

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Derek Pooley

Volume 28, No. 8

September 2005

VANDALS at the HALL

Ann Webb

The Drayton Hall Management meeting in July was a bit of a non-event; only four people made it. This is not enough to reach any decisions, so we went home!!

But since the meeting the school holidays have begun and with them has come more damage to the hall. I ask each one of you! What would you be prepared to spend £12,000 of your savings on, and having done so, watch your neighbour's children render it not only useless but dangerous. Nothing, I would imagine, but this has happened to the new hall heating system. Installed in April - useless by August - children have got on the roof and taken off the



chimney, making it unsafe to use. Also, after the holidays we have to replace all the guttering again and we have already replaced 4 broken windows. Accidents do happen but this is deliberate damage!

You may think it's not your problem, but some of this money was local grants that come from taxes - your taxes. So indirectly it is yours. The problems now are; first all the damage has to be repaired and paid for; secondly we want to prevent a repeat of the very sad event in King Alfred School, where a 14-year-old lost his life in a fall from the roof. Please tell children to keep off the roof!

Another reason for this report; we are clearing large numbers of food wrappers and beer cans from behind the building.

⇒ Continued on page 6

SEARCHING for the PAST

Judy Henman

Wanted: Old photos of places and events in Drayton!

Do you remember when geese occupied the barns, now converted to houses, on the Village Green - or when the road to Abingdon was impassable because of all the snow?

If you have old photographs of Drayton's past please bring them to the Caudwell Day Centre between 6.00pm and 8.00pm on Monday 26th September. We can then have a look at our history together with a view to producing a calendar or a book.

See you there!



HIGH TIME for ACTION

Peter Cline

Those of you who rely on St Peter's Church clock for checking the time as you pass by will know that, of late, it has become increasingly difficult to read as the paint on the clock faces had faded with many years of exposure to the elements.

During the summer of 2004, St Peter's Church received a substantial legacy towards the cost of having the three clock faces restored to their former glory and repainted in black and gold leaf.

⇒ Continued on page 5

Also in this issue:

- | | | | | | |
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| P6 | Village Competition results | P7 | Bienvenue à nos amis de Lesparre | P7 | Now we are 10 - maybe |
| P9 | School Ofsted results | P10 | Green Waste Collections | P11 | An alcohol-free Drayton? |

Drayton Players Present

WHEN WE ARE MARRIED

by J.B. Priestley
at Drayton Hall

Wednesday 12th
Thursday 13th
Friday 14th &
Saturday 15th October
Curtain up at 7.30pm

Tickets £6 for adults and
£5 for seniors & under 14s.
Details and tickets available from
Sue Stevens Tel. (01235) 200350

CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The **October Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Friday, 30 September 2005** from **Shirley Thomas, 48 Henleys Lane, (531626)**, 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, 19 September 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:
November	17 October 2005	28 October 2005
December	21 November 2005	02 December 2005
Jan/Feb-06	09 January 2006	20 January 2006

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.

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

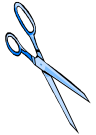
Daphne Samworth, Hon. Promoter

RESULTS OF THE JULY LOTTERY

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	0349	Mr. Price, 39a Sutton Wick Lane	Beryl Dawson
£20	0527	Mrs Bruce, 16a Sutton Wick Lane	Beryl Dawson
£15	2644	J. Woods, 11 Lesparre Close	Steve Penney
£10	1042	B. Malin, 34, High Street	Mary Alexander
£10	1198	G. Woolley, The Red Lion	Barbara Purbrick
£10	1918	Miss Fletcher, 134 Whitehorns Way	Terry Arnold
£10	2087	Mrs. Elms, 11 Whitehorns Way	Trudi Buckner
£10	1143	B. Bell, 1 Mill Paddock, Abingdon	Mary Alexander
£10	0463	Mrs. Hamilton, Sutton Wick Barn	Beryl Dawson
£10	0507	Mr. Cook, 1, Green Acres, Sutton Wick	Beryl Dawson

The winning tickets were drawn by Staff at the Forge Garage, from the 2339 tickets sold

Changes Unisex Hair Salon



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Wednesday & Friday 9.00 – 7.00

Saturday 8.30 – 3.00

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for an appointment please phone **01235 848453**

or call in and see us at

8 Milton Road, Sutton Courtenay

MORE CHRONICLE INFORMATION

FIRST, A BIG 'THANK YOU'....

...to all the agents and contributors who this month got their material to Vickery's before the Saturday deadline. It made it the jobs of the Editor and the Lottery Promoter so much more straightforward.

THANK YOU ALSO....

...to our readers for continuing to buy lottery tickets at the new price of 20p per ticket. Most encouragingly ticket sales this month were a little above the average for the last six months. Agents report that getting rid of all those 5p pieces makes cashing up so much simpler, while the life of the Lottery Team is transformed!



