

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Geoffrey Long

Volume 28, No. 7

August 2005

SETTLING IN

Ed Vaizey MP

It's been almost three months since I was elected as the Member of Parliament for the Wantage constituency, which includes Drayton. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to serve you as your MP.

It's been an eventful few weeks. The House authorities do all they can to make you feel welcome, but it is still a disorientating process. For example, it takes several weeks to be allocated an office.

The first task of a new Member is to make their maiden speech. This is a unique occasion, as the speech is meant to be non-controversial, and you are listened to without interruption by the other members of the House. It is a chance to extol the wonders of your constituency, which in my case was not difficult. I won't reproduce the speech here, but you can find it on-line at <http://www.parliament.uk> in the Hansard for 8th June if you want to read it.

Since my maiden speech, I have sat on the Standing Committee to scrutinise the Consumer Credit Bill, which is designed to up-date our thirty year old consumer credit laws and combat loan sharks, and appointed to the Modernisation Select Committee, which recommends changes to parliamentary procedure.

If you need to contact me at any time, here are my details:

Tel:..... 020 7219 6350

E-mail vaizeye@parliament.uk
(please include a home address)

Address House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

My next surgery dates are:

6 August 9.30am..... Faringdon, Corn Exchange.

2 September 5.30pm..... Didcot,

King Alfred Drive Community Centre

NEWS OF THE CHRONICLE

Geoffrey Long

This month we say 'Goodbye' to another of our outstandingly long-serving Area Agents. Sarah Church first became an agent over 25 years ago, in the days of the *Hall News*, the precursor of the *Chronicle*. This puts Sarah, along with her husband Derek, among that valiant band of agents who have stuck with the *Chronicle* from the very beginning. Many, many thanks, Sarah and Derek, for all the time you have given to the *Chronicle* over all those years – and for all the pair of shoes you must have worn out.

But Sarah is not leaving the *Chronicle* – she will continue to wear her other hat as a member of the team who make the lottery happen each month. Thank you for your continuing help there – I hope that you will all find counting the money so much easier without all those fiddly 5p pieces to deal with.

We do, of course, now need a volunteer to replace Sarah. Would all those who appreciate the value of the *Chronicle* to the village spend a few moments to consider whether they could 'do their bit' towards keeping it going? Without area agents it cannot hope to survive. As is done in some areas, a team of three or even more sharing the job on a rota can lighten the load. Please telephone me on 531321 if you would like to hear more of what is involved, without any obligation at this stage.

CONTRIBUTORS AND AGENTS PLEASE NOTE HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS IN AUGUST

Since Vickery's store will be closed on Monday, 15th August would Area Agents and contributors please be sure to get their packages to Vickery's by mid-day on Saturday, 13th August? As usual, contributions should be posted in the *Chronicle* box and lottery packs handed over the counter

If it is impossible to deliver before the Saturday deadline, the package can be posted through the letterbox in the door of the store by the usual times on Monday, to be collected by the editor.

DRAYTON SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!

We are a small friendly Community School, with 100 pupils, and have vacancies from September for the following volunteers:

COMMUNITY GOVERNORS

to act as a critical friend to the school.

*Main meetings are held four times a year in the evenings.
Previous experience not necessary as full training is provided.*

FOOTBALL TRAINER

to coach the JUNIOR TEAM weekly.
Day & Time to suit trainer.

We have a **very successful football history** and we **DESPERATELY** need a committed trainer to work with an enthusiastic group of boys/girls.
Strong parental support available.

**For further details please contact:-
CLAIRE SOPER, 531632**

The Abingdon & District Musical Society WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Instrumentalists: about Grade VIII.

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at the Manor School, Faringdon Rd., Abingdon

Orchestra meets on Mondays,

*Choir on Thursdays,
starting in September*

GO ON - GIVE IT A GO!

