

# DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Derek Pooley

Volume 27, No.4

May 2004

## THE BEST KEPT VILLAGE Doggerelle

I read in this paper in March  
we'll be judged on our village in May;  
"So what can I do?" you might ask,  
to prepare for that great judgement day.  
Well I know what *I'll* do right enough,  
I've made out a list and a plan,  
I've pondered on all kinds of stuff  
to neaten my patch if I can.



The hedge round my plot needs a trim  
and all of the borders are weedy,  
Round the base of the trees needs a strim,  
of a clean-out the pond is now needy.  
There's a branch hanging over the pathway  
that pokes passers-by in the eye,  
So I'll prune it when there is a fine day,  
and I'll mow the grass verge when it's dry.



I must mend that broken down fence  
and stain it to make it look spruce;  
I'd have fixed it before had I sense,  
but I always found some good excuse.  
The front gate is nigh off its hinge  
and new paint on the house would look fine.



The litter outside makes one cringe,  
so I'll bin it although it's not mine.

The windows all need a good clean  
and the doorstep looks dirty and drear,  
So I'll shine them until they're pristine  
and I'll scrub up that step, never fear.



I'll plant all my patio pots  
and fill all the beds up with flowers,  
Of nice hanging baskets I've lots,  
and none will be brighter than ours.

And when it's quite done and complete  
and I've made it the best that I can,  
When my patch looks all tidy and neat  
I'll be pleased that I stuck to my plan.

How good if the judges this May  
find our village attractive and clean,  
And they gaze on the great judgement day

and exclaim "**The best village we've seen**"!

## STEVE TAKES CARE Do join him!

Following its advert in the January/February Chronicle, the Parish Council has appointed Steve Sharpe to be the new Drayton Village Caretaker. Steve, pictured here removing old metal sheets left by some irresponsible person on one of Drayton's lovely footpaths, has lived in Drayton for 27 years.



He went to Drayton School, on to John Mason in Abingdon, became a floor layer and eventually, last year, decided to become self-employed like his father Ron.

He says he liked the look of the caretaking job, not only because it would provide a good base for 'Sharpe Services' but also because he wanted to give something back to the community he says has given him so much.

We can already see the benefit of Steve's work but don't make his job too difficult. Read Doggerelle's poem opposite! Look after your patch so that Steve can concentrate on the public spaces away from houses and make Drayton the Best Kept Village this year.

## JUSTIN TAKES THE DAMASCUS BUS



The Damascus Youth Project launched its double-decker-bus youth centre at Steventon Village Hall on 15 April (see pictures on page 7).

The D in Damascus is for Drayton but now also for Denno. One of the volunteer drivers of the bus will be Justin Denno, who lives in Sutton Wick and was the driving force behind restoring its pond last summer.

Also in this issue:

p5 Reading Together

p9 Cycle to School Week

p4 Living Green

p7 Eating Together

p10 Farewell to Flemings

p5 Tribute to Valerie

p8 Singing Together

p11 Chronicle by email

### Friends of Drayton School Association present



### 'JUST A SECOND'

Fashion Show and Clothes Sale



Wed 18th May at 7.30 pm at the School

A huge range of quality children's and ladies clothes from well-known, high-street stores at up to 50% off RRP!

Raffle

Donation Bar

Tickets in advance from School or at the door  
£2.50 Adult / £1.00 Under 16

### New Year's Eve 2004

Are you planning a party,  
disco, family get-together?



Whatever your plans,  
**Drayton Hall is the best venue**

Sprung Dance Floor – Bar – Kitchen – Large and Small hall

Apply to Dot Day on 531501 before it's too late!

# CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The **June Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Friday, 28 May 2004** from **Helen Brasington, 1 Cheers Farm, (534045)**, who should be contacted by any Agents requiring copies additional to their allocation.

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

**no later than 5.15 pm on Monday, 17 May 2004.**

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

## THE FOLLOWING THREE MONTHS

Issue for	Copy for publication and return of Agents Lottery Packs needed by Monday:	Chronicle published and available for distribution on Friday:
July	14 June 2004	25 June 2004
August	19 July 2004	30 July 2004
September	16 August 2004	27 August 2004

## NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

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

A contribution can be made in one of several ways:

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

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

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

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

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

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

## ADVERTISING RATES

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

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

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

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

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

# CHRONICLE LOTTERY

**Daphne Samworth, Hon. Promoter**

## RESULTS OF THE JANUARY LOTTERY

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	2348	Mr Flower, Sutton Courtenay	Claire Soper
£20	0665	A Bax, Henleys Lane	Angela Painton
£15	2278	W Perris, 58 Lyford Close	Freda Palmer
£10	0191	N Berry, 22 Cornville Road	Gerald Redman
£10	0936	Mr McAlister, 3 High Street	Mary Alexander
£10	0795	Mrs O'Neill, 87 High Street	Margaret Long
£10	2447	S Penney, 2 Lesparre Close	Steve Penney
£10	2310	R Calvert-Fisher, Sutton Courtenay	Claire Soper
£10	0216	D & H Lee, 15 Corneville Road	Gerald Redman
£10	0829	C Dewar, 3 Cheers Farm	Margaret Long

