

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Tony Holmes

Volume 28 No. 3

April 2005

I Came, ICENI, They Conquered

What a romp! What a delight! The **Drayton Players** have done it again – and with such an **impressive number of players of all ages**, wonderful stuff. I am sure that, in the true tradition of the Players, the cast enjoyed themselves as much, if not more, than the audience!

But what a let down! (when it's all over I mean) when it's back to normal and one can try and forget all those lines that had to be so thoroughly learnt, I think there was only one prompt, maybe twice. It seems to be such a shame always that when the peak is reached one finds it is not a plateau and the only way forward is down again. So much for being a West End Player I suppose when the play goes on for a season, maybe that is where some of our village talent will lead them one day – **many certainly deserve it.**

If there was any disappointment in the evening for me it had to be in the non-appearance of the chariot; the vision of Boadicea from my history lesson days with her wickedly whirling rampaging knife blades was not quite realised - I saw it in the poster, but not, I'm afraid, on the stage, despite a valiant effort on Jayne's part. Perhaps it was because the Players are so busy with their commitment to us of providing virtual non-stop high quality entertainment that there was just not time for such extravagance – perhaps it was just the limitations of our stage.

However, this is not to say that the staging was in any way bad, the use of the mini side-stage forward of the proscenium arch for the narration and philosophising was most convincing, leaving the main stage free for all the action. And **heaps of action** there was too! Lots of good stage craft, some very good in fact. The Players used the main stage to the full, apart from some crowd scenes where they tended to stay huddled at the back once the mid-stage curtain was drawn, but generally there was very good movement and very little masking. The appearance of the Oracle behind the back lit gauze screen was most convincing, really effective, and the later use of the same screen for the long march into battle was most impressive also.

Let's hope that a little more emphasis will be given to the central character next time 'Boudicca' is performed - on stepping stones to even grander venues maybe – but whenever it is done again, please, please keep those wonderfully wild women of the Icenii tribe, the exotic dancers, the soulful solo, the impertinence of the youngest talent, the pomp and circumstance of the emperor and his legionnaires, the really rural rustics of ancient Britain (some **great character parts** there), and the **most amazing costumes** (what a lot of work must have gone into those! - see page 3 for tribute).

What a **winning combination** with Richard Webber's inspired writing and Ed Russell's original evocative music.

All in all quite marvellous - maintaining standards is a difficult path to tread – we look forward with eager anticipation to the Players' next offering.
Geoff Caudle

DRAYTON ART GROUP

ANNUAL EXHIBITION & SALE OF WORK

CAUDWELL DAY CENTRE

SATURDAY 9TH APRIL 2 - 4 pm

RAFFLE, 'BRIC A BRAC' & CAKE STALLS

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THE DAMASCUS YOUTH BUS

WILL BE COMING TO DRAYTON FOR FOUR WEEKS STARTING ON THE 21ST MARCH PARKING IN THE VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK; ALL YOUNG PEOPLE OF SECONDARY SCHOOL AGE WELCOME!!

THE TRAX PROJECT

In response to requests from the young people we have booked the Trax Motor Project to run on Wednesday evenings from 20th April to 25th May. Each session is two hours long from 6.00 to 8.00pm.

The project is based on Go Karts. You will be dismantling and rebuilding the karts working in teams. You will also be doing some issue-based work on topics that are relevant to young people. We will be using Steventon Storage facility. On the last session you get the chance to be taken to the Cowley greyhound track to race. There are still spaces for this and we would like to **invite any one over 13 years old from Drayton** to join this exiting project.

For more information or to register your interest, please phone Caroline Grundy on 848679.

GET WRITING

Deddington Writers Group, in conjunction with Deddington Festival 2005, is organising a writing competition in three categories:-

short story (1500 words),

non-fiction (1000 words),

poem (up to 36 lines),

on the theme of **FESTIVAL**.

Entrants must be Oxfordshire residents. Entry fee:- £2 (**under-16** entrants in non-fiction and poetry categories, **free**).

Send SAE for full details and entry form to:- DWG Competition, 26 The Daedings, Deddington, Oxon OX15 0RT;

Or contact:- daeda@clara.co.uk **Closing date: April 16th.**

COMING CHRONICLES

The **May Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Friday, April 29th**, from **Shirley Thomas, 48, Henleys Lane, (531626)**, who should be contacted by any Agents requiring copies additional to their allocation.

