

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Tony Holmes

Volume 28 No. 9

October 2005

MANOR FARM in the 1950s

Celia Haddon

In 1951 my father Darby Haddon bought Manor Farm, Drayton, near Abingdon, in what was then Berkshire. It was 800 acres of mixed arable and milking, stretching from the village of Drayton to the village of Marcham.

He kept a mixed herd of cows with everything from shorthorns to Friesians. On these he put a Hereford bull. There used to be two bulls, kept up near Marcham Mill when they were not running with the cows. One was safe. The other was so dangerous that it wore a wooden head shield, that meant its head was permanently weighed down to near grass level. That way it was unlikely to get its head up to charge.

He milked his cows with a mechanical milker which could do half a dozen cows at once. This was moved with the cows into the fields in summer then back into the yards with them in winter. Charlie Mugford and Wilfred Bond were his cowmen.

By this stage he was using tractors and combine harvesters, not horses. He was bailing straw, not stooking it -- though he occasionally stooked some oats for feed. A couple of cart horses, a Suffolk punch called Blossom and a grey roan of indeterminate breed called Ballroughboyne (from the Irish area where she had been bought) drew a milk float.

On the farm he employed a foreman, a full-time mechanic, two cattle men for milking, and probably about four or five more workers. Inside the house were two daily women and a daily cook who did lunch and made cakes for tea. There was also a pensioner who shined the shoes and did odd jobs.

He bought seven terraced houses in the village (with sitting tenants) for £200 as tied houses. He was one of the first farmers to use silage. He grew several fields of lucerne, a kind of blue clover of greater height than ordinary clover. The first year he stacked the grass in heaps using molasses on it to ferment it.

The smell was awful and people in the village complained. They got up a petition.

The cattle overwintered in the farm yard eating the silage and also some hay, which was stacked in the large barn opposite the village green, now made into houses.

Shopping was done on account. Goods were ordered, delivered, and paid for at the end of the month. There was an account with the grocer's shop in Drayton and one with the butcher in Steventon. Bread was delivered. Fruit and vegetables came weekly from Sutton Courtenay. The only shop where we paid cash was Colletts, the sweet shop that also sold children's toys, and Winters post office which also sold sweets.

The occasional Sikh came round with a pedlar's pack trying to sell material. Female gypsies came selling clothes pegs made of two pieces of wood spliced together. A tramp came for two or three years and slept in the barn in return for work.

It was in the field next to the farm we held the fete which celebrated the end of rationing -- with a ration book in fireworks that burned up. Earlier I remember a special tea for children held in the village hall with lots of substantial fish-paste and jam sandwiches, small jellies and far less cake than there would be nowadays. Rationing meant that the sandwiches had to be made with margarine! The fete to celebrate the coronation of our current Queen was also held in the farm field. There were rather simple sports -- ducking for apples, three legged races, sack races.

Now houses are going to cover the field nearest to the farm. **I hope they leave just a little green space for people to enjoy.**

Milton Craft Fair

Saturday 3rd December
Milton Methodist Church Hall

Opening times 11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Set up for stallholders from 9 a.m.

For more details and to book a table contact
Kay Davies 01235 204184

*Ins and outs P6 Convent Life P3 Off to Cyprus P7 Swap-shop P8 Help available - & needed P11
Who won? P2 Allotment anyone? P9 Young Talent Required P5 Buy a Goat? P4 Fun with Twins P10*

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
Booking available by
phoning (01235) 200350

COMING CHRONICLES

The **November Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Friday, October 28th**, from **Helen Brasington, 1, Cheers Farm, (534045)**, who should be contacted by any Agents requiring copies additional to their allocation.

The Editor will be **Geoffrey Long, Aeolian House, Chiers Drive (531321)**. Contributions may be e-mailed (see below), or placed in the Chronicle letter box, outside Vickery's store on Drayton Green,

NO LATER than 5.15 pm on Monday, October 17th 2005.

After this deadline, only items of the utmost urgency may be **considered** for inclusion (NB No guarantees!), and only then if delivered to the Editor by the following Wednesday.

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

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

NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

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

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

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

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

2. A **3 1/2" disk**, in PC format, preferably 'Saved As' WORD. **Please include hard copy** for checking the formatting and **your address** so that the disk can be easily returned. This is STILL an excellent way to receive copy since it removes much of the work necessary in 3 & 4 below, AND should help to eliminate misprints/errors.

