

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Geoffrey Long

Volume 28, No. 10

November 2005

DRAYTON PLAYERS - WHEN WE ARE MARRIED

Lois Rennells

Let me ask you a question. Do you remember having a good laugh on the evening of Saturday October 15 or the Wednesday, Thursday or Friday of that week? If the answer is 'not that I recall' then you didn't go to one of the Drayton Players performances of 'When We are Married'.

This farcical comedy by J B Priestley is set in 1908 and was first performed in 1938. I saw it in the early 1950s; I loved it then and 50 years later I love it still, so a personal thank you to Deirdre Jones, the director, for reviving it and creating such a sparkling production.

The plot revolves around three Yorkshire couples who were all married on the same day by the same minister and meet to celebrate their silver wedding. The Yorkshire Argus and a professional photographer have been summoned and an enormous spread has been assembled.

They consider themselves to be the backbone of decent respectable life and are prominent members of the chapel. On the same evening, the men plan to sack the chapel organist. They give the excuse that he has been seen in dalliance with young women but their real reason is that he is a lah di dah southerner. They are appalled when he reveals that he has met the minister who married them and has since received a letter from the minister confessing that due to an oversight, he was not at the time of their nuptials, authorised to officiate at weddings. After many hilarious twists and turns of the plot, it is the drunken photographer who saves the day. He too, was married on the same day by the same minister and has been trying to disentangle himself from his estranged wife. He has failed because at the time of these marriages no chapel minister could officiate at weddings without the presence of a registrar who had to sign the marriage certificate. They have all been married for 25 years, after all.

While their official marital status is in doubt, the three couples have to face up to some home truths. The hen-pecked husband

stands up at last to his nagging wife, the downtrodden wife tells her husband just how pompous, vain and boring he really is and the hypocritical philandering husband has to beg forgiveness.

Jon Crowley and Georgia Alston, Peter Jackson and Jayne Henderson and Adam Blake (a valuable new recruit for Drayton) and Mirja Boyd gave assured performances as the three couples. Mirja Boyd certainly came into her own as the nagging wife!

The first person on stage was Ruby, the young, artless maid played by Lindsay Dale. Her every appearance lit up the stage and she stole the show with her wide-eyed and splendid exuberance. Her timing was perfect.

Paul Martin, as the organist from 'down south', was an appealing casual contrast to the stiff northerners. Veteran Jean Hager can always be relied on to command the stage with her eccentric 'characters' and certainly didn't disappoint with her gleeful performance as the aggressive charwoman given to listening at keyholes and smashing crockery.

John Freeman had the extremely hard task of the drunken photographer. He managed this to hilarious effect apart from occasional speech that was so slurred it was difficult to understand.

All the supporting cast: Felicity Jackson, the niece of one of the couples and also the organist's 'young lady', Stephen Hosking, the reporter, Kerry Chaundy, a flighty young woman, Anton King, a rather creepy clergyman and Steve Clarke, the Mayor, were all a pleasure to watch.

All the cast managed to keep their Yorkshire accents going pretty well but the prize for the best goes to Peter Jackson. So convincing was he that I had to ask him to speak to me in his normal voice after the show to make sure that he wasn't a born and bred Yorkshireman.

Words of praise too for the set, the costumes and the props, all of which had obviously been given a great deal of thought and attention.

I am told that after the performance on Friday one member of the audience was heard to say that he could have paid many times the price of his ticket to see a show in the West End and not had a better night's entertainment. He's right, you know.





St Peter's
Christmas Fair

Saturday 19th November

10 am to 12 noon
in the Church.

Crafts, tombola, cakes, lucky dip, raffle, etc.

Refreshments



Candlelight Carol Service

Drayton Hall at 7.30pm

Sunday 11th December 2005

A warm welcome to all to come and enjoy your favourite carols, readings, poetry, singing.....