The Editor will be **Geoffrey Long, Aeolian House, Chiers Drive (531321)**. Contributions may be e-mailed (see below), or placed in the Chronicle letter box, outside Vickery's store on Drayton Green,

NO LATER than 5.15 pm on Monday, April 18th 2005.

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

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

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

NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ADVERTISING RATES

For Block Advert (about 1/10th page)

Advertiser	Number of Inserts				Small Advert
Category:	1	3	6	12	per word
Drayton Resident	£4.00	£10.50	£21.50	£40.00	3p
Non-Drayton Resident	£5.00	£13.50	£27.00	£50.00	4p

Half-size block adverts are charged at **half** the above rates.

All requests must be accompanied by cash or a cheque made payable to 'Drayton Chronicle' (as we don't wish to waste time and effort trying to obtain them later!!!)

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

Phone Linda Semmens, our Advertising Manager (531180) to **discuss requirements** or e-mail linda.semmens@ntlworld.com

CHRONICLE LOTTERY

Daphne Samworth, Hon. Promoter

RESULTS OF THE MARCH LOTTERY

Prize	Winner	Agent
£25	Mr Buckle 19 Corneville Rd	Gerald Redman
£20	S Tappin 218 Steventon Road	Sarah Church
£15	Mr Allen 89 Drayton Rd, S'n Courtenay	Claire Soper
£10	Mr N Hamilton Sutton Wick Barn	Keith Clough
£10	Mr Wilkes 26 Corneville Road	Gerald Redman
£10	Mr G Humphries Hilliat Fields	Karen Jackson
£10	Mrs L Cole 16 Whitehorns Way	Jean Hager
£10	Mr L Durkin 25 Whitehorns Way	Trudi Buckner
£10	Mr A Wilson 85 High Street	Margaret Long
£10	Mrs M Smith 37 High Street	Margaret Long

Winning tickets, from a total of 2099 sold, were drawn by Parents of children at the Toddler Group. Corneville Road, Whitehorns Way & High Street all had pairs of winners.

THE FOLLOWING THREE MONTHS

Issue for	Copy for publication and return of Agents Lottery Packs by Monday:-	Chronicle published and available for distribution on Friday:-
June	16 May 2005	27 May 2005
July	20 June 2005	01 July 2005
August	18 July 2005	29 July 2005

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Priest in Charge:- Revd Sister Josie Midwinter531374

Licensed Lay Minister:- Dr Peter Barton523702

Churchwardens:- Mrs Sue Harris 848361
Mr Peter Cline 530519

Organist & Choirmaster :- Mr Adrian Thompson 01865 714801

CHURCH NOTICES

REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday	8.00 am	Holy Communion (CW Traditional).
	10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (CW) except 2nd Sunday, when a non-Eucharistic Family Service is held.
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer (CW).
Mon-Fri	8.15 am	Morning Prayer (CW) in Lady Chapel
Weds	10.30 am	Parents' & Toddlers' Service - Church Room
Weds	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer (CW) in Lady Chapel
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Sunday	10.00 am	Sunday Pebbles & Rocks	Church Room
Monday	7.45 pm	Bellringing Practice	Bell Tower
Friday	7.00 pm	Choir Practice (Alt'ate Fridays)	Church Room

CALENDAR FOR APRIL

Tues 5th	3.00 pm	1st Tuesday Connections	Church Room
Sun 10th	11.15 am	Sale of Fair Trade goods	
Sun 10th	6.30 pm	St Peters UN-Limited	Church Room

YOU STAY - WE PRAY

During this time we will pray for all the people who live and work in these roads:-

27 Mar – 2 Apr: Drayton Road; Milton Road; New Cut Mill; Fisher Close; Marcham Road; Meads Close; Ripington Court; Stone Hill

3 – 16 April: Steventon Road; Eastway; Eastway MHP

17 – 23 April: Church Lane; Henleys Lane; Caudwell Close; Gravel Lane

24 – 7 May: Abingdon Rd; Oday Hill; Binning Close; Haywards Rd

ST PETER'S CHURCH HOME-VISITING GROUP

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

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



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B G Purbrick

6 Greenacres, Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton,
Oxon. OX14 4JU
Tel: 01235 525218

Letter from St Peter's Church

Dear Friends,

As I look around my garden, and see the Spring flowers well on the way, it makes all the bad weather of the winter seem very far away. I always like Spring as it does have that way of making us look forward to the good things on the horizon.