Along with the increase in charges for advertising this should make the finances of the Chronicle secure for the next few years.

BUT!

A lot of homes still do not have a Chronicle delivered each month – and as Sarah Church retires as an agent this month, Area No 20, in Steventon Road, south of the bypass, will join the ranks of 'Agentless' areas. If you believe that the Chronicle is a worthwhile facet of Drayton life why not think about offering a few hours each month – or fewer if the job is shared? As the summer draws to a close and we start thinking about interesting things to do this autumn, why not add the job of agent to the list?

I would be delighted to discuss what is involved – without obligation – on 531321.

Geoffrey Long, Chronicle Co-ordinator

YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor

We would like to thank all those kind people, neighbours and friends, who sent cards and good wishes during Don's recent illness. The care and concern shown was very much appreciated and we are happy to report that he is now slowly on the mend.

Yours sincerely,

Don & Jean Hager

Dear Editor

Thanks should go to Andrew Beacroft and Paul Caudwell for organising and paying for the resurfacing of an unadopted part of Sutton Wick Lane. It has made a significant improvement. On behalf of fellow villagers, thank you both.

Jean Oliver

Dear Editor,

We'd just like to say a big THANKYOU to everyone who has supported us in raising so far, a staggering £4,400 for our Breakthrough Breast Cancer Weekend.

A special thanks goes to Drayton Football Club who kindly donated to us following their Charity Golf Day and the residents of Binning Close who supported our BBQ and to everyone who came to our Disco – a good time was had by all!

All we've got to do now is WALK 60KMS!

Thanks again.

Roz Wright, Maggie Weir & Julie Dixon

PS. Thanks to mum and dad and the residents of Sutton Wick who kindly donated whilst being shown around their garden and to Ethel and Mary Wright for their kind donations – Roz

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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

Friends of Drayton School Association

Presents an



'ADULT QUIZ NITE'



on Friday 23rd September at 7 pm at the School

Tickets £6 Including hot supper/desert

Donation Bar/Raffle

Tickets from School or Colin Arnold 531923

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

We say farewell to Richard and Lori Border of Abingdon Road. Richard is an ex-Headmaster of Drayton School and they have been in the village over twenty years.

Good Luck in your new home in Ducklington!

NOTICE BOARD

ABBEY CHAMBER RECITALS David Pedder

Abbey Chamber Recitals is now in its fifth year of presenting chamber music in the intimate and historic 12th Century setting of St. Nicholas' Church in Abingdon. These recitals have featured a very wide variety of chamber music styles and different professional soloists and ensembles from around the country.

The one-hour-long recitals are held at 3 o'clock on Sunday afternoons in St. Nicolas' Church on a monthly basis throughout the year and are followed by tea or coffee at the nearby Broad Face Inn on Bridge Street. This gives the audience the chance to talk with their friends and to meet with the musicians in an informal and relaxed setting. The relatively short recitals are designed with all ages in mind and accompanied children under 12 are admitted free to encourage the audience of tomorrow!

We do hope that we will see you at a future Abbey Chamber Recital to sample the delights of the local and international musical talent that will be performing there. Tickets are £8.00 (£7.00 concessions, £3.00 for 12 to 18-year-olds and free for under 12s). They can be bought from Frugal Foods (522239) or Modern Music (524316) in Abingdon, by reservation at 553380 or on the door.

ABINGDON DRAMA CLUB....

...presents 'The Memory of Water' by Shelagh Stephenson, winner of Olivier Award for Best Comedy 2000, at the Unicorn Theatre, Medieval Abbey Buildings, Abingdon. Wed 21st - Sat 24th September at 7.30 pm.

Tickets: £6.30 (concessions £5.50) from Modern Music or from Ticketline 01235 524538.

PARISH CLERK FOR APPLEFORD

Appleford Parish Council are seeking to appoint a new Clerk to begin duties at the beginning of October. The post involves 3 hours of work per week on average and the salary is paid according to the relevant national scale. The main duties are to take minutes of Council meetings (6 per year), deal with correspondence and keep the finances of the Council in order. If you are interested in this position please call the current Clerk – Pat Romans (01235528180) – or contact her by email at pat.romans@btopenworld.com – to discuss the details.

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
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
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	<i>Church Room</i>
Monday	7.45 pm	Bell Ringing Practice	<i>Bell Tower</i>
Fridays	7.00 pm	Choir Practice (fortnightly)	<i>Church Room</i>

CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER

Tues	6th	3.00 pm	First Tuesday Connections	<i>Church Room</i>
Sat	10th	3.00 pm	Wedding of Richard Nelson to Grace Dawson	<i>Church</i>
Sun	18th	11.15 am	Sale of Fair Trade Goods	<i>Church</i>

YOU STAY - WE PRAY

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

A LETTER FROM ST PETER'S

Recently I was given a copy of the current bestseller 'The Da Vinci Code' by Dan Brown to read. I was intrigued because I had heard something about the book and wanted to find out more. As a mystery thriller, The Da Vinci Code scores very highly. It contains all the cliff-hanging suspense and last minute escapes that one would expect from such a novel. ➔

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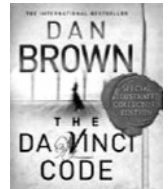
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➔ The villain is not uncovered until the last and it ends with a neat little twist, which leaves you still guessing. But as a book purporting to include historical data it comes out very poorly. So much of what is stated as evidence of the central plot has little or no factual basis and can easily be made to look very foolish in the face of dispassionate historical evidence.



