

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Geoffrey Long

Volume 28, No. 4

May 2005

DRAYTON ART GROUP

Eric Curtis

Our exhibition and sale was a reasonable success considering the conflicting attractions on the 9th April. Good sales were reported from most stalls. An unusual event occurred when a reporter from the Abingdon Herald arrived to photograph the members present, with the montage, a section of which was painted by each member of the group.

Thanks must go to all those who gave such splendid items for sale on the stalls, to those who gave their help in various ways and to all who came to see our efforts.



Editor's Note

As a visitor I was taken aback by the composite painting produced by members of the Art Group, some of whom are seen above showing off their work. Based on an *Adoration of the Magi* by the Netherlands painter Rogier van der Weyden, (1399-1463) a copy was cut into fifteen pieces, (5 wide, 3 high) and each piece enlarged to about 10 x 8 inches to provide a working pattern for each member of the group. Using communal pots of paint members completed their individual pieces, which amazingly fitted together with matching colours across the joins. The picture above just cannot do justice to the vibrant colours and meticulous detail of the final result. This now hangs, framed, in the Caudwell Day Centre and it is well worth making a special visit just to see and admire it.

Geoffrey Long

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ELECTION

Doggerelle

To vote or not to vote I wonder, and how to vote I also ponder.
Whose manifesto can I trust, whose high-flown schemes will come to dust?

One ridicules the opposition, deriding every proposition,
A second makes ambitious claims, but will they then achieve their aims?
'What utter rubbish' scorns a third, 'The others' plans are quite absurd.'

'We'll tax you less and pay you more, in future there will be no poor.'
The others say the rich they'll tax, the opposition's far too lax..
'Just vote for us' one party shouts, 'We'll rid our city streets of louts,
Building up community is where our youthful jobs will be.'
'We'll build more prisons' says the foe, 'That's where delinquents ought to go.'

'We will improve the nation's health and give our NHS more wealth.'
'We won't do that' proclaims the other, 'We'll cut out waste, that's far less bother.'
'In education we'll invest, at frequent intervals we'll test
All students' efforts, skills and knowledge, so they can proceed to college.'
With that the others disagree, 'There's more to life than a degree'!

One camp says they are disturbed, immigration must be curbed;
'Oh no!' declares the other side, 'Such prejudice we can't abide'.
Other candidates endorse The environmental cause,
So our roads we'll not congest in public transport they'll invest.
Their rivals plan to put no bars on building motorways for cars.

Because some folk we cannot trust ID cards are now a must;
Choice of hospitals and schools would rid us of all former rules;
Free transport for those with pension kindly liberals make mention.
'We'll lower taxes, spend much more, our economics you'll adore.'
Opposers say their maths are weak, with them the future would be bleak.

So to my start I now return; yes, how to choose is my concern.
My vote for certain should be used, but as you see I'm quite confused.
Perhaps I'll simply take a pin and randomly just stick it in.



Whatever method you use to make your choice don't forget to cast your votes on Thursday, 5th May Ed.

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COMING CHRONICLES

The **June Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Friday, 27 May 2005** from **Margaret Armstrong, 1, Crabtree Lane, Tel 531122**, who should be contacted by any Agents requiring copies additional to their allocation.

The Editor will be **Derek Pooley, 11 Halls Close, Tel. 559454**. Contributions should be placed in the Chronicle letter box, which is outside Vickery's hardware store on Drayton Green,

no later than 5.15 pm on Monday, 16 May 2005.

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

NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

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

A contribution can be made in one of several ways:

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

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

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

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

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

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

ADVERTISING RATES

For Block Advert (about 1/12th page)

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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'.

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

To discuss your requirements phone Linda Semmens, our Advertising Manager, on 531180 or email: linda.semens@ntlworld.com

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RESULTS OF THE MAY LOTTERY

	Winner	Agent
£25	E. Weaver, c/o, 18, Lockway	Barbara Carter
£20	R Green, 66, Cheers Drive	Margaret Long
£15	Mrs. Haynes, 21, Lockway	J. Pooley
£10	V. Fuocc, 3, Meads Close	M. Armstrong
£10	R. Selby, 17, Lyford Close	Gerald Redman
£10	David Pedder, Middle Barn, Sutton Wick La.	Jean Oliver
£10	Mrs. Talbot, 31, Lockway	Jenny Pooley
£10	Mrs Simmonds, 18, Galley Fields, Abingdon	Sarah Church
£10	Mrs Jackson, 1, Steventon Road	Joan Judd
£10	T. Bowen, 8, Eastway Mobile Home Park	Teresa Burnage

The winning tickets were drawn by Geoff Dix at the Mace Shop from the 2485 tickets sold.

THE NEXT THREE MONTHS

Issue for	Copy for publication and return of Agents Lottery Packs by Monday:	Chronicle published and available for distribution on Friday:
July	20 June 2005	01 July 2005
August	18 July 2005	29 July 2005
September	15 August 2005	26 August 2005

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The Red Lion



YOUR LETTERS

Dear Sir,

On Monday, May 9 I will cease to be your county councillor. After nearly a quarter of a century - that sounds better than nearly twenty five years - it will be a great wrench for me. I have enjoyed myself (maybe not always!).

