

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Geoffrey Long

Volume 27, No. 3

April 2004

HOORAY HENLEY

Lois Rennells

I was told by people who had seen earlier performances that I was 'in for a treat' when I went to see 'Hooray Henley'. How right they were. The sparkle and buzz of the departing Friday night audience said it all. They had enjoyed a wonderful evening's entertainment.

'Hooray Henley' was written especially for the Drayton Players by Richard Webber with music by Richard Webber and Ed Russell. It is an acutely observed social satire with a well-balanced mix of the comical and the poignant with some thought-provoking comment lurking beneath the surface froth. Richard Webber's lyrics are clever and witty and the music is charming and catchy — you find yourself humming it for days afterwards. The song specially written by Bob Chilcott for the star-crossed lovers is enchanting.

The huge cast could have become unmanageable but the whole production moved along at such a lively pace that it never became so. At times there was so much happening on the specially built long stage that I wish I could have gone to a second performance so that I could absorb everything that was going on. The enigmatic ending was a bit of a shock and I was grateful for the release of joining in the football crowd chorus that followed and ingeniously doubled as the curtain call.

The shades-of-Cecil Beaton style in the colour co-ordination of the costumes, echoed at times on the stage, was extremely effective and the sets were very cleverly manipulated.

The Drayton Players have so much talent in every age group and the entire cast seized the opportunity to shine in this production. I hope that 'Hooray Henley' will go on to further triumphs; other companies should be queuing to perform it.



THE DAMASCUS BUS

Rita Atkinson

This is an open invitation to come to the launch of the DAMASCUS bus in Steventon Village Hall Car Park on Thursday 15 April at 2pm

In January 2001, the Abingdon-DAMASCUS Youth Project was awarded a grant of £55,100 (spread over a three-year period) by the Community Fund. The project is based in the five rural communities of Drayton, Appleford, Milton, Sutton Courtenay and Steventon (hence the acronym DAMASCUS) and has been working with the Parochial Church Councils and Parish Councils to develop a long-term strategy to help young people in our communities. The project is intended to extend the community

involvement of the local people. The objective is to work with young people in the 11 to 20 age range to make a difference to their lives within these communities. As the late Dr. Ian Spalding, Chairman of the Management Committee for the project, remarked on hearing of the successful outcome of the application, "Young people are our future, and our survey has shown that so many of them feel they need much more support and interest from their communities". The project has involved a tremendous amount of interaction right across the village communities and many local statutory and voluntary organisations involved in the welfare and education of young people.

The loudest and clearest message that has emerged from our work with young people is 'we have nowhere to go; we don't have a place of our own.' In response to that need, the project undertook to provide a mobile drop-in facility specifically for young people. The DAMASCUS (double-decker) bus is the result of undertaking. The bus project is very actively supported across the villages and also by several local companies (Milton Park, Milton Amenities Trust, UKAEA, individuals such as Mike Murray who raise money by sponsored events). Oxford Bus Company has very kindly undertaken the refurbishment work on the bus and is also offering ten hours free training to volunteer drivers.

Please do come to the launch of this bus in the car park of Steventon Village Hall on Thursday 15 April at 2pm; there will be a barbecue available.

continued on page 6

DRAYTON HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

A TABLE TOP SALE

will be held in DRAYTON HALL
ON SATURDAY, 15th MAY
from 11.00am TO 3.00pm
Tables £7.50 *No electrical goods.*

Refreshments available

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All proceeds to the Hall heating fund



ANNIE'S EASTER FAYRE

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in the

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CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES,
REFRESHMENTS, RAFFLE

in aid of

FRIENDS OF DRAYTON SCHOOL ASSOCIATION



COMING CHRONICLES

The **May Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Friday, 30 April 2004** from **Margaret Armstrong, 1, Crabtree Lane, Tel 531122**, who should be contacted by any Agents requiring copies additional to their allocation.

The Editor will be **Derek Pooley, 11 Halls Close, Tel. 559454**. 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, 19 April 2004.

After this deadline, only items of the utmost urgency may be considered for inclusion and only then if delivered to the Editor by the following Wednesday.

The Editor clears the box from time to time during the previous week. It is a great help when items can be left in the box a few days before the closing date. Contributors are indeed doing just that when they can 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.

A contribution can be made in one of several ways:

1. The best way is now by **email** to the appropriate editor:-

Tony Holmes tony-holmes@ntlworld.com
 Geoffrey Long geoff.long@talk21.com
 Derek Pooley derek_pooley@talk21.com

Please use a 'Subject' and 'Filename' that are unique to you. Too many 'Chronicles' gets confusing!

2. A **3½" disk**, in PC format, preferably 'Saved As' Word for Windows 6 or Word Perfect 2. *Please include hard copy* for checking the formatting and *your address* so that the disk can be easily returned to you.

3. A good, **black typescript** on white A4 paper or smaller. The scanner can read in typescripts but only imperfectly so very careful editing is needed. Even so, this is still much easier than re-typing.

4. Finally, any **hand-written items** are typed up by the editor. Thanks to the many contributors who spell out names of people and places in capital letters. This does save a lot of pencil sucking and mistakes.

ADVERTISING RATES

For Block Advert (about 1/10th page)

Advertiser	----- Number of Inserts -----			
Category:	1	3	6	12
Drayton Resident	£4.00	£10.50	£21.50	£40.00
Non-Drayton Resident	£5.00	£13.50	£27.00	£50.00

Half-size block adverts, normally for one or two inserts, are charged at **half** the above rates.