I also know in my years of parish work that Spring is when parents start to think of Baptism for their children. It is always good to **welcome new children into the church** and baptism is one of the opportunities of doing that. If you are thinking along those lines then please do get in touch with me.

The best thing is to come along either to 'Pebbles' at 10:30am every Wednesday morning in term or to one of our Family Services which are at 10am on the second Sunday of the month. When you have made yourself known to me then I can arrange to visit you at home and explain all about the Baptism.

Baptism services will normally take place on the first Sunday in the month. This can either be in the 10am main Eucharist service, or in the afternoon. If the service is in the afternoon then we will invite you to come the following Sunday to the family Service to be welcomed by the church community and receive the Baptism certificate.

One of my first priorities at St Peter's is to develop the work among children and young people, and I am planning to re-start the Sunday morning children's work in the autumn and look towards some special events for children throughout the year. We have a club for young people called St Peter's *Un*Limited and I hope to develop that too.

It is very important that we invest time and effort into the young people of our community. Jesus was very concerned to see that he had time with children and said there would be a very heavy penalty for those who misled or abused them. He summed it up by saying: "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I assure you that whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter" (Mark 10:14 & 15). This then is a very important priority for us who follow Jesus.

Josie Midwinter

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ALL AROUND

DRAYTON WIVES

Margaret Long

Birthdays come but once a year, which seems a pity as we all enjoyed ourselves so much at the Wives' birthday lunch in February at the Steventon House Hotel, with congenial company and good food in pleasant surroundings. Roll on next year!

We have been happy to welcome a number of new members over the past year, and so do remember, **any of you ladies** who are feeling the **need of company**, you are sure of a **warm welcome** at the Wives' group, whatever your marital status - single, widowed, divorced, whatever...

Dates for your diary in April: -

Mon 4th	10.30	COFFEE	Margaret Long	Chiers Drive
Mon 18th	7.15	WHIST	Jean Taylor	Caudwell D C
Wed 27th	2.00	MEETING	<u>AGM</u>	followed by Quiz and Refreshments

Margaret welcomes you to **Sabina's**
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Mondays & Tuesdays & Saturdays 9.00am to 5.00 pm
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Thursdays 9.00am to 6.00pm, Fridays 9.00am to 7.00pm
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when appointments aren't necessary, so why not call in?*

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Senior Citizen discount 20% Monday - Thursday

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The Red Lion



MISSED OUT ON YOUR CHRONICLE?

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

W. J. TAYLOR & SONS

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HIGH STREET, DRAYTON

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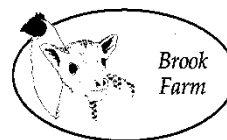
Telephone ABINGDON 531350

The ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Pearl Stanbridge

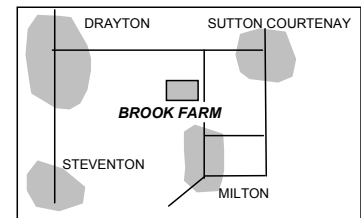
At our recent meeting, GRATEFUL THANKS were extended to all supporters of our EASTER DRAW, also the ticket SELLERS, and generous DONORS of prizes. Lists of prizewinners have been circulated.

The next Committee meeting will be on Monday 18th April at 8pm.

HAVE YOU TRIED OUR FREE RANGE EGGS?



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NEW OPENING HOURS..... Mon to Sat 9.00 am to 1.00pm,
Except Friday.....9.00am to 6.00pm

FREE RANGE EGGS, & POTATOES (if available)

Our own lamb available May to December

DRAYTON PLAYERS

Jean Hager

We are now all recovering from our various exertions of the past few months, coming to grips with the story of Boudicca and her stand against the might of Rome. **The Legend of Boudicca** was certainly a very interesting challenge, and Richard Webber (writer), and Ed Russell (composer) are to be congratulated on the finished result, seen in February by large and enthusiastic audiences.

We thank them for coming along and showing their appreciation, as we also thank all those other vital members not seen on stage. We had some new backstage crew members, and certainly felt the benefit of their added support.

As always, the costumes were splendid, mainly supplied by Georgia Alston, who did a lot of research to ensure authenticity. It may be useful to remind **anyone looking for an OUTFIT TO HIRE** that our wardrobe is now really extensive, with **very reasonable charges**. **Georgia (531425)** is always happy to give further information.