Choral & orchestral concerts In November

Further information

Orchestra 01235
200402

Choir 01865 735182

www.tadms.org



In this issue: Grant allocations pp3, 8
Hospital beds to close p8

Can you help? pp1, 4
More houses for Drayton? p8
Grow your own p9

The Reservoir - again pp7, 8
Amenity tip to close for refurbishment p9

COMING CHRONICLES

The **September Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Friday, 26 August 2005** from **Margaret Armstrong, 1, Crabtree Lane, Tel 531122**, who should be contacted by any Agents requiring copies additional to their allocation.

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

Before mid-day on Saturday, 13 August 2005
(please see notice on front page)

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

The Editor clears the box from time to time during the previous week. It is a great help when items can be left in the box a few days before the closing date. Contributors are indeed doing just that when they can 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.

A contribution can be made in one of several ways:

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

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

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

- A **3½" disk**, in PC format, preferably 'Saved As' Word for Windows 6 or Word Perfect 2. *Please include hard copy* for checking the formatting and *your address* so that the disk can be easily returned to you.
- A good, **black typescript** on white A4 paper or smaller and at least 10 point font. The scanner can read in typescripts but only imperfectly so very careful editing is needed. Even so, this is still much easier than re-typing.
- Finally, **hand-written items** are typed up by a willing team of typists. Thanks to the many contributors who spell out names of people and places in capitals. This does save a lot of pencil sucking and mistakes.

ADVERTISING RATES

For Block Advert (about 1/12th page)

----- 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

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 Advertising Manager, on 531180 or email:
linda.semmens@ntlworld.com

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CHRONICLE LOTTERY

Daphne Samworth, Hon. Promoter

RESULTS OF THE JULY LOTTERY

	Winner	Agent
£25	Mr Murray 100A Whitehorns Way	Terry Arnold
£20	Mr Fletcher, 5, Green Acres	Helen Denno
£15	Mr. Bunce, 4, Green Acres	Helen Denno
£10	J. James, Ariadne, Sutton Wick Lane	Helen Denno
£10	S Field, 36, Lock Way	Barbara Carter
£10	Mr. Gallop, 134, Whitehorns Way	Terry Arnold
£10	D. Stimpson, 32a, High Street	Mary Alexander
£10	R Winter, Cotswold House, Gravel Lane	Barbara Purbrick
£10	F. Belcher, 42, Lyford Close,	Gerald Redman
£10	B. Bell, Abingdon	Mary Alexander

The winning tickets were drawn by the Members of Drayton Village Hall Committee from the 2477 tickets sold.

THE NEXT THREE MONTHS

Issue for	Copy for publication and return of Agents Lottery Packs by Monday:	Chronicle published and available for distribution on Friday:
October	19 September 2005	30 September 2005
November	17 October 2005	28 October 2005
December	21 November 2005	02 December 2005



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YOUR LETTERS

Dear Sir

Fran and family wish to thank all neighbours and friends for cards and messages of sympathy received on the recent sad loss of John, also a big thank you to all who made donations in his memory to the Laryngectomy Club.

Special thanks go to Sir Tom Shebbeare for a personal tribute to John at the Crematorium.

Yours sincerely,

Francis Adams.

Dear Sir

Terry & Christine Gibbard would like to thank all family and friends from Drayton who supported our allsorts sale at Milton with items to sell and donations for the Young Hearts Foundation we raised £750.

Jenny Owen, who organised this event, is also organising an auction to raise more funds for this charity on the 28th October at Milton football club. If anyone has anything they would like to donate to this function please contact Jenny on 01235 832246 or myself on 01235 824887.

Once again, a very big thank you to everybody who was involved in the sale.

Yours sincerely,

Christine Gibbard

Dear Sir,

May we, through the Chronicle, say many thanks to residents of Sutton Wick and friends for supporting us in our efforts to raise money for our daughter's 40-mile walk in aid of her cancer charity? It was lovely to see people and we raised well over £200.

Yours sincerely,

Gwen and Tony Price

Dear Sir,

I would like to thank once again the residents of Sutton Wick Lane, Greenacres and Newman Lane who contributed £84.77, a donation of £20 and donations from Sabina's Hair Salon of £14.10 during Hearts Week in June 2005.

