

# DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Tony Holmes

Volume 27 No. 2

March 2004

## Drive On with the Scouts

The 26th Abingdon Scout Group would like to say a very big "Thank You" to everyone involved in helping raise funds to allow us to take delivery of a replacement minibus.

It has taken three years of hard fundraising and donations to generate the £4,500 capital needed to purchase the new 17-seater minibus.

The group has just brought £5,000 worth of new camping, climbing and canoeing equipment thanks to a lottery grant.

The new equipment along with the new bus will allow us to offer a wider range of activities to **young people** aged from 6 to 25 in Sutton Courtenay, **Drayton**, and other nearby villages.

The **activities** already planned this year involve: snowboarding, outdoor rock climbing, white-water canoeing, rafting, survival skills and mountain biking & mountaineering in the Lake District.

### Interested in Joining?

**Contact Adrian Rouse** ( 01235 510918 ).



Proud owners...Members and leaders of the 26th Abingdon Scout group, pictured with their new minibus, purchased after three years of fundraising ( Photo: Damian Halliwell )

**Drayton Art Group** Saturday 3rd April

@ the Caudwell Day Centre, 2 pm to 4 pm.

**Annual Exhibition & Sale of Work**

+ *Bric-a-Brac Plants Cakes and a Raffle*

*Refreshments ENTRY FREE*

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We offer excellent free training and on-going support .

**Our next course starts in May.** If you'd like to find out more please contact **Catherine Gundry** on 01865 316200 or [oxford@befriending.net](mailto:oxford@befriending.net)

**COMMUNITY FUND**

Lottery agency making a difference

Registered Charity No. 1086264

## Drayton Hall Exterior Clean-Up

**Sat 13<sup>th</sup> March VOLUNTEERS WANTED !!**  
at 11 a.m. (Can YOU Please Help?)

The Hall Committee (nb: change from original date) is organising this ready for the Wedding season, as the surrounding hard surface has been deteriorating.

**Bring** a broom/shovel/wheelbarrow if possible.

(More details? - Ann Webb - 531418)

**SNACK LUNCH** with Tea & Coffee will be PROVIDED for all helpers !

## WEIGHT WATCHERS

Tuesdays at 7pm

New Class Starting on March 2nd  
in the Caudwell Day Centre

For more details, or if interested in helping ,  
Then please call Anne (818580)

# COMING CHRONICLES

The **April Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Friday, March 26th**, from **Shirley Thomas**, 48 Henleys Lane (**531626**), who should be contacted by any Agents requiring copies additional to their allocation.

The Editor will be **Geoffrey Long, Aeolian House, Chiers Drive (531321)**. Contributions should be placed in the Chronicle letter box, which is outside Vickery's hardware store on Drayton Green,

**NO LATER than 5.15 pm on Monday, March 15th 2004.**

**After this deadline**, only items of the utmost urgency may be considered for inclusion (NB No guarantees!).

NB :- **Can we politely remind** Contributors that the above **deadline** is exactly that; there seems to be a trend (with increasing use of e-mail) that sending items on Monday evening, or during Tuesday, (or even later!) is ok. It isn't - editors are busy people, and continually receiving items through the week greatly reduces the time for editing, queries, formatting, printing etc. Is it so very difficult to note the above date, and prepare items by then - not start them?

Editors clear the box from time to time before the deadline. It is a **great help** when items can be left in the box a few days before the closing date. Some contributors are indeed doing just that, and it really does help. Thank you.

## NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

All contributions to the Chronicle are most welcome. Be sure to include the name, address and (in case clarification is necessary) telephone number of the author. Contributions can be made :-

1. If you've Internet access, by **email** to the relevant editor :-

Derek Pooley	<a href="mailto:derek_pooley@talk21.com">derek_pooley@talk21.com</a>
Geoffrey Long	<a href="mailto:geoff.long@talk21.com">geoff.long@talk21.com</a>
Tony Holmes	<a href="mailto:tony-holmes@ntlworld.com">tony-holmes@ntlworld.com</a>

Please remember to check that you soon get a confirmation reply.

2. A **3 1/2" disk**, in PC format, preferably 'Saved As' WORD. **Please include hard copy** for checking the formatting and **your address** so that the disk can be easily returned. This is STILL an excellent way to receive copy since it removes much of the work necessary in 3 & 4 below, AND should help to eliminate misprints/errors.

3. A good, **black typescript** on white A4 paper or smaller. The scanner can read in typescripts and this is still much easier than re-typing. IF you prepare text on a PC to print the output and send it to us, thanks, BUT PLEASE SEE 2 above - we do return disks, honest!

4. Finally, **hand-written items**. It helps if all names of people and places are spelt out in **CAPITALS** (thanks to those who do), thus saving mistakes and possible embarrassment. **You KNOW who you're writing about, but please don't assume we do too!**

## ADVERTISING RATES

For Block Advert (about 1/10th page)

Advertiser Category:	Number of Inserts				Small Advert per word
	1	3	6	12	
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 block adverts are charged at **half** the above rates.

All requests **must** be accompanied by **cash or a cheque**

made payable to 'The Drayton Chronicle' (as we don't wish to waste time and effort trying to obtain them later!!!)