The winning tickets were drawn by members of Drayton Art Group from the 2111 tickets sold

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**MANY THANKS** to Shirley and Dixie, our new Distributors, for helping us out with a problem created by the postal strike. This meant that the scheduled Distributors, Margaret and Frank, had to take their holiday unexpectedly. As the only other available distributors Shirley and Dixie agreed to take over, even though they had done their first round only last month. You both deserve a medal and a nice long rest before your turn comes round again.

*Geoffrey Long*

# YOUR LETTERS

Dear Sir

## Valerie Millington Hale

On behalf of my family and myself, I would like to thank all our friends and neighbours for the many sympathy cards we have received since my wife Valerie passed away. Everyone has been very kind and all took great comfort in the fact that so many people attended the funeral and gave donations to the International Myeloma Foundation (U. K.), for which we are very grateful.

Special thanks go to the Rev David Fleming for conducting the service; to the Rev Dorothy Derrick for reading the poem; Peter Fleming for playing the organ; Roy Brown and everyone from Drayton Baptist chapel for their help and support; Ann and Bernard Webb for organising extra seating from the village hall; Sheila Cook and everyone at the Caudwell Day Centre and the Friday Club; the ladies of the WI for organising the refreshments; Janet Strong for looking after Primrose and not least to Michael and Janet Didcock, the new proprietors of Thomas and Jarvis Funeral Services for their excellent and friendly service.

Also sincere thanks go to all the staff of Ward 2 at Abingdon Community Hospital (some of whom live in Drayton) for taking such good care of Valerie during her illness

Yours sincerely

David Hale

Dear Editor

## William James Percival

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all our family, friends and neighbours for the cards of sympathy, the beautiful flowers and such kindness shown to us all in our sad loss of Billy. Special thanks to the Rev Dorothy Derrick for conducting a lovely service and to Father John for his kind tribute.


A total of £400 has been collected so far, for the Blenheim Ward at the Churchill hospital. Billy would have been overjoyed to present this wonderful donation to the doctors and staff who had looked after him so well during the last year. Thank you all

*Pat and Kim Percival, Julie and Steve Lester and children*

Dear Editor

Thanks to Millie Wright, who has been very busy de-heading the dead daffodil flowers on the Millennium Geen. She collected two bags full.

*The writer gave a name but asked that it should be withheld* ⇨



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⇨ Dear Editor

I am writing to the Chronicle to say how sorry I am that Mr John Cross, one of our Parish Councillors, has had his third bike stolen, two from the Wheatsheaf where he goes to get his reports and one from outside the Post Office.

Mr Cross is one of our councillors and takes his job seriously. He is seen to be walking foot paths and the churchyard; he worked to get the cycle track and incessantly worked for the extra light in Marcham road which is a great improvement. Mr Cross has a job to walk far. It would be nice if his bicycles reappeared. Thank you

*Sheila Cook*

Dear Sir,

I feel I must write to let everyone know how much I appreciate so many flowers and plants being sent to me to wish me happiness in my new home. I was also very touched by the super cards. Thank you so much, everyone.

Yours sincerely,

*Molly Munnoch*

# NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

A warm welcome to Whitehorns Way to Amanda and Peter Brummitt – and their very new baby, Christopher - from Harwell.

We are very pleased to welcome Mrs Pat Clifford to Newman Lane and hope she will be very happy in her Drayton home.

We welcome to Drayton baby Kian, who recently joined the Durkin family in Whitehorns Way

A belated welcome to Gary and Carol Holder and their daughter Kelly. They moved to Lockway in January.

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# ST PETER'S CHURCH

<b>Priest in Charge</b>	Revd Dorothy M Derrick ..... 531374 The Vicarage, 8 Gravel Lane, Drayton
<b>Licensed Lay Minister</b>	Dr Peter Barton ..... 523702
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Mr Peter Cline ..... 530519 Mrs Sue Harris ..... 848361
<b>Organist &amp; Choirmaster</b>	Mr Adrian Thompson.....01865 714801

## REGULAR SERVICES

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

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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

## CALENDAR FOR MAY

Tues	4th	3.00 pm	First Tuesday Connections	Church Room
Sun	9th	11.15 am	Sale of Fair Trade goods	Church
		6.30 pm	St Peter's UNLimited	Church Room
Thur	20th	8.00 pm	Ascension Day Service	Church
Sat	22nd	2.00 pm	Wedding - Quartermain/Hill	Church
		4.30 pm	Wedding - Cline/Norton	Church
Sat	29th	2.00 pm	Wedding - Strong/Mackenzie	Church