All requests must be accompanied by cash or a cheque made payable to 'Drayton Chronicle'.

They may be placed in the Chronicle Letter Box, outside Vickery's Hardware Store on Drayton Green, in shopping hours.
 Phone Jane Pimm, the Chronicle's Advertising Manager, on Ab. 531597 to discuss requirements.

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Daphne Samworth, Hon. Promoter

RESULTS OF THE MARCH LOTTERY

	Winner	Agent
£25	Lee, 15 Corneville Rd	Gerald Redman
£20	Mrs Harper, 12 Church Lane	Susan Brooks
£15	J. Forsyth, 32 Sutton Wick Lane	Tom Shebbeare
£10	Pitts, 63 Abingdon Road	Jane Henderson
£10	Mrs Callow, Lovelace Close, Ab	Carol Arnold
£10	Mrs Gould, 16 Steventon Road	Joan Judd
£10	B Marshall, 38 Sutton Wick Lane	Tom Shebbeare
£10	J. Waller, 10 Darrell Way, Abingdon	Freda Palmer
£10	P Hoyland, 24 Whitehorns Way	Jean Hager
£10	Deabill, Henleys Lane	Angela Painton

The winning tickets were drawn by members of the Parent and Toddler Group from the 2170 tickets sold.

THE NEXT THREE MONTHS

Issue for	Copy for publication and return of Agents Lottery Packs by Monday:	Chronicle published and available for distribution on Friday:
June	17 May 2004	28 May 2004
July	14 June 2004	25 June 2004
August	19 July 2004	30 July 2004

GREEN BOX AND WASTE COLLECTIONS

BANK HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS

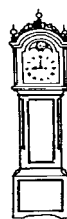
Normal Collection *Will be collected on*

EASTER 2004

Tuesday 13 April Thursday 15 April
 Thursday 15 April Saturday 17 April
 Tuesday 20 April Wednesday 21 April
 Thursday 22 April Friday 23 April

MAY DAY 2004

Tuesday 4 May Wednesday 5 May
 Thursday 6 May Friday 7 May



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Don't forget the Drayton Art Group Exhibition & Sale of Work on Saturday 3rd April at the Caudwell Day Centre, 2 pm to 4 pm, where there will be Bric-a-Brac, Plants, Cakes and a Raffle **ENTRY FREE**
And also WEIGHT WATCHERS on Tuesdays at 7pm in the Caudwell Day Centre. For more details, or if interested in helping, please call Anne on 818580

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

Lots of welcomes this month:

to Andrew and Margaret Hopkins who have moved into Abingdon Road from Culham,

to Ethel and Mary Wright who have moved into Caudwell Close from Hilliats Field,

to Robbie and Pam Robinson and daughter Karen who recently moved to live in Lockway,

to Yvonne, Jim, Rhiannon and Siobhan Orr who have moved into Haywards Road,

and to Jenny, Alan and Liam who moved into Whitehorns Way in January.

We hope you will all settle happily in Drayton.

Our very best wishes to Molly Munnoch, who has moved from Drayton to Lady Eleanor Court, Drayton Road, Abingdon. We wish her much happiness in her new home – she plans to keep in touch with her many Drayton friends.

Our belated congratulations to Mary Spence who was awarded the MBE in the 2004 New Years Honours List. Born in Scotland, Mary now lives in Drayton and has established herself as a leading light in the world of cartography. A particular interest is in the waterways of Britain, not only travelling along them but also producing a range of maps and books detailing the waterways and preparing the British Waterways web site.

We are very sad to hear of the death on March 5th of Mr. Gerald Sellars of Lockway, and extend our sympathy to Mrs. Sellars and family

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YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor

A Wonderful Show

What a wonderful hilarious show, 'Hooray Henley', performed by a very competent adult and junior cast of the Drayton Players.

We thoroughly enjoyed every minute. Keep up the good work. We are looking forward to the next production.

Yours sincerely

Doreen and Jack Buckland

Dear Sir,

A Most Successful Coffee Morning

Through the Chronicle, I would like to express our thanks to everyone who contributed towards making such a success of the Coffee Morning held at St Peters Church on 13th March.

We made £202.30 for Action Aid from the sale of coffee, cakes, raffle and handicrafts and sold £157.34 of Fair Trade goods on Saturday. However, we continued the sale on Sunday morning and sold a further £49 of handicrafts and a further £50.02 of Fair Trade goods. So our total for the two days is £251.30 for Action Aid and £207.36 of Fair Trade goods.

May I remind readers that we hold a FairTrade shop at times announced each month in the St Peter's column of the *Chronicle*?

Thanks again to everyone for such magnificent support on Saturday.

Yours sincerely,

Val Cross

IS THERE ANYONE OUT THERE?

From time to time one of our agents or a member of the production or lottery teams decides that the time has come to retire. Usually, after a call for a replacement to fill the vacancy we are fortunate to have an offer from a volunteer. At least, this has been so over recent months and we are grateful to all who have come forward in this way.

But our call in the Jan/Feb issue for volunteers to cover a few Area Agent vacancies was met by a deafening silence. Perhaps it was a bit too near the exhaustion of the Christmas break, so as a reminder, here again is the list of vacant posts:

- Conifer Drive/part of High Street
- 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.

We really do need help with these tasks to keep the *Chronicle* going, so please do think about it and then 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

P.S. The accounts on page 9 show just how much the *Chronicle* depends on the Area Agents to keep going.

