

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Derek Pooley

Volume 28, No.2

March 2005

YEAR of the VOLUNTEER

2005 has been declared the International Year of the Volunteer!

Why not think about taking up one of the many voluntary opportunities in Oxfordshire? Volunteering can give you useful work experience, the chance to meet new people, gain new skills and training and develop new interests – not to mention the satisfaction of contributing something to society.

Don't know where to start? Look at www.do-it.org.uk for some ideas. Or contact your local Volunteer Bureau (01865 251946) where you can chat to someone about what volunteering would suit you and have a look at a range of local opportunities.

For example, what about helping people who have mental health problems though 'Root and Branch' (page 6)?

If you would like to volunteer here in Drayton why not contact Dr Geoff Long, the Chronicle Coordinator, about joining the Chronicle team, perhaps as an Area Agent who delivers the paper and helps fund it by selling lottery tickets (see page 3)? Or contact Nick Hamilton, the Chairman of the Millennium Green Trust about helping to maintain the Green (page 3 letters).

You could even consider joining the Drayton Parish Council (see below). At present there are fewer councillors than we should have in Drayton, so why not contact the Parish Clerk, Marie Sellwood (01235 200042) to get more information about becoming a councillor.

NEW at ST PETER'S

We welcome to Drayton, as the new Priest-in-Charge at St Peter's, the Rev Sister Josie Midwinter (photograph on the right) and wish her well in her ministry in our village.

Josie has come all the way from Didcot and was for many years a sister in the Church Army before she became an ordained priest.



FREDA PALMER

by Ann Webb

Freda lived from 20th March 1916 to 8th February 2005, mostly in this part of England and through her later years in Drayton. She was a stalwart supporter of the Chronicle, both as a writer and an area agent, sometimes looking after several roads at the same time. She will be greatly missed.

Freda was born in Oxford, one of two children, the other a boy. On leaving school, she trained as a French Polisher. She married twice and had two sons, John who lives in America and David who lives on the south coast. Her first grandchild christened her 'Nin' for Nan, so Nin Palmer was her name to many of her family to follow.

During her second marriage she lived in a small cottage on the Green in Sutton Courtney, where she bred border collies, together with cats, rabbits and chickens. But this life was lost to Freda when her second husband sadly died.

After two years on her own, Freda began something very different. She started taking in unmarried mothers, seeing them through difficult times with help and security, moving on later to take in whole families in a desperate state. Freda's house was never empty. Later still she moved onto fostering, but not the relatively easy path of small children for Freda. She took in teenagers, the ones that were classed as difficult cases. However, I was told by one of her long-term children that 'she might have been little but, when she spoke, we listened'. Over 25 years she gave 25 to 30 children a haven and some security for between a few weeks and many years. As her foster family grew she moved to Town Close, a larger council house, before she eventually retired in her seventies.

On retirement she moved to Drayton and a smaller house, where we she spent 15 (we hope happy) years. Freda's leisure time was then spent being an active member of Sutton Courtney W.I. and latterly of Drayton W.I. as well.

Concluded on page 6

Also in this Issue:

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p7: Almshouse vacant

p4: Introducing Josie Midwinter

p10: Councillor's expenses

p6: Root and Branch

p11: Nuisance teenagers

DRAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Ever wondered what YOUR Parish Council does?
Then come along to the ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY.

7.30pm on MONDAY 4 APRIL 2005

at the CAUDWELL DAY CENTRE

Followed by the Parish Council Meeting.



EVERYONE WELCOME!



CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The **April Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Thursday, 24 March 2005** from **Margaret Armstrong, 1 Crabtree Lane, (531122)**, who should be contacted by any Agents requiring copies additional to their allocation.

The Editor will be **Tony Holmes, 53 Whitehorns Way (531180)**. Contributions should be emailed to the issue editor or placed in the Chronicle letter box, which is outside Vickery's hardware store on Drayton Green,

no later than 5.15 pm on Monday, 14 March 2005.

After this deadline, only urgent items will be considered for inclusion and then only if emailed or delivered directly to the Editor's house 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:
May	18 April 2005	29 April 2005
June	16 May 2005	27 May 2005
July	20 June 2005	01 July 2005

NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

Contributions to the Chronicle are most welcome. Please be sure always to include your name, address and (in case clarification is necessary) telephone number. Without names we will usually not print an item at all.

A contribution can be sent to us in one of several ways:

1. By **email** to the relevant editor. These contributions should either be in **plain text** or attached as a **rich-text** or **Microsoft Word** document; we do not have all word processing packages! 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" diskette**, 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 quality, fairly large, simple black typescript**, **without underlining** on white A4 paper or smaller. Our optical character recognition software can read typescripts but only imperfectly, especially if the typeface is elaborate or small.

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

For a single Block Advert (about 1/12th 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 adverts are charged at **half** the above rates, **double-size** at **twice** the above rates.