Music by Abingdon Town Band

Mince pies, tea and coffee

Free admission *Collection for NCH Action for Children*



In this issue:

Beat that Flu Bug p5
Your Tuesday invitation p8

Do you have bits of Drayton's past? p5
Our Millennium Green p9

Give Bowls a try p7
There's room at the Top p11

COMING CHRONICLES

The **December Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Friday, 02 December 2005** from **Margaret Armstrong, 1, Crabtree Lane, Tel 531122**, who should be contacted by any Agents requiring copies additional to their allocation.

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

no later than 5.15 pm on Monday, 21 November 2005.

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

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

NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

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

A contribution can be made in one of several ways:

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

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

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

- A **3½" disk**, in PC format, preferably 'Saved As' Word for Windows 6 or Word Perfect 2. *Please include hard copy* for checking the formatting and *your address* so that the disk can be easily returned to you.

- A good, **black typescript** on white A4 paper or smaller. The scanner can read in typescripts but only imperfectly so very careful editing is needed. Even so, this is still much easier than re-typing.

- Finally, **hand-written items** are typed up by a willing team of typists. Thanks to the many contributors who spell out names of people and places in capitals. This does save a lot of pencil sucking and mistakes.

ADVERTISING RATES

For Block Advert (about 1/12th page)

----- Number of Inserts -----

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

Half-size block adverts, normally for one or two inserts, are charged at half the above rates.

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

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

To discuss your requirements phone Linda Semmens, our Advertising Manager, on 531180 or email: linda.semmens@ntlworld.com



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CHRONICLE LOTTERY

Daphne Samworth, Hon. Promoter

RESULTS OF THE OCTOBER LOTTERY

Winner	Agent
£25 M. Roberts, 3, Meads Close	Margaret Armstrong
£20 Mrs Ball, 62, Whitehorns Way	Daphne Barrand
£15 Mrs Malin 34, High Street	Mary Alexander
£10 C. Hudson, 40, Lyford Close,	Gerald Redman
£10 V. Parker. 46, Abingdon Road	Jenny Stevens
£10 Mr. Jarvis, 91, Abingdon Road	Carol Arnold
£10 Dale Keeping, 44, Mill Rd, Abingdon	Jennie Keeping
£10 Mrs Botley, 1a, Church Lane	Susan Brooks
£10 Mrs Watts, 84, Steventon Road	Janet Dale
£10 Mrs S Owen, 71, High Street	Margaret Long

The winning tickets were drawn from the 2431 tickets sold by the staff of The Mace Shop.

SPECIAL PRIZES THIS MONTH

The lottery tickets that you buy this month will be entered in the draw taking place at the end of November. In that draw there will be **EXTRA CHRISTMAS PRIZES** of wine and biscuits. So to increase your chances why not have a flutter on a few extra tickets, either from your Agent or from Vickery's hardware store on the Green?

THE NEXT THREE MONTHS

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

FRIENDS OF DRAYTON SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

PRESENT

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ABINGDON & DISTRICT MUSIC SOCIETY Concert,
 St Helen's Church. 26th November, 7.30pm. *Mozart C Minor Mass*
 and *C Minor Wind Serenade*. Tickets £8 from Modern Music,
 High Street, Abingdon, Children £1, £10 at the door

YOUR LETTERS

Dear Sir,

Keith Leonard Yates

We would like to express our thanks to family, friends and neighbours for their support, cards and overwhelming messages of sympathy received in our sad loss of Keith.

Many thanks to Headley Feast for conducting a lovely service to a congregation whose numbers were unbelievable.

Keith, not only a good Husband and Father, was liked and respected by so many and will be sadly missed by all.

To date, donations received in aid of Cancer Research have reached £425.

Thank you all.

Carol, Richard and Helen Yates.

Dear Sir,

Many people have asked about Natasha.

She is doing very well and has had no major convulsions for about eight months. Her special bike was a great success. She pleads to go on it every day. She can pedal independently, full of excitement and giggles. She has her interactive up-suit which helps to support her back and keeps her more upright whilst working on her muscles.

She is now in a new class at Pace. Most of the children can speak in this class (she was the only one could speak in last year's class). She communicates with others and they respond, which gives her enormous pleasure. She's making great strides in her learning, physically and mentally.