In the book it is asserted that documents exist to prove that Jesus married Mary Magdalene, that they had a child and that the bloodline of that child still exists today. It is alleged that from the earliest times the church has conspired to suppress these 'facts' in order to promote the idea that Jesus is the Son of God. If only these documents can be found and published then the whole foundation of Christianity will crumble and thus the power of the church will be lost. No wonder there is a chase on to find these documents and either destroy them or publish them depending on which angle you are coming from.

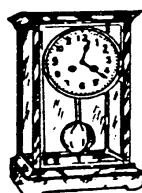
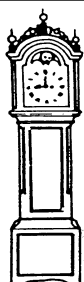
The whole plot of the book is built on a foundation of sand. No such documents exist nor is there any evidence in the book that they exist. Even if documents could be produced, how could they prove that Jesus married Mary Magdalene (or indeed any other person) or that they had a child? All historical manuscripts have to be scrutinised and measured up against documents from other sources. Dan Brown knows that very well so he makes sure the documents never appear so they can never be tested! They are more powerful as a 'will o' the wisp' than as real documents.

The New Testament (which the book tries hard to discredit) is written on the solid rock of contemporary testimony of people who knew and lived with Jesus. They were prepared to risk their lives to preach the message of Jesus as the Son of God who had risen from the dead for forgiveness of sins. Their testimony may have had some bias, but in terms of the factual evidence about Jesus much of it is corroborated by Roman and Jewish writers of the day who were in other ways hostile to Christianity.

If you have read the book or are planning to read it then enjoy the thrill of the chase.. but do not place any reliance on the so-called historical evidence. Several books have been written which give a systematic and balanced analysis of the historical data and I can recommend: 'The DaVinci Code on Trial: Filtering Fact from Fiction' by Stephen Clark. (Bryntirion Press price £4.50.)

I would also be very happy to discuss issues from the book with anyone who is interested as it raises some very interesting questions relating to Christianity.

Josie Midwinter



CLOCK REPAIRS AND RESTORATION

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4 Latton Close, Chilton, Oxon. OX11 0SU
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BAPTIST CHURCH

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.

EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME

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19, The Nursery, Sutton Courtenay
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HIGH TIME for ACTION

Peter Cline

⇒ Continued from Page 1

By the time we had obtained formal permission from the Church authorities to proceed with the work, it was decided best to wait for the better weather of this summer rather than undertaking the work during the winter months of 2004.

The work started on Tuesday 2nd August when Nathan Coffin, a clock specialist from J B Joyce Ltd. arrived complete with a selection of ropes and abseiling gear. He quickly set to work rigging up his gear and abseiled down to each clock face in turn from the top of the tower. Nathan fixed his main ropes to secure points on the tower and lowered himself down over the parapet until he was level with the clock faces.

Nathan, who is 40 and has been abseiling professionally for many years, hangs in a harness suspended on one rope but is also clipped onto a second rope which he calls 'the hand of God' just in case it is needed! The ropes Nathan uses are incredibly strong and will take four tons safely. As Nathan put it 'There's no chance of my weight breaking the rope as it could quite safely support the weight of my van!

On the first day, Nathan cleaned and painted all three faces black, on the second he picked out all the numerals in gold leaf and on the third day, he painted and replaced the hands and oiled and greased the clock mechanism and left it all working smoothly.

Nathan came back on the Friday to ensure that everything was running to time then left for his home in Bristol. Thanks to his workmanship and to the generous legacy, we now have three beautifully painted clock faces that are clear to read and should remain that way for many years to come.



SURGICAL CHIROPODIST

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

HOME VISITS

...00000....

APPOINTMENTS

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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

FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS **Jean Hager**

What a great day we had for our tea party, held in the grounds of St Peters Church on 2nd August. The sun shone, an awning provided good shade and a breeze was there when we needed it. The food, provided by the members of the Church Care Team, (plus some of Norah Winter's delicious fancy cakes) was enjoyed by all and the teapots were certainly working overtime to keep up with the thirst of over 40 guests!

It was an extra-special day for one of our regulars, Rene Anderton, whose 90th birthday it was. This was celebrated with a surprise cake, contributed by her daughter-in law, and a bouquet of flowers from the Connections Group. A big thank-you to all the many willing helpers and to all our guests, who added hugely to the enjoyment of the occasion just by being there.