The total for the whole village was £118.87.

Many thanks to all contributed.

Yours sincerely,

Doreen Eato, British Heart Foundation

ABBEY CHAMBER RECITALS 2005

St. Nicolas' Church, Market Place, Abingdon
on Sundays at 3.00 pm

August 14th - "Arpeggione"

Vivaldi, Bach, Sor, Schubert, Hindemith

Sophie Webber - 'cello, David Pedder - guitar

September 11th - "Chopcherry"

Peter Warlock, Brahms, Vivaldi

Megan Hooper - soprano, The Bonnici String Quartet

October 9th - "Music and sweet poetry"

Dowland, Campion, Schubert and Beethoven

James Gilchrist - tenor, Lynda Sayce - lute and guitar

Tickets £8.00

(£ 7.00 concessions, £3.00 12 -18, free under-12) from
Frugal Foods, Abingdon (01235 522239),
Modern Music, Abingdon (01235 524316),
by reservation (01235 553380), or at the door

Ticket includes a cup of tea or coffee at The Broad Face

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

Farewell to the Martin family and a very warm welcome to Bron, Matt and Nick who have moved into Church Lane from Sutton Courtenay.

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Giles of Binning Close on the birth of their daughter Louise.

DRAYTON PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

Hillat Fields, Drayton, Nr. 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

Lunch club 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

NOTICE BOARD

DRAYTON YOUTH CENTRE CHARITY

The Annual meeting of the above Charity was held in June at the Caudwell Day Centre.

The following Youth organisations benefited from Grants, as follows:

P.A.W.S	£300
St Peters Church Youth Groups	£100
Drayton Toddlers	£200
Drayton Brownies	£250
Abingdon Eagles	£350

Ann Webb was re-elected as Chairman.

Graham Bird was re-elected Treasurer.

Karen Tinson was elected Secretary.

Graham Bird, Secretary

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ST PETER'S CHURCH

Priest-in-Charge:	Revd Sister Josie Midwinter	531374
Licensed Lay Minister:	Dr Peter Barton	523702
Churchwardens:	Mr Peter Cline	530519
	Mrs Sue Harris	848361
Organist:	Mr Adrian Thompson.....	01865 714801
Choir	Mrs Rosie Bruce.....	525284

REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion (CW - Traditional)
	10.00am	Sung Eucharist (CW) except 2nd Sunday when there is a non-Eucharist Family Service
Wednesday	6.00pm	Evening Prayer (CW) in the Lady Chapel
Thursday	9.30am	Holy Communion (CW) in the Lady Chapel

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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

CALENDAR FOR AUGUST

Tues 2 nd	3.00 pm	First Tuesday Connections	Church Room
Thur 4 th	6.00 pm	Vicarage Garden Party	Vicarage
Sun 14 th	11.15 am	Sale of Fair Trade goods	Church
Sat 20 th	3.00 pm	Wedding: Rikki Heery to Tracey Roberts	Church

PARISH REGISTER

Holy Baptism

3rd July Jessica Ann Duxbury

Burial of Ashes

16th June John Spencer

Funerals

21st June Pauline Hennessy

7th July William Dunsdon

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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

ST PETER'S CHURCH HOME-VISITING GROUP

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

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

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Letter from St Peter's Church

Dear Friends

Have you ever stopped to consider that the church and churchyard are two of the busiest places in the community? It may surprise you to know the variety of activities which go on there on a daily basis. The main function of the church is to provide a place to worship God. This is done every Sunday at 8am and 10am, but the church is open every day for both formal and informal worship and prayer. In the Lady Chapel there is a Prayer Board where people can add their requests – this is well used and we as a church pray regularly for them. Then there are the weddings, baptisms and funerals which occur throughout the year. Visitors also come into the church, to look around, to see the history or do family tree research. From time to time we have school parties and other groups like bell ringing teams.