Thank you so much for praying for her and for collecting for the Pace centre which helps so many children like Natasha.

Last, but not least, Clare our daughter is expecting her third baby in February, a sister or brother for Gemma and Natasha. She is being constantly monitored.

Yours sincerely,

Judy Henman

Dear Sir,

I would like, through the Chronicle, to say 'Congratulations' to Julie, Ros and Maggie who succeeded in doing the 40 mile walk for the charity "Breakthrough for Breast Cancer". The experience for all of them was wonderful and they were elated for days afterwards. Sally Dixon and Val Cross greeted them at one of the stopping points while Ros' and Maggie's families were at the final stage. This was a unique occasion, full of emotional energy for everyone there. Overall, over £5 million was raised, which made their efforts so worthwhile.

Yours sincerely,

Gwen Price

Dear Sir,

May we, through the Chronicle, say to the Drayton Players that the latest production, "When We Are Married", was, as usual, of a very high standard? You are all to be congratulated. Thank you for a very entertaining evening.

Yours sincerely,

Daphne and Geoff Samworth.



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NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

Congratulations to the Pitts family of Lockway on the birth of their little son/grandson, Freddie.

A very warm welcome to Mrs Doreen Locke who has recently moved into the High Street. We hope she will be very happy in her new home in Drayton.

A warm welcome also to Ellie, John, Kate, Emma and Daniel Harris who have moved into Abingdon Road from Sutton Courtenay.

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NEWS OF THE CHRONICLE

Two new members have recently joined the Distributors' Team. Dave and Heather Lee of Corneville Road have kindly responded to an invitation to help, so spreading the work-load for that job over more people. Many thanks for your response, and for the good example you set in showing that 'many hands make light work' There is plenty of scope for such sharing of jobs – I'd be glad to give details – on 5312321. *Geoffrey Long, Chronicle Coordinator*

MORE VERY IMPORTANT NEWS ON PAGE 11

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Dear Sir,

Drayton Young Musicians would like to thank all those who came and supported the Autumn Concert given in aid of St. Peter's Church. The concert raised over £280. The programme included some special solo pieces and featured performances from The Vale Quartet. Congratulations to everyone for a most enjoyable afternoon.

Yours sincerely,

Rosie Bruce

ST PETER'S CHURCH

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

REGULAR SERVICES

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

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER

Tues 1st 3.00 pm First Tuesday Connections Church Room
 Wed 2nd 7.30 pm All Souls Day Service Church
 Sun 13th 6.00 pm Remembrance Day Service Church
 Sun 20th 11.15 am Sale of Fair Trade goods Church

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YOU STAY - WE PRAY

24 – 5 November: Abingdon Road; Oday Hill; Binning Close;
 Haywards Road
 6 – 12 November: Sutton Wick Lane; Greenacres; Newman Lane;
 Conifer Drive
 13 – 26 November: Hilliat Fields; Lyford Close; Manor Close;
 The Green
 27 Nov – 3 Dec; High Street; Chiers Drive; Cheers Farm;
 Halls Close

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Letter from St Peter's Church

Dear Friends,

*Remember, remember the fifth of November
 Gunpowder, treason and plot*

Each year in November we have bonfires and fireworks to remember Guy Fawkes Day. When I lived in Didcot we had a very good town fireworks display which was fun to attend. But why do we still remember this 400 years after the actual events? I expect most people know it is something to do with an attempt to blow up Parliament, but few could say why the attempt was made and what the consequences were. We are very good at remembering the fun bits, but not so good at remembering the history bits.

November is a month of remembering – some of it is fun, but most of it is serious stuff.

We begin the month with two linked remembrances – All Saints Day and All Souls Day. All Saints on 1st of the month reminds us of the very many men and women through the ages who have stood up for the Christian faith and passed on to us in our day the message of Jesus Christ. Their names are mostly forgotten, but the effects of what they did are still with us today. All Souls is a more personal type of remembrance – when we can come to church to remember our own loved ones who have died. Every year at St Peter's we have a service at 7:30pm on 2nd November when anyone is welcome to come to church and participate in the service – to light a candle and remember a name.