On 6th September we will be back to our usual tea and chat afternoon so, if you are feeling lonely, isolated or in need of company you are most welcome to join us for a cuppa and a friendly chat. We meet in St Peter's Church Room from 3.00 to 4:30pm. Drop-in and try us out! If you can't manage the September date, come along on 4th October. If you need transport or further information give me a call on 531558.



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VILLAGE COMPETITION

Drayton entered the Oxfordshire Best Kept Village Competition in 2005 but did not win! The Parish Council has asked the Chronicle to print in full the judges' report on Drayton, the bad as well as the good. Please read it and see if there are things you could do to improve our chances next year! The judges said:

'Drayton is generally a well-kept village, almost litter-free, but there were exceptions in sharp contrast to the rest of the village. Verges were well tended, except at the entrance to East Way, where there were large weeds and brambles. A neglected piece of land between Manor Close and the backs of houses in Hilliat Fields was rampant with weeds, and another near the old telephone exchange in High Street had been used as a dumping ground. Although some of the allotments were unused, the overall appearance was not one of neglect.

The burial ground and various extensions to the churchyard were well tended with grass cut close to the headstones. The war-memorial lych-gate into the churchyard was in good condition – the woodwork in good repair and the inscriptions on brass tablets legible. The gutters were mainly free of weeds, one exception being Binning Close.

The many paths around the village were well looked after.



New housing developments off Abingdon Road were an attractive feature, but on the older estate of Whitehorns Way broken front walls presented a shabby appearance. Shops and the two industrial premises were tidy. The warnings against dog fouling were noted but a few more dog litter bins might have served a better purpose. The litter and untidiness around Drayton Hall and the general shabbiness of the sports pavilion were eyesores. It is a pity that an otherwise fairly attractive village hall has to be spoilt by obtrusive precautions against vandalism.

The Millennium Green is an ambitious project with great promise, and should protect a large green area that might otherwise be a target for housing developments.'



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WOODEN SPOON RECIPE

Recipe No. 13 - from October 1978

UNCOOKED DATE CHUTNEY

1 pound each of stoneless dates, apples, sultanas, onions and soft brown sugar. 1 pint malt vinegar.

Mince the dates, apples, sultanas and onions and stir together with the sugar and vinegar. Add one teaspoon salt, a sprinkling of pepper and a dash of cayenne, a little muslin bag of pickling spice and a small piece of whole ginger. Stir mixture occasionally and leave for 24 hours. Remove the bag of spice and ginger and transfer to jars.



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Lois Rennells

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11 Newman Lane, Drayton

DRAYTON HALL MANAGEMENT Ann Webb

⇒ continued from page 1

We have no idea of the age of the drinkers but the group of youngsters who usually hang around are around eight years old and upward. Is one of those youngsters yours? It's a worrying thought that one of them, under the influence of drink and egged-on by 'mates', might climb onto the roof and fall onto the concrete.

Yet another problem! Although no house in this village is much more than a mile from the waste and recycling center, some persons put their rubbish in our bin rather than taking it to the tip. Unbelievable! We are required to state the type of waste we will put in our bin - and it does not include stair carpet, underlay, pushchairs, strimmers, umbrellas etc. We are therefore changing the bin for a different type, which will be locked. Hall patrons will have access to it, no one else will. If you want to use the bin - you must share the costs.

We are so lucky to have this building. It took a great deal of hard work to build it - and to watch a few people destroy like this is soul destroying and unnecessary. **Please help us keep this building a credit to the village, not an eye-sore that villagers are unwilling to use!**



BIENVENUE! WELCOME!

.... to our friends from our twin town, Lesparre-Medoc, who are visiting us over the Bank Holiday weekend. We expect around thirty visitors who will be staying in homes in Drayton.

We will all be kept busy with a very full programme of visits, ranging from the Millets 'Trafalgar' (!!!) Maze – hope we don't lose too many – to Blenheim Palace.



NOW WE ARE 10

Or are we really only 8?

You may have heard that American astronomers recently claimed to have found a 10th planet, beyond Pluto but probably bigger than our hitherto most distant neighbour.

We live on planet 3. Our earth is the third planet from the sun in our solar system, a medium-sized rocky planet with a diameter of 12,756 km, orbiting some 150 million km from the sun. The others we can see with our naked eyes are Mercury (planet 1), Venus (2), Mars (4), Jupiter (5) and Saturn (6). It is because there are five of them and we also see the sun and moon very easily that we have seven days in our week! Sunday is for the sun, Monday for the moon - and so on - if you happen to speak French.

To see the more distant planets you need a telescope. Uranus (7) and Neptune (8) are easy to find with a modest telescope but Pluto (9) is very difficult. Hence it wasn't until 1930 that it was first discovered, with a powerful telescope. The new 'planet' (currently snappily called 2003 UB313) needed today's even more powerful telescopes to find it, because it is so much further away – nearly 100 times as far from the sun as we are.