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

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

ADVERTISING RATES

For Block Advert (about 1/12th page)

----- 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 Ads Manager (531180) or email:- linda.semmens@ntlworld.com

CHRONICLE LOTTERY

Daphne Samworth, Hon. Promoter

RESULTS OF THE SEPTEMBER LOTTERY

Prize	Winner	Agent
£25	J Grey, Sutton Wick Farmhouse	Beryl Dawson
£20	Mrs Gibson, 48 Steventon Road	Jackie Walker
£15	Sarah Watkinson, 7 High Street	Mary Alexander
£10	Mr Barak, 37 Sutton Wick Lane	Beryl Dawson
£10	Jean Taylor, 32 High Street	Mary Alexander
£10	Mrs Andrews, 58 Whitehorns Way	Terry Arnold
£10	Sandra Woodhead, 4 Halls Close	Mary Alexander
£10	M. Milverton, 12 High Street	Darren McDonald
£10	Mrs J Duley, 96 Steventon Road	Janet Dale
£10	D. Lorenz, Steventon Road	Sarah Church

Winning tickets, from a total of 2239 sold, were drawn by Members of Drayton Wives Whist Group; High Street and Steventon Road both did very well this time.

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THE FOLLOWING THREE MONTHS

Issue for	Copy for publication and return of Agents Lottery Packs by Monday:-	Chronicle published and available for distribution on Friday:-
December	21 November 2005	02 December 2005
Jan/Feb-06	09 January 2006	20 January 2006
March	13 February 2006	24 February 2006

ALL AROUND

DRAYTON WIVES

Margaret Long

It was an afternoon of sun and showers in Mary Alexander's garden for our August Bring and Share tea party. There was certainly more sun than shower so we could enjoy the colour in Mary's garden and the best cup of tea I've had in ages. We may do it again next year, but it has been suggested that we should make it a lunch party rather than a tea party and that sounds like a good idea to me.

Autumn certainly seems to be upon us and the nights will be drawing in so let us look forward to our Wednesday afternoon meetings in daylight.

Dates for your diary in October: -

Mon 3	10.30	COFFEE	Daphne Barrand, 30 W'horns Way
Mon 17	7.15	WHIST	Barbara Carter, Caudwell D.C
Wed 26	2.00	MEETING	Over the Wall Twice - Life in a Convent. J.Harding.

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MISSED OUT ON YOUR CHRONICLE?

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

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HOME VISITS
....00000....

APPOINTMENTS

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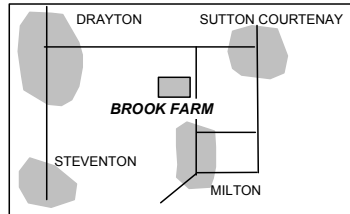
The ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Pearl Stanbridge

It is with regret I report the recent death of our oldest member, Mr Alfred Joyce. He served the branch in various posts over the years, but will be best remembered for his role as Standard Bearer back in the 1980s; our sincere condolences are extended to his family.

YOU are invited to join us for our **annual dinner**, to be held at the Lantern Restaurant on Friday Nov 25th (8pm), so come along and enjoy a first class meal and company, with an interesting and informative guest speaker from the Gurkha Welfare Trust.

The next Committee meeting will be on Monday 17th Oct at 8pm.

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DRAYTON PLAYERS

Jean Hager

Tickets are now available for our production of **WHEN WE ARE MARRIED** by J.B.Priestley and can be obtained from our Box Office on (01235) 200350 along with any other information you may like to have. This year there will be four performances, Wednesday 12th Oct – Saturday 15th Oct.

We are now into 'fine tuning' this very amusing comedy set in Victorian Yorkshire and telling the story of a 25th Wedding Anniversary party of three couples. The party does not proceed as planned and therein lie the hilarious situations that develop. This is **all-round family entertainment** and should send everyone home chuckling. We look forward to your company on one of these dates.

Rehearsals for MY FAIR LADY (for February 2006) are also underway, with the musical side receiving the main concentration at present. We have been very happy to welcome several new faces – across the age spectrum – and everyone is entering into learning dance routines and chorus singing with great enthusiasm, which bodes well for the forthcoming production. Look out for further progress notes during the coming months.