The second Sunday in November is Remembrance Sunday. This was instituted after the First World War to commemorate the signing of the Armistice at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. This is our opportunity to give thanks for all the men and women, military and civilian who have given their lives for the liberty and freedom of this country. It is especially relevant this year as we remember the 60th anniversary of the ending of the Second World War. But our remembrance also encompasses others who have been involved in subsequent conflicts including the present war in Iraq. Our service at St Peter's at 6pm on Sunday 13th November will include all these points.

“Remember” is the key word of November. Often remembrance can become a sentimental look back at the past, which goes nowhere. But remembrance in the Christian context is not a nostalgic daydream. It is a realistic look at what has gone before, in order plan for today and give hope for the future.

Jesus died on the cross – that is remembrance

Jesus rose from the dead – that is hope for the future.

The remembrance of All Souls Day and Remembrance Sunday may at first seem sombre, but with the knowledge of God's love for us through Jesus it brings the joy of hope for all God's people.

Josie Midwinter

ABINGDON AND DISTRICT MUSICAL SOCIETY

Charity Christmas Concert with carols for all, Trinity Church,
 Conduit Road, Abingdon on 17th December at 7.30 pm.

Retiring Collection

BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastoral Co-Coordinator:- Roy Brown 531296

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

11.30 am Presently only one morning service per month; this is the Family Service, and is on the first Sunday of each month.

6.00 pm Evening Service. A traditional form of service, frequently with guest speakers.
(Communion every second Sunday)

EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME

The next Family Services will be on

- November 6th 11.30am speaker Iain Grey
- December 4th 11.30am speaker Janet Strong

Harvest Festival Our two collections from the morning service and evening and the Harvest Supper on the Monday, came to £120.00. This will be sent to the Baptist Missionary Society for Aid Relief in South America.

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 telling 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 in Drayton to teach.

Much love in Christ Jesus,

Janet Strong.

Mrs Suzy Willis

MCSP SRP

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KEEP THE FLU BUG AT BAY

Don't let your community be targeted by the flu bug.

It's that time of year again. Autumn has begun, the cold weather's coming... and so, unfortunately, is the flu.

Flu is, of course, an unpleasant experience for anybody, but flu can be a major health concern to those who are 'at risk', including:

- Over 65's Asthmatics Diabetics
- Anyone with a serious heart, chest or kidney condition
- Carers of Elderly persons (at the GP's discretion)
- Carers of Disabled persons (at the GP's discretion)

If you, or your children, are in this group you are more susceptible to the flu and the virus is more likely to lead on to a more serious illness such as bronchitis or pneumonia.

The flu virus moves quickly, spreading from person to person in no time at all. The average sneeze travels at around 80 miles per hour and can cover distances of up to 30 feet. In order to avoid infection, you need to move quickly too!

The flu jab is currently the only way to protect yourself. The good news is that if you are 'at risk' you are entitled to a flu vaccination free of charge from your GP practice. To avoid the misery of flu with your Christmas celebrations book your flu jab with your GP's surgery today and don't let flu get the better of you or your children through the winter. The jab itself is safe, quick and effective.

If you are registered at Marcham Road Health Centre you can

Drop In for an appointment on 31st October

If registered at Abingdon Surgery or Malthouse Surgery it is **by Appointment only**, ring 01235 523126 (Abingdon Surgery) or 01235 524001 (Malthouse Surgery)

If you wish to find out more before making an appointment, call NHS Direct on 0845 46 47, or visit www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk or www.dh.gov.uk.

DRAYTON'S PAST

Judy Henman

Our meeting about Drayton's past was a great success. Josie (our vicar), Tony Warwick and Barry Winter came armed with paintings, photos and information. In Tony's case it was all in his head, which is a mine of information: his memory is phenomenal. Teresa Taylor has, of course, stored many photographs and saved many important documents which would otherwise have been lost. We are still collecting but have decided to put the book / calendar on hold until we all have more time, maybe in a couple of years. This means that we still need photos and memories to be kept and copied is necessary.