I hope you will agree I have been hardworking and conscientious. I have a multitude of stories, but this is not the time to tell them. I shall enjoy remembering them.

I have to thank you for your support, for sharing your problems with me, and for welcoming me on the 'doorstep'.

Yours sincerely, Margaret Mackenzie

Dear Sir,

I would like to respond and apologise to Teresa Taylor (Your letters, April *Chronicle*) for her upset with the removal of two trees in front of her house.

These trees, on council land, were causing a hazardous obstruction to one of her neighbour's vehicular access to the High Street. It was because of this I asked the council to cut back the offending foliage. I had expected some pruning to occur, so I too was surprised to find the two trees had been cut down.

When I asked for an explanation, I was informed by the County Council that one of the trees was seriously diseased by fungus and the other was in a very poor condition. If the trees had been healthy then they would not have been removed. I understand it is the intention of the Council to plant one of their own trees later in the year in this area.

I hope this satisfies all concerned.

Yours faithfully, Grahame Ash (District Councillor)

Dear Sir,

Can anyone well me whether horses and riders are allowed to use the Millennium Green.?

Not only have riders been using the designated footpaths, causing hoof indentations, which will eventually cause the path to disintegrate, but also churning up the ground which is naturally soft at this time of year.

Unless action is taken now we could end up with another "Ridgeway" problem. Horse Riders please note!

Yours sincerely, Daphne Samworth.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

The Children's Society Collection in Drayton (mainly the South and West of the village) raised £142.00. Thank you so much for all your generous contributions. Doreen Bourne, 70 Steventon Road.

We wish Mrs. Hutchings of Abingdon Rd a speedy recovery after breaking her leg.

Welcome to Nellie Prichard who has moved into Whitehorns Way from Caerleon, S. Wales.

A happy 'retirement' to Margaret Mackenzie who is standing down at this election after nearly a quarter of a century as our County Councillor. With best wishes and many thanks for devoting such skills and dedication over all those years of service.



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Iain Stuart on 01235 531474 or IainStuart@btconnect.com

NOTICE BOARD

TWO AGMS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE Andrew Bax

On Thursday 5 May in the Caudwell Day Centre there will be the Annual General Meeting of the Millennium Green Trust, beginning at 7.30 pm followed at 8.00 pm by the Annual General Meeting of Drayton Community Trust.

Everyone is welcome to attend either or both meetings.

DRAYTON YOUTH CENTRE CHARITY

Applications are invited from any Youth Organisation in Drayton wishing to apply for a financial grant from the above charity. Applicants are requested to send details in writing to:

Mr G Bird, 9 Gravel Lane, Drayton. OX14 4HY

Applications should state the purpose for which grant is required.

Please include a contact address and phone number.

All applications will be considered at the Charity's meeting to be held shortly (date to be confirmed)

Applications must be received by May 31st 2005

Graham Bird,
Secretary, Drayton Youth Centre Charity

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REGULAR SERVICES

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

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Sunday 10.00am Sunday Pebbles and Rocks Church Room
 Monday 7.45pm Bellringing Practice Bell Tower
 Alternate Fridays 7.00pm Choir Practice Church Room

CALENDAR FOR MAY

Tues 3rd 3.00 pm First Tuesday Connections Church Room
 Sun 8th 6.30 pm St Peter's UNLimited Church Room
 Sun 15th 11.15 am Sale of Fair Trade goods Church
 Sat 21st 1.00 pm Wedding: Simon Lassam to Katie Bott Church

PARISH REGISTER

Holy Baptism

10 April Leanne Beech
 17 April Poppy Ahier

Funerals

24 March Rita Muriel Bradfield
 8 April Myra Ruth Neil
 11 April Dougie Turner

Memorial Service

2 April Jenny Eldridge

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YOU STAY - WE PRAY

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

8 – 14 May: Sutton Wick Lane; Greenacres; Newman Lane; Conifer Drive

15 – 28 May: Hilliat Fields; Lyford Close; Manor Close; The Green

29 May – 4 June; High Street; Chiers Drive; Cheers Farm; Halls Close

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Letter from St Peter's Church

Dear Friends

One of my favourite programmes on T.V. is the *Antiques Roadshow*. I find it fascinating to see the collection of items that people find in their attic, in the odds and ends at a sale or at a car boot sale. I expect many of the things which are brought along are not particularly valuable except to the owner. The ones we see on the programme are the exception. However it is always interesting to hear the expert describe the item ... then ... hold your breath ... the value ... followed by a gasp of surprise by the owner!

Imagine a line up of items:

- A Jacobean table,
- A Minton vase,
- Georgian silver candlesticks,
- A glass of water.

You can pick one of these four items for yourself – which would you pick?

