

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Derek Pooley

Volume 28, No. 5

June 2005

NO FREE LUNCHES...

...is a classic phrase, emphasising that nearly everything desirable has somehow to be paid for. The current agonising about the open-air swimming pool in Abingdon is a case in point.

Closer to home, Grahame Ash reminded us in last month's Chronicle that Drayton has excellent shops for a village of its size, but will keep them only if we villagers pay for them by using them well. Grahame assumed our paying for them would be with higher prices, but this has stung Lewis Beadle and Lawrence Vickery to protest and point out that traditional village shops can often beat the supermarkets on price as well as on convenience. Do read their letters on page 3. We hope other village retailers will take up Grahame's challenge to make sure we all know what they can offer by writing to the Chronicle.

The Drayton Millennium Green is a glorious space for walking in the fresh air but it isn't free either. At the Annual General Meeting of the Millennium Green Trust on 5th May there was much discussion about how to maintain this village treasure, now that the money given by the generous villagers who conceived it and the grants from outside bodies are almost spent. Paul Knight (chair of the Parish Council) is keen that the PC should continue to help, but it was decided also to ask those villagers who value it to become 'Friends of the Millennium Green',

contributing something regularly for its upkeep. Please read the piece by Nick Hamilton on page 7.

Even the Chronicle isn't cost-free, despite being given away. The Area Agents, the Editors and others in the Chronicle Team all give their time for nothing, but the lottery prizes have to be found, the printer has to be paid and there are other minor expenses. Last month Geoff Long warned that we are still in deficit and that lottery ticket prices and advertising charges will have to go up. We very much hope that most people will buy the same number of tickets as before, despite the price going from 15p to 20p, and will continue to place adverts in the Chronicle. In that way we can make sure this vehicle for village communication is kept going.

Editor



FIGHTING BREAST CANCER

On 23-25 September a small group of Draytonians will be joining thousands of women and men to walk 60 km through the streets of London. They will be raising money for the campaign to 'Breakthrough Breast Cancer', through sponsorship (and sore feet!). Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women – approximately 1 in 9 will be diagnosed with it in the course of her life! However more women than ever before are surviving this disease due to the on-going research and education.

The Drayton girls participating are (from left to right in the picture) Maggie Weir (526547), Julie Dixon (525561) and Roz Wright (535673). Each has to raise £1,500, which is quite daunting when you have never done this kind of challenge before.

They need our support! We can give it by visiting www.breakthroughweekend.org, clicking on "sponsor a participant" and writing one of their names in the search boxes. Or we can donate directly to them at their personal pages, or by contacting one of them by phone on the numbers above.

Maggie, Julie and Roz thank you for your support and say that, although Paula Radcliffe is also running for 'Breakthrough Breast Cancer', they are not promising to compete with Paula!!



OXFORDSHIRE VILLAGES

Andrew Beacroft from Sutton Wick has suggested that newcomers to Drayton and Oxfordshire might find 'The New Oxfordshire Village Book' from the Oxfordshire W.I. useful. For those with an internet connection this is available on <http://www.spaceagency.co.uk/villages> and the Drayton section is printed on page 6. If you think it is good you might buy the book or visit the web-site for information on other villages in Oxfordshire.

Thank you Andrew for that.



Also in this issue:

- | | | | | | |
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Friends of Drayton School Association

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at the Vicarage and Gaudwell Day Centre

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PLANTS
RAFFLE
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REFRESHMENTS

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CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The **July Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Friday, 1 July 2005** from **Helen Brasington, 1 Cheers Farm, (534045)**, who should be contacted by any Agents requiring copies additional to their allocation.

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

no later than 5.15 pm on Monday, 20 June 2005.

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

THE FOLLOWING THREE MONTHS

Issue for	Copy for publication and return of Agents Lottery Packs needed by Monday:	Chronicle published and available for distribution on Friday:
August	18 July 2005	29 July 2005
September	15 August 2005	26 August 2005
October	19 September 2005	30 September 2005

NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

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

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

1. By **email** to the relevant editor. These contributions should either be in **plain text** or attached as a **rich-text** or **Microsoft Word** document; we do not have all word processing packages! The editors' email addresses are:

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

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

3. As a **good quality, fairly large, simple black typescript, without underlining** on white A4 paper or smaller. Our optical character recognition software can read typescripts but only imperfectly, especially if the typeface is elaborate or small.

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

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

NEW ADVERTISING RATES

For a single Block Advert (about 1/12th page)

---- Number of Inserts ----

Advertiser Category:	1	3	6	12
Drayton Resident	£5.00	£14.00	£25.50	£48.00
Non-Drayton Resident	£6.00	£17.00	£31.50	£60.00

Double-size adverts are charged at twice the above rates.

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

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

To discuss requirements phone **Linda Semmens**, the Chronicle's Advertising Manager, on 531180 or email linda.semmens@ntlworld.com.