The churchyard is no less busy. Early in the morning when I go to Morning Prayer I often meet a dog walker or two as they make use of the church path. During the day many people come into the churchyard to tend graves and spend time in thought and prayer for their departed loved ones. Some just sit on the bench and enjoy the view. Across the road from the church is an extra churchyard which we are especially focusing on as a nature reserve. Some grass is allowed to grow longer for insects, butterflies and birds.

All this is maintained by a committed group of volunteers who are frequently in and out of the church: clock winders, bell ringers, flag flyer, cleaners, flower arrangers, lock/unlockers, choir/organist those who care for the shrub beds and general maintenance. All of these people give of their time freely to keep the church and churchyard up to a high standard of care. But there is always room for more volunteers if you would like to help with any of the above tasks.

With all this activity it sounds like the church is rather like the A34 on a Friday afternoon! This, of course, is not the case. Everyone goes about their task quietly and unobtrusively. The church and the churchyard are both there to provide the quiet and reflective environment for people to think and pray. Sometimes people come with a heavy heart. The church is there as a haven for them. If people need to talk, then my role as parish priest is to meet them and to share, and especially to pray.

People value the church for a variety of reasons but the main one is because of its peaceful and prayerful atmosphere. This has been built up over some 800 years of Christians meeting regularly there to worship God. The Church Council is committed to keeping it open and accessible to people. Please help us to keep the church and its environment not just for ourselves, but for generations to come.

Josie Midwinter

YOU STAY - WE PRAY

24 – 7 August Abingdon Road; Oday Hill; Binning Close; Haywards Road

8 – 14 August: Sutton Wick Ln; Greenacres; Newman Ln; Conifer Dr

15 – 28 August Hilliat Fields; Lyford Cl; Manor Cl; The Green

29 Aug – 4 Sept High St; Chiers Dr; Cheers Farm; Halls Close

BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastoral Co-Coordinator:- 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)

EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME

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

Mrs Suzy Willis

MCSP SRP

CHARTERED PHYSIOTHERAPIST

Old Lodge, Henleys Lane

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WOODEN SPOON RECIPE No 12

Lois Rennells

Salmon Kebabs

makes 8 skewers (from August 1978)

4 salmon fillets (approx. 4 oz each)

6 - 8 tablespoons olive oil

10 shallots

3 tablespoons lemon juice

40 baby tomatoes

6 oz finely chopped onions

20 bay leaves broken in half,

4 tablespoons chopped parsley

salt and pepper

Skin the salmon. Make sure there are no bones and then cut each fillet into 10 similar-sized pieces. Mix oil, lemon juice, onion, parsley, salt and pepper to form a marinade.

Marinate the salmon for at least 2 hours.

Pour boiling water onto the shallots and leave for about 2 minutes (this will make peeling them a lot easier). When peeled cut them into quarters.

Thread pieces of shallot, bay leaf, salmon and tomato onto a skewer in that sequence until you have five pieces of each. Grill until the salmon is cooked through, turning and basting with marinade.

Serve kebabs on a bed of cooked rice with a little lemon butter sauce poured over each.

For the **lemon butter sauce** melt 8 oz unsalted butter over a low heat and then mix in 1 dessertspoon of chopped parsley, 1 dessertspoon chopped chives and the juice of 1 large lemon.

Accompany with a cucumber and radish salad in soured cream.

HOMOEOPATHY PRACTICE IN DRAYTON

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dervdemon@hotmail.com or

Tel: 01235 821400 after 6 pm

ALL AROUND

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION. Pearl Stanbridge

A service is to be held at St Blaise church, Milton on Sunday 14 August to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of W.W.2. so we hope you will join us for this special service.

Assembly time is 10.45am at the War Memorial

On that afternoon the branch standard will be in attendance at a parade and service at Hanney.

On Sunday 17 July the branch standard will be in attendance at a parade and service in Newbury.