## PARISH REGISTER

### Baptisms

11th April	Jasmin Mae Taylor Amber Holly Taylor
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### Marriages

20th March	Stephen James Denton with Emma Charlotte Powell
17th April	James Howard Robert John Cox with Rachel Jillian Wood

### Funerals

24th March	Mary Kathryn Bradfield
1st April	Williams James Percival – at Dry Sandford
8th April	Frederick Edward John Paxman

## YOU STAY - WE PRAY

2--15 May: Steventon Road; Eastway. 16--22 May: Church Lane; Henleys Lane; Caudwell Close; Gravel Lane. 23 May--5 June: Abingdon Road; Oday Hill; Binning Close; Haywards Road.



## NEW HOUSE LIVERY

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## Letter from The Revd. Dorothy Derrick

Dear Friends,

Spring is nearly over and we are experiencing a little warmth from the sun and enjoying the freedom of the light evenings. During the early spring when the wind was cold and the sun was bright I found myself walking on the downs near Farnborough. At one stage the walk led through a wood, providing shelter from the wind and different surroundings. At one end of the footpath I came upon this sign which took me by surprise and provided food for thought as I journeyed on.

### PUBLIC FOOTPATH OVER PRIVATE LAND

Please take nothing - but photographs

Leave nothing - but footprints

Keep dogs on a lead

THANK YOU!

How much pleasanter than "No trespassers. No rubbish. By order."

As I reflected on that sign I felt that it was a modern day parable. That landowner obviously cared about and nurtured the land that he owned. More than that he was prepared to share his treasure with others, but he expected that they too would take care of the lovely environment that he was prepared to share with them. He wanted it to be enjoyed, hence the taking of photographs which do no damage. He wanted people to experience its beauty, hence the request to leave nothing except footprints.

In most of Jesus' parables the landowner stands for God. Does this work with these particular words for us? I believe it does. God has given us a wonderful world to live in and experience. He has even invited us to be stewards of this world, to look after it and share it with others. He wants us to delight in it and nurture it and leave it intact for those who come after us. This almost sounds like an environmental treatise!

The truth is that we hear many warnings about our misuse of the environment, our destructive and selfish use of resources, our damaging of the atmosphere by pollution. But how much attention do we really pay to these issues? The truth is that we need to stop and think. We need to change our ways. As we walk the paths of this life, perhaps we could have the words of that sign in our minds so that we take a little more care of the world that God has given to us to live in; so that we don't leave a trail of destruction behind us in our way of living and our personal relationships.

May we all make an extra effort in our own homes, in our own streets, in our own village, in our own places of work and leisure to enjoy our environment and leave it in good order for others to enjoy also.

Yours prayerfully

*Dorothy*



## Tonks Brothers Funeral Directors

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*Pre-paid plans available*

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**"An Independent family funeral service"**

# BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

## REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

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

**EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME**

## TRIBUTE TO VALERIE HALE

7th July 1938 ~ 26th March 2004

Valerie's Funeral Service was at our Baptist Church on Friday 2nd April. We said our farewell to a dear and faithful friend, much loved by many in Drayton. The chapel was full, Valerie's and David's dog Primrose was there too. Valerie even arranged the way she wanted her service to be, with her favourite hymns and readings. It reflected the person she was in life, the quiet and calm way she had of doing things in such a special way.

We at the Baptist church would all like to thank Valerie for being our Church Secretary and Church Missionary Secretary. Also for many years as a Sunday School teacher, she was a sower of Gods word, a seed in a child's heart and mind, so the world surely has to benefit and blossom.

Valerie walked with her Lord Jesus and put her trust in Him all the way right to the end of the road. And now she is walking with Him in the fast lane on that Heavenly Highway.

Thank you Valerie from us all here at the Baptist Church.

*Janet Strong*

## Thomas & Jarvis Funeral Service

Proprietors : M & J Didcock



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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

## FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS **Jean Hager**

Our next meeting for tea and friendly conversation will be on the 4th May and we look forward to seeing you then. We meet in St Peters Church room between 3.00 and 4.30 pm and extend a very warm welcome to anyone feeling isolated, lonely or in need of company for whatever reason to drop in and join us. If you cannot manage the May date, our next get-together will be on the 1st June when we shall be visited by a police officer who will be giving advice on all aspects of security. So do come along for what promises to be a very interesting and useful talk.

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# NOTICE BOARD

## DRAYTON READING GROUP **Andrew Bax**

By the time this issue of the Chronicle is published the new Reading Group will have met twice. Our first book - Touching the Void by Joe Simpson - is a dramatic piece of writing, made more vivid because it is true. It is not the kind of book that I, personally, would normally choose so I have already been introduced to a wider range of reading, and was riveted by it. We can accommodate a few more members so if you enjoy discussing books in the company of like-minded people, ring me on 531512.