Mrs Suzy Willis
MCSP SRP

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Drayton, OX14 4HU

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Please ring for an appointment

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: Mr Peter Cline 530519
Mrs Terry Fleming 534124

Organist & Choirmaster: Mr Adrian Thompson 01865 714801

REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (CW - Traditional)
10.00am Sung Eucharist (CW) except 2nd Sunday when there is a non-Eucharistic Family Service
6.00pm Evening Prayer (CW)

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

Wednesday 10.30am Parents' and Toddlers' Service, (Pebbles) in Church Room

Wednesday 6.00pm Evening Prayer (CW) in the Lady Chapel

Thursday 9.30am Holy Communion (CW) in the Lady Chapel

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Sunday 10.00am Sunday Pebbles and Rocks Church Room

Monday 7.45pm Bellringing Practice Bell Tower

Friday 7.00pm Choir Practice Church Room

CALENDAR FOR APRIL

Sun 4th 10.00am Palm Sunday Service Church

Tue 6th 3.00pm First Tuesday Connections Church Room

Thu 8th 8.00pm Maundy Thursday Service Church

Fri 9th 10.00am Good Friday Family Service Church
12 to 3pm Good Friday Liturgy Church

Sun 11th 5.15am Service of Light Church
8.00am Easter Morning Holy Communion Church
10.00am Easter Day Family Eucharist Church

Sun 18th 11.15am Sale of Fairly Traded Goods Church
6.30pm St. Peter's *Un*Limited Church Room

PARISH REGISTER

Funerals 2nd March Christine Mary Watts
4th March Victoria Baxter

At the Crematorium 16th March Gerald Sellars

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 any one of the following:-

Sally Dixon (531547), Jean Hager (531558),
Neen Priestnall, (531330) or Jackie Walker (522361).



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Letter from the Revd. Dorothy Derrick

Dear Friends,

Once again on March 11th we witnessed the results of terrorist activity in our world. It is sad to see how people are changed into something less than human when they allow hatred to grow deep in their hearts. It makes us fearful for the future. However, the truth is that God created us all in his own image with the capacity to love as he loves us.

As we reflect on the horrendous and brutal loss of life in Madrid we can respond in different ways. We can become so fearful that we stop going anywhere or doing anything, in which case the terrorists will have won, or we can rise above our fear and set our hearts on finding new ways to build a more loving and just world.

Good Friday on April 9th will remind us that Jesus met a horrendous and brutal death on the cross. We remember his suffering and pain followed by his death. His followers' first reaction was to go to ground. Then came Easter when Jesus rose from the dead to offer newness of life to all who believe in him. This changed the lives of those first disciples who then took courage and went out to tell the good news to others.

The Resurrection and the offer of eternal life are at the core of our Easter celebrations. Do come and celebrate with us at one of the Easter Sunday Services, you will be most welcome. There is a special Service of Light at 5.15 am to coincide with the dawn and the rising of the sun. This will be followed by a quiet 8 am Service of Holy Communion and then a 10 o'clock Celebration for all the family - the choice is yours.

How the world needs to hear this message of God's offer of newness of life at this time. We are in dire need of a way to change hearts of hatred to hearts of love. As Christians, we believe that "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have everlasting life." John 3 : 16.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you all a very Happy and Blessed Easter.

Yours prayerfully

Dorothy Derrick

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4 to 17 April: Lockway; Whitehorns Way
18 to 24 April: Corneville Road; Crabtree Lane; Lesparre Close
25 April to 1 May: Drayton Road; Milton Road; New Cut Mill; Fisher Close; Marcham Road; Meads Close; Rippington Court; Stone Hill

BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastoral Co-ordinator: Mr Roy Brown Tel. 531296

Home Visitor: Mrs Norma Russell Tel 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 of the month.

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 soon.

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Roman Catholic Church : Christ Church, Sutton Courtenay
Mass times: Sunday 8.45am. Priest: Rev Simon Thomson, 812338,
Methodist Chapel : High Street, Milton
Sunday Service: 10.30 am. Contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409

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DEAR ALL

an open letter from Judy Henman



I was deeply touched by the kindness and generosity of all who contributed to the collections I made for the Pace Centre. Natasha goes there four days a week during term time. I quote from their letter to me.

"Your collection came to a magnificent £254 and on behalf of Pace I send a heartfelt thank you from as all. The money you have collected will be of real help to us in our work with children with motor disorders. The children

all work so hard to overcome their difficulties and it is wonderful to watch the development of their whole personalities as they learn to do more for themselves. It would not be possible to provide them with equipment and programs which will make such a difference to them throughout their lives without the generosity of people such as yourselves"

Pace provides education on a daily basis for children from six months to twelve years. The focus is on 'educating for life' and the development of each child's social, emotional, communication, academic and motor skills is of paramount importance. We believe in children's ability to learn, whatever their mental and physical handicaps.

Pace provides one-to-one teaching for mental and physical stimulation. The children have to work hard but it is worth it. Unfortunately there is a huge queue of children waiting to get into Pace. There are too few places for children like Natasha.

Natasha is doing very well at the moment -- she has only had two convulsions in the last six weeks. She now has only one medicine for epilepsy and with Pace's great work and less diazapan she is more alert in every way. She is sleeping well, moving her right arm more each day, walking again with support and talking so much that we can't get a word in edgeways. She has all of us and herself in fits laughter.

Thank you again everybody.

Yours sincerely

Judy Henman

PS. If anyone would like to help the charity Pace please make cheques payable to 'The Pace Centre' and send to: The Pace Centre, Philip Green House, Coventon Road, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP19 9JL.