There is no Committee meeting this month

DRAYTON WIVES Daphne Barrand

Our June outing to Ewelme was a great success. The weather was lovely and for two hours Norman Francis gave us a guided tour of the School, Alms Houses & the Church, all dating back to the 1400's. The School predates Eton, 1436 and is still used by the children. The Duchess of Suffolk had the School and the Almshouses built and was responsible for the beautiful Church, where her medieval tomb lies. She was the only Duchess in England at that time and the first woman to receive the Order of the Garter. She was also the granddaughter of Geoffrey Chaucer. The afternoon ended at the Riverside Café at Benson, for tea and cake.

Dates for your diary in August: -

Mon 1	10.30	COFFEE	Gwen Cox,	1A High St
Mon 15	7.15	WHIST	Shirley Thomas,	Caudwell D.C
Wed 31	2.00	Bring and share garden tea party at Mary Alexander's, 3a High Street.		

Please do not over-cater. Bring just enough cake etc to share and we will all take home our leftovers.

DRAYTON TODDLER GROUP Anna Loughlin

Summer has arrived at last and Toddlers hope you all have a relaxing and happy holiday time. Toddler Group continues to run on Thursday morning at Drayton Hall, between 9.30am and 11.00am during the summer break. It's wonderful to see some new faces and thanks for your support. Toddler Group is normally for the 0-3 age group, but we appreciate you may need to bring older brothers and sisters during the holidays, and they will be made most welcome.

Toddlers joined forces with Drayton Pre-School for the annual Teddy Bears' Picnic. A great time was had by all!

Looking ahead, the Toddler Fun-Day is just around the corner. The big event will be held at Drayton Hall on Thursday 22 September between 2.00pm and 4.30pm. As usual, a great afternoon is guaranteed for the children. Mums, come and enjoy a cake and a cuppa and browse some exciting stalls. Children, come and have fun on the Bouncy Castle, play with all the range of Toddlers' toys and have your photograph taken (Tempest Photography). Please come and support us! ☺

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DRAYTON PRE-SCHOOL Anna Loughlin

As always, at the end of the summer term, it's time to say a fond farewell to some of our children. "Big" school beckons and we wish Sarah, Leanne, Samantha, Heidi, Zak, Holly, Ross, Luke, Alex, Brandon, Caroline, Rhiannon, Phoebe, Georgia, Evie and Frankie good luck and a happy start for September (some children, of course, will be returning for afternoon sessions)!

Pre-School is a wonderful opportunity for your children and we still have some spaces available for September, although places are filling up fast! 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?

Thanks go to Annette and Kryss for a successful advertising campaign. Thanks also go to Adele for organising the ladies' 'pamper evening'. It will hopefully have been a huge success!

A final reminder that term resumes on Monday 5 September at 9.00am, when Pre-School will have a posh new kitchen! Oz and Christine would like to thank Denise and Claire for all their hard work throughout the year. All the parents would like to say 'Thank you!' to all the staff for another happy and successful year at Pre-School. We wish you and all the parents and children a very happy summer holiday!

	MARSHALL & GALPIN S O L I C I T O R S
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☺ Finally, a huge thank you to the Drayton Youth Charity Trust who supported Toddlers with the fantastic donation of £200. Our purchases will include much needed art equipment, baby toys and high-chair, a puppet and a construction kit.

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MISSED OUT ON YOUR CHRONICLE?

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

RESERVOIR PLANS 'IRRESPONSIBLE'

On Tuesday 19 July, 2005 at 8pm and repeated on Sunday 24 July, 2005 at 5pm, BBC Radio 4 'File on 4' broadcast a item on the proposed reservoir near Drayton. The following is based on a transcript of that broadcast on the BBC Radio4 website.

Thames Water is reviving its plans to build a huge reservoir, despite repeatedly failing to hit leakage reduction targets. The company, currently losing a third of its water daily, 915 million litres, is buying up land in South Oxfordshire.

Residents object to the scale of the reservoir which could cover up to four square miles.

Thames says the project is needed to meet growing water demand and planning permission may be sought in two years.

