THE PERFECT NEIGHBOUR

John Spencer 1937 - 2005

The Oxford Crematorium was full to bursting on June 10 to celebrate the life of an exceptional man. “If he was helping someone else he was happy” said Ian, the eldest of his three sons; that summed him up admirably.

Born near Basingstoke he had left school at 15 before joining the Royal Engineers in 1955. When he left, following a three year posting in Germany, he was a ‘jack of all trades and a master of most’, as those of us whom he rescued from yet another DIY disaster will testify. He was also a businessman and entrepreneur.

He married Pam in 1960 but joy turned to tragedy when she died, leaving John to bring up his sons single-handedly; this he did with love, flair and a good deal of help from his sister ‘Tough’.

He moved to Didcot, establishing his own company making car transporters on the Milton Estate. There he met his soul-mate and future partner Fran, who worked for one of his suppliers. They moved to Sutton Wick Lane in 1985.

Lucky for Drayton FC that John was a football fan, for he became the team’s Chairman and Sponsor. His love of people and good company may also have helped. He had friends everywhere, meeting them more often than not in the Red Lion, White Horse, Magic Midget or Wheat Sheaf.

Not only was John Spencer a generous neighbour and good friend to all who knew him, he was also very brave. Two years ago he had his larynx removed in what, for most, would be a traumatic operation.

He bounced back, Jack Hawkins-like, full of life and fun. There was never a moment of self-pity; just the fun of meeting and making new friends and helping them to make the best of things. Ever the perfect neighbour.  

Tom Shebbeare

PUBLISHED under the AUSPICES of the DRAYTON COMMUNITY TRUST (Reg. No. 255846)

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor:  Tony Holmes  Volume  28   No. 6 July  2005

Ins and outs  P6        Give Thanks   P3           Eyes and Ears ?   P7        Late-night Licence?  P8            Who won?  P2
Where’s Marvin  P11     A Chance for Growth  P9     Down the River   P5       A new Band?  P8      Strut your stuff P3

ST PETER’S CHURCH HOME-VISITING GROUP
will visit anyone who is, or has been, ill or is recently home from hospital, or unable to get out because of a disability, or is in any other circumstances where support would be welcomed.

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

DRAYTON ALMSHOUSE CHARITY

A Vacancy exists for one of the Drayton Almshouses. Are you interested, or do you know anyone else over the age of 60 who might be?  For an application form, please apply to:-

Camilla King (Clerk to the Trustees),
Gothic House, Drayton (01235 531253)
Or E-mail kingcanda@yahoo.co.uk

Abingdon Charities Working Together

is seeking

LOCAL PERSON with CHARITY INTERESTS

Flexible (paid) work 8 hours/week as Co-ordinator/ Fundraiser

Do you have a few hours/week, are working part-time or retired, but looking for an interesting new type of work to make a real difference within the town? We launched with volunteers. Now, with first donations coming in, we need a local person to develop the momentum. This paid work entails some administration and organising events, fund-raising as well as meeting and talking to local businesses and individuals. Previous experience admin, customer service or sales environment useful but not essential, as full training and support provided. Welcome applications from all age groups. Deadline for applications 20th July.

Contact 01235 534092 or email info@acwt.org.uk.
Details www.acwt.org.uk

THE BOWLS CLUB

Have some vacancies for new members – see their report on page 10. Despite its sedate image, the sport requires precision, guile and patience (rather like Golf, when something within a whisker of being a great shot can have entirely the wrong result). Bowling sessions are on Monday and Thursday afternoons (2 to 5 pm) and Wednesday evening from 7 until 10 pm. Doreen Jones (202568) can give more info (go on, have a go!)

DRAYTON PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

Hilliat Fields, Drayton, Abingdon Oxon OX14 4JF
Has places available for children 2½ to 5 years
Session times:
Monday to Friday 9am - 11.30am and 12.30pm - 3pm
Lunchclub Tuesday to Thursday 11.30am - 12.30pm
Please ring to come and visit us or request an information pack on
01235 536094
Ofsted inspected 1st December 2004 www.ofsted.gov

BEAT THE CROWDS – DRAYTON WASTE RECYCLING

CENTRE IS OPEN LATE, ON THURSDAYS UNTIL 8pm. IF IN DOUBT ABOUT THE RANGE OF MATERIALS THEY TAKE (OLD SHOES ARE OK!) CALL THEM ON 01235 531281.
COMING CHRONICLES

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

The Editor will be Geoffrey Long, Aeolian House, Chiers Drive (531321). Contributions may be e-mailed (see below), or placed in the Chronicle letter box, outside Vickery’s store on Drayton Green, NO LATER than 5.15 pm on Monday, July 18th 2005.

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

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

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

NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

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

1. If you’ve Internet access, by email to the relevant editor :-

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

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

2. A 3½” disk, in PC format, preferably ‘Saved As’ WORD. Please include hard copy for checking the formatting and your address so that the disk can be easily returned. This is STILL an excellent way to receive copy since it removes much of the work necessary in 3 & 4 below, AND should help to eliminate misprints/errors.