We are now having a breather before embarking on rehearsals for our October production; some plays are already being considered, there should be more news soon. February 2006 will see us tackling another musical, but again, there are no details yet.

During the Spring we are hoping to present a one-act comedy in an Area Drama Festival; this is a two-hander, first shown by us a few years ago and being revived for this event. It is our first such venture, and should prove an interesting experience.

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(MORE) ALL AROUND

Drayton Pre-School Group Anna Loughlin

Red Nose week was a brilliant success. The children loved it! Lots of money was raised and the children had lots of fun doing it! The staff made a huge effort, dressing up, painting their faces and sporting some weird and wonderful headgear...they certainly brought a smile to the parent's faces each morning!

The children also wore red clothes, decorated cakes, painted their faces and made their own version of the red-nose – watch out for it next year! Thanks to Annette for organising the Red Nose resources.

March 6th was Mother's Day and the children made some wonderful cards for their mums. Pre-school hopes you liked them and had a wonderful day, too! Look out for some photographs showing the children taking part in these activities.

Sadly, we say goodbye to Zeke and Kasia, who begin school after Easter. Good luck in your move to school!

Thanks to everyone who took part in the **Open Day** on 18 March. The children brought in their rabbits to share their picnic lunch. There was lots for the children to see and do! We hope you will consider sending your child to join us in September. Pre-school is open for children from the age of 2½ so if you missed the Open Day, please arrange to visit us by calling 01235 536094.



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Drayton TODDLER GROUP Anna Loughlin

Thanks to all the mums who brought and bought cakes to raise money for Red Nose Day. The children had lots of fun hunting for Easter eggs and, not surprisingly, the goodies were quickly demolished!

Some mums took opportunity of having their toddlers photographed at the beginning of March. The photos are always high quality and 9/10 times the children are smiling! For anyone who missed the photographer this time, Joy is booked again for **Tuesday Sept 20th**.

Also, **people are needed to open and close the hall** for Toddler sessions. If any of the new mums (or people who have not done this before) could assist, please speak to Anna or Kate. This would be greatly appreciated as only a few people do this at present.

Finally, we hope everyone enjoys the Easter break. **Toddlers will be closed** on Tuesday 5 April and Thursday 7 April.



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Letters to the Editor

The Editor reserves the right to shorten, clarify or reject any letter. Each letter must bear a legible name & address, and Tel. No in case any text needs verification.

FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS

DRAYTON W.I.

Doreen Buckland

Several of our members were absent from the March meeting due to illness and holidays. Our president gave out information from the W.I. federation concerning forthcoming events. After the meeting members enjoyed a bring and share supper.

This was also the AGM; all committee members agreeing to continue, and were voted in 'en bloc'.

We have raised over £700 for charity in the past year, most going to local good causes.

New members will always be made welcome, we meet on the third Thursday of the month.

If you're feeling **lonely, isolated or in need of company** for whatever reason, you are warmly invited to come along and join us for a cup of tea and friendly chat. We meet in St. Peter's Church Room, every month on the first Tuesday from 3 to 4.30 pm. **Just drop in for a while and try us out.**

If you have been hesitating about coming along to join us, why not contact me for a chat first and I can give you more details of our sessions. Our next two dates are April 5th & May 3rd, we **look forward to meeting you** then. If you need transport please call me (Jean Hager) on 531558.

BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Get Well Soon Katie :- Our thoughts and prayers are with Katie Robertson as she recovers after a very big operation on her back. We are all thinking of you, wish you a very speedy recovery and hope you will be out of hospital very soon. With love from all your friends at the Baptist Church, God Bless Katie.

Come and join us every Sunday – we look forward to seeing you.

Next Family Service is April 3rd at 11.30, leading the service **Phil Palmer**.

EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME

SIMON MURRAY MPTA CGLI M.I.M.I.T. N.T.C. DIPLOMA

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Tel: **01235 520290** email: info@keyminders.co.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

Congratulations to Karen and Mike on the birth of Kayleigh (Feb 27th), a sister for Emma and Becky. Our fifth beautiful grand-daughter, lots of love Mum, Dad and Mark Roberts.

And, re the same happy event, **congratulations** on the safe arrival of Kayleigh, our 3rd beautiful niece, lots of love from Tracey, Rikki, Leah and Elise.