## DRAYTON COMPUTER CLUB **Derek Pooley**

The Drayton Community Trust, under whose auspices the Chronicle is published, would like to thank the erstwhile members of the Drayton Computer Club and Andrew Beacroft, its treasurer. The £40 surplus from the club's activities over recent years has been given to the Community Trust to help with Drayton's next special project.

## ABINGDON BOWLING CLUB **Mary Alexander**

The new bowling season starts at the beginning of May. Abingdon Bowling Club in Albert Park is holding Open Sessions on Friday 7th May from 5.00 pm until 7.30 pm and on Sunday 9th May from 2.00 pm till 7.00 pm. Come along and try something different, enjoy yourselves! All equipment provided by the club; tuition and refreshments provided free. For further information phone Ray on 524591.

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**HOME VISITS**

....00000....

**APPOINTMENTS**

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# HOW TIMES CHANGE - Part 2

Geoffrey Long

Moving from 'DIY' printing with a Gestetner stencil machine to using the services of a commercial printer required a new approach to preparing the master copy. To produce the plates needed for the offset lithograph process, the printer required that the editor should produce a 'camera-ready' paper copy with each page laid out exactly as we wanted it and free from all blemishes and defects. This was prepared by 'pasting up' the various pieces of text, adverts and headings required on each page onto a master sheet, which carried a faint grid to help in lining up the assorted scraps of paper that went to make up the page. To make life a little easier all round the master sheets were produced as A3 size, some 40% larger than the A4 size of the final page. Accordingly, everything pasted onto the master sheets was 40% larger than required, text being produced as a continuous 'sausage' 14cm wide and cut to size to fit the available space. Once complete the printer reduced the master sheets to the required size for printing.

For pasting up the length of everything to be fitted in was carefully measured and recorded, and detailed calculations made of what would be put where in order to ensure that every column was filled. Once glued down, to move a piece was quite tricky – better to get it right first time. Each page was made up of up to a dozen pieces of paper – some large, others just a line or two long – over a hundred bits in all. Little heaps of paper scraps waiting to be stuck in place covered the paste-up table – woe betide anyone who sneezed. Inevitably mistakes – passing unnoticed during proof reading – leapt off the page once pasted up. If the glue had dried this meant typing out the word or phrase again and carefully pasting it over the mistake, a fiddling job and a great incentive for careful proof reading in the first place. The range of fonts required for the adverts was obtained by laying down each letter one at a time using 'Lettraset' transfers. Several photocopies of the master advert provided a 'bank' for future issues.

At the start, a group of typists, working to a rota, typed out the copy on a manual typewriter. Later the *Chronicle* could afford an electric typewriter that greatly improved the quality of the finished product, but it did mean delivering a heavy machine to the duty typist each month. Finally along came the computer and the *Chronicle* invested in an Amstrad PCW. This brought many improvements – easy correction of the copy after proof reading, use of a range of fonts and more variety in the adverts. But the computer was even heavier than the typewriter to pass around. Nonetheless, this arrangement worked well for many years.

The Amstrad was little more than a sophisticated typewriter, but things do not stay still for long in the world of computers and along came more advanced PCs and sophisticated word processing programs. When Harry Bisby died suddenly in 1996 and I took over the running of the *Chronicle*, we were fortunate that Karen Cuin, an editor at OUP, volunteered to join the team as the third editor. Under Karen's encouragement and guidance I was able, using Microsoft Word, to devise a way to paste up each page on-screen. Gone were the scissors, the scraps of paper and the glue pot and the result was a printed page looking exactly like the finished *Chronicle*, ready for delivery to the printer by the courier in a small plastic folder rather than the large cumbersome rigid folder used for the rather fragile A3 paste up.

As computers became more commonplace, more and more of our contributors were able to send in their items as files, at first on diskette, then by email. Any typewritten texts were quickly and easily scanned. Derek Pooley introduced the *Chronicle* to the 'Dragon

Naturally Speaking' dictation program – the editor reads a manuscript into the microphone and the words miraculously appear on the computer screen – with some errors but surprisingly few. So progress meant 'downsizing' the *Chronicle* Team as our loyal typists were displaced by new technologies.

*In the final part we shall see how the printer's decision to move premises had a dramatic effect on the way the Chronicle is produced.*

**ERRATA.** In last month's article information on the *Hall News* was taken from an unpublished history of the Drayton Amenties Society and *Chronicle*. Daria Stimpson has checked her copies of *Hall News* and finds that, while the lottery started in 1966, the first issue of *Hall News* was published in 1970. The *News* also records that the number of copies produced every other month was not 200 but an impressive 600, or 2,400 turns of the Gestetner crank handle.