The first three are valuable, but the last one is priceless. A glass of clean cool water is a rare treasure. It may not seem like that to us in this country, but for more than half of the world population that is the case. We take water for granted and we use vast quantities every day. In parts of the world some people walk miles every day to fetch a few litres water which is often dirty and disease ridden. Christian Aid and other Aid Agencies are working hard to help every community get that priceless item ... cool, clean water. Bear that in mind when the Christian Aid envelope pops through your letterbox in the middle of this month.

The **Christian Aid Service** this year will be at **10am on Sunday 8th May** and will be an interactive Family Service entitled

H₂ KNOW.

Christian Aid Collection Week will be 15th to 22nd May. We are in need of extra collectors this year and if you could help with either delivering or collecting envelopes we would be very pleased to hear from you. When you get the envelope think how much you would pay for a glass of water if nothing else was available and then give generously.

Josie Midwinter

Mrs Suzy Willis
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BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastoral Coordinator:- Roy Brown..... 531296

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

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

11.30 am Presently only one morning service per month; this is the Family Service, and is on the first Sunday of each month.

6.00 pm Evening Service. A traditional form of service, frequently with guest speakers.
(Communion every second Sunday)

EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME

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

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

SCHOOL REPORT

Claire Soper

The Easter holidays are now a distant memory and the children have settled back into Term 5. Welcome to Kasia and Zeke who have joined us from pre-school; we hope they make lots of new friends. Welcome back also to Miss Stenzhorn following her period of absence, we all wish her well!

Hopefully we can look forward to some warmer weather this month, particularly as the children start more outdoor sporting activities.

The Reception/Year 1 children have been exploring different foods and have planted beans as part of their spring theme. They enjoyed making chocolate Easter Nests – and eating them too!

Year 1 and 2 Class have visited the pond and found lots of frogspawn. In Design and Technology the children have been working with fruit and vegetables. This has included arranging fruit attractively to encourage people to eat it. They have also carried out a survey to find out which fruits are most popular and put the information into bar charts.

Mrs Raven and Mrs Caudle have completed First Aid Courses recently, which is reassuring for everyone concerned!

The Middle Unit children have evaluated their Moving Monsters and were pleased with how they worked; this was evident from the very professional display in assembly. The children also enjoyed looking at and working out the religious symbols associated with Easter.

This term they will be taking part in a Geography project aimed at improving our local environment. This will involve walking around the school and village to see what needs improving. I am sure we will look forward to the results!

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The Upper Unit children are now busy preparing for their SATS and we wish them all well. They are also embarking on a new project about Egypt.

Some of the older children will be taking part in a workshop entitled "Positively Making a Difference" aimed at helping them explore ways of learning and thinking differently.

The Wild Waste Show will be visiting school on May 4th, an opportunity for all the children to see this mobile display about caring for the environment. It's interesting how children can positively influence some of our habits! I now compost every single teabag and piece of cardboard otherwise I am nagged by a small person!

Congratulations to the Football Team who won the Small Schools Tournament. The year 3 and 4 Team continue to take part in friendly matches in readiness for moving on next year to more competitive events.

F.O.D.S.A. was busy during the holiday decorating in and outside school. Thanks to everyone who turned up to help, your efforts are much appreciated by the staff. Special thanks to Colin Arnold from Mrs Middleton and Mrs Allott for completing various DIY works in the Middle Unit.

The Disco on 1st April raised approx £270, thanks to everyone who came, it was a good evening.

A FAMILY BINGO will take place in school on Friday 20th May from 7pm, and an early reminder that the school SUMMER FAIR will be held on Saturday 18th June from 12-3pm.

Finally a reminder to anyone who has any Tesco Computer vouchers lying around that school would be very grateful to receive them, as the offer ends on the 15th May.

We are also collecting Sainsbury's vouchers for sports equipment, which continues until 30th June. Thank you in anticipation!

*Margaret welcomes you to
for your next hair appointment*

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ALL AROUND

DRAYTON WIVES

Margaret Long

We had been told that we were in for a treat and we were not to be disappointed when Mr John Woolley came in March to tell us of his experiences as a rather new village bobby in Brill. Within weeks of his arrival he found himself thrust into the middle of the crime of the century – the Great Train Robbery. £2½ million in 120 bags was stolen from that ill-fated mail train – the amount probably came as a surprise to the robbers themselves. In today's money it would amount to over £30 million. The robbery had been very carefully planned and a large number of criminals were involved, but in the course of the hold-up the train driver, Jack Mills, was severely coshed and never again recovered fully.

The thieves holed up in an abandoned farmhouse - Letterslade Farm - on the outskirts of Brill. An observant herdsman noticed a great deal of coming and going at this supposedly deserted farm and informed the local police. Accordingly young PC Woolley and a sergeant went to investigate. PC Woolley was the first to enter the house through an upstairs window. They saw obvious signs of occupation everywhere but it wasn't until they found heaps of empty mail bags under a trap door leading to the cellar that it was realised that this farm was the train robbers' hide-out.