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

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

# CHRONICLE LOTTERY

Daphne Samworth, Hon. Promoter

## RESULTS OF THE FEBRUARY LOTTERY

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	1058	H Mole, 26 High Street	Mary Alexander
£20	1540	J Simmonds, 18 Galleyfield, Ab	Sarah Church
£15	1484	C Turley, 18 Binnings Close	Christine Turley
£10	1363	M Wastle, 69 Steventon Rd	Teresa Burnage
£10	1042	P Cline, 31 High Street	Mary Alexander
£10	0484	V Brock, 39 Sutton Wick Lane	Tom Shebbeare
£10	1506	P Athawes, 220 Steventon Rd	Sarah Church
£10	2076	E Curtis, 7 Marcham Road	Neen Priestnall
£10	0941	B Malin, 34 High Street	Mary Alexander
£10	1973	G Lester, 33 Whitehorns Way	Trudi Buckner

Winners were drawn at Vickery's shop, from 2084 tickets sold. Purchasers in the High Street did very well this month.

## THE FOLLOWING THREE MONTHS

Issue for	Copy for publication and return of Agents Lottery Packs by Monday:-	Chronicle published and available for distribution on Friday:-
May	April 19th	April 30th
June	May 17th	May 28th
July	June 14th	June 25th

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## ALL AROUND

### DRAYTON WIVES

**Margaret Long**

We were very grateful to Sir Tom Shebbeare who willingly came to our meeting on January 27th to give us a very informal, very entertaining but very informative talk on his work, originally with the Prince of Wales Trust but now with the Prince's Charitable Foundation. We learned so much more about the manifold activities the Prince is involved in than one hears of in the media.

The Prince's Trust is now the U.K.'s leading youth charity with an annual turnover of about £50,000,000 and targets the fourteen to thirty year olds facing difficulties such as unemployment, homelessness, crime and poor basic skills.

The Prince's Charitable Foundation, which was started in 1979 supports a wide, range of charitable causes and projects and receives ever-increasing requests for assistance. It is mainly funded by Duchy Originals, the food company the Prince launched in 1992. The Foundation raised £923,000 in the year 2001-2002 and more than 100 charities benefited from the Fund.

As a member of the Drayton Art Group, I was very interested to learn that as most Art schools today give no drawing instruction, the Prince started a Drawing School in the year 2000 to give artists a chance to widen their skills especially in observational drawing. Each week this school attracts 300 students and there is a waiting list for entry.

This was a most fascinating evening for us all.

As we do not intend to have any more jumble sales in the foreseeable future, the Wives agreed at this last meeting that we should raise our annual subscription from £5.00 to £7.50. This should help with funds as the cost of speakers inevitably continues to rise.

As I write, we are looking forward to our Birthday lunch at the Steventon House Hotel. We are experimenting with a lunch this year rather than an evening meal, as many members prefer not to eat late or to travel any distance on a dark winter's evening.

#### Dates for your diary in March

Mon 1st 10.30	COFFEE	Neen Priestnall	9 Marcham Rd.
Mon 15th 7.15	WHIST	Jean Taylor	Caudwell D.C.
Tues 30th 7.30	MEETING	<i>The Fire at Windsor Castle</i>	Mr. Marshall Smith

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### BOWLS CLUB

**'Roll Up'**

Not much to report at this season of the year. The Annual Dinner and Prize Giving was held at Abingdon United Football Club. Again, a splendid meal was provided and enjoyed by all.

The bowling season continues with mixed results, The Rollers are at the top of the League at the moment and the Wasps and Hammers are middling.

We still have afternoon sessions on Monday and Thursday and one evening session on a Wednesday if **anyone would care to try** their hand at **Short Mat Bowling**.

### The ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Pearl Stanbridge

Please 'HELP US TO HELP THEM' by supporting our Easter Draw, tickets are now on sale.

To commemorate the 60th anniversary of D-Day we are having a service at St Michael's and All Angels church, Steventon on Sunday 6 June at 0945 a.m. followed by laying of wreath at the War Memorial at 11.15am and dinner at The Lantern Restaurant at 12 noon (cost £10.95p per head).


Branch standards will be in attendance at this event, **so please come along and make this a memorable occasion**

**Any D-Day veterans out there? Please let us know** so that they may be recognised.


The next committee meeting will be held on Monday 15 March at 8pm.

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### DRAYTON W.I.

**Gwen Price**

We had a lovely nostalgic meeting in February when Geoff Caudle showed us slides of Drayton Players in its early days. He traced its history and told us many amusing anecdotes. We enjoyed recognising villagers who took part, and in some cases still do. Apart from the W.I. it is one of the oldest village organisations still going strong. They are well worth supporting.

In January, in spite of cold, icy weather we had a very interesting day at Denman college in Marcham. We had lunch there and then were given a cooking demonstration of Mediterranean food. We also had a tour of the college which is very special to all W.I. members. We are so lucky to have it so near, as people come from all parts of the British Isles to do courses there. The courses are very varied, providing opportunities to develop new skills and knowledge, start a new hobby or purely for pleasure. Non members are now welcome to apply and they also provide bed and breakfast for visitors to the area.