ST PETER'S CHURCH

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

CHURCH NOTICES

REGULAR SERVICES

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

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Sunday	10.00 am	Sunday Pebbles & Rocks	Church Room
Monday	7.45 pm	Bellringing Practice	Bell Tower
Friday	7.00 pm	Choir Practice (Alt'ate Fridays)	Church Room

CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

Tues 4th	3.00 pm	1st Tuesday Connections	Church Room
Sun 9th	11.15 am	Sale of Fair Trade goods	
	4.00 pm	Autumn Concert (Drayton Young Musicians)	
	6.00 pm	Harvest Festival (focus on Farm Africa)	
Weds NOV 2nd	7.30 pm	All Souls Day Service	

PARISH REGISTER

Holy Baptism	Sept 18th	Oliver John Willis
Funeral	Sept 2nd	Keith Leonard Yates
Wedding	Aug 20th	Ricki John Heery to Tracey May Roberts
	Sept 10th	Richard James Nelson to Grace Emily May Dawson

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Letter from St Peter's Church

Dear Friends,

I have just come back from a three week holiday in Uganda. During my time there I visited a project I have been involved with for about 15 years. The Bungokho Rural Development Centre (BRDC) offers vocational training in a variety of subjects:- carpentry, tailoring, masonry (house building) and more recently plumbing.

But the Centre does have a large piece of land so it was felt that this could be used for agricultural training. Uganda has a good supply of rich fertile land, but as the population grows this has to be used more productively to provide for all the people.

Animals like cows, goats, pigs and chickens have traditionally scratched for their own living in the fields and farmyard. This is no longer adequate, good livestock need better habitats and feeding, so they can produce enough to feed the family and give a surplus to sell.

The BRDC has now introduced improved goats for better milk and meat production. Well designed beehives give good honey yields and enhanced chickens produce more eggs. They have also added a duck and fish pond, which provide a microenvironment for both ducks and fish to feed on with very little food needing to be added. These are the kinds of small scale projects which can help the people of Uganda, who are mainly subsistence farmers, to get the best out of their land.

This year St Peter's Church is supporting **Farm Africa** for our Harvest Festival. They do the same type of work as BRDC but on a much bigger scale. This year they are focusing on giving goats to needy families. These goats cost £27 each.

Our Harvest Festival Family Service is 10am on Sunday 9th October. Please feel welcome to come along and support the work of **Farm Africa**. If you would like to **buy a goat or contribute** towards one then there are envelopes at the back of the church. These can be returned at the service or put in the wall safe inside the church door.

But most of all we want to pray for the people of Africa that through improved farming methods they can provide adequately for their families. Giving a goat is not aid in the traditional sense of the word, but an **investment in the future**. Our future as well as the future of the people who receive this improved livestock.

Yours sincerely

Josie Midwinter

YOU STAY - WE PRAY

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

26 Sept – 2 Oct: Drayton Road; Milton Road; New Cut Mill; Fisher Close; Marcham Road; Meads Close; Rippington Court; Stone Hill

3 – 16 Oct: Steventon Road; Eastway; Eastway MHP

17 – 23 Oct: Church & Henleys Lanes; Caudwell Close; Gravel Lane

24 Oct – 7 Nov: Abingdon Rd; Oday Hill; Binnings Close; Haywards Rd

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(MORE) ALL AROUND

Drayton Table Tennis Club John Gould

The new League season started week of 19th September and will run through till next April. We have entered 4 teams in the League - one down on last year due to the loss of 12 players. Several have moved away from the area, one to University and several have stopped albeit temporarily for two or three of them. The A team will play in Division 1, the B & C teams in Division 2 and the D team in Division 3.

We have welcomed some new players including Craig Campbell and Cory Grimes who are Barbadian Internationals and will boost the A team now they are back in the top Division. Bob Rhodes has joined the D team and old stager Dave Harradine is back in the C team after spending 2 years working in the Emerald Isle.

Robert Hudson who will play for the B team this season has recently played in the Oxfordshire Junior Ranking Trials and we are pleased to say he is now the Number 1 Junior Table Tennis player in the county. This means Robert will have representative matches to look forward to and his Dad some additional chauffeuring duties!

Club nights for practice and for Juniors will be every other Monday at the school. **Juniors from 7.00pm and Seniors from 8.00pm.** Beverley Rayner is organising the Juniors again and **any boy or girl aged from 9-14 can attend.** Please ring 01235 202417 for more details of Junior Table Tennis.