Long-term benefits

Last week the firm was publicly admonished by the water regulator OFWAT for missing its targets for cutting leaks for the third year running. It said 'Thames loses enough water daily to fill 366 Olympic-sized swimming pools.'

But the company, which says it is working hard to improve leakage repairs, believes the new reservoir is necessary to supply water to customers in London and the South-East. It says the scheme, earmarked for an area southwest of Abingdon in the Vale of the White Horse, would increase its resources for supplying water to the capital by 10%.

The plans to massively increase its water storage capacity dates back to 1990. Chief Operating Officer Gerry England told the File On 4 programme: "It's not something that is going to improve the situation in the next few years.

"It's probably going to be a 15 to 20 year project before we can realise the benefits."

Local views

Local residents, alarmed at the prospect of the 80 ft high earth banks which would surround the reservoir, told File On 4 that neighbouring land was steadily being bought up by Thames.

They fear the plans have made it impossible to sell their homes to any buyer other than Thames Water. Some feel they have been left in the dark over the future of the land since Thames first began promoting the idea over a decade ago.

"At the beginning we were horrified about the reservoir," said Vera Woodley, a semi-retired farmer from Steventon.

"But then it all quietened down and we forgot about it a bit. Now it's all come back, we're horrified all over again.

"I don't think a reservoir is necessary. They should put more meters in people's houses and repair a lot more leaks."

'Irresponsible'

The Chairman of the London Assembly's Environment Committee, Darren Johnson, agrees. "I think it's totally irresponsible to be looking at putting in new reservoirs when you have got a leakage rate of over 30%." ☺

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MORE ALL AROUND

DRAYTON W.I.

Doreen Buckland

Our July meeting was very interesting, after the business side of the meeting, Ann had brought in some old newspaper cuttings from 1971. Items of news included the starting of the A34 to bypass Abingdon, the Power Station coming to Didcot and various reports from the county W.I. all very interesting. Our speaker for the evening was Mr Roger Cherry who showed slides of Cantabria and the Picas, Spain. Very good photography of houses and churches from the 12th century, also walking the Pilgrims path through to the South of France.

Our next meeting on 11th August will be held in the garden of 65 Steventon Road, if wet in the Drayton Hall as usual. The evening will be Mrs Creese "armchair aerobics". All members enjoyed their river trip; we are now looking forward to our visit to Highgrove, the home of Prince Charles on 28th August. We hope you have all got your grow, cook, and sew schedules and are preparing your entries, there is something for everyone. Our coffee morning held in Mrs Malm's garden on a lovely sunny morning raised £55.

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☺ He added that if Thames cut its leakage rate by one third it would achieve its aim for a 10% improvement in water storage "without flooding half of the countryside."

Mr England conceded to File On 4 that Thames was buying up land in South Oxfordshire but insisted there no official strategy to buy up plots as soon as they became available.

"It's better for the landowners if we can arrange by mutual agreement to purchase the land rather than going through compulsory purchase orders at some time in the future."



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VWHDC REPORT

Grahame Ash

Vale in No 1 Spot

Last year the Vale was joint first in Council Tax collection, managing to collect 99.5% of the levy charged. This achievement helps to keep everyone's charge low by collecting money on time. The Vale collects Council Tax payments for Oxfordshire County Council, Thames Valley Police Authority and Town and Parish Councils across the district. The Vale retains less than 10% of the money collected for its own services, currently £92.60 for a band D property and is the tenth lowest district council tax in the country.