Our next meeting will be the A.G.M. Do please attend and you will be rewarded by a **pudding tasting!**



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# ST PETER'S CHURCH

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

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

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

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

## CHURCH NOTICES

### REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday	8.00 am	Holy Communion (CW Traditional).
	10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (CW) except 2nd Sunday, when a non-Eucharistic Family Service is held.
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer (CW).
Mon-Fri	8.15 am	Morning Prayer (CW) in Lady Chapel
Weds	10.30 am	Parents' & Toddlers' Service - Church Room
Weds	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer (CW) in Lady Chapel
Thursday	9.30 am	Holy Communion (CW) in Lady Chapel

### REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Sunday	10.00 am	Sunday Pebbles & Rocks	Church Room
Monday	7.45 pm	Bellringing Practice	Bell Tower
Friday	7.00 pm	Choir Practice	Church Room

### CALENDAR FOR MARCH

Tues 2nd	3.00 pm	1st Tuesday Connections	Church Room
Wed 10th	7.45 pm	PCC meeting	Church Room
Sat 13th	10.30 am	Fair Trade Coffee Morning	Church Room
Sun 14th	10.45 am	Sale of Fairly Traded goods	
	6.30 pm	St Peters UN-Limited	Church Room
Sat 20th	10.00 am	Children's Society Coffee Morning	Church Room
Sun 21st	10.00 am	Mothering Sunday Family Eucharist (with Flowers)	
Tues 30th	8.00 pm	Annual Parochial Church Meeting	

### PARISH REGISTER

**Burial of Ashes** Jan 18th **Martin Thomas McMahon**

**Baptism** Feb 15th **Jonathan George Wood**

## YOU STAY - WE PRAY

During March we will pray for all the people who live and work in these roads:- 7-13 March - Sutton Wick Lane; Greenacres; Newman Lane; Conifer Drive. 14-27 March - Hilliat Fields; Lyford Close; Manor Close; The Green. 28 March to 3 April - High Street; Chiers Drive; Cheers Farm; Halls Close.

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## Letter from The Revd Dorothy Derrick

Dear Friends,

Today I travelled to Bath on my day off. It was a delight to see that the hedgerows were tinged with green, indicating that spring is just around the corner. In England we are very blessed that we have clear seasonal differences to look forward to year by year. It is all part of God's ongoing care for his creation. A creation that we so often take for granted. However the truth is we have a part to play in it. Yes, God has promised to provide for us as his creation, but he has also given to us a huge responsibility for it as we can read in the book of Genesis.

How do we even begin to tackle issues concerning our stewardship of God's created world? The usual cry is to look on it as someone else's responsibility; the government's, the environmentalist's, the industrialist's, the scientist's. The truth is that we all need to play our individual part. We have choices to make as to how we use and share the earth's resources. We can deal with life in a selfish 'I'm all right Jack' sort of way, or we can live life with a concern for others and for the future of this world in which we are set.

I am reminded that the less developed countries have less access to the world's resources which are being gobbled up by the more developed countries. The balance has gone wrong.

One of the ways that we can help with this problem is to make an effort to buy Fairly Traded Goods - a way of making sure third world producers get a fairer market price for their products, rather than exploiting them as we have in the past.

Many of our supermarkets do have Fairly Traded Goods on their shelves. Have you seen them? Have you bought some? It seems to me that if we all made a conscious effort to buy at least a percentage of our shopping in this way every week we could make a difference.

At St. Peter's we are trying to encourage people to do just that. We also **sell Fairly Traded Goods** after the Service at about 11.15 am on certain Sundays in the month. If you are interested the following dates are booked:- 14th March, 18th April, 9th May, 20th June, 11th July. There will also be a **Coffee Morning in Church on 13th March.**

Perhaps it is particularly appropriate to do a bit extra as we come into the Lent Season in the Church's year when we take stock of our spiritual lives - where we are with God. It reminds us that we are all children of the same heavenly Father and therefore we are all interconnected and have a shared responsibility to care for each other and the world in which we are set.

Yours prayerfully,

*Dorothy Derrick*

## ST PETER'S CHURCH HOME-VISITING GROUP

will visit anyone who is, or has been, ill or is recently home from hospital, or unable to get out because of a disability, or is in any other circumstances where support would be welcomed.

Please contact:- Mrs Neen Priestnall, 9 Marcham Road (531330)



## (MORE) ALL AROUND

### Drayton TODDLER GROUP Anna Loughlin

It's photo-time again! The photographer, Joy, has been booked for March 2nd to **capture all your cherubs on film**. The set of assorted-sized photographs are usually returned after two weeks and you are under no obligation to buy them (but I'm sure you'll love the results)!

Toddlers runs on Tuesday and Thursday between 9.30 am and 11.30 am at the village hall. It would be fantastic to see new faces on either day, but especially on **Thursday as this tends to be a quieter session**.

We offer a relaxed, welcoming environment to everyone in the community with children between 0 and 3 years. It's a great place for children to interact, play, learn, and, of course, enjoy themselves.