We are very keen to welcome new players and if anyone would like to come along and try out they can be sure of a **warm welcome.** Beginners and experienced players can all be accommodated. Ring 01235 531328 or 01235 205111 for more information.

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DRAYTON W.I. Doreen Buckland

We opened our September meeting with a very interesting and amusing speaker, Mr Ted East, complete with his hats. He talked about being brought up in Sussex, joining the Black Watch, his many years in the Thames Valley Police, and finally as a Marshall at Oxford University, illustrating all these occupations with his many hats.

After a cup of tea, our president continued with the Federation news, the group meeting to be held in Drayton Hall on October 6th, finally details for the Grow Cook and Sew. We are hoping for lots of entries this year.

The trip to Highgrove was very enjoyable, worth the three-year wait; thanks were given to Ann and Brenda for organising this trip.

The next fund raising event will be the **WIT and WISDOM quiz** on November 11th. Please start to get your teams of four organised, more details later.

Just a reminder for members, the October meeting will be held in the Caudwell Centre, the speaker will be Jane Bowler from Dews Meadow Farm Shop. **New members will be most welcome.**



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Drayton TODDLER GROUP Jane Nye

Thank you for the support that you gave to the Toddler Fun Day which took place on the 22nd September. Our toddlers wore themselves out playing on the bouncy castle and ride-on toys whilst everyone got to sample some tasty cakes and treats. Our mums and friends had the opportunity to browse round stalls which included Usborne Books, Bling Fashion Jewellery, The Body Shop and Rachel Seamarks decorative home furnishings.

The Tempest Photographic Agency also joined us and our children enjoyed posing for lots of photos! The photographer was kept busy all afternoon. In addition to funds raised on the day, we will also receive a percentage of the sales from the photos!

Thanks for all your donations, we will let you know in the future how much your generosity has raised.

The money we receive from charity events is invaluable to helping us upgrade and buy new equipment. Purchases have already been ordered paid for by the Youth Charity Trust money and will be on display at toddler sessions at the end of October so that everyone can see how the money was spent.

Once again it's time for us to sort out and wash our well used toys! **A Clean Up morning will be held on Thursday 6th October** to encourage mums to help out with this job. The back room will be sectioned off for the morning so that the toddler session can run as usual whilst mums take it in turns to scrub, wash and clean the toys!

Thanks to Joy, our tea lady, for all her help with our special events and regular sessions. Her constant support is greatly appreciated.

Looking ahead, a reminder that the **Christmas party** will be held on Sunday 11th December. Highlights include a visit from Father Christmas, party games and entertainment for the children and a mince pie and cuppa for the mums and dads! There will also be a raffle and tombola. **Donations for these would be appreciated.** More information follows in November when booking forms will be available.

We continue to meet on Thursday mornings between 9.30am and 11.30am at the Drayton Village Hall. **Please come along to have fun and meet lots of friendly mums**, have a cuppa and a chat.



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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)

Come and join us every Sunday – we look forward to seeing you. Next **Family Services** are (all 11.30am):-
Oct 2nd (speaker **Philip Sylvester**); **Nov 6th** (**Iain Grey**);
Dec 4th (**Janet Strong**).

EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME

To all at the Baptist church (from Janet Strong) :-

I have been the Sunday school teacher here at the Baptist Church since 1999. I have decided not to carry on any longer. I have prayed about this a lot and have felt God wiling me to move on to other things.

It has been a great privilege to teach children about the love of God and it's so important for every child to know they have a friend in Jesus. All our children at the Baptist Church have now grown up and I'm afraid no more have replaced them. That's when everyone at the morning service asked me just to carry on doing a Family service for them once a month instead of teaching the children.

I never thought I would be able to do this but God gave me the strength through his Holy Spirit and I have been doing it for some time now. Since last Christmas my eyes have been getting worse, and I am under the hospital still waiting to find out what is wrong as I am finding it more difficult to read and study.

Therefore sadly I shall be finishing at the end of the year. My last Family Service will be on Christmas Day. I feel God wants me back at Christchurch Abingdon, and will see what He leads me on to do as I was a Sunday school teacher there since 1980 before I came to the Baptist Church Drayton to teach.

Much love in Christ Jesus - *Janet Strong*.