Now there is debate as to whether the newly discovered object, or for that matter Pluto, should really be counted as a planet at all or simply seen as part of the so-called Kuiper Belt of objects known to be orbiting our sun out beyond the 'true' planets.

Astronomers will decide, hopefully soon. It will be strange if they conclude that neither Pluto nor 2003 UB313 should really be called planets at all, because the new discovery will then have taken the planet count from 9 to 8.

Derek Pooley

Science in Oxford

The Oxford Trust has arranged a number of science events for the general public and families in the city during September to December. For example, Dr Carolyn Porco will speak on 9th September at 5.00 pm at the Playhouse about the exploration of Saturn and its moons by the Cassini spacecraft.

To get a full programme call 01865 728953 or email anne.lechelle@oxtrust.org.uk

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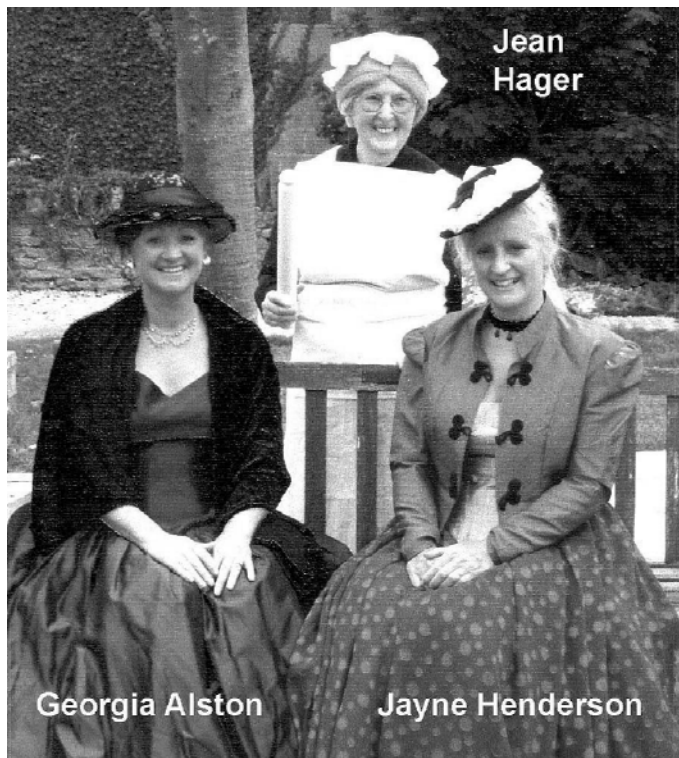
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WHEN THEY ARE MARRIED



Rehearsals for our autumn play, 'When we are married' by J. B. Priestley, are zipping along and I can thoroughly recommend this as a laughter-filled evening's entertainment. Set in Victorian Yorkshire, the plot centers on a 25th wedding anniversary celebration which does not go quite as planned; guaranteed to send all the family home chuckling.

Production dates are 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th of October, all performances at 7:30 PM. For tickets and further information please contact Sue Stevens on 200350, and see our advertisement on the front page of this Chronicle.

Finally, a quick word about our February 2006 musical, 'My Fair Lady'. Casting is now complete and work on it will begin in September. It should be a great show, so watch this space for further updates in future Chronicles.

Jean Hager

Mrs Suzy Willis

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ALL AROUND

DRAYTON WIVES

Daphne Barrand

It chose to rain on our July outing to Buscot Park. So it was perhaps fortunate that there were very few of us that actually arrived there. We had to give the delightful gardens a miss and went into the late 18th century House.

It is full of lovely things and yet still a home. Many works of art adorn the walls; Rossetti, Rembrandt, Reynolds, Millais to name but a few, including Burne Jones famous Briar Rose room which took him twenty years to complete. We had tea there and it was still raining, which would have been good for the delightful gardens, which I hope we can see on another occasion.

Margaret Long writes. I have not only missed the last two Wives' outings but also the special summer walk on Thursday 11 August, which was arranged as usual by those two stalwarts, Gordon and Christine Radburn. All reports indicate that this three-mile walk was idyllic, on a perfect day, going from Kintbury along the Kennet and Avon canal to Hungerford. With coffee at the beginning of the walk and a restaurant lunch at the end of the walk, the 14 walkers then enjoyed a well-earned and thoroughly enjoyable journey back to Kintbury, travelling on a horse-drawn barge at a leisurely pace through four locks, lovely scenery and glorious sunshine. Bliss!