The first session is free, and membership is £3.00 until July, or £4.50 for the whole year. Each session costs £1.50 for the first child and an additional 50p for each additional child – **excellent value!**

**Please come along and investigate**, or give Anna a call on 206170 if you want to find out more.

The new display boards in the small hall are a real asset. Toddlers are displaying some of their recent work, entitled 'Wet and Windy Weather'. Contrary to the title, the colourful pictures really brighten the place up!

Thanks go to the ladies who supported the wine-and-nibbles evening. Your shared ideas about fund-raising and new equipment were very welcome. Watch this space!

Looking ahead, Easter is just around the corner and **Easter Egg Hunts** are planned for Tuesday 30th March and Thursday 1st April. **Come and enjoy!**





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### PRE-SCHOOL Playgroup Anita Hedditch

The term is now in full swing. We welcome George, Evie, Lucie, Holly, Ezekiel, Sally-Anne, Ross and Matthew. We are a busy group, **now open for 9 sessions in the week and lunchclub** on Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays (especially popular).

This term the children have been looking at Nursery Rhyme stories, we have displays of Jack and the Bean stalk, the three little pigs and more. We are having to extend our usual range of resources for ideas as we are open so much more now. We have hired activity boxes from a new source and look forward to witnessing the outcomes.

A **very big THANK YOU** to the RED LION PUBLIC HOUSE, who raised over 800 pounds for us during their annual PRAM RACE just after Christmas. The teachers are compiling a wish list, as many of the toys need replacing or repair.

We will look to organize another **Open Day in April**, the last two have been very successful and enjoyable. We are also planning for the altering in child intake at school, potentially meaning that we will lose children only once a year (Sept) rather than each term. This has implications for us in both number of sessions to run and finances. I am sure the dust will eventually settle and things will run smoothly.

On another note we are having our windows protected whilst the premises are not in use. S.G. Welding and Fabrication of Unit 6 Grove Farms, Milton are tailor-making protective covers to hopefully prevent the windows from being broken, which seems to have been a problem over recent years. Some more artistic talent will no doubt be required to paint them children friendly colours and designs once installed to help camouflage them to the rest of the building.

ANN SIMONS Welcomes You to

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### Drayton ART GROUP Eric Curtis

An opportunity will again present itself on the afternoon of Saturday **April 3rd between 2 and 4 o'clock** at the Caudwell Day Centre for everyone to appreciate the efforts of our members during the last twelve months.

The **standard of work produced is truly amazing**, and some of the **paintings will be available for sale**.

We will again have our usual stalls offering plants, cakes, books, bric-a-brac, and tea and biscuits together with the ever popular raffle.

abcd film society abingdon presents

### SHOSTAKOVICH (live and on film)

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St Michael's Church, Park Road, Abingdon  
7.30 pm Sat March 13  
tickets £8.50 / £7.50 – Ab 522163

## BAPTIST CHURCH

PASTORAL Co-Ordinator:- Roy Brown.....531296

Home Visitor:- Mrs Norma Russell.....531655

### REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

- 11.30 am Presently only one morning service per month; this is the Family Service, and is on the first Sunday of each month.
- 6.00 pm Evening Service. A traditional form of service, frequently with guest speakers.  
(Communion every second Sunday)

### EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME

If anyone would like to come to church, and feels they do not want to come for the first time on their own, then we can arrange for one of the congregation to accompany you – Please ring Mrs Norma Russell on 531655.

Come and join us every Sunday – we look forward to seeing you. Our next Family morning service is March 7th; the speaker is Steve Spare, and also the Franklin sisters are going to sing.

#### News

(This text delayed owing to Valerie Hale's illness; see letter P7. NB: Since writing that letter, Valerie has had to return to hospital. We all pray she shall be home soon).

Our Harvest Festival was very colourful, with all the fruit & vegetables on display, it looked beautiful in the church. After the service we distributed the fruit and veg around the village. The collection for the Harvest Festival and the Harvest Supper was £76-50p, sent to Sobell House Hospital (letter of thanks received).

At Christmas on Dec 21st we had two carol services; one in the morning, when the young people acted out beautiful nativity scenes, then again in the evening with Larry Cavener our guest speaker. All money collected over Christmas was sent to the Spurgeon Child Care.

Janet Strong



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## NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

Welcome to Kathryn & Matthew Puncher of Crabtree Lane.

And from Church Lane to the Chung family, who recently moved from Steventon Road.

Tony and Barbara Warwick are pleased to announce the safe arrival of our first grandchild Freddie Anthony Arthur Warwick, a son for Mark and Emma and half brother for Olivia, weighing 3lb 12oz on Tuesday 20th January. All our love and congratulations from Dad, Mum, Glenn, Lisa, Sara, Tom, Liz and Steve.

A Warm Welcome to Valerie Whittingham, who recently moved into the High Street, we hope she'll be very happy.

And Welcome to Robert & Jeanette Anderton, who moved to Sutton Wick Lane from Sutton Courtenay in December, and also to Robert's mother Rene who joined them from Kidlington in January.