Many arrests followed as the thieves had left fingerprints everywhere but only £140,000 of the loot has ever been recovered. The public interest in the robbery has never gone away, fuelled perhaps by the doings of the notorious Ronald Biggs. Mr Woolley was an enthralling and entertaining speaker, but the great train robbery itself was a chilling and violent affair.

Outings are being arranged for the months of June, July and August: --

- on 29th June, a guided walk around the fascinating village of Ewelme under the guidance of Mr Norman Francis who a short while ago gave us that enjoyable talk on "The Mitford Girls",
- on July 27th, a visit to Buscot Park,
- in August, a possible trip to Broughton Castle near Banbury.

More details later, but names are requested now for the Ewelme visit.

Please note that as our funds are limited and our expenses are always increasing the committee has decided to ask visitors attending our meetings to contribute £1.00, to include coffee and biscuits. We have tried to do this before in a rather half-hearted way but it is felt that the time has come to make this a general rule.

May I also remind members that our annual subscription of £7.50 was due at the beginning of the year? Will those who haven't paid yet please do so as we do need your contributions?

Dates for your diary in May: -

Mon 9th	10.30	COFFEE	Mary Alexander	3A High St.
Mon 16th	7.15	WHIST	Mary Alexander	Caudwell D C
Wed 25th	2.00	MEETING	<i>Reducing the Rubbish Mountain</i> Carole Chapman, Vale of the White Horse.	



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BOWLS CLUB

'Roll up'

It proved to be another very successful year for the club in the winter league; pride of place must go to "The Wasps" who won Division 2 of the South Oxon League, pipping the Didcot Rams by one point in an exciting finish, with four clubs in contention and with one game to play. Members of the winning team were: T. Wright; O. Brown; R. Glead; B. Carter; J. Carter; C. Carter; P. Leather; B. Watts; S. Church; D. Harrison, Reserves: G. Tate, P. Madley. Well done, especially to the new members, J. & C. Carter

In Division 1 of the South Oxon League "The Rollers" finished runners up to the Barn Owls of Didcot, but sad to recall "The Hammers" ended their campaign bottom of Division 2.

The club is still looking for some new blood; anyone interested just come to the meetings Mondays & Thursdays 2 till 5 and Wednesdays 7 till 10. You would be under no obligation whatever, but you might just enjoy it and become members.

The Friendly Fours Competition held on 13 March between teams from Drayton, Hanney, Stanford and Warborough, resulted in a win for the Drayton team who beat Stanford in the final, winning team were: G. Tate; J. Carter; J. Thompson; and B. Jones. While we are talking about good news, J. & T. Mullins lost on an extra end in the final of "The Warmans" holiday competition. We will be looking forward to the County Finals day on April 17th, where we are represented in the fours and pairs, and in the team competition (Wasps) and we will be looking for further success here.

And finally we have to end on a sad note with the loss of one of our members, Laurie Hyde, who was a very active member for many years; our thoughts are with June and her family at this time.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Pearl Stanbridge

The total profits of our Easter Draw (£172.20) have been donated to The Royal Star and Garter Home.

We are commemorating 60th Anniversary of the end of W.W.2. in Europe on Sunday 10th July with a Thanksgiving Service at St Michael's and All Angels Church, Steventon at 09.45am followed by Wreath Laying at the War Memorial at 11.15am, and then at 12noon lunch at the Lantern Restaurant, so we hope you will join us to celebrate this special occasion. We look forward to seeing you there.

The next Committee meeting will be held on Monday 16th May at 8pm.

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MORE ALL AROUND

DRAYTON PLAYERS

Jean Hager

Plans are moving along for our October 2005 and February 2006 productions and the final choices should be settled fairly soon now.

In the meantime, I have further news of our entry into the area competition which I mentioned in the April Chronicle. This is the Oxford Drama Festival and we are presenting "Day Trippers", a two-hander, one act comedy by Jean McConnell. It is the tale of two friends, Beryl and Doris, on their annual works outing to the seaside. Set on a deceptively quiet bit of the beach this is a play of many quiet chuckles interspersed with moments of high hilarity.

Several drama groups will be taking part in the competition and our entry will be one of three to be presented in the Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon, on 5th June. We would like to encourage you to come along to this interesting evening to support our entry. When first produced by the Players a few years ago it was a great comic success and we hope it will do well in the Festival competition.

Please give me a call of 531558 if you would like further information. You are certainly in for a treat if you join us!

DRAYTON PRE-SCHOOL

Anna Loughlin

We hope that children and parents had a restful and happy Easter break. The summer term is upon us and we're hoping for good weather so that the planned planting and gardening activities get off to a good start. The children will plant seeds, learn how to nurture them and monitor their growth. Watch out, Charlie Dimmock!

The Open Day was a real success and visiting mums and the children had a taste of how wonderful Drayton Pre-School is! Arts and crafts, face-painting, toys and games and cookery were the order of the day and were enjoyed by all. 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 a visit by calling (01235) 536094

Wooden Spoon Recipe No. 9

Lois Rennells

(From April 1975)

Sweet Corn and Mushroom Croutes (serves 6)

1 oz butter,	½ teaspoon salt,
1 clove garlic (crushed),	½ teaspoon black pepper,
2 small tomatoes (chopped),	1 tablespoon chopped chives,
4 oz sweet corn,	1 tablespoon flour,
2 oz button mushrooms,	2 egg yolks,
1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper,	8 fl oz double cream,
1/8 teaspoon dried oregano,	6 croutes (fried).