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

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

ADVERTISING RATES

For Block Advert (about 1/12th page)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advertiser Category</th>
<th>Number of Inserts</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drayton Resident</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>£5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>£14.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Drayton Resident</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>£6.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>£17.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>£31.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>£60.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Half-size block adverts, normally for one or two inserts, 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, Drayton Green, in shopping hours.

To discuss your requirements phone Linda Semmens, our Ads Manager (531180) or email:- linda.semmens@ntlworld.com

CHRONICLE LOTTERY

Daphne Samworth, Hon. Promoter

RESULTS OF THE JUNE LOTTERY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prize</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Agent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>£25</td>
<td>S. Wakefield, 4 Lesparre Close</td>
<td>Steve Penney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£20</td>
<td>Mrs Buckell, 8 Corneville Road</td>
<td>Gerald Redman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£15</td>
<td>V. Parker, 46 Abingdon Road</td>
<td>Jennifer Severs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£10</td>
<td>Mrs. Pitts, 27 Lockway</td>
<td>Jenny Pooley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£10</td>
<td>J. Madley, Mostyn, Milton Road</td>
<td>Claire Soper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£10</td>
<td>R. Blogg, 46 High Street</td>
<td>Margaret Long</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£10</td>
<td>Mr. Turner, 27 Corneville Road</td>
<td>Gerald Redman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£10</td>
<td>Mrs. Parkin, 37 Lockway</td>
<td>Jenny Pooley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£10</td>
<td>J. Cross, 3 Eastway Mobile Home Park</td>
<td>Teresa Burnage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£10</td>
<td>C. Turley, 18 Binnings Close</td>
<td>Christine Turley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Winning tickets , from a total of 2382 sold, were drawn by Teachers of the Pre-School Playgroup; Lockway and Corneville Road were both lucky roads this time.

NB PLEASE SEE THE ITEMS ON PAGE 7 RE:- CHRONICLE NEWS AND LOTTERY TICKETS.

THE FOLLOWING THREE MONTHS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue for</th>
<th>Copy for publication and return of Agents Lottery Packs by Monday:-</th>
<th>Chronicle published and available for distribution on Friday:-</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>15 August 2005</td>
<td>26 August 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>19 September 2005</td>
<td>30 September 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>17 October 2005</td>
<td>28 October 2005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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ELECTRICAL TOOLS – GARDENING
LOCKSMITHS – KEYS CUT WHILE YOU WAIT

OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY, 9 to 5.30
CREDIT CARDS TAKEN

Park your car outside the Store
In her talk on ‘Reducing the Rubbish Mountain’ Carol Chapman told us to recycle as much of our waste as we possibly can. Too much still ends up in landfill sites, which are getting harder and more expensive to find.

Her key messages were:

- Compost your green waste and
- Use your Green Box to the full

(and if one box isn’t big enough the Vale will be happy to provide a second one. Ed.)

Dates for your diary in July:

- Mon 4  10.30  COFFEE  Jean Taylor,  High St.
- Mon 18  7.15  WHIST  Edith Hale,  Caudwell D.C
- Wed 27  OUTING to Buscot Park

Margaret welcomes you to Sabina's

40 ABINGDON ROAD - DRAYTON - Tel. (01235) 531140
Mondays & Tuesdays & Saturdays 9.00am to 5.00 pm
Wednesday closed all day
Thursdays 9.00am to 6.00pm, Fridays 9.00am to 7.00pm
Men’s hair-dressing on Mondays, 6.30 to 8.00pm,
when appointments aren't necessary, so why not call in?
Special rates for Pensioners and Free Car Parking

The ROYAL BRITISH LEGION  Pearl Stanbridge

Branch member Vernon Jones and his wife are attending the celebrations in London on Sunday July 10th to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of World War 2.

The Branch hopes YOU will join us on that day, when we shall be commemorating that event at Steventon with a Church Service (St Michael’s, 9.45 a.m) and wreath laying (War Memorial, 11.15 a.m).

PLEASE COME ALONG AND GIVE THANKS to all those who laid down their lives for our present, and future.

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

HAVE YOU TRIED OUR FREE RANGE EGGS?

Brook Farm, Milton Road

NEW OPENING HOURS….. Mon to Sat 9.00 am to 1.00pm,
Except Friday……9.00am to 6.00pm
FREE RANGE EGGS, & POTATOES (if available)
Our own lamb available May to December

MISSED OUT ON YOUR CHRONICLE?

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

Priest in Charge:- Revd Sister Josie Midwinter ………….531374
Licensed Lay Minister:- Dr Peter Barton ……………………...523702
Churchwardens:- Mrs Sue Harris …………………………548361
Mr Peter Cline ………………………………………530519
Organist :- Mr Adrian Thompson ……………………01865 714801
Choir :- Mrs Rosie Bruce ……………………………525284

CHURCH NOTICES

REGULAR SERVICES
Sunday 8.00 am Holy Communion (CW Traditional).
10.00 am Sung Eucharist (CW) except 2nd Sunday, when a non-Eucharistic Family Service is held.
Mon-Fri 8.15 am Morning Prayer (CW) in Lady Chapel
Weds 10.30 am Parents’ & Toddlers’ Service - Church Room
Weds 6.00 pm Evening Prayer (CW) in Lady Chapel
Thursday 9.30 am Holy Communion (CW) in Lady Chapel