And Lastly :- Mavis & Fred Hays, of Whitehorns Way, have just been presented with the joy and honour of becoming GREAT Grandparents, and are currently revelling in the wonderment of that age old privilege.

**Margaret** welcomes you to  
**Sabina's** for your next hair appointment

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## YOUR LETTERS

### Charity Sale

Dear Sir, 108 Abingdon Road

I'd like to say a big thank you to all the kind helpers and people that donated items to my charity sale. A cheque for £1000 was given into Abingdon Police Station for the Police Benevolent Fund on Dec 22nd.

Thank you once more for everyone's help.

Betty Krason



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### People's Dispensary for Sick Animals

Dear Sir, 26 Steventon Road

On behalf of the above, I'd like to thank the people of Steventon Road, who gave so generously to the collection, and would like to advise you I was able to send a cheque for £46-77p.

Yours Faithfully

Mrs Joan Judd

### HOMOEOPATHY PRACTICE

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### Diamond Wedding

Dear Sir, 5 Greenacres

Hazel and I would both like to thank all the kind people that sent us flowers, cards and gifts on the anniversary of our diamond wedding.

Especially all the neighbours of Greenacres who arranged without us knowing a surprise party to make a memorable day.

Yours Sincerely

Vic Pardey



**BINGO SESSIONS:-** are held weekly in the Caudwell Day Centre, Gravel Lane, Drayton, **on WEDNESDAYS at 7.30 pm**



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### The Devil makes work . . . ?

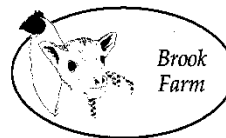
Dear Sir,

On the first morning of the school holidays, some clumps of daffodils on the Millennium Green have been deliberately trampled on and ruined.

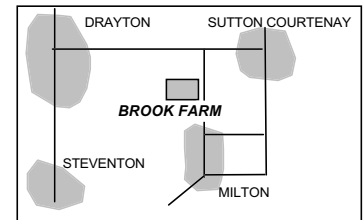
Any parents think their own children might have been to blame?

*name supplied - withheld by request*

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### Thank You

Dear Sir,

2 Crabtree Lane

I would like to thank all my family and friends who visited me during the last few weeks, when I was in Marcham Road Hospital. This included our dog Primrose, and Janet's dog Freya, both of whom were very popular with staff and patients at visiting times.

The hospital staff could not have been kinder or more supportive, and it has made me realise just how important such hospitals are.

I hope very much the proposed closure does not happen, we certainly need such facilities to help people recuperate.

Yours Sincerely

Valerie Hale

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# YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

## Council Tax

I am sorry to say the Council tax rise in April will be above the rate of inflation, again. The government - so concerned with the increasing rates - is making special payments to Councils to keep the rates down. Unfortunately this message hasn't percolated to all government departments as some of them are still requiring the Councils to do additional work, without any financial compensation and consequently the cost has to be passed on to the ratepayers.

The Local Government Association, (the representative body for all councils) is expecting that most district councils, like the Vale, will receive a grant below the rate of inflation. The Vale is already looking to see if and where additional cuts can be made in providing services. This year's rate is expected to be at 5.5%. (As you will recall, last year the Vale's increase of just under 6% was the lowest of all the other district councils in Oxfordshire.) The County Council (OCC) is trying to keep its increase to around 6.5%. The increase in funding to county councils looks to be heading for education, at the expense of other services.

**Did you know** that over the last 10 years there has been a significant shift in local taxation from business to the residents? Non domestic (business) rates accounted for 29% of local revenue; now it is down to 22%. Whilst business rate increases have been pegged to inflation any shortfall has fallen on the householders, like you and I. The Vale of White Horse District Council has asked the government to axe the tax and replace it with a form of local income tax, so that it is proportional to income. >>>>>>>>>>>>

## Apache Stone Art

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....00000....

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>>>>>>>>>>>>

### Police

The Thames Valley Police Authority has now become the second largest rate demand, having overtaken the Vale last year with a 45% increase. Much of the government cash this coming year is earmarked for central initiatives and national police bodies. A hefty rise is expected, (I hope I am wrong) and may not result in an improvement to local policing in Oxfordshire. The police, I understand have been told to concentrate on the crimes that are more common in Reading or Slough. (I ask myself is it time to make the police authority accountable to the public; should we have elections for the Chief Constable as we do for district and county councilors?).

### Lords Stick up for Local Planning Decisions

A change to the Planning process was defeated in the House of Lords. Had the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Bill been passed then it would have removed a whole layer of elected people from the planning process (County, district, unitary and parish councils) and passed it to an unelected and remote South East regional assembly based at Guildford. Whilst it is recognised that the Government says it is committed to devolution, the Bill appeared to put convenience before democracy.

### And Finally.....

The next Surgery will be held at 9.00 at the Village Hall on Saturday 6th March. I look forward to meeting any Drayton residents who wish to come along and discuss their concerns.