Tools of the trade for pasting up

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## 40 YEARS OF FOOD AND FRIENDSHIP

### Lois Rennels

Back in April 1964, Sheila Clarke of Whitehorns Way put forward the idea that some of the Young Wives Group might be interested in getting together to talk about food, swap recipes and, most importantly, eat something more interesting than the limited fare required by husbands and young children. Little did she realise that 40 years on this small club would still be cooking meals for each other, exchanging ideas and — well, eating.

All interested members of the Young Wives Group were invited to come to the first meeting at Daria Stimpson's in the High Street and Daria cooked a salmon scone. She tried it again recently and decided that, although still tasty, it belonged in the 60s and no longer suited the more exotic tastes of 2004. Numbers fluctuated at the early meetings but gradually settled down to 12 stalwarts. It was therefore decided, that as this was a number we could (with a squeeze in some cases) get round our dining room tables, we should become a private club and not increase on that number. We met (and still do) on the second Tuesday in the month.

We had exacting standards — all fresh ingredients, no tins or packets and definitely no cheating. Despite this, we used to aim not to spend more than 10 shillings (50p) a head. We had three-course dinners, taking it in turns to cook, act as hostess or wash up. Twice a year, we invite our men folk to come along and on one never-to-be-forgotten occasion they cooked for us. Pretty impressive it was too!

There was some dual membership with the Drayton Hall Management Committee and a number of the men served on that committee so inevitably, when food needed preparing, the Wooden Spoon Club became involved. During the 70s, when we were fund raising for the new village hall, we helped to prepare innumerable very successful cheese and wine parties in the spring and turkey suppers in the autumn. Norman Stimpson had a shop in Ock Street in Abingdon in those days so was able to supply a lot of the provisions. For anyone who doesn't remember Norman's shop, Domino Pizza is there now.

Amazingly, with food being transported around the village and from Abingdon, we have had very few accidents. However, on one memorable occasion, a lavishly decorated gâteau lovingly prepared by Sheila shot from her lap into the glove compartment when her husband John had to brake suddenly. Nothing daunted, with a bit of hasty patching up, she served it with aplomb and it tasted no less delicious for its adventure.

There are still six of the original 12 members in the club. In the early days, people moved away and others were invited to join. I was invited to become a member a little later in the 60s and our most recent 'recruit' is Molly Munnoch who joined in the '70s. ➡



➡ More recently, two original members, Mary Bisby and Kit Weston, have sadly died and two others have moved away. There has been tacit agreement not to invite anyone else to take their place and we now have a membership of eight with one or two honorary members who join us on special occasions.

Over the years we have had some very enjoyable weekends away to Brighton, Bournemouth, Portland, York, Iron Bridge and Buckston. We still have dinners once a month and also meet for a monthly pub lunch. However, we have to confess that our standards have slipped a bit — even take-away meals are not unheard of these days. Friendships are now more important than the food.

Our most recent special occasion was a dinner held at the Oxford Thames Four Pillars Hotel on April 13 to celebrate our 40 years together. (Editors note: Lois is on our left of the three ladies sitting on the sofa, Sheila Clarke on our right of the same three, Daria Stimpson is on the far right, sitting on the arm of the sofa.)



Hazel Pardey, one of the original members, has kept a file of all the recipes we have eaten over the years and we will submit them for publication in The Chronicle. They will be printed as space allows.

## DAMASCUS BUS LAUNCH

The Damascus Youth Project launched its mobile youth centre, a converted double-decker bus, at a ceremony on Steventon Green on



15 April 2004. The photograph on the left shows Mrs Mary Spalding formally opening the bus service. (The late Dr Ian Spalding, who tragically died in January, had chaired the Damascus project since its beginning.) Other photographs show waiting customers and the lead driver (Giles Shearing, centre) with Drayton's Justin Denno and Rita Atkinson, the Damascus Project Executive Officer.



# ALL AROUND

## DRAYTON ART GROUP

Eric Curtis

The skilfulness of our local artists was again apparent at this year's art exhibition, as proof of which several exciting purchases of our paintings were made by visitors. A good collection of paintings included water colour, pastel, oil, acrylic and mixed media. Thank you one and all for attending the exhibition and showing such interest in our efforts. Thanks must go to all those helpful people who gave their time and energy to make the show such a success. Thanks also to Iris and Brian Moylan for arranging the hanging of the pictures so well.

## BOWLS CLUB

Roll Up

The Winter League is now over and The Rollers finished Runners-up in the South Oxfordshire Division 1. In Division 2 the Wasps finished halfway up or down (whichever way you look at it) and The Hammers were the strong team holding up the rest of the League!