REGULAR ACTIVITIES
Sunday 10.00 am Sunday Pebbles & Rocks Church Room
Monday 7.45 pm Bellringing Practice Bell Tower
Friday 7.00 pm Choir Practice (All’ate Fridays) Church Room

CALENDAR FOR JULY

Sun 17th 11.15 am Sale of Fair Trade goods
Tues 5th 3.00 pm 1st Tuesday Connections Church Room
Sun 17th 11.15 am Sale of Fair Trade goods

PARISH REGISTER

Holy Baptism June 12th Amelia Ainscough
Funeral May 20th Judy Pitts
June 1st Evelyn Elizabeth Thompson

YOU STAY - WE PRAY

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

26 June – 2 July: Drayton Road; Milton Road; New Cut Mill; Fisher Close; Marcham Road; Meads Close; Rippington Court; Stone Hill
3 – 16 July: Steventon Road; Eastway; Eastway MHP
17 – 23 July: Church & Henleys Lanes; Caudwell Close; Gravel Lane
24 July – 7 Aug: Abingdon Rd; Oday Hill; Binnings Close; Haywards Rd

ST PETER’S CHURCH HOME-VISITING GROUP

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

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

Letter from St Peter’s Church

Dear Friends,

How much would you pay for a ticket for the Live 8 Concert, which is being planned by Bob Geldof to include some of the world’s best selling pop artists? The plan was that the 148,000 tickets, which could be requested via mobile phone, would be free – Bob’s aim being to draw a large crowd rather than raise money. However now the tickets have been released there is an active black-market in tickets, which is raising thousand of pounds for the touts who are selling them. The whole process has cut across the point that Bob Geldof was trying to make. He wanted to put pressure on the leaders of the leading eight countries (G8 countries) in the world to do more about cancelling world debt and introducing trade justice for the poorer nations of the world.

There are some things about human nature which never seem to change. As if all the cruel and evil things which are happening in the world were not enough there are always people who want to exploit the situation and make a fast buck out of someone else’s misery. It has ever been thus. Back in the eighth century BC the prophet Amos had this to say about the touts in his local market-place of his day:-

_They long to be in the market selling wheat..._
_Skimping the measure,
Boosting the price
Buying the poor with silver and the needy for a pair of sandals,
Selling even the sweepings with the wheat._

What was happening in that local market-place nearly 3,000 years ago is happening now, not just on a local scale, but internationally too.

On 6th July the G8 leaders of the eight richest countries in the world will meet in Gleneagles to discuss many issues including world debt and trade justice. There will be thousands of people there to remind them of the importance of bringing greater justice to world economies.

On 6th July the G8 leaders of the eight richest countries in the world will meet in Gleneagles to discuss many issues including world debt and trade justice. There will be thousands of people there to remind them of the importance of bringing greater justice to world economies.

Amos also had that hope for his own people when he wrote:-

_But let justice roll like a river,
Goodness like a never-failing stream!_

The five Live 8 concerts will take place on 2 July in London, Philadelphia, Paris, Rome and Berlin. We will not be there, but on Sunday 3rd July we will particularly think about these issues and pray for the leaders. If you haven’t got a ticket for one of the concerts why not come along and join us at the church as we pray for the G8 leaders that they will be wise and courageous in the decisions they make?

Or on Sunday 10th July you could come along and buy something from the Fair Trade stall. We may not think we are able to do much but we can do something to make the world we live in a better place.

As one of the leading supermarkets says: ‘Every little helps!’

Yours sincerely

Josie Midwinter
Drayton Pre-School Group  Anna Loughlin

The Summer term has been very busy and enjoyable, and the children learned about wild animals and their habitats. They enjoyed bringing in, from home, their more exotic cuddly toys and books. A veritable menagerie was established to add to the eye-catching displays and the ‘walk in the jungle’ theme. To round off the theme, ZooLab visited pre-school at the end of May, and the children had a ‘hands-on’ encounter with snails, snakes and spiders…not for the faint-hearted!

Many thanks to all the parents who attended the AGM in June. Pre-School are always looking for new committee members and all help is very welcome.

Thanks also to all the children, Mums and Dads who raised money for Barnardo’s at Beale Park. As a charity, Barnardo’s rely on all sorts of people, from pre-schoolers to big businesses for financial support, and all donations are gratefully received (www.barnardos.org.uk or Barnardo’s, Tanners Lane, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex, IG6 1QG).

Looking ahead, the Teddy-Bears Picnic is on the agenda. Please see the notice board for more details.

Pre-School is a wonderful opportunity for your children, and we still have some spaces available for September. Pre-School is open for children from the age of 2½. So, arrange a visit by calling 01235 536094, or, if your child already attends, would you like to arrange extra sessions for the Autumn? It is important for Pre-School to keep numbers steady over the year. At the moment sessions are held morning and afternoon every day of school term, but a fall in the numbers of children attending, even if only for a short period, could mean the closure of some sessions, which none of us wants.

We send warmest congratulations to Lucie and Lee, who recently tied the knot! We all wish you the very, very best for the future!