Regards *Grahame Ash*



## PARISH COUNCIL (meeting Feb 2)

### Transport

It seems that the County Council are **losing the battle** to maintain a viable bus service, one that can be relied on by commuters, for late night journeys back from Oxford and Abingdon and at weekends. The detail of the latest consultation defeated your council who have made some general comments that we seem to be riding a vicious circle towards ever more reliance on the car and blamed deregulation and the complexity of the services offered. While buses are deregulated the decline in service and increase in subsidy is no more a bus company or council problem than one for each of us as we make travel choices. **A case of use it, or lose it**

Drayton sits between Abingdon and Didcot each having money to spend in 'integrated transport'. Powerless to prevent the decline of the bus service, 'integration' means reducing the impact of village traffic. As there is nothing proposed to reduce traffic levels we seem to be looking at ramps, mini-roundabouts, chicanes and signals to reduce speed. These measures will be controversial so the **PC would welcome views before, NOT after** the work has been commissioned!

The widened cycle track has been completed. Integrated transport would mean making it safer for cyclists in both Abingdon and Drayton or what was the point?

### Boundary Change

In order to maintain the ratio of councillors to electors there is a proposal to join Drayton into a County Council constituency with South Abingdon. Although we share issues relating to the B4017 including bus services, this council is **generally opposed to merging** a rural with an urban parish as their interests are likely to be different. **Questions & comments by 8 March to:-** Team Leader, Oxon County Council Review, The Boundary Committee for England, Trevelyan House, Great St Peter Street, London, SW1 2HW (0207 271 0682); (Copy to OCC County Hall New Road Oxford OX1 1ND).

### Money / Grants

The PC makes a number of grants to bodies serving residents in the village. It seems that plenty of people visit the Abingdon Citizens Advice Bureau which has been given £300. The Damascus Project serves Drayton, Milton and Sutton Courtenay and received £500. We hope that young people take what is on offer and **let us know** whether we should continue to **support Damascus** at the same or different levels. **Money will also have to be spent on renewing the equipment** on the Lock Way playground.

### Litter Etc

For the first time in several months we have engaged somebody to undertake general maintenance duties for the village, including litter picking. This does not seem to be a very clever use of public money. There seems to be two kinds of people; those who think it is okay to drop litter and those who're offended by it. However, we all pay to have it removed (money spent on this cannot be spent on other things). The PC wondered whether it was worth even entering the best kept village competition while the village looked like a tip.

**Anybody who has opinions** on the above, or other ideas (we are considering a proposal for a **village plan**) should come to meeting of the PC (**next meeting 7.45 pm on 29 March** at the Caudwell Day Centre).

*Daniel Scharf*

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## FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS

If you are feeling **lonely, isolated or in need of company** for whatever reason, **you are warmly invited** to come along to our drop-in tea and chat afternoon held monthly, at St. Peter's Church Room, on the first Tuesday.

We are now looking forward to our next meeting on Mar 2nd.

We look forward to welcoming old friends and new for a cuppa, good company and sympathetic conversation. Drop in anytime between 3 pm. and 4.30 pm. If you would like further information or need transport please call me (Jean Hager) on 531558. If you can't make that get-together, the following date will be April 6th.



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**ABINGDON DISTRICT MUSICAL SOCIETY**  
Registered charity number 229073

**20<sup>th</sup> March 7.30 Choral works**

by Tavener, Britten and Rutter

Trinity Church, Conduit Road, Abingdon  
Tickets: £10 (pre-buy £8, schoolchildren £1)  
Available from *Modern Music, High Street, Abingdon*

# DRAYTON HALL

## (& Recreation Ground Trust)

Main points of the **Nov meeting** follow:- The Vale Council has been approached for a grant towards the heating system replacement. Other grants will also be applied for (total cost £15,000).

We have been approached by a (respectable!) Motorcycle club to book the hall for a summer event, and they asked permission for a few members to stay overnight in tents. After discussions the club agreed to a list of guidelines to cause minimal interference to local residents.

Some **items are going missing** from the kitchen after events – PLEASE CHECK that hall property isn't taken away.

**Grateful thanks were sent to Jack Mitchell**, who helps keep the hall clean for our use; he's taken his duties to the limit and repaired or replaced several items. THANK YOU Jack.

Possible forthcoming fundraising events were discussed :- Race night, Barn dance, Table-top sale, and a Hall Calendar.

And now a precis of the **Jan meeting**:- again the usual list of repairs, especially windows. **The Vale has granted 50%** of the cost of the heating, news for which we are most grateful.

Because of the **continual vandalism damage** to guttering and downpipes we are seeking quotes for **guards**, first was for approx £1,500 and others will be sought.

The new waste contract with Grundons has started, with apparent success. The Players have been asked to supply their dates well in advance for the next few months due to changes in school terms.

**Brian Stimpson** has agreed to stand as Vice-Chair when Peter Fleming moves away – thanks Brian.

Following the events of the New Year's Eve event (family disco), when the actions of a few young people spoilt a wonderful evening for a lot of people, **front door security is to be investigated**.

See the front page for news of the exterior clean-up! And a separate note re the forthcoming Table-top sale.

Finally – the **Hall is 30 years old next year**, and we'd like to produce a **calendar**. Does anyone have **PHOTOS they could LEND** us, of events in or around the hall during the last 30 years?