Melt the butter and add garlic and tomatoes. Cook until soft. Add sweet corn, mushrooms and spices. Cook 5 minutes. Sprinkle over the flour and stir into mixture. Cook 3 minutes until thick.

Remove from heat but keep hot. Beat together egg yolks and cream over a pan of hot water. Do not boil. Stir the cream mixture into the vegetables. Place hot croutes on a serving dish and cover with the vegetable and cream mixture. Serve immediately.



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DRAYTON W.I.

Doreen Buckland

Our April meeting was very well attended. After the Presidents report on the news and views from the Oxford Federation, she told us that we are able to donate £430 to P.A.C.E. The money was raised from the Saturday coffee mornings. Our speaker for the evening was Marguerite Osborne, a storyteller; her subject "Husband and Wife's" was very interesting and amusing. Our annual Grow, Cook and Sew show will be held on the 10th September, in Drayton Village Hall. Schedules are now available in the local shops. Please pick up a copy and start preparing your entries, lots of different classes for adults and children.

DRAYTON TODDLER GROUP

Anna Loughlin

We hope you all enjoyed the Easter break and are looking forward to the exciting summer activities we have in store.

Sadly, after April, the Tuesday session will be dropped and Toddlers will only run on Thursday between 9.30 and 11.30am at Drayton Village Hall. Due to poor attendance, the group cannot afford to meet the costs of hall fees and wages for two weekly sessions. Toddlers works when people get involved – not only do our children enjoy a stimulating morning, but mums also get to make friends with like-minded people and we provide a valuable service for our community. Please come along! The group has run for years and it would be a real loss to Drayton if it were disbanded altogether through lack of interest.

The annual Barnardo's Toddle is set for Wednesday 29 June at Beale Park, Reading. Last years outing was cancelled because of heavy rain and strong winds; instead, the children "toddled" a circuit of the field by the hall. Fingers crossed for better weather so we can enjoy the sights and sounds of Beale Park and raise lots of money for Barnardos.

FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS

Jean Hager

Are you were feeling lonely, isolated or in need of company for whatever reason?

We offer you a cup of tea and a friendly chat and you are warmly invited to join as in St Peter's Church on the first Tuesday of each month between the 3 pm and 4.30 pm.

Drop in between these times when we will be delighted to welcome you. Our next two dates are 3rd May and 7th June when we look forward to meeting old friends and new.

If you need transport or further information please call me on 531558

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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Daniel Scharfe

The Annual Parish Meeting, held on 4 April 2005, was the opportunity for residents to catch up on the year's work of the Council. Seventeen people attended, most participating in the discussions on various topics.

Reports were given by members of the Council with particular responsibilities. Both Jenny Pooley, who is in charge of the footpaths, and John Cox, for general purposes, thanked Steve Sharp for the work he is doing to keep the village looking good. Jenny reported on the progress made during the year with a number of new gates and John confirmed that the baby swings would soon be in place at Lockway, having received special dispensation on safety grounds.

The Chairman Paul Knight mentioned some of the more contentious planning cases, the series of applications at Barton Garage and the application yet to be submitted for the reservoir. The latter gave rise to a heated debate and the Parish Council will have this on the agenda for many of their meetings over the next few years. PC Walker described the policing of the village and there was another heated discussion about whether young people might have better things to do than hang around smoking and drinking. There is a problem with these activities being carried out where they disturb the elderly residents at Caudwell Close and the police should be called where there is threatening behaviour. Apparently the Damascus Bus is a popular facility enjoyed by our neighbouring villages but will need volunteers from Drayton if we want to use it on a regular basis.

District Councillor Graham Ash came to describe the affairs of the VWHDC. The minimisation and recycling of waste (greater use of green boxes was required), the closure of the outdoor swimming pool, bus tokens, and the move of licensing from the court to the council were all challenges for the Vale.

County Councillor Margaret Mackenzie announced her retirement after 25 years of sterling service for the Drayton Division. With her retirement the Drayton Ward disappears and the village becomes part of Abingdon West.

Apologies were made to those expressing interest in a Village Plan. This would be a major undertaking and would need a very high level of commitment that the current members of the Parish Council may not be in a position to give. Although the village plan committee would not include many parish council members it may be sensible first to build up the strength of the Council (still three down, if anybody is interested). Anybody, including those already on the list, who are keen to move this forward should contact me or, much better, come to a meeting of the Council.

Following concern expressed about the new doggie bin at the Henley's Lane entrance to the Millennium Green it was decided to leave this until a more suitable site could be found. Meanwhile, the problem that is caused by overflowing bins could be avoided if dogs could persuade their owners to use smaller bags.