Term ends on Friday 22 July and will resume on Monday 5 September. Finally, we say a very, very big Thank You! to all the staff, Christine, Oz, Claire and Denise for another happy and successful year at Pre-School. We all appreciate your hard work, enthusiasm and your commitment. We wish you and all the parents and children a very happy summer!

Drayton TODDLER GROUP  Anna Loughlin

Summer has arrived at last, and Toddlers hope you all have a happy, relaxing time. Toddlers continues to run on Thursday mornings at Drayton Hall, between 9.30am and 11.30am. Weather permitting, we relax time. Toddlers continues to run on Thursday mornings at Drayton Hall, between 9.30am and 11.30am. Weather permitting, we will be ‘garden hopping’ at parents’ homes on Tuesday mornings over July and August. Please call Anna (206170) to find out where the play sessions will be held.

Toddlers hope to raise lots of money for Barnardo’s on the Barnardo’s toddle on Wednesday 29 June at Beale Park, situated between here and Reading. The event has always been a very popular and enjoyable occasion, and the children are always assured of an excellent time as there is so much to see and do.

Any donations to Barnardo’s would be very gratefully accepted (please see the Pre-school group article for Barnardo’s details).

Please make a date to accompany Toddlers on the annual Teddy-Bears' picnic. Hopefully, we can again team up with the Pre-school children and share a picnic at the Millenium Green. Watch the notice-board at Toddlers/Pre-school for the scheduled date and time. Finally, it’s been great to see new faces at Toddlers – all toddlers and parents are really welcome and we hope you keep on coming!
PASTORAL Co-Ordinator: - Roy Brown............... 531296

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

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

Thank YOU :- to everyone who came along to support our Coffee Morning at the Caudwell Day Centre (in aid of Christian Aid) – we raised £183.80.

Come and join us every Sunday – we look forward to seeing you. Next Family Service is July 3rd at 11.30, and following that on August 7th, each led by Janet Strong.

EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME

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NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

A very warm welcome to Tony and Sally, whose neighbours hope they’ll be very happy in Crabtree Lane.

Also to Karen and Mark and their son Harry, who have moved from Abingdon into Church Lane;

and to Julie and her children Sam and Sophie who have also moved into Church Lane.

Sincerest sympathy to the family of Mrs Eve Thompson who died recently. She will be greatly missed in the Alms Houses where she was always so helpful.

We wish Gillian von Hoven much happiness in her new home in Shrewsbury after many years of living in Drayton.

A warm welcome and good wishes to newcomers in the High Street, Adam and Sarah Walters.

Sutton Courtenay Chiropractic
Chiropractic Biophysics (body physics) may be the answer to your headaches as well as neck, arm, back or leg pain
S. A. M., an Australian invention, is a non-intrusive evaluation device which in minutes can reveal whether your spine is likely to be the cause of your problems.
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Spinal X-Ray facilities.  Abundant free parking.

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YOUR LETTERS

Misquoted

Dear Sir,

I was disappointed to find I had been misquoted by Mr Beadle in his letter which appeared in last months’ Chronicle. If quotation marks are used, then I would have thought that, as a matter of courtesy, it would not be too difficult to ensure the accuracy of the statement.

Mr Beadle conveniently omitted the word ‘always’ which significantly changes the meaning of my comment, which was as follows:- ‘Whilst they (Drayton’s shops) are not ALWAYS able to compete with supermarkets on choice and price, they more than compete on service’.

I feel this puts my remark in a totally different light. Unfortunately, when such a fundamental error is made by Mr Beadle it could be seen to undermine the significance of the rest of his contribution.

Yours Faithfully Grahame Ash

(Ed:- The regular District Councillor column is on p8).

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Parents Beware ?

This isn’t a letter, it’s the amalgamation of a couple of reports that the Chronicle has recently received.

The gist of them is that, apparently, a white van has been seen, late afternoon and/or early evening, sometimes late evening, in locations including the Hall car park, and the Green. The driver has been reportedly acting suspiciously, the concern is that drugs may have been distributed to local youth.

The matter has been reported to the police; at the time this edition has to go to the printer, unfortunately no results have been received from them of their checks and observations.

HOMOEOPATHY PRACTICE IN DRAYTON

Homoeopathy is a gentle, holistic form of healing, suitable for adults and children alike.
It can improve most ailments and enhance your sense of well-being and general health.

For more information/appointments please ring:
Janet Manning. (BA, MA, LCCH) 01235 527603

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LOTTERY TICKETS

This is the last month in which lottery tickets will be on sale at 15p per ticket, 75p per book. As already announced, the price of the tickets distributed at the end of July with the August Chronicle will be 20p per ticket, £1.00 per book.

As the editor commented last month :-

‘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.’

Geoffrey Long, Chronicle Co-ordinator

And, on a related topic, Daphne Samworth, our Lottery Promoter, wishes to point out the following to our willing band of agents :-

We are beginning to get foreign coins creeping into the money collected for lottery tickets. Please try to ensure that you only collect British money, especially as the summer months are upon us and we are all going away on our holidays.

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Special arrangements for the Chronicle

Yes, believe it or not, the time for summer holidays is here once more, and holidays can affect the Chronicle. Like many people, Lawrence and Debbie, at Vickery’s store on the Green, sometimes decide on their holidays at the last minute. This may not give us time to publicise the arrangements for the Chronicle box should the shop be closed around the deadlines for copy and the return of lottery packs.