CHRONICLE LOTTERY

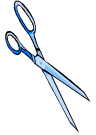
Daphne Samworth, Hon. Promoter

RESULTS OF THE MAY LOTTERY

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	2023	M.Boyd, 26 Whitehorns Way	Jean Hager
£20	0701	J Stevens, 44 Abingdon Road	Jennie Stevens
£15	0287	N. Webb, 7 Oday Hill	Gerald Redman
£10	1067	Barbara Bell, Mill Paddock, Abingdon	Mary Alexander
£10	2334	Mr Cassingham, 143 Drayton Rd, SC	Claire Soper
£10	0937	M. Smith, 37 High Street	Margaret Long
£10	1841	Mrs Pascoe, 98a Whitehorns Way	Terry Arnold
£10	0030	Mira Thomas, 55 Abingdon Rd,	Jane Henderson
£10	2052	Mrs Elms, 11 Whitehorns Way	Trudi Buckner
£10	2008	Mrs E Hale, 4 Whitehorns Way	Jean Hager

The winning tickets were drawn by members of the Drayton Enterprises Committee, from the 2428 tickets sold

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ADVERTISING RATES

In the Statement of Accounts presented in the May Chronicle it was noted that in recent years our income has not been enough to cover increasing costs. In particular the cost of printing was increasing, reflecting the growth in the average size of each issue of the Chronicle.

The accounts were discussed at the recent annual general meeting of the Drayton Community Trust, under whose auspices the Chronicle is published. It was agreed that the charges we make for advertising and the cost of the lottery ticket should both be increased to help restore the balance in the accounts. It is now over ten years since a change was made in either of these charges.

The revised charges to be made for advertising are shown in the adjacent table. These will apply to any new adverts and to renewals made from this issue onwards.

The increase in the cost of a lottery ticket from 15p to 20p will apply when the new batch of tickets is printed in the next few weeks.

Geoffrey Long, Chronicle Co-ordinator



YOUR LETTERS

Dear Sir,

The VWHDC Report concerning local business, in the last Chronicle, was commendable, but the phrase "Whilst they are not able to compete with the supermarkets on choice & price" is not the case. Since the advent of supermarkets the buying public has had this misconception and it really isn't true. Next time you are in Geoff Dix's or Lawrence Vickery's stores just make a note of their prices and excellent levels of stock; you will be surprised.

Lewis M Beadle

Dear Editor,

How refreshing to read Graham Ash's article in last month's Chronicle on supporting local businesses. However, I would like to point out that the comment made that we are not able to compete with supermarkets on choice and price is incorrect.

Our own business offers a wide range of quality cookware, housewares, electrical goods, gardening supplies, ironmongery, tools, locks and key-cutting services, with certain items sold at below recommended selling prices. For example, we have 'Stellar' cookware at half list price and selected garden products at promotional prices, all made possible by purchasing direct from manufacturers and our membership of the country's biggest buying group.

So Chronicle readers, please check out your village shops - you may be surprised at what they have to offer.

Lawrence Vickery.



FANCY ISABELLE FOR A VISIT?

Carole and Bob Sands of 9 Halls Close are looking for a temporary foster home for their 2-year-old, neutered, female cat. Isabelle is a pretty cat - grey, semi-long-haired - but is not used to children.

The Sands will pay for Isabelle's upkeep and any vet's bills.

If you are interested, call 522877



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OTHER CHRONICLE NEWS

Geoffrey Long

Hardly was the ink dry on last month's *Chronicle* than we had a volunteer to take over as area agent from Maureen Ruddle in Crabtree Lane. Jennie Keeping was so quick off the mark that she was able to deliver last month's *Chronicle*. So many thanks, Jennie, for filling the gap so promptly, and welcome to the *Chronicle* team.

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Dear Editor,

May I send many congratulations to Brian and Sylvia Stimpson, of Whitehorns Way, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on Saturday 28th May. We wish them many more happy years together and send lots of love from Lorraine, Mark, Duncan, Sharon, Stephanie, Rhianna, Daniel and Laura.

Lorraine Tucker

Dear Editor,

May I use the *Chronicle* to add our congratulations and best wishes to others sent to Brian and Sylvia Stimpson on their golden wedding anniversary on Saturday 28th May.

Thank you

Dave and Heather Lee

Dear Sir

Clare and I would like to thank all our neighbours and friends for their help and kind messages and cards at the sad loss of Brian, whom we sadly miss. Also, thank you to all who gave donations to the British Heart Foundation.

Yours sincerely

Beryl, Clare and family

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

Our deepest sympathy goes to the Pitts family of Lockway over the tragic death of Mrs Judy Pitts.

Our condolences also to Mike Neal of Halls Close and his family, on the death of Myra after a short illness.