Dates for your diary in September: -

Mon 5	10.30	COFFEE	Pam Lacey,	13 Whitehorns Way
Mon 19	7.15	WHIST	Pat Hoyland,	Caudwell D.C
Wed 28	2.30	MEETING	<i>Night Owl: A nurse's experiences on Night duty on an A&E ward.</i> Maureen White	

BOWLS CLUB

Roll Up

Two internal competitions have been competed for recently. The outcome was that the Beryl James Memorial trophy was won by John Goodacre, Anna Bartlett, and Josie Carter, after a fine day's bowling, with 30 members of the club taking part in the competition. The other tournament held was the Don Alexander Memorial Trophy. The two teams winning through to finals day on December 4th were Nick Carter, Kay Attwood, Sarah Church and Ron Glead, Doreen Jones, Marion Webster, Congratulations to all of them.

The summer leagues are now drawing to a close with The Tigers well placed to top their league with two games to go. The Lions have not fared quite so well, but all seem to have enjoyed the competition. This winter the club will be entering 3 teams in the winter league and will be looking for similar success as last year.

Since our last notes and our appeal for new members we have had 2 people join the club and we hope they'll enjoy their stay. Finally, we will be entertaining Kirtlington in a friendly match on the 14th of August. We look forward to this annual clash, with the games always very tight.

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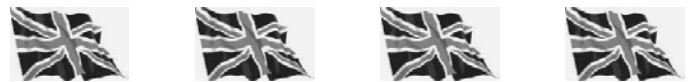
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W.I.

Doreen Buckland

Our August meeting was held in Mrs Carter's garden on a lovely evening. Our President gave all the federation news and dates of future events. Our next meeting will be held on 8th September with the area group meeting being held in the Drayton Hall on 6th October. We then had an entertaining evening with Mrs Crease, leading 'Armchair Aerobics', all members taking part. After the tea and raffle we were given our information, Do's and Don'ts, for our visit at the end of the month, to 'Highgrove', Prince Charles garden.

Our Grow, Cook & Sow event is getting ever closer. We hope you have all got your schedules and exhibits ready. Remember! Entries to be handed in by Wednesday the 7th September. Please see the posters around the village for details.



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Pearl Stanbridge

Thanks to all who attended our commemorative service at Steventon on Sunday 10th July.

Thanks also to our chaplain, Rev Colin Patching, for a memorable service and also to the choir and soloist for their excellent support.

We were honoured by the presence of Mr Ed Vaisey, our local Member of Parliament, and the County Chairman of the Royal British Legion, Mr Reg Good. We appreciated their giving up their free time to join us on this special occasion.

The Next Committee meeting will be held on Monday 19th September at 8pm.



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

MEMORIALS

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MORE ALL AROUND

SCHOOL REPORT

Claire Soper

The summer holidays are now behind us and we embark upon another new school year. Hopefully everyone is refreshed and full of tales of 'what I did in the holidays!'

First, welcome to all the new faces in the Lower Unit: Alexander, Brandon, Caroline, Erin, Evie, Frankie, Georgia, Holly, Leanne, Luke, Phoebe, Rhiannon, Ross, Samantha and Sarah. We hope that you quickly settle into your new class and enjoy your time with Miss Stenzhorn and Beverley.

Welcome back to everyone else, we particularly remember those children moving through the school to new classes, and hope they too will settle into their new routines.

At the end of last term we said farewell to many school families whose youngest children left for secondary school. Mrs Higgs thanked all those parents for their much-appreciated support over the years, and especially to Richard and Rachel Seamark who together had given so much support and encouragement to the school football team. We still hope to recruit a new volunteer coach to fill this vacancy.

School underwent a full OFSTED Inspection during the last week of June and copies of the report are available from school and will be circulated to all parents this month.

The overall evaluation by the inspectors was that Drayton School provides satisfactory value for money. Overall teaching is satisfactory, with some good and very good teaching observed. There had been satisfactory improvements since the last inspection, including the overall quality of teaching.

The Schools Main Strengths are:

- Pupils achieve well in reading across the school and are above average in Years 2/6
- Good teaching in Year 3/4 ensures that pupils achieve well
- There is very good teaching of art in Year 5/6
- Pupil's behaviour and attitudes are good; the school makes good provision for their personal development, care and welfare and enriches the curriculum well.

The inspector also commented on the spacious accommodation and excellent recreational and sports facilities. ➔


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➔ Overall standards are higher in English than at the previous inspection and similar for Maths and Science.

Well done to all the staff!

FODSA Dates for your DIARY

- An Adult Quiz Nite will be held on Friday 23rd September from 7pm in school. Tickets £6.00 per person to include a hot supper. Contact school or Colin Arnold (531923) for tickets.

- JAS FASHIONS (Formerly 'Just a Second') will be bringing their autumn collection of children's/ladies clothes to school for a repeat Fashion Show on Thursday 11th October at 7.30pm.

The Leavers Disco raised approx £200, thanks to everyone who assisted with this.

We are also indebted to Barclays Bank who donated £500 to school as part of their 'Make a Difference Scheme' The money was used to improve some external areas, thanks particularly to Sonia Lyford and family who co-ordinated some of the work at the end of term.