SIMON MURRAY MPTA CGLI M.I.M.I.T. N.T.C. DIPLOMA

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NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

A Very Warm Welcome to 3 new families in the High Street:- Chantel & Julian Fowler, and children Justine, William and Lorna; the Morgan family, and Godfrey the dog; plus Karen & Thibaud Weick, William and Sarah.

It's a "Farewell" to Mr and Mrs Glead from Hilliat Fields who have moved to Didcot, wishing them every happiness in their new home.

And Get Well Soon to Bob Matthews after the recent accident, best wishes to you and Jill.

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YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Waste - Swap Shop

So many useful items end up in our rubbish sacks every year, often because we no longer use them and don't know who to pass them on to, and consequently our landfill sites are filling up fast. Abingdon Earthcare, a local group that promotes sustainable living, wanted to make a difference by reducing the amount of waste that is landfilled. So with the help of the Vale of White Horse District Council and Oxfordshire Community Action Group, they organised a 'SwapShop'.

On Saturday 18th June, several hundred visitors flocked into the Guildhall, Abingdon bringing a variety of unwanted items including videos, toys and other household equipment. Although the items had no further use to their present owners there was still life in them, and people poured over the items and took what was useful home. This **SwapShop was a tremendous success in waste reduction.**

There will be **another SwapShop**, probably in November, and if you want to help or organise your own event (Ed: I thought these were called car boot sales!) then please contact Carole Chapman at the VoWHDC (email:- carole.chapman@whitehorsedc.gov.uk).

To find out more about Abingdon Earthcare please call Alan Joinson on 01235 521247 or email alanj@phonecoop.coop.

Sales of Waste

I made enquiries to see if the re-sale of recovered items from the Drayton 'tip' could be re-started. I regret to say it is unlikely in the short term. The sales seemed very popular with many of you I know. The decision to stop was made by the contractors to the Oxfordshire County Council - I was told officially for Health and Safety reasons.

High Hedges

In my July article I mentioned that the fee for processing a complaint over neighbour's high hedges was set at £600 by the Development Control Committee of the Vale. The Executive committee reduced this cost to £450.

Possible Threat to Smaller Newsagents

Did you know Tesco is taking over distribution of Newspapers and Periodicals in the area? The government was dissatisfied with the long established monopolistic method of distribution, although this actually meant that the distributors had to deliver, I understand, to a very high percentage of businesses that wanted to sell these items. I have learnt that Tesco's will be increasing the delivery cost for periodicals significantly. It could well mean that shortly only the very popular periodicals will be available from your local newsagent. The good news is that the price of distributing newspapers is expected to remain much the same. I do question however, how long it will be before Tesco decides it is not viable for them to deliver to the smaller newsagents. Will this be another threat to village businesses?

Planning Changes

The majority of Planning applications are decided upon by the Officers who have delegated powers of authority. The rest go before the Planning Committee. The local Councillor has the right to ask for an application to be heard by this Committee, as does the Parish/Town council. It is the latter who in some cases is giving inadequate, sometimes specious reasons for the case to be brought before the committee and this causes a waste of time and (your) money.

Parish and town councils are now being asked, when supporting or objecting to a Planning application, to set out their reasons in a more business-like manner, stating the local planning policy, design guidance or government planning policy in their support or objection. The clerk should have such details available. This will help make their views more meaningful, particularly if there is an appeal to the gov't inspectorate. This does not however prevent an exception to policy being recommended, but then exceptional reasons must be stated.

Changes Unisex Hair Salon



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or call in and see us at

8 Milton Road, Sutton Courtenay

And Finally.....

It is with regret that I have resigned as your district councillor with effect from the end of August. Many of you will know that my wife has for some years been suffering from ME. Her health improves when the weather is warmer and where the air is cleaner, so we have decided to retire to the Mediterranean coast.

I would like to thank you all for having me as your councillor on the Vale of White Horse District Council for some six and a half years. I would like to say a final thank you to the Editors for allowing me the opportunity of contributing to the Chronicle and for their co-operation and patience in ensuring I was not too political in my comments! A thank you also to the keen band of helpers in ensuring the Chronicle gets to your door each month. (By the way, I do believe the Chronicle is by far the best local town/village publication in the Vale and trust it will continue to be successful.)

May I also add a final farewell and thank you to my readers. A by-election will follow shortly. In the meantime **Cllr. Richard Farrell can be contacted on 01235 850275 in my absence.**

Regards

Grahame Ash

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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).