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Licensed Lay Minister	Dr Peter Barton	523702
Churchwardens	Mr Peter Cline	530519
	Mrs Sue Harris.....	848361
Organist	Mr Adrian Thompson.....	01865 714801
Choirmistress	Rosie Bruce	525284

REGULAR SERVICES

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

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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

CALENDAR FOR JUNE

Tues	7th	3.00 pm	First Tuesday Connections	Church Room
Sun	12th	11.15 am	Sale of Fair Trade Goods	Church
Sun	12th	6.30 pm	St Peter's UNLimited	Church Room
Sun	26th	10.00 am	Patronal Festival	Church

PARISH REGISTER

Wedding

21st May Simon Lassam to Katie Bott

Burial of Ashes

15th April Alan Raymond Mott

YOU STAY - WE PRAY

29 May - 4 June: High Street; Chiers Drive; Cheers Farm; Halls Close; 5 - 18 June: Lockway; Whitehorns Way; 19 - 25 June: Corneville Road; Crabtree Lane; Lesparre Close; 26 Jun - 2 July: Drayton Road; Milton Road; New Cut Mill; Fisher Close; Marcham Road; Meads Close; Rippington Court; Stone Hill

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Letter from the Rev Sister Josie Midwinter

Dear Friends

In Oxfordshire we live about as far away from the sea as anyone in this island nation can. Yet there is something in most of us that longs to get close to the large expanse of water that the sea provides. Standing on the harbour wall watching a group of fishing boats go out to do their daily work is always fascinating. There is a realisation that for thousands of years men have risked their lives to go out on the waters to catch fish for the rest of us to enjoy. It is a hard and dangerous life, but one which is part of the life of our nation.



The first disciples that Jesus called were fishermen: Peter and Andrew; James and John. They were asked to leave their fishing boats and become 'fishers of people'. At first that must have seemed a strange calling. They understood the need to go out night after night in the fishing boat and catch fish, which would be sold in the morning market. That was their livelihood. But fishing for people was another matter entirely. It was only after they had been following Jesus for some time that they began to realise what it all meant. Jesus had a message of great importance to tell the people of his day - he pointed them back to the love God had shown them in the past and then he pointed them forward to the love that God continued to want to share with them. Peter and Andrew, James and John were now to demonstrate that love in their daily lives so that people would be 'caught' by the message and become followers of Jesus too. Fishing in Lake Galilee might have been dangerous, but becoming fishers for Jesus was also risky. Peter spent many years preaching the message that Jesus had entrusted to him and many times he was persecuted for it. But he never gave up. Finally he died a martyr's death, being crucified up-side-down as he felt unworthy to die as his Master Jesus had done.

The parish church of Drayton is dedicated to St Peter and his festival comes in June so it is time for us to celebrate. This we will do in two ways. On Saturday 11th June there will be a Summer Fete in the Vicarage garden. This is a time of fun and fellowship and a good way to support your parish church. The Patronal Festival will be kept on Sunday 26th June at both the 8am and 10am services. At the 10am service we will have a guest preacher the Rev Philip Tovey. You are warmly welcome to join us in our celebrations.

Yours sincerely,

Josie Midwinter

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

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

- 11.30 am Presently only one morning service per month. This is the Family Service, and is on the first Sunday of each month
- 6.00 pm Evening Service. A traditional form of service frequently with guest speakers. Communion every second Sunday of the month.

FORTHCOMING FAMILY SERVICES:

- Led by Iain Grey 5th June 11.30am
- Led by Janet Strong 3rd July 7.30 pm

CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE EVENING

At the Caudwell Day Centre Friday 10th June 7.00 pm

There will be books and plants for sale, a bring-and-buy table, coffee, tea and cakes

EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME

Janet Strong

FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS **Jean Hager**

If you are feeling lonely, isolated or in need of company, you are warmly invited to come and join us for a cup of tea and friendly conversation in St Peters Church Room on the first Tuesday of the month, between 3 pm and 4 30 pm. Our next get together will be on 7th June. If you need a lift or more information call me on 531558.

The following meeting, on 5th July, will include a session of simple and easy (no, very easy) seated exercises, led by a qualified instructor who promises us an afternoon of music and movement - and fun! So do come along and join in - or just sit back with a cup of tea and have a giggle at the rest of us.

On 2nd August we shall be holding a tea party when we hope to sit outside on the grass area, being sheltered from the hot sun (we are always full of optimism) by an elegant awning. I'll give fuller details about this in the next Chronicle.

Going Away? *KEYMINDERS*

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NOTICE BOARD

Antique Valuation Day in Wallingford

Dig out your treasures and bring them along for valuation by the experts on Friday 24th June 2005 at Wallingford Town Hall, Wallingford between 11.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. Bonhams, who have been auctioneers and valuers since 1793 will be using their expert skills to value your household wonders, all in aid of Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire, a local charity helping local families with small children. The cost of valuing 2 items is £5.00 and £1.00 per subsequent item. Refreshments and cakes for sale are also available.