TODDLER GROUP

Anna Loughlin

Drayton Toddlers have been busy playing, singing, gluing and painting each Thursday during the summer. It's great to welcome some new mums and toddlers to the group and to meet some older brothers and sisters who have been joining us during their summer break.

Thanks to everyone who supported the Barnardo's Toddle. The money is still coming in and so far we have collected over £100.

The Toddler Fun Day will take place on Thursday 22nd September, between 2.00pm and 4.30pm. Please come along to support us. The Tempest Photographic Agency will be there to take a lovely photograph of your children. Come and sample some tasty treats and browse some exciting stalls. So far, Usborne Books, Bling fashion jewellery, The Body Shop and Rachel Seamarks decorative home furnishings will be selling their wares.

The children can enjoy the Toddler toys and have fun on the bouncy castle. Please do come along! It's a wonderful opportunity to "check-out" the Toddler Group and meet some friendly mums. See you all in September!



DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Grahame Ash

AbITS Construction Phase 1

AbITS, the Abingdon Integrated Transport Strategy, has now agreed a timetable for the work to be carried out under phase 1 in Abingdon Town Centre. The major roadworks are as follows:

The widening of the north east corner of Stratton Way

October – Nov 2005

Changes to Stratton Way/ Stert Street junction

January - Feb 2006

Changes to Ock Street/ Stratton Way junction

Feb - Mar 2006

Changes to Bridge Street

March - Apr 2006

Changes to Stratton Way bus waiting facility

April - June 2006

There are also likely to be some Public Utilities work in advance of the above timetable, beginning in September 2005. Some hold-ups are expected during this work.

Licensing Applications

I am aware of applications to vary the current licensing hours for the local premises as follows:

The Red Lion Sunday to Thursday from 10.00 to midnight
and on Friday and Saturday from 10.00 to 1.00 a.m.

Drayton Golf Club Sunday to Thursday from 11.00 to 23.00
and on Friday and Saturday from 11.00 to 1.00 a.m.

You may be interested to learn that a twenty-four-hour, seven-day application has been made by Tesco's.

Abingdon Open Air Pool

The good news is that Abingdon Town Council (ATC) has just come up with a funding proposal that makes the re-opening of the Open Air pool seem quite hopeful. ATC has offered a financial deal for a minimum of five years. At the time of writing, further detail needs to be worked out between the Vale of White Horse District Council and the ATC. The even better news for Drayton council-tax payers is that this additional cost will not fall on their shoulders (or pockets!). The ATC was prepared to step in at the last moment to try to save the Pool having listened to and acted upon the recent feedback of their local "Town Crier" (their Chronicle equivalent) survey.

A34 Noise

The Highways Agency (HA) has recently responded to my regular letter of concern about the traffic noise on the A34. Drayton does not qualify for immediate reprieve for, although as the 1998 noise level immediately adjacent to the road is higher than the permitted level, not all the other conditions are met. In any event, the annual £5 million for "noise mitigation purposes" for all major roads in the UK does seem small. There is some good news however. The HA is planning to re-surface one lane in both directions in 2006/7 using lower noise materials. Hopefully this will reduce some of the noise from the A34 traffic, but the HA is careful to mention this work cannot be guaranteed and is subject to funding availability.

Waste - Minimising Waste

The Vale is bucking the trend! Over the last few years, strong promotion has helped to achieve year-on-year **reductions** of between 1% and 3% on the total waste collected. This can be contrasted to the national trend which is **increasing** by 3%! The Council produces a Waste Management leaflet each year for inclusion with the Council Tax demands, and together with articles in Vale Views has dealt with many aspects of improving waste management including waste minimisation. The Council's website

is regularly updated with items on Waste Minimisation, and occasional articles and advertisements have been carried by local newspapers.

Green Waste and Cardboard – Vale pilot scheme

A new scheme for garden waste and cardboard collection will soon be on offer to householders in the Vale of White Horse. Up to 4000 wheelie bins will be available, with those areas with the highest demand initially being included in the scheme. The new service offers a brown 240 litre wheeled bin for the convenient storage of garden waste and cardboard all year round. The bins will be emptied fortnightly and will carry an annual rental charge of £29.00. The Council believes that using the new scheme increases choice and is a convenient way to reduce the waste going to landfill and increase recycling. It is hoped that the scheme will result in a major contribution to the Council's recycling target of 29%. The Council is collating details of all those interested in the scheme and collection routes will initially cover areas that have shown the greatest demand. It is expected that collections will start later this summer. Anyone interested please contact the Waste team at the Vale of White Horse DC, phone 01235 520202.



is regularly updated with items on Waste Minimisation, and occasional articles and advertisements have been carried by local newspapers.