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ALL AROUND

DRAYTON TODDLER GROUP **Anna Loughlin**

It's been great to welcome some new mums and toddlers to our group! Thanks for taking the first step - coming along! It would be fantastic to see more new faces at either session (Tuesday or Thursday morning, 9.30am - 11.30am) but especially on a Thursday, as this tends to be a quieter group.

The photographer's visit was a great success! Toddlers receives a small percentage of the takings made from the sale of photographs, so the more photographs taken, the more lolly for Toddlers! The photographs were stunning and all mums were thrilled with the results.

More fundraising activities are on the horizon! Toddlers are collecting nearly new items; good quality children's' clothes, baby accessories, toys and books for the Tabletop sale to be held at Drayton Hall in May. All profit will help to buy new resources for our group.

Looking ahead, Easter Egg hunts are planned for Tuesday 30 March and Thursday 1 April. Come along and be lucky!

DRAYTON TWINNING SOCIETY **Barbara Bell**

The Twinning Society held their first social event of the year on 5th March at Drayton School. It took the form of a Cheese and Wine Tasting and Quiz Evening.

Alun Griffiths conducted the wine tasting - we all enjoyed taking part, as you can imagine, but very few of us did well!! Obviously more tasting is required. Iain and Gill Stuart organised the quiz with various French themes. Geoffrey and Margaret Long kept everyone puzzled with anagrams for famous French Towns - including Lesparre *bien sur*.

The Friends of Drayton School joined us on this occasion and held a wonderful Tombola raising valuable funds for the school. Naturally, the evening would not have been such a success without the enthusiasm of so many helpers so thanks to those not already mentioned.

The "Twinners" will next be out in force on Sunday 18 April, when we make the teas and cakes for Lime Close, Drayton. This always proves to be a very sociable afternoon and I can recommend it to anyone who has not already visited the gardens.

Plans for the forthcoming trip to Lesparre in August 2004 are progressing well and we are waiting excitedly for the itinerary to arrive from France. Thirty-eight of us will be leaving Drayton by coach to Gatwick and then flying to Bordeaux. The Twinning Weekend coincides with the Lesparre-Medoc Wine Fair and it is hoped we can practice our wine tasting skills with the professionals.

This year we have a good number of young people and new members joining the trip, which is very encouraging.

If anyone is interested in Twinning, please do give us a call on 531388 for more information.

DRAYTON WIVES **Margaret Long**

Our experiment to have a birthday lunch rather than a dinner proved to be very successful and a good number of us thoroughly enjoyed our lunch in the very attractive surroundings of the Steventon House Hotel. A lunch seems to be more than likely next year as well!

Please note, everyone, that our next coffee morning on Monday 5th April is to be at the home of Gwen Cox and not at Trudi Buckner's. Gwen and George Cox are celebrating their Diamond Wedding at that time and we all send them our warmest congratulations.

Don't forget that our Annual General Meeting will take place at our April meeting before our speaker. Please try to attend promptly so that we can then deal with any business swiftly.

Dates for your diary in: -

Mon 5th	10.30 COFFEE	Gwen Cox	1A High Street
Mon 19th	7.15 WHIST	Pat Hoyland	Caudwell D.C
Tues 27th	7.30 AGM & MEETING		<i>Caves in Thailand</i> Dr. George McGavin

THE DAMASCUS BUS

Continued from page 1

The bus has been converted so that there is a seating area upstairs where young people can socialise and listen to music. There is similar seating area downstairs with tea/coffee making facilities. We have appointed a Bus Manager who will manage and co-ordinate the use of the bus. We WILL be relying on voluntary help - at least three adults have to be present on the bus before we can allow young people to board it. The bus will not carry passengers while in transit - it will arrive in each village on a designated evening and park in a pre-arranged place. The times/dates/parking place will be well advertised. There are plans to use the bus as an information point for young people and use it as a springboard for other projects such as drama workshops, photography, cycling proficiency, motorbike maintenance etc. We are hoping adults living in the villages who may have specialist interest/hobbies such as those listed would come along and talk to the young people, these little beginnings grow into successful ventures, and well-used bridges are built between the generations in our communities.

The launch of the bus is a particularly proud event for us - it is a culmination of two years of hard work. It is also tinged with sadness in that our Chairman Dr. Ian Spalding will not be with us to share the occasion. Ian died very suddenly while on holiday of in early February. He worked extremely hard and had a great vision for this community project. Even before he left for his holiday, he was very anxious to ensure everything was in place for the launch of the bus on his return. We are extremely grateful to Mary, his widow, for agreeing to launch the bus on 15 April. We do hope you will come and support us.

For further information please contact Anne Whitehead (848514), Caroline Grundy (848679) or Rita Atkinson (848694)

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION. **Pearl Stanbridge**

Thanks are extended to all supporters of our Easter Draw also to ticket sellers and donors of prizes. Names of ex-service charities to benefit from the proceeds will be announced when agreed.

The next committee meeting will be held on Monday 19 April at 8pm.

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MORE ALL AROUND

VILLAGE HALL CLEANUP DAY Ann Webb

Where were you all? It was a lovely morning – chilly with one short shower – but on the whole a nice morning. A small band of volunteers gathered with tools and began stripping weeds and sweeping away dirt and rubbish. Mr Sharp and his father followed behind with a high-powered pressure washer. Years of grime vanished and the entrance now has a new, clean frontage. Mr Sharp treated pavements with weed control and trimmed under and around the hedges and the grassed areas. He uses only environmentally friendly chemicals and does a lot of work in the parish. They did all this work for us free of charge and we are very grateful. I'm told he cleans a mean driveway and patio – a village service, use it!