All requests must be accompanied by cash or 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 FEBRUARY LOTTERY

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	1329	J Pimm, 57, Steventon Road	Janet Dale
£20	1837	Mrs Devlin 130, Whitehorns Way	Terry Arnold
£15	0534	John Gillies 116, Abingdon Road	Margaret Armstrong
£10	1031	John Stiff 9A, High Street	Mary Alexander
£10	2029	Mrs Milne 64, Whitehorns Way	Daphne Barrand
£10	0024	Mrs Pitts 63, Abingdon Road	Jane Henderson
£10	1148	Mrs Akers 4, Marcham Road	Sheila Cook
£10	1421	Mrs King, 5, Haywards Road	Judith Dunster
£10	1488	Lois Rennells, 22 Meadowside, Abdn	Sarah Church
£10	1399	Mr Giles 3, Binning Close	Judith Dunster

The winning tickets were drawn by Staff and Customers at "Sabinas" the Hairdressers, from the 2227 tickets sold



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YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor,

It is exactly a year now since we moved to the peace and tranquillity of The Brecon National Park from The Milton Road. We would like to wish all our friends and colleagues in Drayton a peaceful and happy Easter.

A special thank you to Sally Dixon for keeping us up to date with the Drayton news by sending us The Chronicle.

Mick and Wendy Madley.

Dear Editor,

Through the Chronicle I would like to send my grateful thanks to family and friends for the many cards, flowers and good wishes I received on the occasion of my 90th birthday.

My deep gratitude goes to my family for the wonderful luncheon party they gave me. Their organisation goes almost beyond belief in managing to get over 60 of my children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren (plus 1 great-great grandchild) there from many parts of the UK, some travelling long distances. I didn't realise until now just how much my family thinks of me. It was also lovely to see relatives and close friends who came during the afternoon for birthday cake and a drink. It was a wonderful, memorable occasion - worth reaching 90 for!

My love to them all.

Pansy Smith

Dear Sir,

This is just a reminder to people to sort out their old village photos and to copy precious ones. We hope to collect and show them in the Village Hall later in the year, maybe in September. Hopefully we can publish a book later, mostly of photos with captions. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Judy Henman and Theresa Taylor

Dear Editor,

We are pleased to announce the arrival of our second grandchild Mia Elizabeth, a daughter for Glenn and Liz, on 9th February 2005. All our love and congratulations to you both from Dad, Mum, Lisa, Tom, Sara, Mark, Emma, Olivia & Freddie.

Barbara and Tony Warwick

Dear Chronicle Readers,

A picture was found down Crabtree Lane just before Christmas. It's of two children in school uniform. If it is yours I handed it into MACE STORE in Drayton and it is in the window.

Also, if you have had a garden bench seat stolen from your garden then go to the Millennium Green. I noticed someone has thrown one into the wildlife pond.

Janet Strong

Editor's note:

The garden seat was in the pond for some time but is now on the bank in front of the pond. Nick Hamilton, Chairman of the Millennium Green Trust, says he is always looking for volunteers either to work on the Green or be involved on the management committee. Please tell the Chronicle if you can help.

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NEWS OF THE CHRONICLE

Geoffrey Long

Another of our long-serving Area Agents has decided that the time has now come to claim a well earned retirement. Sheila Cook, agent for the Green, Gravel Lane and Caudwell Close, started as an agent in the days of the Hall News, over 30 years ago. That is a lot of Chronicles – I estimate around 15,000 pushed through doors and at least as many lottery tickets sold, not to mention the pairs of shoes worn out. We must all be grateful to Sheila, and to so many like her, who have given so much time and effort to supporting the Chronicle as an agent over the years. Many, many thanks from all of us in Drayton for all you have done, and enjoy your retirement!

That leaves us needing to find a replacement. There must be some satisfaction to be found in the job when stalwarts are happy to keep going for so many years. Sheila herself says she has enjoyed being an agent, even in spite of those days when it's cold and raining and lottery tickets are waiting to be sold.

Offering to be an agent certainly does not commit you to a 30-year stint. You don't even necessarily have to live in the area, although being an agent does help you to get to know your neighbours that bit better. If you feel that you could help and would like to know more about what is involved please call me on 531321, without any commitment at this stage. Besides this agency, following the sad loss of Freda Palmer, there are vacancies in Lyford Close West and Lyford Close East. Gerald Redman has most helpfully been acting as temporary agent but this arrangement cannot continue indefinitely. Volunteers are also needed to help with selling lottery tickets in Fisher Close, Steventon Road (part) and Hilliat fields (part)

There is another option that readers might like to consider along with their neighbours – that is to form a local 'syndicate' of two or three, or even more, to share the job of agent through the year on a rota system. Some agencies already operate very satisfactorily in this way – why not organise a similar arrangement in your area?

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ST PETER'S CHURCH

Priest in Charge	Revd Sister Josie Midwinter.....	531374
Licensed Lay Minister	Dr Peter Barton	523702
Churchwardens	Mr Peter Cline	530519
	Mrs Sue Harris.....	848361
Organist & Choirmaster	Mr Adrian Thompson.....	01865 714801

REGULAR SERVICES

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

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Sunday	10.00 am	Sunday Pebbles and Rocks	Church Room
Monday	7.45 pm	Bell Ringing Practice	Bell Tower
Alternate Fridays	7.00 pm	Choir Practice (fortnightly)	Church Room

CALENDAR FOR MARCH

Tues 1st	3.00 pm	First Tuesday Connections	Church Room
Sat 5th	10.30 am	Action Aid Coffee Morning	Church Room
Sun 13th	6.30 pm	St Peter's UNLimited	Church Room
Tues 15th	8.00 pm	Annual Church Meeting	Church
Sun 20th	11.15 am	Sale of Fair Trade Goods	Church