So come along and bring your treasures, ceramics, books, toys, silver, pictures etc. (but no jewellery this time, sorry). You never know what might be in your attic!

For more information, please contact Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire on 01235 511152



LOCAL METHODIST WORSHIP

The Methodist Chapel

High Street, Milton, (near the Post Office)

Sunday Service: 10.30 am

Local contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409



DRAYTON VILLAGE

If you are fairly new to Drayton you might find the following description of our village interesting. It comes from 'The New Oxfordshire Village Book', pointed out to me by Andrew Beacroft and mentioned on the front page. The book was compiled by, and is reproduced with the consent of, the Oxfordshire Federation of Women's Institutes. The book is available from the OFWI office and good bookshops (ISBN: 1853060909). This is Drayton as they see it!

Editor

'Drayton is two miles from Abingdon on the old A34, once in Berkshire, now in Oxfordshire. It is the centre of an agricultural area, and was once famous for its walnuts. On the village green stands a stone cross in commemoration of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee.

Drayton has several fine houses, including Lime Close, parts of which are Elizabethan, which was visited by the diarist James Woodforde in 1763. Other houses of note are the Grange, Sutton Wick House, Gothic House and the Manor, opposite which is a cruck cottage.

Gothic House has a mural on the gable-end of St George killing the Dragon painted by Charles Sykes in 1949, the design taken from the original, smaller mural inside the house. Drayton people used to perform a mummer's play of St George and the Dragon annually at one time. Charles was an artist and sculptor, and in 1911 he designed the 'Spirit of Ecstasy' for the Rolls Royce motor company.

St Peter's church contains some fine carving done by Rev F. E. Robinson, who worked on it each day from 5.30 am until his parochial duties took over. He was also a renowned campanologist, and was the first Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Bell-ringers, and claimed to have rung in every belfry in England. A brass plaque above the pulpit states 'In every work that he began, he did it with all his heart'.

In 1959 the church roof was badly damaged by fire, but a village wedding went ahead as planned, after willing helpers had cleaned up and decorated the church with flowers and branches, after which it was closed for repairs for a while.

In 1780 the casual act of throwing away hot ashes started 'The Great Fire of Drayton' which wiped out half the village and caused a national appeal to be launched. Drayton bricks made of Kimmeridge clay, dug, shaped and fired behind the Wheatsheaf, were used to rebuild the village.



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⇒ In 1957 a Beverley aircraft came down near the village with some loss of life. More recently in 1989 a Tornado jet crashed on the outskirts of the village after flying into a flock of starlings.

There is reputed to be a ghost of a white lady on horseback, riding down Gypsy Lane, but she has not been seen recently!

One well known village lady was Mrs Marion Caudwell. Mrs Caudwell died in 1987 at the age of 93, after a lifetime of community work as area organiser of the WRVS, 25 years on the Abingdon RDC and eight years as a County Councillor. She gave a piece of land and raised money for housing and a day centre for the elderly which bear her name, and opened her garden each year for the church fete, an idyllic setting.

The busy Abingdon—Steventon road passing the green follows the line of the old toll road through Drayton used by the Oxford—Southampton stage coach in the 18th century. Whatever transport you use, Drayton is worth a visit!

TWINNING SOCIETY

Alun Griffiths

Following previous successful visits, we will be hosting a visit by a group of around 25-30 people, of all ages, from Lesparre over the August Bank Holiday weekend (25 – 30 August). The visitors stay with host families in Drayton and we are organising a range of activities for them during the day. We have a reasonable number of families offering to act as hosts but are always keen to expand contacts between Drayton and our Twin Town of Lesparre. So, if you have a spare room and would be prepared to put up one or two visitors during this period ...

Please help!.....by contacting either Michael Bell (531388) or Alun Griffiths (531463). It is not necessary to speak French: indeed, half the fun is trying to communicate!! These visits are reciprocal, with a party from Drayton visiting Lesparre in alternate years. For those of you who may be new to the village, Lesparre is a town in the heart of the Medoc region, and opportunities for sampling the local food and drink abound.

In a similar vein, we have received a request from the Lesparre Twinning committee to accommodate two girls in their late teens who would like the opportunity to improve their English before going to college in the autumn. Ideally they would like to find some temporary work in the area during their stay, so if you can provide assistance in either respect please contact Michael Bell (531388).

WOODEN SPOON RECIPE Lois Rennells

No. 10: Pineapple Meringue Torte (*from January 1976*)

1 ¼ lb (*about 570 grams*) can pineapple, 4 egg whites, 8 oz caster sugar, pinch cream of tartar, 4 oz ground almonds, ½ pt double cream, 3 tablespoons milk, icing sugar.

Whisk the egg whites until stiff. Add 2 tablespoons of the sugar and the cream of tartar and whisk again. Fold in the remaining sugar and ground almonds.