At a competition in Dawlish Warren, Margaret and John Goodacre won the pairs and John won the triples with two friends from Chulmleigh. At a competition in Bembridge, Isle of Wight, Val and Lyndon Locke retained their Fours title with their friends from Swansea. Finally, our AGM will be held at Drayton Hall on Wednesday 2nd June at 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm

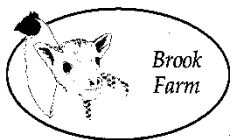
## DRAYTON PLAYERS

Jean Hager

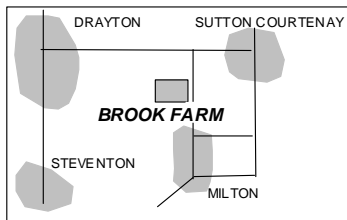
I now have some news about our October production. As a change from our usual play nights we shall be presenting a Victorian music-hall extravaganza, complete with bewhiskered chairman and audience participation (we hope) from time to time. The framework for this is already being worked on, songs being chosen, dances being choreographed and costumes planned, and we are all looking forward to the great fun this venture will engender. This will be an all-round family entertainment and will include player members of all age groups. Watch this space for further details nearer the time.

Work is already in progress on a new musical production planned for February 2005, as yet untitled. **Auditions** will be held in the small room at Drayton Hall on Sunday 27th June from 1.00 to 2.00 pm and 2.00 to 3.00 pm for adults. We invite anyone interested in being part of another exciting venture to come along on this date. ➔

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## DRAYTON HALL

Ann Webb

Before the meeting on the 15th of March we had completed the clean up - as reported last month. The down-pipe guards are now in place, at a cost of approximately £850. Grants for the new heating system are still being gathered. We would also like to remake the Small Hall curtains to fit the fire doors. These would be for sound absorption and decoration only. Any offers with this project?

Regular users will now be aware that we have now changed the locks and added hand washing facilities to the kitchen - this was a Vale environmental requirement - as was the replacement of the ice machine. This is for bar use only - not general use - hygiene regulations require this. There are still tables available for the table-top sale, £7-50 a table. To book, telephone 531418. . A chance to clear your cupboards!

Final Note: Parents, please be aware that children are climbing onto the hall roof. Not only is this very disturbing to the users, but it is very dangerous for the children. Any damage caused will be costed and steps will be taken to recover those costs. Please warn your offspring of the perils a fall could lead to. You have been warned!

## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Pearl Stanbridge

The Legion National Conference is being held at the end of the month at Scarborough so watch your Legion Journal for up to date news of this event. The next committee meeting will be held on Monday 17 May at 8pm.

more All Around opposite ➔



## DRAYTON SCHOOL

Claire Soper

The final assembly of the Spring term finished with the Grand Easter Egg Raffle, a Drayton School tradition which raises lots of funds for the school. In addition to this the children retold the Easter story reminding everyone that our Easter celebrations are about more than chocolate! Some of the Lower Unit children showed their homemade Easter Cards. It was good to see the faces of some previous Drayton pupils who returned to join in the end of term assembly (Perhaps the old school's not so bad after all!)

The environment features strongly in all aspects of School life and everyone has been observing the exciting changes in the pond recently, with at least 15 frogs and 6 newts counted. The School Council has been busy planning an environmental review of the School and are currently establishing an environmental notice board which will be moved around different areas of the building. Walk or Cycle to School Week will take place from 24-28th May. The School Council will be encouraging everyone to make a special effort and a competition is planned to make the event more interesting!

The Lower Unit have been very busy making clay animals with the help and expertise of Mum, Tracey Jesson. The results have been very life-like. They are also able to enjoy newly decorated surroundings in a beautiful shade of yellow, thanks to all the parents and staff who helped with the preparations and making good during the holiday.

The Middle Unit have been putting the final touches to their moving pictures by using different techniques, such as slides and pop-ups. They have designed mazes to use with the LOGO programme, to encourage people to practise making right-angle turns. All the children have been enthusiastic about their sciences topic of rocks and soils. This has included bringing in examples from home and even trying to make sand at playtime!

The Upper Unit have been studying figures by Michelangelo and Lowry and have made sculptures in the style of Giocametti, which can be displayed in school. The Football Team won the Six a Side Tournament and were runners up in the Small Schools' Competition. Well done to everyone involved, we are very proud of you.

The Penalty Shoot Out on the 30th March raised in excess of £250 for the Special Care Baby Unit at the John Radcliffe. A brilliant result and a very enjoyable afternoon - even Mrs Higgs managed to score a goal due to the generosity of the goalkeeper Ryan Burton. F.O.D.S.A. raised approximately £250 at the Easter disco on the 2nd April. Annie's Easter Fayre on the 17th April raised £132.85, a very BIG thank you to everyone who came and supported the event and made it so successful. ➔

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➔ Forthcoming F.O.D.S.A. events:

FAMILY TREASURE HUNT Sunday 16th May afternoon  
This will end with a Barbecue at school

FASHION SHOW & SALE Wednesday 19th May 7.30 pm

SUMMER FAIR Saturday 19th June 12-3.00 pm

Finally don't forget if you have any spare Tesco Computer Vouchers we would be very pleased to receive them, we will continue to collect them for a few more weeks after the offer ends.