The outside workers were fed and watered as promised by the inside workers who cooked and prepared the light lunch and kept the tea coming. Between times, the hall contents were counted and checked. One lady came from Abingdon on the bus to help. The Hall Committee extends a heartfelt thanks to the small band of people who worked darned hard to make the village hall look a lot cleaner and more presentable for hirers and their guests when they arrive for their functions.

It is just a shame that, out of a village of about 2000 people, less than twenty could spare two hours to help clean the hall surroundings. We are constantly reminded, when problems arise, that it is a *village* hall that we raised the money to build. But that was just beginning – we still need you!

PORTAMENTE SINGERS Geoffrey Long

A goodly number of past and present members of the Portamente Singers gathered on 12th March for a party arranged to say farewell to Peter Fleming, the choir's founder, musical director and inspiration for the past nineteen years. Over this time, the choir has given many concerts in Drayton and the surrounding area. Besides thoroughly enjoying themselves in rehearsals and concerts, the choir has raised many hundreds of pounds for both local and national charities.

The party was a very bitter-sweet occasion as the singers are now disbanding, but we all joined in thanking Peter most gratefully for the many happy hours of music making we have shared together under his baton and in warmly wishing Peter and Terry the happiest of futures in their new home in Huntingdonshire.

FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS Jean Hager

Our next meeting will be on 6th April and we warmly invite you to join us in St Peter's Church Room any time between 3pm and 4.30pm. If you are feeling lonely, isolated or in the need of company for whatever reason do drop in for a welcome break, friendly conversation and good company. The teapot is always at the ready and we look forward to seeing you.

If you would like further information or need transport do please call me on 531558. If you can't make the April date, the next get together will be on 4th May.

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DRAYTON PLAYERS Jean Hager

Wow, what a show! That was my reaction at the completion of a very successful run of Hooray Henley in February. I can't remember how many times I sneaked into the Hall from kitchen duties to catch the musical numbers "just once more". On Friday I was there all evening and thoroughly enjoyed every minute, as did the rest of the audience to judge from the many comments being made during the interval and at the end.

All concerned had worked their socks off to stage a really absorbing, different and exuberant show. Congratulations to all the cast, musicians, backstage crew and of course to Richard Webber, its creator, for a novel idea and for producing some very catchy music in cooperation with Ed Russell. One song, written by Bobby Chilcott for this play, proved to be a special success.

The younger members of our group did extremely well. Many of them have been with the Players during interesting and formative years and to watch them performing with such polish and assurance was a delight. They were well disciplined, and well drilled and rehearsed by Deirdre Jones whose choreographic expertise was very apparent in all the dance sequences.

We thank all those who supported as in any way during the production, and especially the audiences came along in large and enthusiastic numbers.

Now it is on to new challenges and we shall shortly be discussing productions for the year ahead. We look forward your company again in the autumn.



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PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Daniel Scharf

Notes on the meeting held on 1st March 2004.

Transport

Transport is always on the agenda. It seems Didits (the Didcot project) is likely to be a more fruitful source of funds than Abits (Abingdon). Probably something to do with the rake off from new development that is landing on Didcot than the relative amounts of traffic generated by the two towns. Consultants are looking at a number of traffic calming measures on all the main roads.

Electoral Boundary

A stiff letter has gone to the Boundary Commissioner saying that Drayton would prefer to have elected representatives of a rural complexion rather than joining in with Abingdon for County Council purposes.

Public Meetings

If anybody would like to talk to the police, they have been invited to attend the Parish Meeting on 7th June. The Annual Parish Meeting will be on 29th March that is designed for people to have their say, at the risk of finding themselves asked to help in Council affairs such as the village plan that is on the agenda for next year.

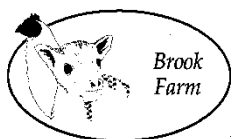
The Damascus project

The Damascus project is close to a relaunch that will involve a visit to Drayton on 15 April by its very well equipped double-decker bus. This is one of the best things that could happen to the village. While Damascus is running nobody can say that there is nothing in the village for younger people and it is a great opportunity for anybody who cares about finding things for younger people to do to get involved. Clearly the bus cannot be all things to all people but, until we have all tried to make a success of this project, there should be less cause for complaint that no efforts are being made. Young people should not use the lack of things to do as an excuse until they have given the bus a try and possibly adapted it to their own needs. There is likely to be a need for adult support and willing helpers should contact Caroline Grundy on (01235) 848679.

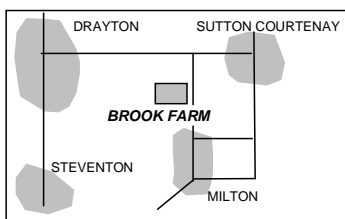
Help keep Drayton tidy

The appearance of the village should be improved through the work of our new caretaker. However, unless we want him to spend all his time and our money on litter picking we could help by doing our share and seeing what can be done to prevent littering in the first place. An extra effort around the beginning of May could impress the Best Kept Village judges. Again, our entry will be compromised if the village stays the way it is.