Spread on two 8" disks of non-stick baking paper. Dry at 150°, gas mark 2, for about 1 ¼ hours. Cool in the switched-off oven.

Whip the cream and milk together until thick. Place one meringue disk on a serving plate, spread with two thirds of the cream and most of the pineapple. Place the remaining meringue disk on top and dust with icing sugar. Pipe the remaining cream in swirls around the top of the torte and decorate with remaining pineapple.

Leave in the fridge for several hours to make cutting easy.

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The Green is maturing nicely and is well used by many in the community, but it does require care. Whilst some work is done voluntarily, we do have to pay for mowing and other maintenance, which is at present costing some £2500 per year. To meet this commitment we are dipping into our reserves and if it was not for the generous help of the Parish Council we would have run out of money. Therefore we need to establish an alternative source of funding. The Trustees, in consultation with members of the community, have suggested that we launch a 'Friends of the Millennium Green' campaign to help raise money.

What is a 'Friend'? A 'Friend' is anyone who makes a financial contribution to the upkeep of the Green either with a 'one off' payment or a regular contribution. If enough people make a small commitment (say £10/annum) then our maintenance funding would be secured.

If you are interested in helping protect the future of our Millennium Green please let us know by filling in the form below. We will then send you information on our 'Friend of the Millennium Green' campaign and details of the methods of payment.

Nick Hamilton

To : N I Hamilton, Sutton Wick Barn, Sutton Wick Lane,
Drayton, Abingdon, OX14 4HJ. Tel: 01235 559291

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

Phone number.....

Yes - I am interested in learning more about 'Friends of
The Millennium Green'

ALL AROUND

DRAYTON WIVES

Margaret Long

We must have the pleasantest Annual General Meeting of any society. Ours took place on April 27th and after a short resume of our activities by our President, Georgie Logan, and a review of our finances by our Treasurer, Trudi Buckner, we went on to enjoy a delicious tea of sandwiches and scones with jam and cream. This was organised by Trudi who well deserves our heartfelt thanks. Any member who missed our Annual General Meeting missed a real treat.

Our afternoon sessions are proving to be very successful. We have been delighted to welcome a number of new members recently.

Arrangements are still being finalised about our visit to Ewelme at the end of June. We need to be at the old school in Ewelme by 2.00 pm and it is hoped that we shall see the 15th Century school, two almshouses and the church. Please contact Daphne Barrand, tel. 531476 for more details and do make sure to let us know if you need a lift.

Dates for your diary in June: -

Mon	6	10.30	COFFEE	Trudi Buckner,	52 W'ns Way.
Mon	20	7.15	WHIST	Trudi Buckner.	Caudwell D C
Wed	29		OUTING	Guided visit round	Ewelme.

W.I.

Doreen Buckland

Our May meeting started with Mrs Ann Webb, our president,, presenting Mrs Judy Henman with a £430 cheque for P.A.C.E. The money was raised by holding several coffee mornings during the winter months. Members were then invited to attend the P.A.C.E. School in Aylesbury. This was followed by two ladies telling us about their intended 60 kilometres walk in aid of the 'Breakthrough Breast Cancer' Fund. They need to raise £1500 each for this very worthy cause.

The speaker for the evening was Mrs Brioney Newport on the history of the Llangollen International Music Festival Eisteddfod. She gave a very interesting talk and video on the show which now attracts over 40 countries to take part. We hope you have all picked up your schedules for the Cook Grow and Sew to be held on the 10th September.

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FOOTBALL CLUB

Alan Alston

The 2004/05 North Berks football season has recently ended and what a season it has been for Drayton Football Club.

The 1st team have had a magnificent season. After losing their first two league games the team then went undefeated for the remaining 20 games, culminating with them winning their last game to be crowned North Berks. Division One Champions. The trophy is currently on display in the Red Lion for anyone wishing to view it.

The Reserves, who continue to include many village youngsters, have also had a good season ending up 3rd in their league with the possibility of promotion for next season.

The Boys U16 team have finished in the top half of their league and have recently won a six a-side competition. Hopefully some of these youngsters will come through to play for the Saturday teams in the near future.

As usual with any voluntary organisation there are many people behind the scenes who work to provide the facilities for the players. We are grateful to everyone who contributes in any way to the club. Special thanks go to the individuals who have managed the teams to their successes; Paul Evans for the 1st team, Ian Rogers and Mark Woodward for the Reserves and Les Wright for the boys.

We have a couple of events on the horizon that all are welcome to attend.

Our annual presentation Dinner and Disco will be held at Drayton Golf Club on Friday 3rd June. Tickets are £15.00 each and are available from any Football Club member.

Following last years' highly successful Charity Golf Day we are seeking to repeat the feat on Thursday 23rd June, again at Drayton Golf Club. Teams of 4 will compete for a variety of prizes and we will once again make a sizeable donation to a charity supporting local causes. Any golfers interested in taking part, either individually or as a team, should contact a member of the Football Club.