Label them carefully, and get them to me at 8 High Street, preferably in a return envelope, or call me (531418) to arrange collection; great care will be taken and of course they'll be returned.

*Ann Webb*

# Drayton School

# Claire Soper

I would like to start by welcoming **Mrs Kathy Raven** to school; she has been appointed to cover Rachel Sykes maternity leave and is quickly getting to know the Reception/Year 1 children. Also welcome to **Conor, Kelsie and Merrin** who have all started school this term. Continuing with news from the Lower Unit I am delighted to report that **Rachel and baby Sean Sykes** are home from hospital, Sean is making excellent progress, particularly as he was four weeks early!

Lower Unit topics this term have included work on **traditional fairy tales**. The children have enjoyed exploring good and bad characters in drama and writing.

The Middle Unit are learning about **Kenya**, this includes various areas of the curriculum. In Geography they are learning about the physical, natural and man-made features of Kenya as well as the everyday lives of people. As part of Citizenship the children will build on work associated with living in a diverse world and link this to Kenya. It all sounds fascinating, a **far cry** from the days of sitting at a desk and having lots of facts read to us.

In Technology the children have been enjoying designing and making a variety of different pop-up books which they have then given Blue Peter style demonstrations of in Friday Assemblies.

The Upper Unit have also been busy designing, this time their own **musical instruments** which they have had fun playing. The children were also fortunate to benefit from some **hockey coaching** at school, through our membership of the Beacon Partnership for small schools; two more sessions are planned in March. The staff have been busy on the sporting front with a course on tag rugby! The children are very enthusiastic about a chance to be part of a **tag rugby tournament**.

In Geography they have been studying mountains, which has included work on plants, animals, weather, avalanches and formation. They have downloaded pictures of mountains and information from the Internet, and will be studying mountain ranges after half term.

The Upper Unit exchanged e-mails with New Zealand when Polly Vacher visited a Dunedin school. They are very much looking forward to her return to Drayton to hear about her adventures.

The School Council are pleased to report that the school has received a **Bronze Eco Award** for recycling and composting waste, they are now committed to working towards a Silver Award.


The Football Team under the skilful management of Richard Seamark have continued to excel on the field. They recently played their final match in the smallest schools competition and beat Milton 5-0. This brought Drayton to the top of their group with a total of 38 goals FOR and ZERO against!! **A huge well done to everyone** who has represented the school so brilliantly.

**Well done** also to the children who recently took part in a two week **Readathon Challenge** and were sponsored for their efforts. A total of **£429 was raised for seriously ill children**.

F.O.D.S.A. have been active this term helping Mrs Middleton to clear the pond of weed. They will be joining the Drayton Twinning Association at their French Evening on 4th March, and will be organising a Raffle and Tombola in aid of School. It is hoped that the children will be able to enjoy a French Tasting and activities in the afternoon. **A Fashion Show** is to be held at School on Weds 19th May, with quality High Street clothes on sale at discounted prices.

P.A.W.S. wish to **remind** those with children aged 5-12 years that they will again be running their very successful Easter Play scheme from 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> April in school. **The cost is £8.00 per session** - open from 9am-3pm, a real **bargain!** Please contact Beverley Rayner (202417) for details about registering your child. The scheme is not exclusive to Drayton School, so Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles please take note, but numbers are limited so early booking is recommended.

**Green Box Collection** - Some readers may not be aware that the plastic milk containers from the supermarket can be collected by this service - preferably washed! Also, can you please resist the urge to put cans, glass etc all in one plastic bag as the operatives just have to unwrap it again - placing them loose in the green box is fine.




**ABINGDON OPERATIC SOCIETY**  
presents  
**“CHESS”**

*Music by Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus*  
*Lyrics by Tim Rice*

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March to Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

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## NOTICE BOARD

### A DRAYTON READING GROUP? Andrew Bax

Reading groups seem to be springing up everywhere. They usually consist of a few people meeting once a month in each other's houses to talk about books they have read and enjoyed.

Sometimes there are a couple of bottles of wine to help things along. If this sounds like fun, ring me on 531512 and I'll host the first meeting,

### ABINGDON DISTRICT MUSICAL SOCIETY

Registered charity number 229073

**6<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm Brahms: Violin Concerto  
Sibelius; Symphony No.1**

Silk Hall, Radley College

Tickets: £10 (pre-buy £8, schoolchildren £1)  
Available from Modern Music, High Street, Abingdon

### Fairtrade Fortnight March 1<sup>st</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>

Action Aid is a charity working with over 5 million of the world's poorest children, families and communities in Africa, Asia, Latin America, China and the Caribbean. One of its key campaigns focuses on poor peoples' right to food, specifically looking at how global trade rules, and how big business practices are threatening this right and undermining poor communities.

To promote the sale of Fairtrade goods, St Peter's Church will be holding an 'Action-Aid' coffee morning on Sat March 13<sup>th</sup>, see page 12 advert.

### ARE YOU IN THE DARK?

If your streetlight isn't working, or wastes resources by being on in the daytime, then PLEASE report it on the County Council hotline (free) 0800 317802 - help them by giving the town, road, and if possible the number on the post, or failing that the nearest house.

