#### Finance

The Council approved a donation of £150.00 to the South & Vale Carers Association which currently provides support to several carers within Drayton.





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#### Accounts 2002/2003

The internal audit had been carried out and the auditors report received. The Council reviewed the report and the Clerk was thanked for her work. The Statement of Accounts was now forwarded to the External Auditors. The Finance Committee would be meeting in December to discuss the budget and setting of the Precept for 2004/2005.

#### Village Caretaker

The Council were concerned that the Parish had been without a village caretaker for some months and it had not been possible to recruit by word of month. Several jobs were now outstanding and there was concern about the amount of litter in the village. A separate advert would be posted in the Drayton Chronicle.

#### Rights of Way

Mrs Pooley had carried out site visits with Ms Millard OCC on footpaths and bridleways that currently caused concern. The Parish Council was keen for improvements to be undertaken on BW29 and FP14 and 25. The Council had offered to make a contribution to the work being carried out if it would speed up the process.

#### Future Projects

The Council would be pleased to hear from anyone who has specific ideas/projects, which they would like the Council to consider during the 2004/2005 financial year. You can contact any of the Councillors or the Clerk to the Parish Council.

### Current Parish Councillors

Robin Butler	57 High Street	OX14 4JW	531212
John Cross	3 East Way Mobile Home Park	OX14 4JY	527474
Chris Fursdon Davis	11 High Street	OX14 4JL	531606
Paul Knight (Chair)	4 The Green	OX14 4JA	531678
Heather Morrison	Willow House, Willow Lane, Milton	OX14 4EG	820163
Jennifer Pooley	11 Halls Close	OX14 4LU	559454
Daniel Scharf	122 Abingdon Road	OX14 4HT	531107
Richard Wade	44 Henleys Lane	OX13 4HU	532321

#### Clerk to the Council

Maria Wysocki-Jones 47 Truelocks Way, Wantage, OX12 7EG  
 01235 225909 [mwjfordpc@aol.com](mailto:mwjfordpc@aol.com)



# DRAYTON DIARY

## FOR FEBRUARY

All events are at Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

(To book Drayton Hall call 531501)

Regular Events are listed opposite

Mon	2	7.45 pm	Parish Council	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
		7.00 pm	Keep fit / slimming class (until 8.30 pm) now every Monday evening	
Sat	7	9.00 am	Councillor G Ash surgery (until 10.00 am) Private Party	
Sun	15		Drayton Players set up	
Mon	16	9.15 am	Chronicle Lottery deadline	<i>Vickery's</i>
		5.15 pm	Chronicle copy deadline	<i>Vickery's box</i>
Wed	18	7.30 pm	Drayton Players present 'Hooray Henley' Also Thurs, Fri and Saturday at 7.30pm	
Sat	21	2.15 pm	Drayton Players 'Hooray Henley' matinee	
Sun	22		Drayton Players clear their set	
Tues	24	2.00 pm	Blood Donor Clinic (until 8.30 pm)	
Fri	27		Private Party	

## Drayton Players Present

*The World Premiere of*



*Written by Richard Webber*

*Music by Ed Russell and Richard Webber,  
featuring 'If this is love' by Bob Chilcott*

**Drayton Hall, Drayton**

**Wednesday 18 February 7.30pm**

**Thursday 19 February 7.30pm**

**Friday 20 February 7.30pm**

**Saturday 21 February 2.15pm, 7.30pm**

**Tickets £5, children £4**

**To book your tickets, please ring 01235 200350**

Printed by Oliver & Son, 11a West Way, Botley, Oxford.

## 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>
7.30 pm	Keep fit / slimming class	
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>
2.15 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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