PARISH REGISTER

Burial of Ashes

10th January Dorothy Ellen Richards

YOU STAY - WE PRAY

27 Feb – 5 March: High Street; Chiers Drive; Cheers Farm; Halls Close; 6 – 19 March: Lockway; Whitehorns Way; 20 – 26 March: Corneville Road; Crabtree Lane; Lesparre Close; 27 Mar – 2 Apr: Drayton Road; Milton Road; New Cut Mill; Fisher Close; Marcham Road; Meads Close; Rippington Court; Stone Hill

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Letter from the Rev Sister Josie Midwinter

Dear Friends

It is good to have this opportunity to introduce myself to the people of Drayton. I am not new to the local area as I was born in Wantage and grew up in Didcot where I attended All Saints church with my family. In 1968 All Saints PCC recommended me for training with the Church Army. The Church Army is an organisation within the Church of England which is involved in evangelism and social work (rather like the Salvation Army). I did a three year training and was commissioned in 1971 and I am still a member of the Church Army which is why I have 'Sister' in my title and I am often addressed as 'Sister Josie' especially by the children.

From 1971 to 1984 I worked as a Parish Sister in three different parishes. A good deal of my work was with children and young people as well as dealing with general parish work. I then went to Kabale in Uganda to work at the Bishop Barham Divinity College. I spent nearly eight years there as a tutor in Church History and Christian Education. I was also part-time chaplain at a girl's secondary school and I co-ordinated the work of Church Army across the whole of Uganda.

I was then invited by the Church Army Africa to go and take up the post of Dean of the Church Army Training College in Nairobi. I was asked to help the college upgrade and also train someone to take on the role of Dean after I left. This I was able to do in the four years I spent there.

As I contemplated returning to UK I decided I needed something of a rest before taking up another appointment. So I took a year out and did an M.A. in Celtic Christianity at the University of Wales in Lampeter. This was a very interesting and rewarding time.

Then in 1998 I became the curate/Associate Vicar at All Saints church with special responsibility for the Ladygrove Church. I had been ordained deacon in Uganda and was now ordained priest by the Bishop of Reading. It has been very challenging to work on a growing estate, but the great strength has been the ecumenical dimension and the willingness of the people of Ladygrove Church to make it work.

I am very much looking forward to getting to know people of Drayton and working with you in the life of the church and the village.

Yours sincerely,

Josie Midwinter

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BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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.

FORTHCOMING SERVICES:

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| Mothering Sunday Family Service | 6th March 11.30am |
| Maundy Thursday Evening Communion | 24th March 7.30 pm |
| Good Friday Worship at the Cross | 25th March 10.30am |
| Good Friday United Service on the Green | 25th March 6.00pm |
| Easter Sunday Evening | 27th March 6.00pm |

EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME

Our collection for the tsunami appeal was £231.00.

We would like to thank Mrs Norma Russell for being our Home Visitor for so many years.

'BEHOLD THY MOTHER' MOTHERING DAY SERVICE will be led by Janet Strong 6th March 11.30 am

When Jesus was dying on the cross he looked at his mother, and then spoke to John his disciple and said " behold thy mother". As he was dying on the Cross, these were the caring last words to his mother. Although he was the Son of Mankind who came to save, he also was the son of his earthly mother Mary. As he looked at his mother and loved her, he realised her pain as she watched her son dying. He spoke these soft words found in St Johns Gospel chapter 19: v26 ..."Dear woman, here is your son" and to the disciple, "Here is your mother". From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. In other words, he was giving his mother into the care of his friend John, making sure that she was cared for after he was gone. He was the Lord and God of us all, but he knew well how important a mother's love was and what a precious gift it was.

Happy Mothers Day, to Mothers everywhere.

Have you ever wondered why they call it GOOD FRIDAY, perhaps you are wondering what was good about a day like this, when Jesus, who was so kind and loving, had to suffer so much on that cruel cross. Everything that happened on that dark Friday was for our GOOD. He took hate and evil and changed it into pure LOVE and won victory over death, making that Friday a GOOD FRIDAY. Do you remember these verses from the hymn "There is a green hill far away"?

We may not know, we cannot tell
What pains He had to bear.
But we believe it was for us
He hung and suffered there.

He died that we might be forgiven,
He died to make us good,
That we might go at last to heaven
Saved by His precious blood.

Janet Strong



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NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

We welcome Kirsty and Edward Darter to Whitehorns Way from Abingdon.

Also now in Whitehorns Way, welcome to Haylie and Greg Lester, who already lived in Drayton.

Welcome to Eve and Barry Sharp, who have moved into Steventon Road from Kent.

Also into Steventon Road, greetings to Matthew Lowry and Niccy Rivers, together with Jamie, Daniel, Sarah and Tania

Yet more greetings, this time to Julia, David and family who have moved to High Street. We hope they too will be very happy here.

A final welcome, albeit belated but no less warm, to Natasha, Archie and Hugh who have also come to live in High Street.

We also send them our congratulations on the arrival of Max, born on 11th February.