Reservoir Update

It came as no surprise to me that Thames Water's (TW) was one of the two (out of 23) water companies who failed to meet the leakage target. This is despite their protestations that they are spending considerable amounts of money to reduce the leakage. Due to the high levels of leakage, neither the Environment Agency nor the Vale are supportive of any proposal by TW to install a reservoir in the locality. TW on the other hand, still insists a reservoir is required by 2020. They are looking to submit a planning application by 2010, after the on-going detailed examination is completed in the next couple of years.

Air Quality

You may be interested to learn that the air quality in the Vale of White Horse is generally very good. There are however some concerns relating to the concentration of nitrogen dioxide and particulate material in Stert Street and High Street, Abingdon. Further monitoring is being made. Improvements to both streets are expected with the implementation of the Abingdon Integrated Transport Strategy, (AbITS).

And Finally.....

I regret to advise that I will not be available to hold a surgery on Saturday 3rd September.

Regards

Grahame Ash

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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Jennifer Pooley

One member of the public attended the meeting held on Monday 1st August 2005, representing the residents of Caudwell Close.

Village Problems

Complaints had been received that the cars (and jet-ski) now being parked for sale on the Village Green spoiled the centre of the village and the Council agreed. It will contact VWHDC planning and also Mr Coates, Environmental Warden for help in preventing this practice.

The Caudwell Close residents had again been suffering the problems of anti-social behaviour by local youths, whilst wheelchair users in the Close were bothered by pot-holes in the road. The Council will ask the Police Community Support Officers, the Vale Environmental Warden and OCC Highways for help.

Following a suggestion at the Annual Parish Assembly that the Parish Council should pass a bye-law to ban drinking in public, the Clerk had received a reply from Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils who advised that the next step would be to contact the District Council.

Mr Hamilton, chair of the Drayton Millennium Green Trust, had recently been contacted about people riding their horses on the Millennium Green, which damaged the paths. He had said that signs would be put up in due course to ask people not to do this.


It was mentioned that the grass on the wide verge, on the south side of the High Street, doesn't get cut very often by OCC. Discussion followed about whether this land could be adopted by the Parish Council and looked after on a more regular basis. Mr Knight will mention this to OCC Highways.

The Council was still awaiting a reply from VWHDC concerning several items raised by councillors and members of the public at the previous meeting; these included the car-boot sale, parked car-transporters outside Hartwells Garage and the derelict state of the development site on the Steventon Road

Planning Issues

The Earl of Plymouth Estate's objection to the Local Plan was raised. The Clerk had already contacted VWHDC re-affirming the Council's position, that it is strongly opposed to changes to the present Local Plan that would lead to development





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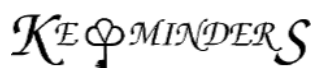
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The Council returned to the issue of mitigating benefits for Drayton if the proposed new reservoir is eventually built. Mr Badcock mentioned better roads and another river crossing; Dr Fursdon Davis also pressed for better roads and better baffling of noise from the A34.

Waste Recycling Centre

Dr Fursdon Davis had spoken again with Mr Cherry of VWHDC with concerns about the proposed autumn redevelopment of the Drayton waste recycling centre, but it was agreed also to send the whole Parish Council's views and request urgent feedback and more consultation.

Best-kept village competition

The judges' comments on Drayton were a mixture of the good and the bad, as in previous years. The Council decided to ask the Chronicle to publish the comments in full.

Editor's note: The comments are printed on page 6

Finance

Councillors had received copies of the internal auditor's report. The Annual Return, Statement of Accounts and Statement of Assurance were consequently accepted. In addition:

Mr Hamilton had requested funds to help repair the sundial on the Millennium Green. A grant application form would be sent with a request that Mr Hamilton attends the next PC meeting to discuss how the repaired feature will look.

Mrs Pooley had obtained two informal quotations for the proposed new village footpath signs. OCC's was the lowest and it was agreed Mrs Pooley should send full details of the signs to OCC for a formal quote.

Following the recent breaking of 2 panels on the bus shelter outside Vickery's, the Council agreed to accept the quote for replacement glass panels, of £335 from Queensbury Shelters. It was noted that unbreakable polycarbonate panels were somewhat more expensive and had the additional problem that graffiti was almost impossible to remove.

The next meeting will be on Monday 5th September 2005, at 7.45pm, at the Caudwell Day Centre. Members of the public are, as always, very welcome to attend.

DRAYTON DIARY

FOR SEPTEMBER

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

Regular Events are listed opposite

Aug. Bank Holiday	Visit from our twin-town, Lesparre-Medoc
Sat 3	Note: No G Ash surgery this month
Mon 6 7.30 pm	Parish Council <i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
Mon 19 9.15 am	Chronicle Lottery deadline <i>Vickery's</i>
5.15 pm	Chronicle copy deadline <i>Vickery's box</i>
8.00 pm	Drayton Hall Management Committee

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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 1 1/2 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>

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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