PARISH COUNCIL (meeting Sept 5)

A member of the public raised the issue of helicopters becoming more frequent and flying lower on their shuttling between Abingdon and Benson. The Council will ask whether this is really necessary to defend the Realm.

Nick Hamilton of the Millennium Green Trust persuaded the Council that it should make a commitment to the upkeep of the Green that seems to be a very popular facility enjoyed by many in the village. He will be seeking funds from 'friends' of the Millennium Green to make up the difference.

The Council had been trying to persuade the County Council to amend the plans for the redevelopment of the amenity tip to allow pedestrian access, to have a quick escape for those who do not need the main bins and to make it easier to manoeuvre. However, the site is very restricted and the rearrangement may go ahead as planned, during a closure of a few months.

The repair bill for damage done to the bus shelter is £450, that could have been spent on something more useful for the village. The last time a shelter was damaged, the parents of those who footed the shelter actually footed the bill. Contributions would be gratefully received if anybody knows who was responsible.

Mike Badcock, one of our County Councillors, asked when it would be most **convenient for the 35A to run through the village.** It now runs at 7 mins past the hour to Didcot and 10 mins to the hour in the Abingdon/Oxford direction. It is quite possible that the bus company would be prepared to change the running times (not frequency) if there was a strong case. **Any opinions from existing or potential bus users?**

Allotments - Now is the time to **contact the parish clerk** as we are getting a number of plots ready for cultivation next year.

It seems that our regular 'member of the public' has been inspired to fill one of the vacancies on the Council, leaving a space in the public gallery that **YOU would be welcome to fill.**

If you would like to discuss any village matter, from the grow cook and sew show to the reservoir, the **Parish Council would be interested to hear your views** at the next meeting of the Council on **Oct 3rd (7.45pm) at the Caudwell Day Centre.** See you there.

Daniel Scharf



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

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Drayton School

Claire Soper

The children are now well settled back into school life helped no doubt by the lovely Autumn weather at the beginning of term, and are now looking forward to a break at the end of the month.

The Lower Unit children have been studying their senses and enjoyed demonstrating this in assembly with a variety of shakers and smells. Mrs Higgs had the difficult task of identifying unknown compounds with hilarious results! They have also enjoyed guessing the taste too of various flavoured crisps, what fun school is these days!

Some of the children have also been learning about what types of food make a healthy diet both in the Lower and Middle Units. The older children had to put the various foods that they had eaten in a day into food groups, not an easy task. They are looking forward to working on their history topic about The Vikings.

The Upper Unit children were very fortunate to visit the Ashmolean Museum to view the 'Imagine' exhibition at 'Modern Art' Oxford. Some of the work from last years 5/6 class was on display.

The children will be studying life as a child in Victorian Britain (and in case you were going to ask, NO, I can't remember what it was like!)

They will also be investigating the Earth in space, this has involved carrying out a 'Moonwatch' to study the moon's shape for a month.

Harvest Festival was celebrated during September with a Family Assembly taken by Sister Josie Midwinter. The children enjoyed delivering gift boxes and homemade cards to older people.

Christine Ellis from Dr Barnardos has visited school to talk about the valuable work the charity carries out locally in Abingdon and many of the children raised money in a sponsored event to support the fund.

The School Council has been delighted to inform everyone that school has now been awarded the coveted Silver Eco Award, well done! The next stage of the scheme is working towards a Green Flag, more news of this to come.

We are pleased to report that we have secured the services of Dave Stemp as Football Trainer for the school team, training has resumed weekly on Mondays. We look forward to a successful new season.

Thank you also to those people who responded to our appeal for Community Governors, we were extremely pleased with the result, it's good to know that there are people out there interested in the life of the school beyond those of us directly involved.

Tescos are currently issuing vouchers for every £10 spent which can be exchanged for sports equipment. **We would be very grateful for any spare vouchers,** which can be dropped off at the school office.

Finally news from F.O.D.S.A. :- A repeat **Fashion Show** by JAS Fashions will be held on **Tuesday 11th October** in school. Tickets can be purchased in advance or on the night, £1 under 16 or £2.50 adult. Come and see their splendid Autumn range of children's and ladies fashions from well-known high street stores. F.O.D.S.A. is committed currently to raising funds for outdoor equipment for the Foundation and Reception area of the school.

ADVANCE NOTICE - **The annual Christmas Fair** will be held on Sunday 27th November from 12-3pm in school, yes it's that time again!