And our congratulations to Dale and Vanessa Andrews in Whitehorns Way, on the birth of their first baby, James.

Yet more congratulations to Andrew and Michelle Ainscough in the High Street on the safe arrival of a daughter Amelia Hope.

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ROOT and BRANCH

Liz Clarke

Root & Branch is a therapeutic horticulture project for people with mental health difficulties living in the Vale of White Horse. It is based on an organic farm in the beautiful countryside close to Watchfield. Staff, volunteers and gardeners work together on a range of gardening and rural craft related activities. The project aims to enable people to develop self-esteem and confidence, and improve mental health, in a non-pressurised environment.

We are currently recruiting volunteers to help with various aspects of the day to day running of Root & Branch, including administration, publicity, gardening, art and crafts, fund-raising and special events.

Volunteers are not required to have previous experience or skills in any of the above areas; however an ability to work with people and a willingness to learn about mental health is essential. In return, Root & Branch can offer you the chance to work as part of a friendly, relaxed team, and the opportunity to become involved in interesting and varied work.

We regularly host public events, and our next one will be a 'Wildlife Day' on 10th April 2005, from 11am – 3pm. During the day, people will be invited to get involved in a wide range of garden-related activities, including how to create and maintain a wildlife pond, different composting techniques, constructing bird and bat boxes, pole and electric lathe demonstrations, bee keeping, and willow weaving. Various wildlife and gardening organisations have been invited to attend, including Plantlife, Oxford Bat Group, Oxford Animal Rescue and Coleshill Organic Gardens.

The day will be great for young and old and costs only £2/adult, £1/concession or child over 12, free for children under 12. If you would like further information about referrals to Root & Branch, volunteering, or events, please contact the Manager (Liz Clarke) on 01793 780380.

FREDA PALMER

⇒ Continued from the front page.

She took part in the drama groups and entered craft competitions - an entry of her knitted dolls in last year's W.I. 'Grow, Cook and Sew' Show won her a first prize. Cakes were produced for the many village functions - but her real talent was for writing.

Her family connection to William Shakespeare was her inspiration and quite a lot of her work won competitions at both county and national level. She has various entries in books, written about her early life in bygone days.

Freda may have left this life but her words live on. Good-bye Frieda, gone but not forgotten by your family.

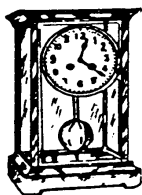
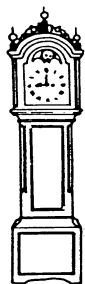
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ACTION AID QUIZ NIGHT

Andrew Gould

In September 2005 I will be on a two weeks trek in the Himalayas. The purpose is to raise funds for ACTION AID.



ACTION AID is one of the UK's largest international development organisations, helping poor people in over 30 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. It is committed to working for a world without poverty in which every person can exercise their right to a life of dignity. It is currently heavily involved in the Tsunami Disaster relief effort

As part of my fund raising efforts to pay for the trip and to raise funds for ACTION AID I am running a Quiz Night on Friday 8th April. This will be at **Drayton Primary School starting at 7.30pm**. There will be table nibbles and a raffle during the evening. The cost will be £12.00 per team (maximum 4 persons). For those who have attended the Table Tennis Club quizzes it will be a similar format.

Please ring 01235-531328 to enter.

If you are unable to attend the quiz but would like to contribute to ACTION AID please also ring the above number.

TSUNAMI FUND RAISING

Lesley Lovell

Everyone has been shocked by the dreadful effects of the Asian Tsunami but if you have friends and relatives living in the area it is even worse.

Mohammed Mustak, the owner of the Blue Ginger Restaurant in Steventon, has got together with Colin Patching, the Vicar and a few of the Village residents to hold a Fund Raising Day.

This will be held in Steventon Village Hall on Sunday 13th March and will include displays, activities, a raffle and optional buffet meals provided by the Blue Ginger. Tickets are available at the Blue Ginger, Steventon Co-op, Margarets Slaymakers shop and Munchies.

This is a unique opportunity not only to raise funds for the people affected by the disaster but also for the people of the various villages to gather socially. Please support this event and do buy your tickets in advance so that we have some idea of the numbers.

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KYOTO and our climate

Derek Pooley



Kyoto is a beautiful old Japanese city, some 250 miles south west of Tokyo, quite close to Osaka. For 1000 years from about 800 AD it was the imperial capital. Its glorious old buildings were mercifully spared the devastation rained on Tokyo – and of course on Hiroshima and Nagasaki – by American bombers at the end of World War II.

Kyoto has been much in the news lately because of a meeting there in 1997, which led to the 'Kyoto Protocol' on reducing our impact on the earth's climate. It committed the industrialized countries, including ours, to reducing emissions of six greenhouse gases by an average of 5% from 1990 levels by 2012. This, they thought at Kyoto, would at least be a start.

The best-known greenhouse gas is carbon dioxide, produced by all of us whenever we use our central-heating boiler or our car, whenever we use electricity or take an aircraft journey. It is certain that we have caused carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to increase greatly over the last 100 years and it is certain that, in doing so, we have caused the earth to be warmer than it otherwise would have been. What was not certain in Kyoto in 1997 was how big this greenhouse effect would be, whether it could even be detected against the natural fluctuations of climate, and whether its impact would be benign or damaging.