## DRAYTON WIVES

Margaret Long

Due to unforeseen circumstances we have had to wait rather a long time for our talk in March on the 'Fire at Windsor Castle', but, my goodness, it was well worth the wait. I had not realised that our speaker, Mr Marshall Smith, was a Senior Fire Officer at the fire itself which meant that together with his slides he was able to give us a first-hand and very exciting account of the fire.

Two hundred and thirty four fire fighters tackled the blaze and they used 1,200,000 gallons of water. The fire took nine hours to control and a further six to put out. Mr Marshall gave us vivid images of the fire itself with his slides and I realised for the first time just how unstoppable a big fire can be and the incredible heat that is generated.



George and Gwen Cox entertained a large number of us at their coffee morning on the fifth of April. This was in celebration of their Diamond Wedding and we were all glad to drink the health of an amazing couple.

Dates for your diary in May:-

Mon 10th	10.30 COFFEE	Daria Stimpson	32A High Street
Mon 17th	7.15 WHIST	Janet Hendy	Caudwell D.C
Tues 25th	7.30 MEETING	<i>Our Ancestors' Superstitions, Bizarre Beliefs &amp; Peculiar Practices</i> Hugh Granger	

## W.I.

Gwen Price

In April we had a very relaxing meeting, as we were treated to a travelogue on New Zealand given by a very enthusiastic man called Mr. Bryce. His wonderful slides were accompanied by some very atmospheric New Zealand music. A spoken commentary was hardly needed. It portrayed a country of waterfalls, unusual trees, long sandy beaches, hot springs and colourful birds. As well as this there were very few people and even fewer cars. It seemed a perfect place to escape from the rat race!

# COUNCIL REPORTS: 1

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Grahame Ash

## The Local Economy

There was a meeting of the Economic Policy Overview committee in March. Their work is rather behind the scenes, ensuring that the economy and tourism in the Vale is sustained and where possible improved. The Council can't do this on its own but works with local partners to help achieve this. The Vale either initiates or contributes towards the inception of a number of projects, encourages their development and then exits when the projects are progressing well. There has been considerable success with Faringdon, where investment has been in short supply. Some £430,000 was awarded to help develop the Faringdon economy over a four year period. The Vale has worked hard to overcome local politics to ensure this has been a success. This has resulted in Faringdon being awarded the Beacon Town Status - a shining example of how to revitalise market towns. The success has led to worldwide fame and in April and May International specialists will be visiting Faringdon to learn from their experience.

More locally a bid of £260,000 was won by the Southern Oxfordshire Enterprise Hub from the South East England Development Authority contributing in part to the further development of the Environmental Sciences sector and to develop an Entrepreneur Resource Centre at Rutherford Appleton Laboratories. This resource centre will provide new start-up high technology companies with intensive business support, providing access to high calibre scientists and facilities. Companies will be assisted in preparing them for Venture capital investment, finding suitable premises in Oxfordshire (which again the Vale can help with) and providing local jobs.

Another project is "Health of the Nation" where producers are being encouraged to provide their goods direct to the retailer. Faringdon has its own local food initiative. It has forged links with Budgens and the Co-op with a view to stocking a range of local products including meat and dairy items. It has started supplying locally sourced meat on a trial basis to Faringdon Community College. The main benefits are that high quality and traceable food is being provided to the school children. This is just the start.

Other monies have been won to support employees' development in a leading motor sport company. ➔

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➔ Ten other projects have cost £62k to implement, which after grants has cost the Vale less than £5k. This has been exceeded by the benefits to the community.

There are on-going plans to revitalise Abingdon. I know there have been criticisms over the number of businesses closing. The Vale can only facilitate the re-vitalisation. One example is the creation of the Farmers Market in Abingdon. It can only be a success if there are sufficient sellers and customers. That is common sense. What I find rather galling is that many people who criticise the lack of shops or the quality of shops in the town centre are quite happy to shop outside town. If you want to keep your shop or shops in Abingdon may I suggest you shouldn't complain if they close because you shop elsewhere. The same applies to our village. If you want to ensure the continuity of Vickery's, of Mace's, of the Red Lion and the Wheatsheaf, and other local business you need to support them. You need to look no further than the Chronicle to see that a hive of industry goes on in our village.

The CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) has just issued a report based on 100 of England's small market towns. One of the major conclusions is that out-of town retail parks and super stores have "sucked the life" out many high streets and that local shops do not sell anything produced locally. I now learn that Gordon Brown has insisted that a ban on out-of town shopping centres should be relaxed. (The decision has apparently been made under pressure from retailers such as Tesco, B&Q, Asda and Ikea!) In the meantime the government is providing grants to help the sustainability of market towns. Some not so joined up thinking here, but you can bet that it will be the District and Town councils that will be taking the flack, as more market towns become dormitories.