Closure of Hospital Beds

The government tells us that one of the responsibilities of the Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) is to consult with the people. The boards of the South West and South East (Oxfordshire) PCTs agreed to close 37 beds in community hospitals at their meeting on the 26th May. They claim that the decision was taken on the basis of clinical risk and claim it is only temporary (minimum 12 month period) and then the issues surrounding the clinical risk and resources will be reviewed. Needless to say there has been no public consultation about this decision. I think this is absolutely disgraceful. You have a government organisation just doing what it wants to do without any consideration for the public. One of my fellow district councillors was fighting the PCT some while ago, over proposed reduction in beds at the Wantage hospital. The PCT were, I understand, claiming they were unable to fill the staff vacancies, but were not advertising to get any replacements! Can you imagine this happening in an effectively managed organisation? Fed up with the latest PCTs "devil-may-care" attitude, the Lib Dem controlled Vale has joined forces with the Conservative administrations of the West Oxfordshire and South Oxfordshire councils to fight this closure and are prepared to take out a high court injunction to stop the closures happening. The hospitals due to lose beds include Abingdon, Didcot and Wantage hospitals. The major concern is that a temporary (12 months) closure will result in the beds never being made available. This view is based not so much on the clinical risks put forward by the PCTs, but that the Thames Valley Health Authority, which incorporates the PCTs, is the worst funded (per capita) in the UK.

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Grants determined at the Area Committee Meeting

The committee members were reminded that the approved budget for grants for the Abingdon area, incorporating Drayton, Sutton Courtenay and Appleford had been set at just above £30,000 for the year 2005/6; this excluded some £8k "reserved" for a major claim made last year which was under further review.

There was considerable discussion on the merits and size of the claims lodged. Local beneficiaries are:

- The Drayton Twinning Society for £500 (approved by the Executive Committee on 6th August 2004 and ratified by the Area Committee). This is subject to a service level agreement, which applies to all Vale Twinning societies.
- Mr Bax for a historic building grant of £640 towards the re-thatching of Pusey Cottage, a 17th century, grade II listed building.
- The Parish Council for a cleaning grant of £402 for 2005/6

More Statistics

The government is intending to introduce harder tests for councils. Local councils are already subject to CPA, the comprehensive performance assessment (a form of council audit.) Now there is going to be a new way of measuring performance. Again the government is putting more onerous administration tasks on councils, without more funding, (and you know what that means) just so that new CPA audit boxes can be ticked. The government is saying that more freedom is being given to local councils to run their operations. This opinion is not shared by most councils, including the Vale.

Fly-tipping and Litter Offences

It shouldn't really affect Drayton, as we have a Refuse Centre, but I thought you might like to know that the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 has recently been introduced. This makes fly-tipping an arrestable offence with a maximum £50,000 fine or even five years imprisonment for the most serious cases. This Act will also apply to land-owners who allow people to dump rubbish on their land without the land being designated for that purpose.

Litter offences have now been extended to cover all open spaces and private land.

More Houses for Drayton? – An Update

The Inspector is now considering the public hearing held last month regarding the application by the Earl of Plymouth's Estates to include 144 (approx) dwellings on land at Manor Farm for incorporation in the Vale's Local Plan. The Inspector agreed to accept a written application, instead of a public hearing, on the other application for developing the western edge of the village. The decision by the Inspector on whether or not to allow these developments is expected just before Christmas.

And Finally.....

The next surgery will be held at 9.00am at the Village Hall on Saturday September 3rd. (There will not be a surgery in August). I look forward to meeting any Drayton residents who wish to come along and discuss their concerns.

Regards

Grahame Ash

PARISH COUNCIL

Daniel Sharf

Correction required from last month - Mr Mike Badcock is one of the new County Councillors and will be attending meetings of the Parish Council in that capacity.

Open discussion – from car boot sales to the reservoir

An unusually long discussion in public session, ranging from the car boot (do we really want replica and ball bearing guns to be sold?) to the reservoir (is this cut and dried?). The reservoir was also on the main agenda with a list compiled of the benefits that the village should be seeking to balance against the various impacts of this massive engineering work – assuming it goes ahead. The suggestions ranged from a full time youth/community worker, to land based and water based play areas and everything possible to mitigate the traffic both during construction and when any leisure is in full swing. The Parish Council has not formed an opinion yet on whether to support or oppose the development in principle and would welcome views on the possible pros and cons from the village.