But climate experts now increasingly agree that the effect will be significant, that it will probably be damaging to many countries and might even be catastrophic for us all. Those countries that espoused the Kyoto protocol were probably farsighted. Sadly the biggest polluter of today (the USA) and the biggest polluters of tomorrow (China and India) did not, because meeting the Kyoto commitments is troublesome and expensive. Britain might succeed but not many countries will.

We personally can help a little by switching off unnecessary lights, by getting a plumber to install an energy-efficient condensing boiler or by buying smaller cars, preferably with more efficient diesel engines. Most important of all - by supporting our government when it tries to encourage people to use less fuel by taxing it more heavily!!

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WOODEN SPOON RECIPE

Lois Rennells

No. 7 (from March 1974): Chicken with Ginger

4 chicken joints, 2 tablespoons oil *

2 oz butter, 1 oz seasoned plain flour

1 large sliced onion, ¾ pint chicken stock

¼ lb. button mushrooms, 1 level teaspoon ginger

2 level teaspoon French mustard,

2 tablespoons medium sherry, 4 tablespoons single cream

Seasoning and chopped parsley

Heat the oil and butter together. Coat the chicken joints in the flour and fry in the oil mixture to brown.

Remove the chicken to a large casserole dish. Fry the onion, until beginning to brown and soften, then add the ginger and mustard to the pan. Remove pan from heat and stir in the stock and sherry. Gradually bring back to boil and pour over the chicken.

Sauté the mushrooms and add to the casserole. Cook for 1 ½ hours in a slow oven.

Blend 4 tablespoons single cream with a little of the stock from the casserole and mix in.

Return to the oven for 15 minutes. Garnish with parsley.

* *The boned chicken breasts and thighs popular now may not have been so readily available in 1974 (if at all). Obviously if using those, the cooking time will be shorter.*

FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS

Jean Hager

Are you feeling lonely, isolated or in need of friendly company for whatever reason? Why not come along to our monthly tea and chat afternoons? They are held on the first Tuesday of the month in St Peter's Church Room from 3 pm to 4:30 pm and you are invited to drop in during these times. The teapot is always at the ready and you can be sure of a warm and sympathetic welcome.

Our next two dates are 1st March and 5th April when we look forward to meeting old friends and new. If you would like transport or further information, please call me on 531 558.

VACANT ALMSHOUSE

Rosemary Allen

Applications are invited for an almshouse in Sutton Courtenay. Preference will be given to elderly widows with a connection to that village, but other applicants will be considered.

For further information please contact Mrs. R. Allen 01235 848667.

ALL AROUND

DRAYTON WIVES

Margaret Long

Our first ever afternoon meeting on Wednesday January the 26th, proved to be a rip roaring success with twenty-seven of us thoroughly enjoying ourselves. Our speaker, Mr Norman Francis, gave us a really stimulating talk on 'The Mitford Girls', Nancy, Diana, Pam, Jessica, Unity and Deborah – the highly talented and beautiful daughters of Lord and Lady Redesdale. They were all very diverse – their political views even more so, varying from fascism and Hitler worship to communism. Four of them were talented writers and the parental woes of the Redesdales must have been very severe at times. Delight and tragedy were felt in equal measure, including losing their only son right at the end of the Second World War. The speaker galvanised us into asking lots of questions and finally presented us with two large boxes of fruit and nut specialities. A splendid afternoon.

We hope to be able to organise several outings during the summer months of June, July and August. Watch this space for more news.

Dates for your diary in March: -

Mon 7th	10.30	COFFEE	Neen Priestnall, 9 Marcham Rd.
Mon 21st	7.15	WHIST	Janet Hendy. Caudwell D C
Wed 30th	2.00	MEETING	John Woolley, <i>Village Bobby</i> – <i>His involvement with the Great Train Robbery</i>

W.I.

Doreen Buckland

Our February meeting was well attended. After the business meeting; thanks were given to the ladies who arranged the excellent meal at the Wagon & Horses in Culham for the January meeting. Members were also told of the sad news at the death of Freda Palmer, a long time member of the W.I. Our speaker for this month was Mr John Woolley, talking about the great train robbery in 1963. The evening finished with a Bring & Buy sale in aid of the Tsunami disaster appeal. We are still holding our coffee mornings in the Cauldwell Day Centre in aid of PACE. The next one is on March 12th, 10.30 to 12.00. The next W.I. meeting will be on March 10th in Drayton Hall, with a bring and share supper. New members always welcome.

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ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Pearl Stanbridge

Please "HELP US TO HELP THEM" by supporting our annual Easter Draw. All proceeds donated to the Royal Star and Garter Home.

The branch will be commemorating the 60th anniversary of the end of W.W.2. on Sunday 10 July. Full details will be published nearer the date, so we hope you will keep this date free and join us on this special day.

The next committee meeting will be held on Easter Draw night Monday 21 March at 7.30pm.

BOWLS CLUB

Roll up

Finals Day, organised by Val and Lyndon Locke, was held on Sunday 5th December. Results were as follows:

- Ladies Singles for the Derrick Messenger Trophy - Winner - Jean Mullins, Runner up - Olive Brown;
- Rose Bowl Triples – Gillis Tate, Jim Waller, Bryn Jones;
- Didcot Windows Open Singles - Winner - Tony Wright, Runner up – Norman Hopkins;
- John Berry Fours - Winners Avril Holmes, Pam Leather, Ron Glead, Norman Hopkins.