We are keen to hear from anyone in the village who has any ideas of a charity that fits our requirements i.e. provides facilities, services or support for Drayton residents or their families. Please give me a call on 01235 531425 if you have any ideas.

As always, anyone who would like to get involved with the football club in any capacity will be made most welcome. Give me a call on 531425 if you need further details of this or any of the items above.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Pearl Stanbridge

A branch delegate attended the recent national conference at Torquay. The next committee meeting will be held on Monday 20th June at 8 PM



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SCHOOL REPORT

Claire Soper

School restarts on Monday 6th June following the Spring Holiday, and hopefully everyone will return refreshed for the final term of the year with lots to look forward to.

Miss Stenzhorn is enjoying being back with the Reception/Year 1 children. They have been working together on the story of 'The Elves and the Shoemaker' in English and some of the children presented their versions in assembly, with lovely illustrations.

In art and maths the children have been looking at symmetry and used the computer, photographs and paintings to demonstrate this. They have investigated clothes and materials in science.

Mrs Raven's class have used the better weather to explore the school grounds and have been identifying various plants and their parts. The children have started a design and technology project on vehicles, involving making moving models and naming the different parts.

They have produced some stunning work based on Aboriginal art, which I can recommend a visit to if you are in school. In addition to all this the children worked very hard to complete their SATS papers in May.

The Middle Unit had a very enjoyable visit to St. Peter's Church as part of their study 'Places of Worship'. The children learnt lots of interesting things from Sister Josie who met them there. Mrs Middleton was pleased with everyone's behaviour during the visit.

The children have also produced some excellent fruit art involving the mediums of pastel on paint. They learnt how to enlarge their work using Colour Magic on the computer, and were able to give very accurate instructions on the task in assembly.

The Upper Unit have continued with their topic on Egypt, and were treated to a slide show by the Chair of Governors, Dr Ciaran McDonnell.

The Year 6 children finished their week of SATS with ebullient versions of 'What shall we do with the Drunken Sailor?' Which will no doubt double up as good practice for the NAPE concert!

The whole school enjoyed the visit by the Wild-Waste Bus, which involved lots of activities including making hats from newspaper, making envelopes and paper and how to pack a lunchbox using the least amount of packaging.

The School Council continues to work towards the Silver Eco Award, and will be once again promoting 'Walk to School Week' later this month. Let's hope it encourages more people to leave their cars at home and also leave the turning circle EMPTY! WE LIVE IN HOPE!!!!!!

Well done to the 10 pupils who took their Cycling Proficiency tests recently and passed.

Congratulations also to Keziah Thomas and Jenessa Neville who won prizes in a competition organised by the District Council to design a logo for a calico bag, on a recycling theme (see page 10).

School would like to say a BIG thank you to Shirley Thompson for volunteering to come and read with some of the children.

Finally some news from F.O.D.S.A. The Fashion Show in April raised the fantastic sum of £420. Thanks to everyone who helped make the evening so successful; we look forward to a repeat in October. ➔

➔ Our AGM will be held on Thursday 9th June at 7pm followed by Cheese and Wine. Sadly we will be losing our Secretary at the end of term, so any budding scribes please make yourselves known. Many thanks to Sue Elms for all her support over the years in various capacities, not least of all FLOOR WASHER! .

Don't forget our Summer Fair on Saturday 18th June. For more details see the advert.

I am also informed that due to popular demand there will be a repeat of the very successful Quiz Nite held in March, which raised approx £290. This will take place in September so watch this space! Thanks to Colin and Carol Arnold for master-minding these events.

DRAYTON PLAYERS

Jean Hager

This is a last reminder about our involvement in the Oxford Drama Festival. Our entry, 'Day Trippers' will be staged on Saturday 5th June in the Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon. Ours is the second of the two entries on that evening and is full of fun and laughter. Tickets are £4 on the door and the start time is 7:30 pm.

I can now tell you that our production for October 2005 will be 'When we are married' by J.B. Priestley. This is a warm and delightful comedy, set in Yorkshire, with a large and varied cast. Our first read-through is coming up soon and then we'll be into rehearsals which promise to be the great fun in themselves.

The projected musical for February 2006 is 'My Fair Lady', a very exciting venture which we are sure will prove to be very popular, both with the players and audiences alike. More news about that in due course.

Don't forget our fancy-dress hire service is always available. Requests for this are growing steadily; the range is large and rental very moderate. Ring 531425 for full details.