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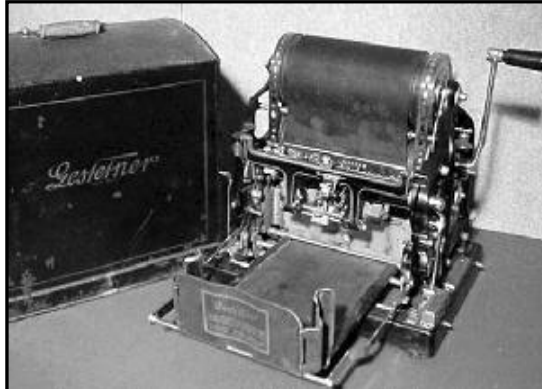
MISSED OUT ON YOUR CHRONICLE?

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

HOW TIMES CHANGE - Part 1

Geoffrey Long

Observant readers will see from the cover page that the *Drayton Chronicle* is now in its 27th year of publication. In that time the world has seen many changes and the same is true of the way in which the *Chronicle* is produced. This series of articles outlines the dramatic way in which technological changes have influenced the way the *Chronicle* is produced.



The Gestetner office-printing machine, as used to print the *Hall News*

During the months of planning before the first issue was published in January 1978, the organisers – notably the late Harry Bisby – made an important strategic decision. They decided that they would try to arrange the finances so that we could afford the have a professional printing house produce the *Chronicle* each month. The most obvious source of income – sale of advertising space – would, however, fall a long way short of meeting the cost. The monthly lottery was therefore used to provide a reliable, regular source of income and to this day continues to make publication of the *Chronicle* possible.

The organisers did not make these decisions in a vacuum; they had the experience of being involved in publishing the *Hall News* over several years. The *News* was started in 1966 to keep the village informed of the many events aimed at raising money for a new village hall. This was being planned to replace the existing hall, an old ex-army (1914) wooden hut located in Church Lane on a site now occupied by two bungalows. This had become dilapidated and too expensive for the owners, the Drayton Women's Institute, to maintain.

An important source of income for the rebuilding fund was the monthly 'Shilling (5p) Lottery' that was operated throughout the village by – yes, you've guessed – a 'willing and devoted team of Area Agents'. In 1974/5, after eleven years of fund-raising the New Village Hall Fund stood at £11,000, £14,000 came from the sale of the site of the old hall and of land adjoining the play area in Lockway. Hall funds were invested in Local Authority Bonds paying 10% interest. The remainder of the £48,293.19 needed to complete the new hall came from various government grants, local and national. Work could start on the hall. *Hall News* had fulfilled its purpose and publication ceased.

Continued on page 11

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Grahame Ash

Area Committees (Community Grants)

At the March meeting of the Abingdon Area Committee (which now includes Drayton and Sutton Courtenay) the main item on the agenda was Community Grants. As perhaps you will recall some £7,500 was granted recently by the Vale to the Village Hall towards the cost of a new boiler, this time it was the turn of other groups in the area. Some £7,400 was granted to the Abingdon Rowing Club towards a £28,000 project for the cost of three new boats and additional equipment. The club exists to provide recreational and competitive rowing for local residents from age 12 to 80 years and also includes a ladies section. I am certain the Club would welcome any local residents interested in joining the club. Details can be obtained from Jo Paterson, the Sports Development Manager at the Vale on 520202.

A successful application was made for £1,250 by an Appleford resident towards the cost of refurbishing a free-standing wall which is a listed Grade II building in its own right. The claim was brought under the 1990 Listed Buildings and conservation areas act 1990. The full cost is expected to be over £10,000. The grant was made conditional to claw-back in the event of the sale of the property.

Another successful application, this time for £735, was made towards certain costs that included a new fire exit door for a local Community Centre.

Not all grant applications were approved. One for several thousand pounds was deferred pending further investigation.

Area Committees (Cleansing Grants)

The Area committees will now be responsible for approving the cleansing grants of the Parish councils within their area. This follows a decision by the VWHDC Executive delegating the authority to local committees more closely involved with the performance of the work being carried out. It will be important for the Parish Councils to submit their claims timely, as delays could mean a loss of reimbursement.

Change at the Top

After four successful years as Leader of the Council, Cllr. Paul Bizzell has decided to step down in May. Paul will be able to focus more on his own IT management business, whilst still continuing to provide support on some key projects. This is the third change of leader the Liberal Democrats have seen since taking control of the VWHDC since 1995. Group elections will be carried out within the next few weeks for Leader of the Council and members of the Executive.

Did you know that..

Oxfordshire County Council has been working hard to set up a register of Oxfordshire farmers, market gardeners and others who wish to declare themselves GM free. They are also looking at the Council's legal options for preventing the growing of GM crops.

And Finally.....

The next Surgery will be held at 9.00 at the Village Hall on Saturday 3rd April. I look forward to meeting any Drayton residents who wish to come along and discuss their concerns.

Regards

Grahame Ash (Your Community Councillor)

CHRONICLE ACCOUNTS 2003

	2002	2003
Income		
Sales of Lottery Tickets	3,548.25	3,614.85
Advertising	1,681.05	1,314.65
Interest	126.64	89.05
Donations	68.17	59.15
Unclaimed Prizes	30.00	- 10.00
Sub-total	5,454.11	5,067.70
Expenditure		
Printing Chronicles	3,014.50	4,108.00
Prizes	1,440.00	1,430.00
Christmas Prizes	68.30	72.01
Lottery Ticket Printing & Stat'y	161.26	348.55
Lottery Expenses & Licence	17.50	35.00
Sub-total	4,701.56	5,993.56
Brought Forward	4,260.94	5,013.49
Profit (-loss) in year	752.55	-925.86
Carried Forward	5,013.49	4,087.63
FUNDS		
National Savings Bank	3,298.21	3,387.26
Lloyds T S B	1,715.28	700.37
Petty Cash	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS	5,013.49	4,087.63