In their respective Leagues the three teams continue to do well. The Rollers are 2nd, the Wasps midway and the Hammers valiantly, striving near the back end. Well done to you all.

New members are welcome Monday and Thursday afternoons and Wednesday evening.

Any enquiries to Chairperson, Doreen Jones.

TODDLER GROUP

Anna Loughlin

Toddlers are very pleased to welcome some new mums, dads and toddlers to the group. It's lovely to see some new faces!

On Tuesday, 1 March, the photographer, (Tempest Under 5) has been booked to snap our cherubs. It's a great opportunity to have wonderful, reasonably priced photographs taken.

Toddlers will be raising money for Red Nose Day on Tuesday, March 8 and Thursday, March 10. Get in the mood and wear something red!

Easter is just around the corner and Easter Egg Hunts are planned for Tuesday 22 and Thursday 24 March. Come and enjoy!

Toddler group runs on Tuesday and Thursday between 9.30 am and 11.30 am at Drayton Hall. Please come along and investigate or call Anna on 206170 to find out more! Everyone is welcome!

MORE ALL AROUND

PRE-SCHOOL GROUP

Anna Loughlin

As usual, the Spring term has been a busy and exciting one for the Pre-school children. The children ate pancakes on Shrove Tuesday (expertly flipped by Christine!) To celebrate Chinese New Year, the children sampled prawn crackers and made wonderful Chinese Lanterns and Rooster ornaments to commemorate the year of the Rooster!!

Pre-school had an OFSTED inspection in December and the overall report was "brilliant". Well done to all the staff that work so hard and received the credit they deserve!

Pre-school's Open Day will be on 18 March. The theme this year is *rabbits*! Please bring along your favourite cuddly rabbit to share your picnic lunch. A fun time is guaranteed and of course, this is the perfect opportunity to find out more about Pre-school and see what's on offer!

Pre-school is due to lose as many as 22 children in September, 2005, as they begin reception class at Primary school. Places are therefore available from September for new children. Pre-school is open for children from the age of 2½ so please come and visit us on Open Day or ring to make an appointment on (01235) 536094.

Lots of fundraising is going on! The Valentines cake sale took place on Friday, February 11. Everyone was really generous and the cakes looked and tasted delicious. Thanks to Adele for the donation of a garden voucher. It will go towards buying seeds and plants for the children to grow and explore. The Persil Stars collection is still going strong and we have placed our first order! Fantastic...keep them coming in! Also, Red Nose Day is in March and activities are planned...watch this space!

Thanks go to Annette and David who fixed the ramp outside pre-school and to Dave Hudson for the Health and Safety check. Jobs still need to be tackled. Is there anyone that could help with some much-needed repairs?

Thanks to everybody who enjoyed an evening out at the Red Lion. It was great to see so many faces and a good night was had by all!

Our Treasurer Tina continues to do a fantastic job, but will step down when her son goes to school. Is there anyone interested in taking up this position? If so, please get in touch with Tina. ⇨

⇨ Finally, a reminder that term ends on Friday, 1 April. Children will also not attend on Friday 25 March and Monday 28 March, as it's the Easter weekend.

SCHOOL REPORT

Claire Soper

The children and staff have just returned from a weeks holiday to start Term 4, it seems impossible that we are already half way through the school year, time flies when you're having fun!!

Reception and Year 1 have been doing lots of work based on the story 'We're Going On A Bear Hunt'. This has included finding out about Polar Bears. The children also enjoyed making pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and chose different toppings. Year 1 and 2 have a student teacher James Bell working with them. They are also grateful to Judith Dunstar who supports them as a volunteer helping with reading. School would be very pleased to hear from other people who could spare some time to listen to children read. The class have learnt a lot about forces and movement from devising their own experiments. The Middle Unit will be visiting Sulgrave Manor on 4th March as part of their topic on Tudor life; they have also designed their own Tudor houses. The children recently enjoyed an 'Artist in Residence Day', when Mrs Whiting worked with them. They looked at the differences between 16th and 20th Century portraits and produced some stunning results, which have been displayed around the school. The Upper Unit continue working on their World War 2 History topic, this has included a 'History Day' when Mr Smith a local collector of War Memorabilia visited school bringing artefacts for the children to handle, investigate and sketch. The children have worked on pencil and charcoal drawings in the style of Picasso's 'Guernica' pictures.

Cycling Proficiency training is due to start this term for the older children, and members of Abingdon Fire Service will be training to become Instructors alongside the children. The School Council had a visit recently from a Road Safety Officer; they are planning to arrange more visits to school to spread the message to everyone. In preparation for the Energy Saving Week the whole school is working on individual pledges to help the environment, which will be displayed on footprints around the school. For example, did you know that leaving your T.V. on standby uses as much energy as when it is on?