VWHDC Environmental Warden

David Coates, the Environmental Warden for the Vale of White Horse District came to speak about his role. He can be contacted on 01235 520202 to deal with environmental crimes involving dogs, abandoned cars, litter/fly tipping, noise and fly posting. David explained that it was irresponsible dogs and irresponsible owners that were keeping him most busy.

Amenity Tip to close for a refit

It has been confirmed that the tip will close from October to December for a refit to try to avoid the kind of accident that caused fatality on another tip in the county.

Annual Reports Citizen's Advice Bureau and Damascus Project

The Council received a report about the AGM of the Abingdon CAB. The bureau is in serious financial straits and is very stretched with 2.31 full time staff and 40 trained volunteers working on a wide range of issues on a professional basis. They deal with problems arising from employment, housing and an increasing number of debt related issues. The Council provides a grant every year and it seems that we are getting value for money from this well run and important organisation.

The annual report on the Damascus Project indicated that this was becoming well established although still requiring help, from Drayton in particular.

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Allotments

The problem and opportunity of the unused allotment was discussed again. The Council agreed that they should do what was required to help people take on one of the vacant plots. Anybody interested should go and have a look and use their imagination to picture the plot when after a year it looks like one of the productive plots next door. Subject to demand the Council will put these plots into a ready usable state in the autumn. Contact me to talk about allotment gardening or the parish clerk to register your interest (who will put you in touch with Tom – our allotment warden).

Bus Service

Bus users will have noted the reduction in the service and are encouraged to write to the Oxfordshire County Council public transport section to register their disappointment that this can happen on a Premier Route. Be prepared to be told that this would not have happened if more people chose the bus in preference to the car.

The next meeting, for those interested in the vacancies on the Council or just attending as interested villagers, will be on Monday, 1 August at the Caudwell Day Centre. at 7.45pm



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DRAYTON DIARIES

DIARY FOR AUGUST

All events held in Drayton Hall unless otherwise stated

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

Mon	1	7.45 pm	Parish Council Meeting	<i>Caudwell D.C.</i>
Sat	6		No Councillor G Ash Surgery this month	
Sat	6		Private Party	
Sat	13	12.00 noon	Chronicle Lottery Deadline	<i>Vickery's</i>
Sat	13	12.00 noon	Chronicle Copy Deadline	<i>Vickery's</i>
SEE NOTICE ON THE FRONT PAGE				
Sun	14	11.15 am	Fair Trade Stall	<i>St Peter's Church</i>
Sun	14		Bowls Tournament	
Sat	20		Private Party	
Sun	21		Bowls Tournament	
SEPTEMBER				
Sat	3	9.00 am	Councillor G Ash Surgery	

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

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



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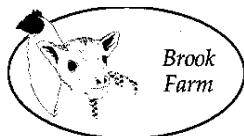
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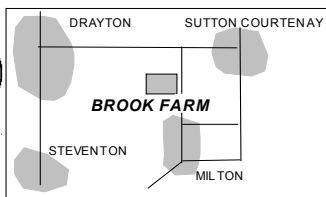
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REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

MONDAYS

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

TUESDAYS

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

WEDNESDAYS

9.15 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	
6.00 pm	Brownies	
6.00 pm	Evening Prayer	<i>St Peter's Lady Chapel</i>
6.15 pm	Cubs (Boys/ girls, 8-9 yrs, Tel. 512834)	<i>Steventon Hall</i>
7.00 pm	Junior Table Tennis, Age 9+ (for 1 hour)	<i>School</i>
7.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
7.30 pm	Bingo Session	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
8.00 pm	Senior Table Tennis	<i>School</i>

THURSDAYS

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

FRIDAYS

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

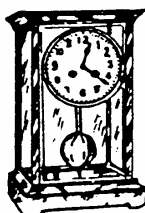
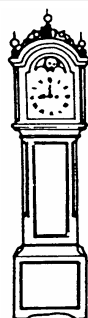
SUNDAYS

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



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Printed by Oliver & Son, Printers, 11A West Way, Botley, Oxford



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