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COUNCIL REPORTS:1

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Grahame Ash

Election Information

For those who missed the outcome of the Elections locally, I will give a brief update. In the Wantage constituency, which incorporates Drayton, the Conservatives came first with Lib Dems in second place. They overtook Labour who came third. In the Oxford West and Abingdon constituency, Lib Dems retained their seat with Conservatives and Labour coming second and third respectively. In the County Council election for West Abingdon division which includes Drayton, two Conservative councillors were elected with Lib Dem coming third and fourth and Labour fifth and sixth. (Editor's note: see more information opposite)

The turn-out at Drayton was 70%, which was slightly above the average for the constituency. The numbers of rejected ballot papers were 133 and 177 in the Wantage and Oxford West and Abingdon elections respectively.

Some 24,000 postal votes were issued for the above three elections. No specific allegations of fraud have been made. I do know that many of the postal votes were delivered with pre-printed envelopes addressed to the Returning Officer at the Vale.

Success At Drayton School

A competition organised by the Vale of White Horse District Council was held for the best design to promote waste minimisation, reduction and re-cycling. This design had to be suitable to print on one side of a calico bag; calico being a natural and biodegradable substance (ideal I am told for compost heaps). Congratulations go to local winner Keziah Thomas of Drayton School who was given a book voucher and a bag of re-cycled goodies.

The Vale officer promoting the competition was so impressed with the quality of the designs from Drayton School that a second award was made. Congratulations also go to Jenessa Neville. I am only sorry that for business reasons I was unable to attend the presentation. I have however seen the excellent designs on the calico bags which are hanging on the winners' wall in the Vale Offices. In the picture Keziah is on the left.



Fly Tipping

The Vale is toughening its stance on prosecuting those responsible for the unauthorised deposit of controlled waste. This includes land owners allowing their land to be used by others as a dumping ground. Legal action was taken some years ago against a local farmer after much protracted correspondence by the County Council. In future, prosecution will be speedily undertaken by the Vale.

Abingdon Open Air Pool

Discussions over the future of the Pool continue. The original deadline has been extended to the end of July for the submission of a realistic Business Plan to save the Pool. According to the local paper there are now 6,000 people who have signed a petition to keep open the Pool; this is significantly more than the number of people who used the Pool last year. I understand a local organisation is looking to develop a business plan to save the Pool. In addition the Lib Dem controlled Abingdon Town Council is undertaking a consultation exercise (through their town magazine – The Town Crier) to see if the town residents would be





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⇒ prepared to pay another £7 a year on the Town council rates (Band D) to save the Pool. I will keep you posted.

Other Leisure Facilities

Whilst a question mark hangs over the open air pool, it is good to know that growth areas in sport and fitness are being progressed. At Tilsley Park, artificial 5-a-side pitches have been installed. These are the first of their kind in Oxfordshire and provide the opportunity for anyone to play on the same surface that Premiership players use on a daily basis. There are plans by the Management Company in the pipe-line to develop further the facilities at Tilsley Park.

The success of the White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre at Abingdon continues. There have been over a million admissions each year since the Centre opened in March 2002. Community Leisure Services, (CLS) who manage the centre on behalf of the Vale, gained accreditation under the nationally run Disability Inclusive Fitness Initiative. This means that the gym staff are trained in disability awareness and that gym equipment is provided for people with disabilities. The centre has strong links with the John Radcliffe Cardiac Unit conducting cardiac rehabilitation programmes in conjunction with the hospital.

In tennis, CLS have invested in video recording equipment and software to assist in player development. Indeed I understand two GB wheelchair tennis players have made the centre their training base. At Wantage Leisure Centre the multi-activity room has been refurbished into a modern Dance studio, where it has been equipped with a spring floor and air conditioning amongst other facilities.

Vale Executive

One change is being made to the 6 member Executive of the Vale of White Horse District Council for the year 2005/6. Cllr Tessa Ward replaces Cllr Bob Johnson. He was leader of the council for three years in the late 1990's and makes way for a younger lady.

More Regulations

A new European Council directive – the Strategic Environmental Appraisal - requires Local Authorities to carry out an environmental assessment of the Local Plans before they can be adopted. This means more time and more expense for councils without any financial compensation. There is however an exclusion clause for responsible authorities who consider that carrying out an environmental assessment of the plan is not feasible. The Vale regards itself as a responsible authority and will consequently be excluding itself from the directive. I wonder how many other European Authorities will do the same. (For the record the Vale does automatically take into account the environmental impact of the consequences of the Local Plan, but does not formalise them in the way the EC directive stipulates.)

And finally....

The next surgery will be held at 9.00 am at the village Hall on Saturday June 4th. I look forward to meeting any Drayton residents who wish to discuss their concerns.

Regards

Grahame Ash

COUNCIL REPORTS:2

PARISH COUNCIL

Daniel Scharf

Parish AGM on 9 May 2005.

Having gratefully accepted Paul Knight's offer to remain as Chairman for another year, all the other positions were confirmed for 2005/6, with the new member of the PC, Craig Dewar, taking up membership of both General Purposes and Rights of Way Committees. Having attended PC meetings regularly as member of the public for the last year, by joining the council Craig leaves a vacancy in the public gallery for anybody who believes that an eye should be kept on the council (see details of next meeting)

A presentation was made to Margaret Mackenzie who was bowing out having been our County Council for the last 25 years.