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DRAYTON Twinning

Geoffrey Long

Once again the weather behaved impeccably over the Summer Holiday weekend for the third official visit of our friends from Lesparre-Medoc. So much so that regular visitors, having seen only one shower of rain on their visits, do not believe us when we complain about our weather!

Twenty six rather bleary-eyed visitors arrived by coach at 4.00pm on Thursday, having been on the road since the early hours of the previous day. It was good to see so many new faces in the party



including six children, both of which auger well for the future of our twinning arrangement. By 5 o'clock our visitors were distributed among 15 homes in the Drayton area, remaking old

friendships and forging new ones.

Our organised visits, starting on the Friday, were to the Maize Maze at Millet's Farm (the Trafalgar Maze, but no one seemed to mind that) and Mary Mackinnon's Vineyard at East Hendred, to show our visitors, who are used to endless miles of vineyards, that a small vineyard in England can produce very respectable wines. Saturday saw a **trip** (re picture above) on the Salter's Steamer – by special request – from Abingdon to Oxford. The river was very busy and animated, with events on the banks as we passed by. A visit to The Oxford Story was followed by a shopping spree.

Sunday was spent at Blenheim Palace, where Churchill's birth room attracted a lot of interest, and grounds for the Living Heritage Oxfordshire Craft Fair. Our French speaking guide added much to their enjoyment of the house tour.

As on our trip to Lesparre last year, the visitors stayed for five nights, allowing a day for visits in smaller groups to local places of interest to suit our visitors' personal interests – the millennium sundial at Ardington, the Ridgeway, Churchill's grave at Bladon, the Barley Mow at Clifton Hampden and – yes, believe it or not, – Tescos.

The evenings were equally varied – supper at the Caudwell Day Centre on Friday was preceded by a Boule knock-out competition. Caren Caudwell kindly allowed us to use the stable yard of Manor Farm (the final will be held in Lesparre in 2006!). Supper was followed by that quintessentially British game – a Beetle Drive. Our visitors soon grasped the idea and scrabbled for the dice with the best of us. A home team won!

On Saturday evening groups of a dozen or so – mixed locals and visitors – gathered together in the homes of six volunteers to share dinner *en famille*. This has become a very popular feature of our twinning visits. A lot of work for the hosts but obviously so well worth the effort.

Sunday evening saw another quintessentially British event – a fish and chip supper, cooked to perfection in a mobile chippery and so served piping hot. A wonderful jazz band provided excellent music – for dancing for 80 people. In the interval we were treated to a demonstration by the Ock Street Morris Men and our visitors joined in with great enthusiasm. After encores the entire audience were still chanting for more at the end of a wonderful night.

The festivities finished on Monday evening with a typical English dinner at the Steventon House Hotel, centred on roast beef and Yorkshire pudding. A fitting end to a most enjoyable visit.

But then the rub – to get home, snatch a little sleep and start the new day – on Tuesday the coach left Drayton at 5.00 am (sic). So the farewells were a little bleary-eyed but the 'Au revoir's were sincere enough.

Two things struck me about the visit – first, how enthusiastically everyone joined in all the events and second, the noise that was generated when a few people got together! Clearly everyone was communicating enthusiastically! Which, after all, is what **twinning is all about**.

These things don't just happen – planning for the next one starts almost straight away. Too many people are involved in the week-end for me to list here but I am sure everyone involved would want to say a big 'Thank you' to the people in charge of the various days events (Peter and Theresa Fulk on Friday, Stephen and Ruth Fearnely on Saturday and Bob and Jill Matthews on Sunday) not forgetting Michael and Barbara Bell for all the work they did in pulling it all together.

And finally – a plug. The Twinning Group is always delighted to see new faces – simply watch out for notices of our meetings or social events in the Chronicle and come along to meet us – without any obligation. Or for more information contact Alun on 531463 or Michael on 531388.



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MILLENNIUM GREEN STILL NEEDS FRIENDS!!!

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

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

If you interested in helping protect the future of our Millennium Green, please let us know; We will then send you details of our 'Friend of the Millennium Green' campaign and the methods of payment.

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

FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS

Are you feeling lonely, isolated or in need of company? Maybe after the Christmas hurly-burly things seem a bit flat?

Why not come along to our tea and chat afternoon for some friendly company and conversation.