This doesn’t often affect us but, if it does, Lawrence very kindly allows us to make alternative arrangements. Should you find that the shop is closed for the holidays at a critical time please follow the simple instructions which will be displayed on the glass door of the shop.

Geoffrey Long, Chronicle Co-ordinator

ARE YOU IN THE DARK ?

If your streetlight isn’t working, or wastes resources by being on in the daytime, then PLEASE report it on the County Council hotline (free) 0800 317802 - help them by giving the town, road, and if possible the number on the post, or failing that the nearest house.
“People Get The Shops They Deserve”

This phrase appeared in a recent report bemoaning the fact that our major town centres are becoming clones of one another with the same chains of shops taking over. It also referred to the ‘out-of-town’ stores being responsible for the closure of many independent shops.

So I was delighted to see my May Chronicle article on Local Business (‘Lose it or Use it’) has generated interest. I was very pleased to read Mr. Vickery’s letter to learn in particular that he has ‘Stellar’ cookware at half list price and selected garden products at promotional prices. I think this information is useful and hope it generates more business for him. I hope, as suggested by Mr. Vickery, that it encourages Chronicle readers to check out his and other village shops and give them more of our support.

More Houses for Drayton?

I have mentioned in earlier articles the process to complete the Vale’s Local Plan to 2011. The next stage is the Inquiry. This allows objectors to propose that other sites should be identified for building development as alternatives or additions to those already identified in the Plan. The representatives of the Earl of Plymouth’s Estates are to promote at this Inquiry the following developments:-

Approx 144 dwellings on land at Manor Farm. This is the area bounded by Abingdon Road, Henley’s Lane, Gravel Lane and Caudwell Close.

Approx 445 dwelling on the western ‘green belt’ fringes of the village. This land runs from the back of the westerly houses in Lockway and Whitehorns Way right through to the A34. The plot also includes a ‘finger’ shaped extension for some 2-300 metres along the A34 north of Whitehorns Way.

May I remind readers that, whilst the Government’s plan is to maximise house building, the policy of the Lib Dem administration at the Vale is not to build on the ‘green belt’ land.

ASBOs and High Hedges

The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 is coming into force in stages. From 1st June a complaints procedure for dealing with neighbour disputes caused by high hedges comes into operation. The most common concerns relate to light obstruction and loss of visual amenity. Existing remedies were considered to be ineffective in settling disputes and the new legislation allows Local Authorities to deal with such complaints where neighbours are unable to agree a solution. A fee for processing each complaint has recently been set at £600, by the Development Control Committee of the Vale. Should anyone wish to discuss such a dispute with me further, I look forward to meeting them at my political surgery.

Licensing Update

The new Licensing laws will come into force on 24th November. After that date, all premises selling alcohol, putting on entertainment or serving hot food after 11.00 pm must have a new licence to be able to trade. Establishments requiring a licence are asked to submit their applications as soon as possible to the local councils in order for them to be processed before the November dead-line. Incidentally, the deadline for the automatic renewal of ‘grandfather rights’ is 6th August and any applications received after that date will be treated as new claims.

Future Council Tax (1)

The Local Government Association (LGA) publication ‘first’ is predicting a £1.5 billion ‘black hole’ in council budgets for 2006. It blames central government for not increasing grants in line with spending requirements. (The LGA is a group of elected councillors representing the political parties in direct ratio to the number of councillors.)

Future Council Tax (2)

Has your residence been extended since the last property revaluation in April 1991? If so, your property will more than likely be revalued and re-banded one or even two bands above its current level. Average properties in Drayton are band D and are currently charged £1,205 council tax. Tax band E has council tax of £1,473, an increase of 22% on band D. For band F, the increase is 44% to £1741.

Vale Website

The Vale was one of the councils that did not rush on to the IT bandwagon. It has however more than caught up its contemporaries. According to the Society of IT Managers the Vale’s website (www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk) has improved in content and usability over the last year. The website has jumped from merely being ‘promotions’ to one that is content driven. This means, I am advised, that it provides ‘useful content and encourages some interaction’ with downloadable files and email feedback. It lists the Vale website’s A-Z listing and search engine as examples of ‘best practice’. It particularly highlights the comprehensive information on social care and benefits.

And Finally……

The next surgery will be held at 9.00am at the Village Hall on Saturday August 6th. (There will NOT be a surgery in July.) I look forward to meeting any Drayton residents who wish to come along and discuss their concerns.

Regards

Graeme Ash
An information packed meeting. A representative from Home Start explained how the small grant from the Parish Council helped this very worthwhile organisation help young families.

Followed by Mr Cherry from the County Council who is responsible for a redesign of the civic amenity site up to health and safety standards following a fatality on another site. The trick is to keep the cars away from the people and to dissuade people from putting general waste in the dedicated recycling areas. This was a consultation on a draft plan but the size of the site leaves very little room for manoeuvre. It is especially disappointing that people may be stopped walking onto the site.

The third presentation was from Community Support Officers. Russ and Nina are getting to know the area and explained how they might become part of the process of enabling kids doing what they want to do without getting into trouble or causing trouble to others.