On the planning front, the Earl of Plymouth Estates has been seeking the views of local businesses to see what support there might be for their proposal to build more houses on the land between Henleys Lane, Gravel Lane and Abingdon Road. The council is trying to find out what has become of the deal based around the permission for the original development of about 20 houses and conversions that would have involved changes to the village green, and will be reminding the VWHDC that the council oppose the attempt to have the further development of 50 houses included in the Local Plan that is currently at public inquiry in Abingdon.

Financial support was given to the Damascus Project, but the bus would do more for the village if we did more for the bus, and the Clerk has details of whom to contact if there is anybody interested in driving and supervising in order to provide something for kids to do.

The "entrance features" to be paid for from the Didcot Integrated Transport Study have been delayed for months rather than years and the council has accepted the offer of one variable message sign with a request for two more. The council has submitted comments on the County Council's Local Transport Plan and Bus Strategy as examples of ways in which parish councils form part of the procedure in adopting policy that will affect the future of the village. We expect Thames Water to be ramping up the consultation on the reservoir project in the next month or two and the council could be looking for people interested in this, as the original group (GARD) may not have survived the period while the reservoir was on the back-burner.

The council was made aware of the need to raise more money to keep the Chronicle solvent and hopes very much that this will receive widespread support as this column is the only way to keep the village informed of council business.

The next meeting, for those interested in the vacancy/ies as interested villagers, will be on 6th June at 7.30pm at the Caudwell Day Centre.

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THIS SPACE - - and more besides - - could have been filled by something you had written. Just drop your contribution into 'The Box' (See 'Notes for Contributors on page 2) or let the Editor have some notes to work on.

COUNCIL REPORTS:3

DRAYTON'S NEW REPRESENTATIVES

At Westminster

Following Robert Jackson's retirement, the Wantage parliamentary constituency, of which Drayton is a part, elected a new Conservative MP on 5th May. Ed Vaizey won 22,354 votes, beating his nearest rival, Liberal Democrat Andrew Crawford, by a big margin (43% of the vote compared with 27.6%) in a reasonably good turnout of 68.2%. The House of Commons web-site notes he was an aide to Ian Duncan-Smith and that his interests are farming, housing development, transport and hunting.



In Oxfordshire

Following Margaret Mackenzie's retirement and the Boundary Commission's decision to join Drayton to Abingdon West, we now have two new representatives on the County Council. Mike and Marilyn Badcock, husband and wife and both Conservative, were elected on 5th May, beating Liberal Democrats Neil Fawcett and Angela Lawrence by a small margin.



Mike was keen to tell the Chronicle how awesome he feels it is to follow Margaret Mackenzie. 'Margaret and I don't agree on policy but I think she was one of the best local councillors this country has seen. If I had a problem, there is no-one I would rather ask to deal with it than Margaret Mackenzie', he said. He is also a Vale of White Horse District Councillor and an Abingdon Town Councillor and was Mayor of Abingdon in 1990/91. He enjoys most

Country pursuits and traditions.

Marilyn (and Mike) have two grown up daughters. Like her husband, Marilyn is also an Abingdonian, serving on the Town Council for 12 years, as Mayor of Abingdon in 1989-90 and as an Oxfordshire County Councillor 1993 - 1997. She has served as a governor of several Abingdon schools and her hobbies include lacemaking, needlework and avidly reading novels.



They live on the Drayton side of the town, off the Drayton Road at 7 Maberley Close, OX14 5PZ. Mike told the Chronicle that he drives through Drayton every day to his job at Milton Park, so understands our concerns for traffic flow between the village and Abingdon. They currently have their surgeries on the first Saturday of the month at 10.00 am in the Conservative Club on Ock Street in Abingdon but will be looking to have an additional surgery in Drayton.

Editor

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DRAYTON DIARY

FOR JUNE

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

Regular Events are listed opposite

Sat	4	9.00 am	Councillor G Ash surgery (until 10.00 am)	
Mon	6	7.30 pm	Parish Council	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
Sat	11	2.00 pm	St Peter's Fete	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
Sat	18	12.00 am	School Summer Fair (until 3.00 pm)	<i>School</i>
			Private Party	
Mon	20	9.15 am	Chronicle Lottery deadline	<i>Vickery's</i>
		5.15 pm	Chronicle copy deadline	<i>Vickery's box</i>
Tues	28	11.30 am	Blood Donor Clinic (until 8.30 pm)	

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REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

MONDAYS

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

TUESDAYS

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

THURSDAYS

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

FRIDAYS

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

SUNDAYS

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

MISSED OUT ON YOUR CHRONICLE?

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

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