## Town Twinning and Junkets

In one of the Sunday papers recently there was a critical article about Councillors going on junkets abroad - all at the Council taxpayers' expense. The gist was that Councillors were encouraging Town-twinning, so they could go on a visit to the overseas town and the cost would be met by the council. I am pleased to say this doesn't happen at the Vale. Town and Parish twinning is very much the responsibility of the local twinning groups with suitable safeguards for the Vale to ensure the grant is properly spent on the visitors - certified accounts are required. The only time, as Vice-chair of the Twinning Committee, I knew of some-one being offered the opportunity of going on a "junket" was following an invitation from a Hungarian town to twin with the Vale. It was evident that there was little in common with the town and the Vale. The invitation was declined.

Finally, my next Surgery will be held at 9.00 am at the Village Hall on Saturday 1st May. I look forward to meeting any Drayton residents who wish to come along and discuss their concerns.

Regards

Grahame Ash (Your Community Councillor)

## PETER & TERRY FLEMING

Derek Pooley

Drayton's loss is Huntingdon's gain! Peter and Terry Fleming have finally left Sutton Wick for their new home. They have been exceptional contributors to Drayton village life and we are going to miss them more than most of us realise. With our thanks we wish them all the very best for their new life.

# COUNCIL REPORTS: 2

PARISH COUNCIL

Daniel Scharf

## MEETING on 29 March 2004

The Annual Parish meeting was held on 29 March 2004 and three members of the public turned up to hear reports from the Chairman, Finance, Rights of Way and Conservation, Leisure and General Purposes and Planning. David Hudson the representative of the Parish Council on the school governors reported on the state of the school and Graham Ash the District Councillor on matters relating to the District.

There has been plenty to keep the members of the Council busy especially as the Council is three members under strength. One of the changes that will be most noticeable has been the engagement of a new 'caretaker' to generally look after the public areas of the village.

The first Parish Council meeting of the new year was presented with the details of the land transaction at the Green in order to allow the development at Manor Farm to proceed. There was uncertainty whether this will go ahead as approved or whether the landowner will be pressing for the larger development of the land in the centre of the village through their objection to the draft local plan. There was a report about the Didcot Integrated Transport. It seems that all the village gateways are to be treated as priorities and are likely to get features designed to slow traffic entering the village. There will also be traffic calming elsewhere in the village that is regarded as a priority as Didcot expands.

One of the priorities for the next year will be the village plan and the Council will be looking for help outside the current membership (volunteers please contact the parish clerk or any member). The issue of the current population numbers and structure is being investigated and we will also be carrying out a transport survey so that there will be a firm basis on which we can sensibly carry out the village planning exercise.

Daniel Scharf

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## CHRONICLE ROUND THE WORLD

I am sure that many people involved in the production of the Chronicle were as pleased as I was to read the letter in the January/February issue from the ex-Draytonians now living in New Zealand who still receive the Chronicle and so keep in touch with the goings-on in the village. It was particularly interesting to read of the personal connections with the subject of an article by Brian Bray in the October 2003 issue.

The letter prompted two thoughts in my mind. Firstly, while I do know that several people take extra copies of each issue in order to send them on to people who have left Drayton, it would be nice to know just where they are going. Secondly, because of the changes we have made in the way in which we send copy to the printer it may be possible in the near future to e-mail each issue as it is produced each month to those recipients who would like to be put on a on an e-mailing list.

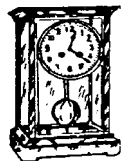
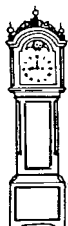
Readers could help develop these thoughts by letting me know

- the name, town and, if appropriate, country of anyone to whom they send copy of the Chronicle
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either by a brief note in the Chronicle mail box outside Vickery's store, by telephoning me on 531321 or by e-mail at [geoff.long@talk21.com](mailto:geoff.long@talk21.com).

I would also be glad to hear from anyone who would like an extra copy to send out each month. Most months we do have spare copies.

Geoff Long



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# DRAYTON DIARY

## FOR MAY

All events are at Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise  
(To book Drayton Hall call 531501)

**Regular Events are listed opposite**

Sat	1	9.00 am	Councillor G Ash surgery (until 10.00 am)	
Mon	10	7.45 pm	Parish Council AGM	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
Sat	15	11.00 am	Drayton Hall Table Top Sale (until 3.00 pm)	
Sun	16	10.00 am	Antique Fair (until 4.00 pm)	
Mon	17	9.15 am	Chronicle Lottery deadline	<i>Vickery's</i>
		5.15 pm	Chronicle copy deadline	<i>Vickery's box</i>
		8.00 pm	Drayton Hall AGM	
Sat	22		Private Party	
Sat	29		Wedding	

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## REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

### MONDAYS

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

### TUESDAYS

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

### WEDNESDAYS

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

### THURSDAYS

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

### FRIDAYS

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

### SUNDAYS

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

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