### ABBEY CHAMBER RECITALS & ABINGDON ARTS FESTIVAL PRESENT

St. Nicolas' Church, Market Place, Abingdon

Sunday 7th March 2004 at 3 pm

#### 'By the Light of the Moon'

Music by Handel, Bach, Corelli, Duarte,  
Debussy, Gonzalez & Seiber  
for Soprano, Violin & Guitar

Sunday 21st March 2004 at 3 pm

#### 'Sulla Tastiera'

Music by Haydn and Boccherini  
for Guitar & String Quartet

Tickets £8.00 (£ 7.00 concessions) from  
Frugal Foods, Abingdon (tel. 01235 522239)  
Modern Music, Abingdon (tel. 01235 524316)  
by reservation (tel. 01235 553380), or at the door

Ticket includes a cup of tea or coffee at  
The Broad Face, Abingdon

### APOLOGIES to THOSE CONTRIBUTORS

Whose pieces have either been abbreviated, or deferred until the next Chronicle. A substantial amount of input this month, both of normal texts and 'one-off' adverts, has caused space problems leading to these actions (Ed). (NB We usually prefer too much, not too little!)

**ADVANCE NOTICE** Table-Top Sale to be held in May, at Drayton Hall, open to villagers and organisations to help raise funds. £7.50p per table.

So, start sorting out those spare items – BUT, please NO electrical goods. Details/queries Ann Webb (531418)

### YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS :-

Parish (Chairman)

Paul Knight (531678);

District (VofWH)

Grahame Ash (831622);

& Oxfordshire County

Margaret Mackenzie (847341).

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**BUT HURRY – Scheme Ends March 31st**

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### 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

### And a Brief Mention for :-

'The Beauty Queen of Leenane' – a play at the Unicorn Theatre (a dark but humorous talerecommended for 'mature' audiences; has won Broadway awards) March 31<sup>st</sup> to April 3<sup>rd</sup> 7.30pm Tickets £6 (concessions£5) from Modern Music or Ticketline (01235 524538).

'The Inflatables' - will be playing the best reggae, ska & soul at Abingdon Utd FC, Sat Mar 6<sup>th</sup> 7.30; Ticket-only Entry (£5) , (01235 202736); profits to MacMillan Nurses.

# DRAYTON DIARIES

## DIARY FOR MARCH

All events held in Drayton Hall unless otherwise stated

To book Drayton Hall ring 531501 To call the Hall ring 528686

NB	If your event isn't listed, IT COULD HAVE BEEN!!!		
Tues 2	3.00pm	1st Tues Connections	Church Room
Sat 6	9.00am	District Councillor 'Surgery'	
	7.00pm	Private Party	
Sat 13	11.00am	HALL Clean-Up Working Party	
	7.00pm	Private Party	
Sun 14	11.15am	Fair-Trade sale (after service)	St Peter's
Mon 15	5.00pm	<b>CHRONICLE DEADLINE</b>	Vickery's
Mon 15	8.00pm	Hall Committee	Lounge
Sat 20		Sequence Dancing Dinner/Dance	
Sun 21	10.00am	Antiques Fair	
Sat 27		Private Party	
Mon 29	7.45pm	Parish Council Meeting	Caudwell DC
APRIL			
Sat 3	2.00pm	Art Group Exhibition/Sale	Caudwell DC

## REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

### MONDAYS

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

### TUESDAYS

9.15 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	Sch'1 Ground Bldg
9.30 am	Parent and Toddler Group	
1.45 pm	Drayton Art Group (until 4 pm)	Caudwell Day Centre
3.00 pm	Junior Netball (for 1 hour)	School
6.00 pm	Ladies' Netball (for 1 hour)	School
7.30 pm	Senior League Table Tennis	School
7.30 pm	Drayton Wives (Last Tues in the month)	

### WEDNESDAYS

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

### THURSDAYS

9.15 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	Sch'1 Ground Bldg
9.30 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's Lady Chapel
9.30 am	Parent & Toddler Group	
9.50 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	Haywards Rd
10.15 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	The Green Car Pk
2.00 pm	Darby & Joan Club	Caudwell Day Centre
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 (1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday in month)	School
7.45 pm	Women's Institute Meeting (2nd Thursday)	
8.00 pm	Sequence Dancing	
8.00 pm	Wilt/Berks Canal Group (3rd Thursday)	Caudwell DC

### FRIDAYS

9.15 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	Sch'1 Ground Bldg
11.00 am	The Friday Club (to 3.30) 202466	Caudwell Day Centre
7.00 pm	Choir Practice	St Peter's

### SUNDAYS

8.00 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
8.45 am	Mass	Roman Catholic Church, SC
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (Family Service 2nd Sunday)	St Peter's
11.30 am	Family Time	Baptist Church
6.00 pm	Evening Worship	Baptist Church
6.00 pm	Evening Prayer	St Peter's

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## ACTION AID COFFEE MORNING

St Peter's Church

Saturday March 13<sup>th</sup> 10 a.m. - 12 noon

COFFEE TEA & HOME-MADE CAKES  
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*Head Gardener & former lecturer in horticulture & botany.*

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