We shall be in St. Peter's Church Room on Tuesday 7th February from 3pm until 4.30pm and hope you will join us. Drop in for a short or long visit and you will find a warm welcome awaiting you.

If that date is not convenient then our next get together will be 7th March and we look forward to seeing you then.

If you need transport, or more information, just give me (Jean Hager) a call on 531558.

YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS :-

Parish (Chairman)	Paul Knight (531678);
District (VofWH)	(sub) Richard Farrell (850275);
& Oxfordshire County	Mike & Marilyn Badcock (201810).

FAMILIES AGAINST DRUGS (DIDCOT)

Families Against Drugs (FAD) - the Didcot-based support group for the families of those who are addicted to drugs - is holding an Open Meeting with a forum on Coping with Addiction in the Family.

The meeting, on Tuesday 4 October, will be held in the Community Hall at Didcot Baptist Church Centre in Wantage Road at 7.45 pm, and will feature a guest panel dealing with issues of drug education, prevention and treatment, followed by discussion and a chance to meet FAD members. As one FAD member says, "At the beginning of my son's addiction, I felt there was no help around. We were all alone. The group has helped me to have hope and courage and also given us practical advice."

Enquiries about this or about FAD in general to Keith Nichols, FAD Chairman, on 01235 811 668.

LISTINGS

Fri Oct 28th, until Sat Dec 17th, Charity Christmas Cards at the Abingdon Guildhall, every day except Sundays, 9.30 to 4.30 (look for SANTA!)

CHARITY AUCTION at Fitzharrys School, Northcourt Rd, Abingdon, Oct 15th at 6pm (for 7) in aid of Mayott House; fantastic auction items (too many to list) see www.mayotthouseauction.org £2 entrance includes ploughman's, but tell them you're going to be there, 0870 360 5865

AUTUMN CONCERT, featuring Drayton Young Musicians in aid of St Peter's Refurbishment, Sun Oct 9th 4pm, in Church, special guests the Vale Quartet — tickets £6 (£7 on door) from Church members.

SOBELL HOUSE CHRISTMAS FAIR Tues Oct 11th, 10.30 to 4, at Kingston Bagpuize House - Gifts, Clothes, Jewellery, Toys, Food, + Refreshments; also Henrietta Knight (Best Mate trainer) will be signing copies of her book, £3 to include entrance to the gardens.

THE HOME FARM TRUST

A Coffee Morning will be held at 71 High Street from 10 am to 12 noon on Weds Oct 12th, in aid of the Home Farm Trust. The Armitage family will once again join us and they look forward to meeting their friends and old neighbours.

Christmas Cards, together with home-made marmalade and chutneys will be on sale.

A Warm Welcome is extended to all. (Tim & Sally Owen).

FRIENDS of DRAYTON SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Present J.A.S. Fashions **FASHION AND CLOTHES SALE**

TUESDAY October 11th at 7.30 pm in School

FAMOUS ex-CHAIN STORE CLOTHES,
END-OF-LINE and OVERMAKES
DON'T MISS IT!

Refreshments Raffle
Tickets £2.50 (under 16 £1) available from School

DIARY FOR OCTOBER

All events held in Drayton Hall unless otherwise stated

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

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

Mon	3	7.45pm	Parish Council Meeting (p9) <i>Caudwell DC</i>
Tues	4	11.30am	Blood Clinic (until 8)
	4	3.00pm	1st Tuesday Connections <i>Church Room</i>
Fri	7		Private Party
Sat	8		Private Party
Sun	9		Players set-up
Mon	10		Players Rehearsals (+Tues)
Weds	12	7.30pm	When we are Married (+13/14/15 see p1 ad)
Mon	17	5.00pm	CHRONICLE DEADLINE <i>Vickery's</i>
Sat	22		Private Party
Sun	23		Private Party
Sat	29		Private Party

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refreshments

All proceeds to epilepsy

REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

MONDAYS

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

TUESDAYS

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

THURSDAYS

9.15 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	Sch'l Ground Bldg
9.30 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's Lady Chapel
9.30 am	Parent & Toddler Group	
9.50 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	Haywards Rd
10.15 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	The Green Car Pk
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
4.00 pm	Dancing Classes - 3 to 6 years Tel 764433	
7.45 pm	Women's Institute Meeting (2nd Thursday)	
8.00 pm	Sequence Dancing	

FRIDAYS

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

SUNDAYS

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

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

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