And a **very warm welcome** to Yvonne and Andrew Stimpson, who have moved into Steventon Road, from Brize Norton.

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YOUR LETTERS

Drayton Art Group – Show & Sale

Dear Sir, Marcham Road

We look forward to the traditional support of visitors to our 12th annual Art Show and Sale, taking place this year on April 9th in the Day Centre.

We expect a lot of visitors, some of whom will possibly have heard of our huge montage, (each one of the group members has painted a section), of which we are all justifiably proud.

The usual stalls will be in place, together with the raffle and a tea-bar. The show will start at 2pm.

Yours Faithfully Eric Curtis

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It's Orange – and it's here

Dear Sir, High Street

During the festive season, over Christmas and New Year, some prankster(s) left a bright orange wheelbarrow in my front garden.

If anyone has 'lost' such a wheelbarrow, they can retrieve it by phoning me on 531426.

Yours Faithfully J Stiff

(Ed's note – perhaps a related incident to the ladder mentioned in the Jan Chronicle; maybe someone who had brief ambitions to be a builder?)



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RAFFLE

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A Keenly Felled Loss

Dear Sir, Magpie Cottage High Street

This letter is to let those in the village know that we had nothing to do with the removal of two trees (I might add just coming into flower) from the front of our house.

The council did not even have the courtesy to inform us so that we could appeal against this destruction, which I feel was not necessary, and has greatly upset me.

Yours Faithfully Teresa Taylor

(Ed's note – A firm called Heritage Tree Services, from Henley, has been working in the High Street recently, on behalf of the County Council; however, they said that they'd NOT felled any trees, merely pruning and trimming. Perhaps the Council acted separately?)



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School Fund-Raising

Dear Sir,

I would like to bring to the attention of Drayton villagers the recently established INKJET & LASER CARTRIDGE RECYCLING SCHEME at Drayton School. **Empty cartridges can be collected and recycled** to raise funds, in a similar way to the aluminium foil recycling at Vickery's.

I am **very grateful to Geoff Dix** who has kindly agreed to having a box in his shop for the purpose of collecting empty cartridges, the most valuable ones are the large commercial variety which I am sure are generally thrown away.

If anyone would like further information about the scheme I can be contacted on:- 531632.

Claire Soper (Chair of F.O.D.S.A.)

YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Council Tax

The council tax for year 2005/6 will increase by about 4.5% on the financial year ending 31st March 2005. The chief executive for the Local Government's Accountancy Association (CIPFA) said "the average (rise) had been kept down because of the increased government grant (to county councils) and the minister's threat to cap authorities implementing raises above 5%". It will be interesting to see if this level of increase is maintained in non-election years.

The Vale of White Horse District Council requested government permission to increase its rate slightly above 5%; (it is currently one of the lowest rates in the country). This application was refused. Some tough decisions had to be made by the district council to reduce costs. The effect will be felt across the board.

Tourist Information

As mentioned in a previous Chronicle article on the budget, the Vale will be replacing the tourist information centres in Abingdon, Wantage and Faringdon with alternative ways of delivering tourist information.

What has been identified over the last few years is the greater dependence on the internet for tourist information. Most people now book hotels and guest houses, and get local information via the web. The Vale has consequently changed with the times. It will be investing in improving its website as well as making such information available at local tourist information points. These are likely to be located in council offices and local shops and hotels.

Budget Savings on Grants

The awarding of grants has always been a difficult decision. Grants cost the council £733,000 each year. **Recent public consultation** indicated that **grants should be reduced in arts, economic and health development and sports**. The council is taking a hard look at providing grants and can deliver significant savings whilst maintaining support for local groups and community projects across the Vale. Area Committees, (local decision making bodies), will decide who gets specific grants. Responsibility has been given to them and they must apportion their grants at a level compatible with their budgets, whilst addressing their own priorities in their areas.

If any local organisations are expecting to request a grant in the next 12 months will they **please write to me at the district council offices** at Abingdon, outlining their claim **before the end of April**. I will then undertake to promote all reasonable claims.