Newly elected Mike Badcock was welcomed to his first parish council meeting. He promised a hot line to the Council. This is how democracy at the local level can be seen to work. Mike will hold his surgeries in Abingdon but if it is a matter that concerns the whole or part of the village (such as traffic and transport) then such issues can be discussed at any parish council meeting with the county councillor present.

The Council voted to support Bourton Parish Council in their concern that an attempt was being made to water down the Vale of White Horse Local Plan housing policies to an extent where every site could be considered on its merits. While this may have some advantages it is not what a plan-led system is meant to be about.

Sadly, the death of Mr John Spencer one of the longstanding allotment wardens was reported. Tom Cox is so far prepared to continue with these duties. Did you know that 40 or so years ago there were more than twice the number of allotments in the village and half the number of families? And worse, about a third of the remaining allotments (behind Church Lane) are unused. Taking on one of these plots in their current state would be beyond all but the most experienced gardener. However, if anybody would be interested in taking on a whole (or half) an allotment if it was cultivated and de-weeded please contact the parish clerk who will put you in touch with Tom. A good time to get onto a new allotment is the autumn by when the Parish Council could have had a chance to react to any demand for plots.

If you would like to discuss the allotments, come along to the next meeting of the Council on 4 July at 7.45pm at the Caudwell Day Centre when the reservoir will be on the agenda. See you there.

Daniel Scharf

Regular readers will know that it is our turn to host visitors from Lesparre this year. Hosting will take place between 26th – 31st August 2005.

A party of 26 visitors are due to arrive for the August Bank Holiday period and our programme is being finalised. Some are well known to us, several came for the football competition and others are coming for the first time – age ranges are from 12 to 64 and they are from many different backgrounds.

Our programme will include a visit to an English Vineyard, a boat trip to Oxford followed by various visits in the city, a day out to Blenheim Palace during their Living Heritage Oxfordshire Craft Fair, a Fish and Chip Supper accompanied by a Jazz Band and various other activities.

We have hosts for the group, and even for those of us that have moved away but still want to meet up again with friends from both sides of the channel.

If anyone would like to be involved or join us for any of these events please contact Michael Bell (531388) or Alun Griffiths (531463).

East workshop, Rich’s Sidings, Broadway, Didcot, OX11 8AG

MEMORIALS

NEW MEMORIALS TABLES

RESTORATIONS BENCHES

ADDITIONAL INSCRIPTIONS FOUNTAINS

VASES PLANTERS

GLASS CHIPPINGS STATUARY

KITCHEN WORKTOPS FLOOR TILES

We are a family run business with years of experience; customer care is our priority. No obligation home appointments by male or female staff. We have an outdoor show area and sales office near Travis Perkins. Our garden stone is unique, each one is hand carved in solid granite.

Wooden Spoon Recipe

Cold Melon Soup (from August 1977)

1 honeydew melon, ½ pint water, 1 oz sugar, 1 tablespoon cornflour, grated rind of 1 lemon, ½ pint dry white wine, ¾ pt double cream.

Remove the skin and seeds from the melon and cut into cubes. Reserve a few pieces for garnish and cook the rest in sugar and water for 10 minutes. Liquidise.

Blend 2 tablespoons of water with the cornflour and add to the puree.

Return to the heat and cook for 10 minutes, stirring constantly.

Stir in the grated lemon rind and chill.

Before serving, stir in the wine and cream and garnish with reserved fruit.

Lois Rennells
The BOWLS CLUB  ‘Roll-Up’

The annual general meeting of the Bowls Club was held on Weds June 8th and was well attended, 40 members being present. The main topic of discussion was the loss of income; this was due to increased hall fees and the drop in attendances at bowling sessions, the treasurer said this could not continue as there was a deficit of £1,000 on the year.

After many suggestions of putting things right, it was decided to increase the green fees to £2 a session from £1.50, which will start on July 1st; this should address the problem short-term, but there is a need to try and get new members to join the club (Ed:- more details you doubtless saw on front page).

Secretary Jane Pimm congratulated the Wasps team on winning their league, and the Rollers on finishing runners-up in their league. Main changes on the committee were that Val Locke stood down as treasurer (and was thanked for her services to the club over the last 6 years), and Cyril Carter was elected as her replacement, otherwise the committee was the same.

The internal competitions were going well the last one being The Henry Bunce handicap pairs won by Fred Long and Bryn Jones. The next competition will be The Don Alexander Trophy being played for on June 19.

And in closing the meeting the Chair person said at this stage it would be appropriate to offer Norman Hopkins life membership of the club in appreciation of the work he has put in over the last 14 years; this he accepted with grateful thanks.

And finally we have to end these notes with the news, after a short illness, of the sad loss of Wally (Weightman) who was a very active member for the last 15 years. He will be sadly missed, and our thoughts are with Joyce and her family at this time.

Drayton School Claire Soper

The summer is well and truly with us now and the children have been enjoying lots of outdoor activities and visits. It seems hardly possible that a whole year is nearly at an end yet again!

In the Lower Unit the Reception and Year 1 children have been busy growing beans and developing their garden area. Whilst Year 1 and 2 children have been exploring the local area in Geography, are also starting work on an Art Project about the Rain Forest and hope to construct one in the classroom.