The Parish Council look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting (the AGM) on 9 May at 7.30 pm at the Caudwell Day Centre. Those interested in the many small and increasing number of large issues affecting the village would be very welcome.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT

2004

	2003	2004
Brought Forward	5,013.49	4,087.63
Income		
Ticket Sales	3,614.85	3,560.44
Advertising	1,314.65	1,357.00
Interest	89.05	77.33
Donations	59.15	50.00
Unclaimed Prizes	<u>- 10.00</u>	<u>20.00</u>
Sub-total, income	5,067.70	5,064.77
Expenditure		
Printing Chronicles	4,108.00	3,848.00
Prizes	1,430.00	1,430.00
Christmas Prizes	72.01	75.40
Lottery Ticket Printing & Stationery	348.55	326.40
New Computer Equipment		149.22
Lottery Expenses & Licence	<u>35.00</u>	<u>17.50</u>
Sub-total, expenditure	5,993.56	5,846.52
Profit [-loss] in year	- 925.86	- 781.75
Carried Forward at end of year	4,087.63	3,305.88

FUNDS

National Savings Bank	3,387.26	3,464.59
Lloyds T S B	<u>700.37</u>	<u>- 158.71</u>
TOTAL FUNDS at end of year	4,087.63	3,305.88

For the second year running the Chronicle accounts show a loss over the year. This is mainly because the Chronicle has fallen victim of its own success in the village. Because it now carries more material than in the past, both text and pictures, the average number of pages (and hence the cost of printing) has increased, although the cost of printing per page has remained constant. Last year, for the first time in its history, the Chronicle carried a full complement of twelve pages in each issue.

I have been considering, with Keith Middleton, the treasurer, and the other two editors (Tony Holmes and Derek Pooley) how to deal with this. The simplest solution would be to increase the price of lottery tickets from 15p to 20p and try to encourage punters to buy the same number of tickets. At the same time, getting rid of so many 5p pieces will make life so much easier for area agents and the lottery team. Advertising charges for new or renewed adverts also need to be reviewed in the near future.

Our thanks are again due to Keith Middleton for his careful tending of our finances and to Robert Walker for the time and expertise he gives to carrying out an independent examination of the accounts.

Geoffrey Long, Chronicle Coordinator

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VWHDC REPORT

Grahame Ash

Local Business (Use it or Lose it)

In last month's Chronicle I commented on Tesco's planned extension and the Abingdon shopping centre. If you don't use the Abingdon shops then you will lose them. The same applies to the shops and business in the village.

Drayton is very fortunate to have several excellent shops. Whilst they are not always able to compete with the supermarkets on choice and price, they more than compete on service. For example, many have been the times when I have needed some advice from Mr Vickery on home repairs and renovations. You can't get this at the large stores. Friendly and helpful service is provided by Mr Dix of Mace's stores; again another village stalwart. In many villages Post Offices have been closing down. We have a Post Office in the village, but we must make sure it is used effectively. Some years ago we nearly lost one of our two pubs, but I am pleased to say that after some deliberation it was re-opened. There are many other businesses and pubs in the village that would take me too long to mention in this article. Again I stress that if they are not used they are likely to close. It is up to you whether you wish to support them. There are no government or council funds to support village shops. I know the Chronicle contains many advertisements from Drayton businesses, including but not limited to The Red Lion, Forge Garage, and Sabina's Hair stylists. I was wondering if the editors could provide additional support to our village businesses. Perhaps a free column - "Use it or lose it" - on how and when the business became established and an opportunity for the shop-keepers to promote their business further. Well it's a suggestion to help Village vitality! See page 11

A34 Congestion

I know the A34 is an ongoing problem locally. The Vale has been concerned for some time over the traffic congestion of the A34 within the Vale's area. A request was sent in May last year to the Highways Agency asking what options they are considering and the time-scales involved. The HA explained that they were in the process of completing the A34 Route Management Strategy (RMS) and until this was finalised it was not possible to give an answer. A full response was forecast by the end of year 2004. Their deadline was not met and the Council now learns that the publication of the RMS has been delayed until after the May elections.

From a noise aspect the HA have advised that a quieter surface

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will be laid, but only when the existing road requires renovation. They maintain that this will not be likely for about 10 years. The HA does not have sufficient money to make earlier reparations.

Headstones - Beware

I am sometimes surprised by the extent of district councils' responsibility. Under Health and Safety legislation all organisations involved in operating or maintaining cemeteries have an obligation to take reasonable steps for the safety of visitors, workers etc. This responsibility extends to checking headstones to ensure they are safe. The Vale has responsibility for closed church yards and has recently carried out the required stability tests. Any Headstones found to be dangerous have been made safe by laying them flat. This can be distressing for the families concerned but public safety is paramount. Other churchyards come under the responsibility of the Church or the parish councils.

You may wonder how this information came to prominence. I regret to advise that a six year old in Yorkshire was crushed to death by a falling headstone; a similar death occurred to a 15 year old who had been playing in a cemetery in Scotland. Perhaps there is a moral there?