The Senior Football Team has been very successful again finishing top of the table, unbeaten, with 57 goals for and only 3 goals against. Well done to everyone!! The Year 3/4 Football Team are currently taking part in some friendly matches in order to gain experience of competitions. They played extremely well in their first match against Wootton in spite of their 5-0 defeat, well done to Jordan, Ben, Toby, Seth, Michael, Charlie, Sam, Leo and 'Man of the Match' Shaun. Thanks must go also to Richard and Rachel Seamark for their ongoing support and dedication to the teams.

F.O.D.S.A. can report that further funds have been spent on redecorating the school hall during the holiday. The next fundraising event will be an Adult Quiz Nite on Friday 18th March (see advert on page 12 for more details); there will also be a Family Disco for school families on Friday 1st April. Fundraising last term for the Tsunami and Sudan Appeals totalled £519.00 altogether, thank you to everyone who supported the Bottle Tombola and Table Top Sale it was a brilliant result. A VERY BIG THANK YOU to everyone who recycles their aluminium waste through Vickeries, the last collection raised a magnificent sum of £74.00 for F.O.D.S.A.

We have recently acquired information about recycling INKJET CARTRIDGES, which can also be converted into cash for school. Anyone who has access to any of the following used cartridges can either bring them to school or phone 531632 if they need to be collected.

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<p>Mrs Suzy Willis MCSP SRP CHARTERED PHYSIOTHERAPIST Old Lodge, Henleys Lane Drayton, OX14 4HU Tel 01235 531269 <i>Please ring for an appointment</i></p>
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COUNCIL REPORTS:1

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Grahame Ash

Firstly may I apologise for not submitting my report for last month. This was due to illness.

Barton Garage Planning Application

This saga has been running for about five years. The sixth application was heard on the 31st January. This time it was for 2 x 2 bed semi-detached houses and 4 x 3 bed terraced houses at the front of the plot. The previous application was regarded as unacceptable on height and also as having an adverse impact on the character and appearance of the area. This, I recall, essentially related to the dormer windows. The new plans omit the dormer windows in the smaller semis. They do, however retain the dormer windows in the terraced properties fronting the road. The height has been reduced. My personal opinion is that this planned 3 storey dwelling (including the dormers) is still out of character in the village. The Planning Committee decided otherwise and unanimously agreed the application.

Licensing Fees

Another aspect of licensing fees which has had little coverage in the media recently is the cost. An article in the Local Government (LG) magazine welcomed the government's making concessions on the level of licensing, but remains concerned over a predicted shortfall of funding. Whilst cost of the new licence will be significantly increased, local authorities will have to fund the administration, inspection and enforcement of the new law. The LG Association said the government's fee levels were still unlikely to cover all the costs. The extra costs will have to be met by the council taxpayers (again.)

Expenses

Whilst on the issue of cost containment and with recent publicity given to MPs expenses, I thought you may be interested to learn of such details for District Councillors. I can claim 40.2p per mile for car travel expenses and up to £91.04 if I stay overnight from my home. Such absences would cover meetings for council conferences, although I personally have never made a claim for anything other than car travel. Compare this to the MPs. They are entitled to car mileage allowance of 57.7 p per mile; MPs aged over 50 who lose their seat after two terms are paid a year's salary (Councillors get nothing); there is also a payment of some £32k to wind up the office for a defeated MP. In addition there are the multiple benefits of using a second home. The top 5 MPs claimed over £150k each. One MP claimed over £24k on postage! For the record, the highest Vale expense claim for last year was £2.7k (incurred by the Leader of the council); mine came to under £10.

District councillors' expense claim entitlements follow the same rules as the Vale staff. District councillors have to satisfy the Inland Revenue to obtain relief on expenditure on the same basis as all employees – "wholly, exclusively and necessarily in the performance of their duties." To me that seems fair. Special rules are applied by the Inland Revenue to MPs expenses. Perhaps, considering the exorbitant cost of MPs' expenses, you can understand the reason for the Chancellor to move more costs onto the Councils!

District Council Tax

The Vale has set a 5% increase in council tax for 2005/6 which for a Band D property is £92.60 per annum. In 2004 the Vale had the eighth lowest charge for a district. In addition to the council tax set by the Vale there will be taxes set by Oxfordshire County Council, the Thames Valley Police Force and the Parish Council.

The Vale budget has been carefully planned to maintain as many high quality services as possible, while reducing some significant costs across the board, including some staff redundancies. ⇨

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⇨ The budgeted revenue savings for 2005-6 are £1m.

Key changes include:

Concessionary fares will only be maintained at the National Scheme level, which is to allow every person over 60 to a half price bus pass for local travel. The current concessionary fares scheme is becoming a far greater burden on all Council Tax payers and with effect from April 2005, travel tokens will be discontinued. (I am sorry to see this benefit ended for pensioners, but this scheme is over and above the statutory limit and is just not sustainable.) To help minimise any extreme inconvenience, the Vale will also support a new "dial-a-ride" service from April which will cater far better for the needs of older people in more remote parts of the district.

Replacement of the outdoor pool in Abbey Meadows with a new adult water feature (the council subsidised each swim last year by a staggering £5.42 per person; in addition over £40,000 is required to make the pool comply with current legislation.)

Better targeting of voluntary grants given by the Vale across the district. Grants currently cost the Vale almost three quarters of a million pounds. A hard look at this area is being undertaken.

The budget also takes into account the underfunding by the government in the work it has imposed and delegated to the district council. Much has been mentioned in earlier articles.