Everyone has enjoyed the help of two students from Didcot Girls School who have been on Work Experience.

In the Middle Unit the children have continued their study of places of worship with a visit to the Baptist Church in Drayton and are planning to visit the Oxford Mosque. They have also been carrying out geographical fieldwork in the school grounds, investigating why sparrows are an endangered species.

A visit to an archaeological dig in Marcham is planned this month which I am sure will be fascinating.

The Upper Unit are out and about too, with a visit to the Ashmolean to look at Egyptian Artefacts as part of their topic on Egypt.

Some of the older children will be visiting Dorchester as part of the N.A.P.E. Festival of Voices as well as going to the National event at Wembley.

The School Council are making progress in their efforts to win a Silver Eco Award, they organised a Fruit and Vegetable week to encourage people to eat their 5 portions a day!

Fun activities included:- Apple Bobbing, a Vegetable Creature competition and ‘Fruit Police’ who awarded stickers to those at lunchtime who had brought fruit to eat.

The whole school was involved in organising stalls for the Summer Fair, with some very ingenious ideas, they get more varied each year! Not least GUNGEING MRS HIGGS, which raised over £120 in sponsorship, and not a little admiration for a very brave effort on her part!

Well done to Phillip and Jenessa for completing their Cycling Proficiency tests recently.

Sports Day will take place on Wednesday 20th July and will include a Family Picnic at lunchtime.

News from F.O.D.S.A:- The Summer Fair at the time of writing raised aprox £1,350 with some money still to come in, this is a FANTASTIC result and we are extremely grateful to everyone involved in making the day so successful.

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Our efforts over the next year will be aimed at improving the external play area for the Foundation and Reception children.

The Leavers’ Disco will take place in school on Friday 22nd July from 7 - 9.30 pm for school families.

It just remains for me to say that school will finish on Friday 22nd July with the final Leavers Assembly at 1.30pm. to which visitors are welcome to attend.

We offer our best wishes to those pupils moving on to Secondary School in September. Happy and safe holidays to everyone over the coming weeks, school restarts on Monday 5th September.

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**EVEN MORE ALL AROUND**

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**SURGICAL CHIROPODIST**

**M.S.S.Ch., M.B.Ch.A.**

**HOME VISITS**

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**APPOINTMENTS**

Mrs Hazel MOODEY, 48 Hanney Road, Steventon. Tel. (01235) 834093

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**THE LAVENDER ROOM**

Beauty Clinic
Steventon, Oxon.

Provides perfect balance between maintenance and unhurried relaxation in a unique environment

Our philosophy is to calm, relax, refresh and make you feel special

Facials – Massage – Hands & Feet – Waxing – Body bliss

01235 833600

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THAMES VALLEY FARMERS MARKETS – Fresh, Quality produce, Locally produced, at a Competitive price
(Discover the taste of really fresh meat & veg, and buy directly from the producer)

JULY Dates
Abingdon (3rd Monday) – 18th Wendover (last Sat) – 30th
Didcot (2nd Sat) - 9th Newbury (1st Sunday) – 3rd
Oxford – Gloucester Green (1st Thursday) – 7th
Reading (1st & 3rd Sats) – 2nd / 16th

TVFM news - ring 0870 241 4762 - website Tvfm.org.uk
Usually the markets run from about 8.30 am until lunchtime,

FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS

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

If you have been hesitating about coming along to join us, why not contact me for a chat first and I can give you more details of our sessions. We look forward to meeting you; if you need transport please call me (Jean Hager) on 531558.

Our next meeting is on July 5th, when we shall be led in a short session of simple (seated) exercises, by a qualified instructor. We are promised information, gentle movement and fun, so do come along and join us.
This particular session will commence at around 3.30 pm, so you’ve time for your cuppa first, if you wish.

On August 2nd we shall be holding a Summer Tea Party, in the garden area outside the Church Room, under shady awnings (inside if wet). Invitations are being sent out for this occasion, because we need catering numbers, but if you don’t receive one and would like to come along, please let me know beforehand (531558).

LISTINGS

July 6th to 9th, 7.30 pm, Abingdon Drama Club presents at the Unicorn Theatre, LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES. £6.50, concessions £5.50
From MODERN MUSIC or Ticketline (524538) plus Gala Supper after show (Sat only) £10 these tickets ONLY from Ticketline.

ABBEY BRASS and the OXFORD WELSH MALE VOICE CHOIR, July 16th, at Amey Theatre, 7.30pm, £8, concessions £6. Tickets from Modern Music, Dolls (Peachcroft), or at the door.

NEWBURY COMEDY FESTIVAL, July 9th to 16th, at venues round, you’ve guessed it, Newbury. Advertised to have World-class stand-up, surreal theatre, kitsch cabaret, lunatic escapologists, old time music hall, and exploding underpants… there really is something for everyone at this year’s Newbury Comedy Festival.
Listed performers include:- Lee Mack, Jo Brand, Rich Hall, Jenny Éclair and Dominic Holland, all regulars on TV. Check out website www.newburycomedyfestival.com/ for dates and times, or call 01635 522733 which is the Corn Exchange box office. Tickets are reportedly selling fast, so hurry!