Car Tax Evasion

Just to let you know that the DVLA's latest enforcement weapon is a freephone hotline 08000 325 202 for the public to ring and report untaxed vehicles. "Dedicated teams of investigators will respond to tip-offs from the public to detect cheats red-handed" states my communication. Callers are asked to provide the registration number, make and model of the vehicle and where and when the vehicle may be seen parked on the public highway. All information will be held in the strictest confidence and anonymity will be rested.

Just a Reminder.....that the Polling hours are 7.00am to 10.00pm, on Thursday 5th at the Village Hall. You will be entitled to two votes for the County Council election and one for the General election.

The count for the General election will take place at the Vale Leisure Centre later that evening. The County Council vote I understand is planned to start about 10.00 the following morning at the same location.

And Finally.....

The next surgery will be held at 9.00am at the Village Hall on Saturday May 7th. I look forward to meeting any Drayton residents who wish to come along and discuss their concerns.

Regards

Grahame Ash

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The criminal justice system would collapse if people were not willing to be witnesses in court cases. But what happens when those who know something about crime don't want to get involved? What about people who are afraid to contact the police direct or, for whatever personal reason, wish to remain anonymous. The alternative to speaking to the police is to call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Nobody is asked for their name, but their information does help to solve crime. Thames Valley Crimestoppers has been in action for five years and in that time almost 7,400 police investigations have started and over 920 people arrested solely as a result of Crimestoppers callers.

People from Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire call about all types of crime. But there is still a lot more information out in the community that would help to reduce crime even further. There are 2.1 million people in the Region and the task of Thames Valley Crimestoppers is to get the message across to all of them. The support of community groups and organisations is vital in spreading the word.

More information can be found on the website
www.thamesvalleycrimestoppers.com

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OXFORDSHIRE YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM

Do you live in Oxfordshire? Ready to do something about youth crime? Want to help victims have their say?

You'd sit on a panel with other volunteers and a professional from the Youth Offending Team and help make decisions with young offenders, their families and victims, by drawing up solutions to reduce the risk of further offending and make good the harm they've done.

A Panel Member's Story

The 'phone rings, it's the Youth Offending Team (YOT) "Can you chair a panel at 5pm next Monday? It's a fifteen-year-old youth called Nigel who has been given a six-month Referral Order for criminal damage. He kicked over a neighbour's fence. The victim is Mrs Smith and she is planning to attend the panel meeting.

The panel is held in a small room in a local community centre. A circle of chairs is arranged around a coffee table. The young offender, his mother, the victim, two volunteer panel members and a member of the Youth Offending Team will attend the panel. Gradually people arrive.

Initially, there is an uneasy atmosphere, so the first task of the volunteers is to put everyone at their ease by explaining the procedure and reassuring everyone, especially the young offender and victim, that they will all have an opportunity to have their say.

"Nigel, what led up to this offence?.....How do you feel about it now?....Who has been harmed by what you did?".... Gradually the tension drops and the panel discusses what Nigel can do to put right some of the harm he has caused and what can be done to prevent further offending.

By the end of the meeting, a contract has been agreed with Nigel to mend the damaged fence overseen by a reparation supervisor. He will also attend a series of meetings with his YOT Officer to address his offending behaviour plus an anger management course. Hopefully, this will be Nigel's first and last tangle with the law and Mrs Smith feels that her needs have been addressed.

So, what do you need to do to become a panel member? You will need to attend a 7-day training course; refreshments and lunch are provided. You will need to be able to offer 4 or 5 hours a month to attend the panels. You need to have good 'people' skills. You must be over 18 years, there is no upper age limit and ideally, volunteers will represent all sections of the community.

Am I glad I got involved? Yes. Is it enjoyable? Well it can be but it is very rewarding. If this sounds interesting to you, then please call Gilly Workman 01865 202218 for an informal chat or an application pack.

Alternatively e-mail: gilly.workman@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Or visit our WebPages:

http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/index/protecting/youth_offending_team/yos_volunteers.htm

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We're looking for volunteers of all ages and backgrounds who have some time to spare! We will train and support you. You only need to give two hours a fortnight, - 0.6% of your time. We aim to start a new training course in May, and urgently need more applications

To find out more contact Tony or Melody:-

at Spurgeon's Child Care, Courtyard Youth Arts Centre, Launton Road, Bicester, OX26 6DJ.

or on 01869 602570

or by email at oxoniv@courtyd.com

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

Please contact any one of the following:-

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

GREEN BOX AND WASTE COLLECTIONS

MAY DAY HOLIDAY

Normal Collections	Will be collected on
Tue, 03 May	Wed, 04 May
Thu, 05 May	Fri, 06 May

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Normal Collections	Will be collected on
Tue, 31 May	Wed, 01 Jun
Thu, 02 Jun	Fri, 03 Jun

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NEWS OF THE CHRONICLE

Geoffrey Long

This month we say 'Goodbye' to another of our agents. Maureen Ruddle volunteered last year to be an agent for Crabtree Lane, but at the time said she was looking to find a new home with a less demanding garden. This has happened quite quickly and Maureen will be moving into Abingdon in early May. Many thanks for helping with the Chronicle and we send you our best wishes as you settle into your new home. We found when moving the other way that Abingdon is near enough to keep in touch with old friends.