Notes

- Advertising income is £367 lower than last year
- Interest received reflects reducing interest rates.
- One of the "unclaimed" prizes from last year was claimed in the current year. In the current year, prizes not yet claimed have been treated as outstanding cheques and adjusted against the bank balance.
- Printing in the current year included £738 re prior year Chronicles. December 2003 Chronicle print costs have been included in the current year. Average print costs per Page amounts to £28.93.
- Lottery tickets are printed twice a year at a cost of approx £150 per time. Current year includes those printed in January 2003 and July 2003.
- The cost of the lottery licence is normally met in December each year for the following year. In the current year, payments were made in Jan and Dec.
- Making allowance for these factors brings the overall picture into line with previous years – with the accounts being close to breaking even.

Keith Middleton, Treasurer

This is an opportune time to give our thanks to Keith for his careful shepherding of the *Chronicle* funds and to Robert Walker for undertaking to scrutinise the accounts.

It is also opportune to thank all our Area Agents and the Lottery Team for working so hard that the income from the lottery goes on increasing year on year – helping to offset rising printing costs

Geoffrey Long, Chronicle Co-ordinator

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DRAYTON SCHOOL

Claire Soper

We have recently experienced lots of variety with our weather, which in itself can generate opportunities for learning. The Lower Unit enjoyed the recent snowfalls, which stimulated lots of writing, art and experiments in science.

On the 8th March the children had a very exciting visit from the Fire Brigade who gave a talk on safety and provided them with leaflets and comics. They are very confident in what action to take in the event of a fire "GET OUT, CALL THE FIRE BRIGADE OUT, STAY OUT!" We would all do well to remember that. The firemen gave very positive feedback about how responsive, well behaved and well informed the children were.

The Middle Unit had a similar visit on the 17th March. They have been continuing with their Kenyan topic and have made African head collages which are very beautiful and brighten up the classroom.

A total of 15 children from the Upper Unit took part in the Vale Schools Tag Rugby Festival at Grove Rugby Club. Sixteen teams took part altogether, all the children tried very hard and did well in spite of having had little opportunity to practice. Mrs Stobie reported that she was proud of the way the children conducted themselves.

Other activities have included rehearsals for a performance this month of "The Creature Cure" with other local schools.

The whole school enjoyed a French Theme Day on 5th March. The children came dressed in French colours, decorated their clothes with French words and some wore berets and had French plaits in their hair. Everyone tried to speak as much French as possible during the day. In the afternoon a French food tasting was held which included, bread, croissant, brioche, cheeses, jams etc.

On the 8th March a visit from Clare, a member of the Abingdon Community Church, was enthusiastically received. She talked in Assembly about the value "Quality" and showed a DVD of a bible story. The children performed an action song, which she had taught them on an earlier visit.

The School Council will be discussing how best to promote the *National Walk or Bike to School Day* in May – so you have been warned! Get on your bike!

The Football Team was successful in the semi-finals of the Small Schools Competition against St Andrews. Thanks to Richard and Rachel Seamark for organising a sponsored Penalty Shootout on 30th March in aid of the Special Care Baby Unit at the John Radcliffe, who cared so well for baby Sean Sykes.

Can I please remind everyone that school is collecting Tesco Computer Vouchers and need 15,000 to purchase an additional computer? Anyone who has spare vouchers can leave them at Dix's, Vickeries, or school. The offer closes on 2nd May. ➤



Daria Stimson types the Gestetner stencil

HOW TIMES CHANGE

contd.

Publishing each issue of the *News* was a difficult, time-consuming and messy process. Few people could type (there were no computers) so all the input came in as hand-written copy and was typed up at first by Daria Stimpson, then by Lois Rennells, but not just simply onto pieces of paper. To keep production costs low a team of volunteers from the village did the printing. This meant using the Gestetner machine, at the time the last word in office printing. This involved cutting each letter of the page of text into a special wax-impregnated stencil using a standard typewriter without its ribbon. The resulting sheet was very hard to read but any corrections were made by painting over the mistake with what looked like nail varnish and typing the correction over it.

This was not all. The *Hall News* was printed double sided on both sides of foolscap paper folded to give a layout like the *Chronicle* but about half its size. How the poor typist managed to produce stencils to do this using a cumbersome wide-carriage typewriter, typing two columns of non-consecutive pages side by side so that when folded the correct page would not only appear in the appropriate place but would also be backed by its proper partner.

But once the set of four stencils was cut worse was to come – the dreaded Gestetner printing machine – see photo on p8. With a stencil mounted onto the roller, the machine was charged with the blackest, messiest fluid known to man, which was capable of finding its way onto fingers, faces and clothes without any assistance. When all was prepared, one turn of the large handle took the stencil over an inking roller then onto the paper. Two pages done; 799 more turns of the handle to go to complete the eight pages for the 200 copies needed. Was the hot bath at the end to soak away the ink-stains or to relieve an aching shoulder and arm?

I am grateful to Norman and Daria Stimpson for describing some of their experiences as members of the 'inky hands' brigade.

Next month we will see how the decision to use a printing house relieved the producers of all this effort but brought other, different problems in its wake.



➤ F.O.D.S.A. would like to thank everyone who came to the French Evening with the Twinning Association and bought raffle or tombola tickets, the total raised was £78.

They are currently arranging working parties for 3rd and 17th April to assist with the preparation/tidying up for the redecoration of the Lower Unit during the Easter Holidays. We hope to have lots of helpers!!!!