Other Local Places of Worship

Methodist Chapel
High Street, Milton, (near the Post Office)
Sunday Service: 10.30 am
Local contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409

MISSING MARVIN APPEAL

CAN YOU PLEASE HELP? ‘Marvin’ is a large grey puss, with long legs and tail, and green eyes. Until May he lived at a house in Wootton Road, Abingdon, where he’d adopted the resident humans about a year before, joining the three existing cats there.
In May his new owner in Whitehorns Way responded to an appeal for a new home (due to cat over-crowding at the old one) and brought him to Drayton. Sadly Marvin didn’t seem to realise all the efforts that were being made on his behalf, and absconded after a few days as soon as he was able to get outside. Despite various appeals and ads, no reports have been heard about him, last being seen on Sat May 21st.
He could be trying to get back to the former home in Abingdon (but that’s a big place for a cat to walk round), he might have got severely lost and wandered off in the wrong direction, he might – sadly – have used up all his nine lives, or – hopefully – he’s conned another family into giving the food, rest and affection that he’s used to.

If you have any genuine news at all, whether just a sighting, or you’ve seen an unfortunate dead cat that might be him, or maybe you ARE the new people that he’s adopted, PLEASE CALL either 526299 or 526002 as his former owners would really like to know what happened.

THANKS.

Your Local Councillors:
Parish (Chairman) Paul Knight (531678);
District (VofWH) Grahame Ash (831622);
& Oxfordshire County Mike & Marilyn Badcock (201810).

LADIES PAMPER EVENING

DRAYTON PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP are holding a Ladies Night on Thursday 28th July at 8pm in Steventon Village Hall
Jewellery, Wedding Accessories, Aromatherapy, Wooden Crafts, Nails, Health & Beauty, Makeup, Toys, plus lots more
Wine and nibbles plus a raffle
Entrance £1.00
For more information tel: 07749 750 071

Changes Unisex Hair Salon
Tuesday & Thursday 9.00 – 4.00
Wednesday & Friday 9.00 – 7.00
Saturday 8.30 – 3.00
Senior citizen rates Tuesday & Wednesday
Free parking
For an appointment please phone 01235 848453 or call in and see us at
8 Milton Road, Sutton Courtenay
DIARY FOR JULY

All events held in Drayton Hall unless otherwise stated

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

NB If your event isn’t listed, IT COULD HAVE BEEN!!!

Sat 2 9.00am NB NO District Councillor ‘Surgery’
Sat 2 Wedding
Mon 4 7.45pm Parish Council Meeting (p9) Caadwell DC
Tues 5 3.00pm 1st Tuesday Connections Church Room
Sun 10 9.45am 60th WW2 Commemoration (p3) Steventon
Mon 11 7.30pm Hall Committee Lounge
Sat 16 Wedding
Sun 17 11.15am Fair-Trade sale (after service) St Peter’s
Mon 18 5.00pm CHRONICLE DEADLINE Vickery’s
Weds 20 School Sports Day
Sat 23 Party

REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS
Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

MONDAYS
8.15 am Morning Prayer (daily to Fri) St Peter’s Lady Chapel
9.15 am Pre-School Playgroup (in Term) Sch’l Ground Bldg
2.00 pm Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)
5.45 pm Beavers (Boys/girls, 6–8 yrs, Tel. 512834) Steventon Hall
7.00 pm Scouts (Boys/girls, 8-10 yrs, Tel. 512834) Steventon Hall
7.00 pm Badminton (Private Group)
7.15 pm Drayton Wives Whist (3rd Monday) Caadwell DC
7.30 pm Youth Club (until 9.30) Small Hall
7.30 pm Senior Table Tennis, League (for 2 hours) School
7.45 pm Parish Council Meeting (1st Mon? – see report) CDC
7.45 pm Bell-ringing (for 1½ hours) St Peter’s Church

TUESDAYS
9.15 am Pre-School Playgroup (in Term) Sch’l Ground Bldg
9.30 am Parent and Toddler Group
1.45 pm Drayton Art Group (until 4 pm) Caudwell Day Centre
3.00 pm Junior Netball (for 1 hour) School
6.00 pm Ladies’ Netball (for 1 hour) School
6.30pm Weight Watchers CDC
7.30 pm Senior League Table Tennis School

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

THURSDAYS
9.15 am Pre-School Playgroup (in Term) Sch’l Ground Bldg
9.30 am Holy Communion St Peter’s Lady Chapel
9.30 am Parent & Toddler Group
9.50 am Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min) Haywards Rd
10.15 am Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min) The Green Car Pk
2.00 pm 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

FRIDAYS
9.15 am Pre-School Playgroup (in Term) Sch’l Ground Bldg
11.00 am The Friday Club (fortnightly) 202466 CDC
7.00 pm Choir Practice St Peter’s

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

DISCLAIMER This Journal is published in all good faith and every care is taken in its compilation. The organisers of the DRAYTON CHRONICLE, and its Agents, therefore accept no responsibility for OPINIONS EXPRESSED, nor for the validity of any ADVERTISEMENT, nor for any EFFECTS ARISING WHATSOEVER from the publication.

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