This inevitably leaves a vacancy and I'd be glad to hear from anyone who would like to hear more about the job – just ring me on 531321

Jane Pim, our Advertising Manager, has also decided that she would like to retire, to give more time to spend on her other commitments. Many thanks, Jane, for all your help in keeping track of the comings and goings of our adverts and best of luck in your other activities. Linda Semmens, who held the fort some time ago, has for the time being come out of retirement and taken up her old post – welcome back, Linda.

USE IT OR LOSE IT

In his VWHDC report on page 9 Grahame Ash makes the very cogent point that if we don't support our local facilities we shall lose them, with particular reference to the excellent shops at our disposal.

Exactly the same is true of the *Chronicle*. The sole reason for its existence is to serve the village by informing readers of items of local interest, by recording significant events and by providing a forum for views on local issues.

We are all very fortunate that so many regular contributors keep us in the picture each month through their regular reports in All Around, the council reports and the church pages. These articles provide the backbone of the Chronicle each month but there is room for much more in the way of one off articles on any topic of interest to our readers. These could cover a review of a local event, play or concert, snippets of local history, an obituary, stories of local buildings, local characters (from the past!) or – yes, local businesses – or even the occasional gripe or two. So get out your pens and start writing.

But do remember, the editor is just that – the guy who sorts it all out and puts it together each month – a big enough job in its own right. He is not a roving reporter, nor a canvasser of stories. To make for an interesting and relevant Chronicle we rely on anyone with a story to tell or something to report to put pen to paper (or these days, fingers to keyboard) and pass the story on. Your editors are waiting!

Getting material in and off to the printer is only part of the story – the printing has to be paid for and the copies distributed. This is where the 40 or so Area Agents are vital. Because of retirements and removals we are always seeking volunteers. How about it?

So if the Chronicle, now in its 28th year in its present form, is to grow and prosper and become even more relevant we do really need support, both in receiving more and varied copy each month and in help with delivery and sale of lottery ticket.

Think about it and if, like many of us, you think the Chronicle is a worthwhile endeavour give a thought to helping in some way.

Geoffrey Long,

Chronicle Co-ordinator, 01235 531321

MISSED OUT ON YOUR CHRONICLE?

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

DRAYTON DIARIES

DIARY FOR MAY

All events held in Drayton Hall unless otherwise stated

To book Drayton Hall ring 531501		To call the Hall ring 528686	
Thu	5	7.00 am	POLLING DAY to 10.00 pm
Fri	6		Private Party
Sat	7	9.00 am	Councillor G Ash Surgery (until 10.00am)
Sat	7		Private Party
Mon	9	7.45 pm	Parish Council Meeting AGM <i>Caudwell D.C.</i>
Sun	15	11.15 am	Fair Trade Stall <i>St Peter's Church</i>
Mon	16	9.15 am	Chronicle Lottery Deadline <i>Vickery's</i>
Mon	16	5.15 pm	Chronicle Copy Deadline <i>Vickery's</i>
Mon	16		Drayton Hall Management Committee AGM
Fri	20	7.00 pm	Family Bingo
Sat	21		Private Party
Sat	28		Private Party

If your event isn't listed in the Diary it could have been.

Simply drop a note of it into the Chronicle box before the deadline, or if you mention an event contribution make a note on it asking the editor to include it in the diary.



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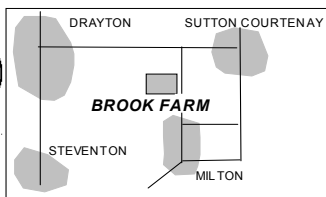
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REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

MONDAYS

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

TUESDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
9.30 am	Parent and Toddler Group	
1.45 pm	Drayton Art Group (until 4 pm)	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
3.00 pm	Junior Netball (for 1 hour)	<i>School</i>
3.00 pm	First Tuesday Connections (First Tuesday in month)	<i>Church Rm</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>
9.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>St Peter's Lady Chapel</i>
9.30 am	Parent & Toddler Group	
9.50 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	<i>Haywards Rd</i>
10.15 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	<i>The Green Car Pk</i>
2.00 pm	Darby & Joan Club	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
3.00pm	First Tuesday Connections	<i>St Peters</i>
4.00 pm	Dancing Classes (3 to 6 years). Tel: 764433	
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

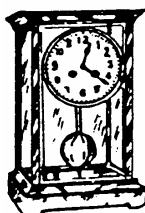
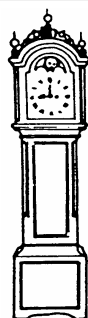
9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>Sch'l Ground Bldg</i>
11.00 am	The Friday Club (to 3.30) 202466	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
6.30pm	Choir Practice (Alternate Fridays)	<i>St Peter's</i>

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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CLOCK REPAIRS AND RESTORATION

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