Sutton Wick Liaison Meeting (Update)

The planning application by Renewable Power Supplies Ltd to convert the present landfill gas into electricity was approved by the Oxfordshire County Council in January. (The OCC deal with Mineral extraction and Waste site planning applications.) Assurances were given by RPS that the noise from the generator and any residue gases will not be a nuisance to nearby residents.

Freedom of Information

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 will place councils under a new duty to disclose any information to anyone who demands it, unless the legislation designates it as exempt.

And Finally.....

The next surgery will be held at 9.00am at the Village Hall on Saturday March 5th. I look forward to meeting any Drayton residents who wish to come along and discuss their concerns.

Regards

Grahame Ash



COUNCIL REPORTS:2

PARISH COUNCIL

Daniel Scharf

Meeting on 10 January 2005

The Council discussed the unfortunate conclusions reached by the Boundary Commission that gave precedence to equalising voter numbers, downgrading the importance of local communities, and are looking to see if any of the other disappointed parishes would be interested in mounting a legal challenge.

Having been a very hot topic for a number of years (public meetings and public inquiry) the issue of the development at Manor farm and access across the Green has slipped off the radar. The Council's solicitor had reported on the price of the required changes to the Green but this is now lost in the bowels of Abbey House. Meanwhile the developers may have their eyes on the VWHDC Local Plan and the possibility of a larger development.

The Council is looking at changing the new swings for some more suitable for smaller children and the issue of dog bins. The Council is concerned and will be speaking to the Trust about when the promised refurbishment of the memorial on the Millennium Green will be started.

The timing of the January meeting was such that it was difficult not to reflect on the good fortune of the village in the light of the devastation in SE Asia, on top of the incessant suffering in parts of Africa. A tentative suggestion was made that the village could look at some form of 'twinning' to help in the reconstruction and development of a community in a less fortunate part of the world. This would stretch the resources of the current Council but could be progressed if more people were to come forward.

The Parish Council AGM will be held on 9 May and the public would be very welcome then and at the Parish Meeting on 4 April. The PC will have noted the letter from the Leader of OCC saying that the "Reservoir" is an inevitability given the scale of new development planned for the South East and 'housing numbers' is the subject of meetings held around the County. The PC will feel uncomfortable in providing comments on such large-scale developments that are likely to affect Drayton in the medium and longer term and would welcome greater participation from the residents. ⇨

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⇨ Meeting on 7 February 2005

Members of the public expressed concern about a group of children drinking alcohol in public places in the village, making a nuisance of themselves and leaving the evidence for others to pick up. A parish council cannot do more than ask the community policeman to make spot checks, but there was a feeling that some of these children may have parents who would be concerned about this if they knew it was going on.

The PC will be asking the County Council to respond to a request to have the road between the village and Abingdon speed limited to 40mph. Every villager is probably aware of the frequency of accidents along this stretch of road, some of which have clearly been the result of excessive speed. Being the most frequent users of the road, footpath and cycleway and being most at risk, a reduced speed limit should be in the interests of village residents, even if adding 15 seconds to the time for the journey.

Changes to all the entrances to the village are under discussion and could be part of a scheme to reduce the speed of traffic entering the village at locations where there are people crossing onto footpaths. Feelings about mini roundabouts, rumble strips, humps/cushions, flashing message signs and coloured tarmac can be addressed to the PC at any meeting.

Again on the transport theme, 23-27 May will be 'walk to school week'. The speed of traffic through the village may be one of the reasons why a special week is required to draw attention to an alternative to the 'school run'. For younger children the news is that there will hopefully only be a short further delay in changing the Lock Way swings.

After a short debate it was decided to pay the entry fee for the best-kept-village competition in the hope that an effort will be made to improve and maintain the village in the various ways that count towards this award.

Residents are warmly invited to the Annual Parish Assembly on 4 April to hear about the Parish Council activities during the year and something about what may be in store. The Council will have had a first meeting with Thames Water to discuss the reservoir proposals and will be sending views to the Regional Planning Body regarding growth in the SE of England. Drayton will need a full strength parish council in order to respond constructively to these major issues.

The next meeting will be held on 7 March at 7.30 pm at the Caudwell day Centre for members of the public to bring an issue for discussion or just to watch.

DRAYTON DIARY

FOR MARCH

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

Regular Events are listed opposite

Sat	5	9.00 am	Councillor G Ash surgery (until 10.00 am) Private Party	
Mon	7	7.30 pm	Parish Council	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
Mon	14	9.15 am	Chronicle Lottery deadline	<i>Vickery's</i>
		5.15 pm	Chronicle copy deadline	<i>Vickery's box</i>
Fri	18	7.30 pm	FoDSA Quiz Night	<i>School</i>
Mon	21	8.00 pm	Drayton Hall Committee	

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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>

WEDNESDAYS

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

THURSDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
	followed by lunch club and afternoon session	
9.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>St Peter's Lady Chapel</i>
9.30 am	Parent & Toddler Group	
9.50 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	<i>Haywards Rd</i>
10.15 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	<i>The Green Car Pk</i>
2.00 pm	Darby & Joan Club	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
4.00 pm	Dancing Classes (3 to 6 years). Tel: 764433	
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>
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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