Councillors Being Gagged

My concerns about local district councillors being banned from voting or even attending debates on their ward issues originated when I asked the Vale's lawyer over 12 months ago for his advice on my position regarding the possible Reservoir (mentioned in an earlier article). The Local Government Act (2000) saw local district councillors' responsibility increased and their authority undermined. My decision not to comply with the Act as a parish councillor led to me being banned from continuing as a parish councillor. I was not alone in taking this stand, and since that time the Parish Council has not been able to achieve a full quota of councillors.

The latest news is that **local councillors will be prevented** from voting on late licensing plans in their own wards, as they could be biased in favour of local people and/or interests. There have been councillors' letters highlighting this problem since a recent court case. Now an opposition MP has declared that the situation is such that in many cases, the voice of local people will be silenced and they will be unable to object (in this instance) to controversial new late licences. The suggestion is that this has been done deliberately to gag the say of local councillors to sideline local opposition.

Tesco

Tesco's have recently submitted a planning application to extend its store in Abingdon, near the A34. The good news is that it will provide more jobs, and the chance to have a better selection of goods under one roof. I am not so sure this is good news for their competitors and for many of the shops in the town centre.

Abingdon Shopping Centre (Use it or lose it)

From time to time, there have been a number of complaints directed at the district council to improve the Bury Street Precinct. This is largely a historical problem which the council has inherited.

Whilst the land is owned by the district council, it was leased by a previous administration to an insurance company. This company owns the head lease on all the shops there and also on some of the shops which front the Market square. The insurance company has the responsibility for letting the shops, and of maintaining the premises in the Bury Street Precinct. If it fails to adhere to this responsibility, then the district council has the right to intervene.

The Vale has been and still is concerned over the appearance of the Precinct, therefore is trying to develop a working relationship with the insurance company to improve the quality of the Precinct. This is proving difficult. To a certain extent this is understandable, for, as far as the insurance company is concerned, I would imagine, their main interest is their financial return on their investment.

Abingdon is going through a difficult time trying to keep the shops open in the market town. If more people purchase items at 'out of town' stores at the expense of the market town shops, then it is likely more of Abingdon town centre shops will close. This is basic business common sense and applies not just to Abingdon, but to all shopping centres. **It is a matter of use it or lose it.**

Planning (Again)

A recent application to erect three detached houses with garages and parking spaces on land at East Paddocks in Milton Road was rejected by the Vale. An appeal has been lodged by the applicant to the (Government) Planning Inspectorate to reverse the decision. The original grounds for refusal were that the new dwellings in the open countryside were away from any settlement and in an unsustainable location for new housing. This application was not in accordance with the Vale's Local Plan. I will advise you of the outcome.

And Finally.....

The next surgery will be held at 9.00am at the Village Hall on Saturday May 7th. (**No April surgery.**) I look forward to meeting any Drayton residents who wish to come along and discuss their concerns.

Regards

Grahame Ash

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PARISH COUNCIL (meeting Mar 7)

Three representatives from Thames Water were on hand to explain the progress which had been made in respect of their investigations into the possible reservoir development. A **report on this briefing** will be given by the Chairman at the annual parish meeting on 4 April for those interested in this **massive development on our doorstep**. Thames Water did seem to be keen to hear what the village may want out of the development if it went ahead and, presumably, the Parish Council will be central to this process.

Concern was expressed about the third dog bin that had been relocated near the Henleys Lane entrance to the Millennium Green. This is being looked at again but there does appear to be a problem that these bins are filled up to overflowing with unnecessarily large plastic bags within the scheduled emptying periods. Maybe using smaller bags could reduce this problem?

For younger readers, the saga of the swings at Lock Way is ongoing and will hopefully be resolved within the next month or two.

For those interested in traffic calming, it seems that variable message signs are not currently on offer (ex County Council). Nor will the entrance features include humps or bumps.

Opposition to the changes to the electoral boundaries has failed and the region is now part of south Abingdon for the purposes of the County Council elections. It will be up to village residents to ensure that their representative on the County Council is sensitive to the needs of the village as well as to Abingdon. The retiring member, Margaret McKenzie, was a regular attendee at parish council meetings. This is a tradition that the Parish Council would want to continue.

The Parish Council look forward to **seeing you all** at the **annual meeting** on April 4th, 7.30 at the Caudwell Day Centre (our local policeman should also be there)

Daniel Scharf

TSUNAMI DAY

I thought you might like to know how we got on, in our recent tsunami appeal day (at Steventon). We made just under £2,400 altogether, which both delighted and slightly surprised us. I had hoped we would hit the £1,000 mark; and speaking to others they wanted at least £1,500 so you can imagine how chuffed we were to find we exceeded it by so much.