An Easter Disco will be held in school at 7pm on 2nd April for all Drayton School children and their families. A further fund raising event for F.O.D.S.A. will take place on Sat 17th April in the Caudwell Day Centre from 2-4 pm. This will take the form of an Easter Fayre with lots of activities for children, plus refreshments, organised by Annie from the Lower Unit; we need lots of people to come please.

Finally, Jenny Cullen is taking part in the London Marathon on 18th April. This time she is running for a charity called "IMPS" which provides accident prevention training for children. Anyone sponsoring Jenny will be contributing to these programmes, which benefit Year 6 children at Drayton who visit the John Radcliffe Hospital as part of the scheme. Sponsor forms are available from school or you can contact Jenny directly on 01235 531206.

Happy Easter Holidays to everyone!

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Contact 9 Oday Hill or phone Abingdon 258479.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL 2004

Some of the Drayton collectors have retired due to ill health or increasing infirmity and we are therefore looking for new recruits to make house-to-house collections in the fortnight leading up to Remembrance Sunday, 14 November 2004, taking just a few hours of each volunteer's time.

RBL funds are used for the welfare of all ex-Service people and their families, and grants are made all the time – sadly, the recent Iraq War underlines the on-going need for welfare work. If you feel you could help with this very worthwhile cause please get in touch and we can explain exactly what is involved. If you work in Steventon, Drayton or Milton Park and your workplace does not have a Poppy Collecting Box during that fortnight, please let us have contact details so we can arrange for this in future.

Peter & Diana Hasting

The Middle House, 11 High Street, Milton.

Tel: 01235 834740, e-mail <diamar@onetel.net.uk>

RUNNING BACK TO HEALTH Lou Willcock

Some of you in the village will know me, I was the very grateful recipient of lots of welcome prayers and well wishes (thank you Jean Oliver & friends) when I was diagnosed with breast cancer early last year.

After a challenging 12 months, I am now fit and well again and in training for this years London Marathon! To put something back after my experience with cancer, I will be running for a very special charity called The World Cancer Research Fund. They focus on researching how to prevent cancer occurring. If you would like to support me in my attempt at completing 26.2 miles on the run, I have an online web page at

http://www.wcrf-uk.org/help/2004_marathon/lou_willcockj3rofile.lasso

where you can make a donation - however small.

Alternatively, you'll find me at 2 Meads Close, Tel: 01235 532167

Thank you,

Lou Willcock



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DRAYTON DIARIES

DIARY FOR APRIL

All events held in Drayton Hall unless otherwise stated

To book Drayton Hall ring 531501		To call the Hall ring 528686	
Fri	2	7.00 pm	FODSA Disco <i>School</i>
Sat	3	9.00 am	Councillor G Ash Surgery (until 10.00am)
Sat	3	2.00 pm	Drayton Art Group Exhibition <i>Caudwell D.C</i>
Sat	3		Wedding Reception
Sat	10		Wedding Reception
Sun	11		Private Party
Thu	15	2.00 pm	Launch – DAMASCUS Bus <i>Steventon Green</i>
Thu	15		Sutton Courtenay Angling Club AGM
Sat	17		Private Party
Sat	17	2.00 pm	FODSA Easter Fayre (see p1) <i>Caudwell D.C.</i>
Sun	18	2.30 pm	Drayton Twinning Society make teas for the <i>Lime Close Open Garden (see p 6)</i>
Sun	18	11.15 am	Fair Trade Stall <i>St Peter's Church</i>
Mon	19	9.15 am	Chronicle Lottery Deadline <i>Vickery's</i>
Mon	19	5.15 pm	Chronicle Copy Deadline <i>Vickery's</i>
Fri	23		Private Party
Sat	24		Private Party
Sun	25	9.00 am	Drayton Bowling Club, to 5.00pm

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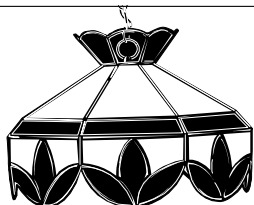
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March in the Caudwell Day Centre – your chance to hear what's
going on and to have your say on Parish affairs.

REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

MONDAYS

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

TUESDAYS

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

THURSDAYS

9.15 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
9.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>St Peter's Lady Chapel</i>
9.30 am	Parent & Toddler Group	
9.50 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	<i>Haywards Rd</i>
10.15 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	<i>The Green Car Pk</i>
2.00 pm	Darby & Joan Club	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
3.00pm	First Tuesday Connections	<i>St Peters</i>
4.00 pm	Dancing Classes (3 to 6 years). Tel: 764433	
6.30 pm	8/12 Club (1st & 3rd Thursday in the month)	<i>School</i>
7.45 pm	Women's Institute Meeting (2nd Thursday)	
8.00 pm	Sequence Dancing – Tel: 531701	
8.00 pm	Wilt/Berks Canal Group (3rd Thursday)	<i>Caudwell DC</i>

FRIDAYS

9.15 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>Sch'l Ground Bldg</i>
11.00 am	The Friday Club (to 3.30) 202466	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
1.00 pm	Computer Class (to 3.00pm)	
7.00pm	Choir Practice	<i>St Peter's</i>

SUNDAYS

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

DISCLAIMER

This Journal is published in all good faith and every care is taken in its compilation. The organisers of the *Drayton Chronicle*, and its agents, therefore accept no responsibility for opinions expressed, nor for the validity of any advertisement, nor for any effects arising whatsoever from the publication.

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