Thanks

Lesley Lovell

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SOMETHING TASTY?

Wooden Spoon Recipe No. 8 - From March 1975

Rum Cream with Raspberry Sauce

2 eggs (separated), 4 oz caster sugar, 6 fl. oz milk (warmed), 2 level teaspoons gelatine, 1 tablespoon water, 1 teaspoon rum, 4 tablespoons double cream.

Beat egg yolks and sugar until creamy. Pour on milk and cook over hot water until thickened. Put the gelatine into a cup or small bowl and mix with the water. Stand in a small saucepan of gently simmering water and stir until quite dissolved. Remove the gelatine from the heat and allow to cool until tepid, then add to the custard with the rum. Chill to the consistency of unbeaten egg white. Whip cream and fold into custard. Whisk egg whites until stiff and fold in. Turn into a 1 ½ pint jelly mould and chill until set. Unmould and decorate with walnuts. Serve sauce separately.

For the sauce: purée ½ lb raspberries and blend with ½ level teaspoon cornflour. Cook until thick. Add sugar to taste.

Lois Rennells

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APRIL Dates

Abingdon (3rd Monday) – 18th Wantage (last Sat) – 30th
Didcot (2nd Sat) - 9th Newbury (1st Sunday) – 3rd
Oxford – Gloucester Green (1st Thursday) – 7th
Reading (1st & 3rd Sats) – 2nd / 16th
TVFM news - ring 0870 241 4762 - website Tvm.org.uk
Usually the markets run from about 8.30 am until lunchtime,
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It is well-supplied with quality stalls, and indeed well-attended, and is a good trip out with other shops open in the main street (M&S etc).



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NEWS OF THE CHRONICLE

I'm delighted to be able to say that we have two new Area Agents this month to replace two who are retiring. Last month saw Sheila Cook's last delivery as the agent for Agency No 13 (The Green, Gravel Lane and Caudwell Close) and by this month Barbara Purbrick, of 4, Caudwell Close, had volunteered to step into her shoes. **Many thanks to Barbara** for acting so promptly and making a smooth changeover possible. **Thanks again to Sheila** for so many years of being an agent.

There has also been a smooth changeover in Agency No 8 (Abingdon Road (SE), even numbers 40 to 80). Nadine White has been the agent since 1996 but she is now in the process of moving to Scotland. Preparing to move into a new home several hundred miles away from the old one is very demanding and time-consuming and understandably Nadine feels that she ought to hand over the agency before actually leaving Drayton. **Our thanks, Nadine**, for all you have done for Drayton – the autoharp workshops spring to mind, as well as your work for the Chronicle – and best wishes for your move when it takes place.

This time the transition to a new agent was even smoother, since Jennie Stevens, of 44, Abingdon Road, offered to take over from Nadine while last month's Chronicle was being printed. So she, helped by her husband John, is already well and truly in harness. Again, many thanks to you, Jennie, for responding so promptly.

But.... readers will recall that **we still need agents** for a few more areas – do give me a ring on 531321 for more information if you feel you could help.

Geoffrey Long, Chronicle Co-ordinator

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Drayton School

Claire Soper

The Easter holiday is staggered this year due to the introduction of the new 6 Term School Year, so the children and staff will soon be enjoying a two week break from 4th April, school restarts on the 18th.

The Lower Unit have been busy making papier mache Easter baskets. Those of you who may have seen Jamie's Dinners on Channel 4 recently, might like to know that the younger children have spent time chopping, grating, peeling and scraping fruit and vegetables as part of their topic on Healthy Eating and they could name everything too!

The children have also been learning about Florence Nightingale with role-play involving Doctors, Nurses and Ambulances.

A sad farewell was made to student teacher James Bell, who was presented with a homemade card of thanks in assembly by Connie and Liam. The Middle Unit have been putting the finishing touches to their 'Moving Monsters' in Technology.

Both Mrs Middleton and Mrs Allott were very proud of the children's behaviour during their recent trip to Sulgrave Manor, and everyone enjoyed the day, especially the Tudor dancing.

The Upper Unit took part in a Crime Quiz answering questions about safety. They beat two other local schools and go forward to the next round of the competition, well done!

The children have also visited the John Radcliffe Hospital as part of their Injury Minimisation Programme, where they learnt resuscitation techniques. Well done to all those children who were awarded certificates for ALWAYS WEARING A CYCLE HELMET! Mrs Higgs reminded everyone that school policy states that **helmets must be worn** if bringing your bike to school.

The School Council's Energy Week involved Energy Inspectors visiting classrooms to check that lights were turned off and doors shut. The winning class will receive an extra 15 minutes playtime. Well done to **Lily, Helen, Toby and Annie** who won prizes for designing hats with an environmental theme.

World Book Day was celebrated with a special assembly. The whole school was involved and children were invited to dress up as a character from a book about another culture, quite a challenge but lots of fun! There was also a competition to hunt for clues about book titles. The **Cycling Proficiency Course** has started well and the children are making good progress.

The Senior Football Team is through to the Finals of the Small Schools Competition, so we wish them well and lots of success!

Red Nose Day on 11th March saw some very strange children and adults attending school, it was great to see everyone entering into the spirit of the occasion. A total of over £250 was raised, which was fantastic in view of our recent fundraising for the Tsunami Appeal. Thank you to those who contributed.

Finally a Ladies Pampering Evening raised £179 for F.O.D.S.A. and may well be repeated later in the year.

There will be a **Fashion Show** on Wednesday 27th April in school from 7.30pm. (Details appear elsewhere in the Chronicle). This is by popular request, following the very successful show last year by :- 'Just a Second'.

NOTICE BOARD

OTHER LOCAL PLACES OF WORSHIP

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GREEN BOX AND WASTE COLLECTIONS

EASTER

Normal Collections Will be collected on

Tue, 29 Mar Thu, 31 Mar

Thu, 31 Mar Sat, 02 Apr

Tue, 05 Apr Wed, 06 Apr

Wed, 06 Apr Thu, 07 Apr

MAY DAY HOLIDAY

Normal Collections Will be collected on

Tue, 03 May Wed, 04 May

Thu, 05 May Fri, 06 May

SPRING BANK HOLIDAY

Normal Collections Will be collected on

Tue, 31 May Wed, 01 Jun

Thu, 02 Jun Fri, 03 Jun

YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS :-

Parish (Chairman)	Paul Knight (531678);
District (VofWH)	Grahame Ash (831622);
& Oxfordshire County	Margaret Mackenzie (847341).

CAN YOU RECYCLE MORE WASTE?

The Vale of White Horse District Council has just completed an analysis of the refuse, garden waste and recycling that is put out by householders.

It was found that the contents of an average bag of refuse, contained 26% paper, 12% plastics and 4% glass, all of which *could* be put into green recycling boxes. Currently in the District we are recycling only around 22% of our waste, but **with your help**, by making full use of your Green Box, the Vale can get nearer its target of 29% recycling from 2005.

So **please look** at the table below and see what you are throwing away which we could be collecting for recycling. If you would like a free Green Recycling Box, or a second box, or if you need more information on waste and recycling please email waste.team@whitehorsedc.gov.uk or give the waste team a call on 01235 520202.

Paper:- Newspapers, Junk Mail, Pamphlets, Catalogues, Kitchen Paper, Telephone Directories, Envelopes (Brown or White), Household Bills, Kitchen Paper, Magazines.

Plastic Bottles:- Any Plastic Bottles, Eg. Bleach, Milk Containers, Bubble Bath.

Glass:- Jars & Bottles (Any Colour, Clean).

Metal:- Clean Food Cans, Drink & Aerosol Cans & Aluminium Foil.

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DIARY FOR APRIL

All events held in Drayton Hall unless otherwise stated

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

NB	If your event isn't listed, IT COULD HAVE BEEN!!!		
Sat 2	9.00am	NB NO District Councillor 'Surgery'	
Mon 4	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting (p9)	Caudwell DC
Tues 5	3.00pm	1st Tuesday Connections	Church Room
Sat 9	2.00pm	Dayton Art Group Sale + (p1)	Caudwell DC
Sun 10	11.15am	Fair-Trade sale (after service)	St Peter's
Mon 18	5.00pm	CHRONICLE DEADLINE	Vickery's
Weds 27	7.30pm	Fashion Show / Sale	School

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REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

MONDAYS

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

TUESDAYS

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

THURSDAYS

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

FRIDAYS

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

SUNDAYS

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

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