Tony Warwick has kindly said that he will find out what he can from some of the long standing residents of Drayton. Please pass any memories and / or photos to me, Judy Henman, at 20 Steventon Road, or Teresa Taylor at Magpie Cottage, High Street. We would like to thank Tony's Morgan for photographs of formal buildings and Sally Dixon for all her saved information and photos of the effects of the proposed reservoir on Drayton and surrounding villages.



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ALL AROUND

DRAYTON TABLE TENNIS CLUB **John Gould**

Firstly an apology! In last month's jottings I referred to Dave Harradine as an 'old stager'. Our illustrious Club Chairman pointed out that Dave has never been on stage in his life! The Chairman should know as he himself is a master of the 'comic turn' - especially when playing table tennis and an opponent sends him the wrong way - milk turns quicker! Boom boom!!!

Talking of comedians - our resident joker Ray Massie is currently Division 2's top player with a 100% record of nine wins from nine. The B Team are as a result top of the table. The C team are a bit lower down but will come good soon (hopefully anyway as I'm in that team).

Our new star Craig Campbell is the Division 1 Top Player to date - also winning his first nine matches. As a result the a team are a healthy mid table - better than ever before - Craig has given some more than useful coaching that has helped with the performance of his team mates and young Matthew Davies is already reaping the benefits. The team beat Letcombe A for the first time in Club history so it's starting to look very promising.

The D team haven't really got going in Division 3. Three of their first four matches were postponed so they will have to play catch up. However, they have an experienced (nice word for no longer young) squad (average age not disclosed) and should pick up points soon.

For anyone interested, Ping pong reports appear weekly in the Abingdon Herald and Drayton often get a mention.

Remember Club Practice / Social play every other Monday at Drayton School. Adults from 8.00pm. Cost £2.00 for 2 hours (and Ray's jokes).

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION **Pearl Stanbridge.**

The branch standard will be in attendance at the local Remembrance Day services.

Assembly times are

- Milton War Memorial 10.45am.
- Steventon War memorial 2.15pm., with a service at St Michael's and All Angels at 3pm.
- St Peter's Drayton at 5.45pm.

The next meeting is the A.G.M. at the Lantern Restaurant Steventon on Monday 21 November at 7.30pm so please come along and show your support to the hard working committee..



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

MEMORIALS

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DRAYTON W.I. **Doreen Buckland**

We had a change of venue for our October meeting, which was held in the Church Parish Hall. It was very well attended. Our president gave us all the news from the W.I. federation.

The Group meeting held in Drayton Village Hall was a great success, enjoyed by all. Our speaker for the evening followed this, Mrs Jane Bowler, from Dews Meadow Farm, East Hanney. She talked about the Farmers Markets held in local towns, and how it all began. She then cooked sausages and some cured bacon, which they had made on the farm. These were very much enjoyed by all the members.

Our speaker on November the 10th will be Mr Martin Sirot-Smith, from Sulgrave Manor, in full costume, speaking about 'A Tudor Christmas'.

Our thanks go to all those that supported the Grow Cook & Sow, any profit made from the show will go to charity. The Wit & Wisdom Quiz night will be held on FRIDAY, 11th NOVEMBER, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. We hope you all have your teams of four ready. Entries to Mrs Ann Webb, Tel 01235 531418, or Mrs Gwen Mitchell, 50 Abingdon Road, Drayton.

We are holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday, 3rd December in the Caudwell Day Centre, 10-30am to 12.noon, and everybody is welcome.

DRAYTON WIVES **Margaret Long**

The reminiscences that Mrs Maureen White shared with us at our meeting on 28th October proved to be very entertaining. Mrs White was a receptionist on night duty in the Accident and Emergency wards at the Radcliffe Infirmary for a number of years. Her experiences ranged from dealing with drunken young men to young women coming in complaining of stomach pain and who then produced a healthy baby -- sometimes to the surprise of all parties concerned!

Taking all the necessary particulars from patients at such times, although very necessary, was certainly not the easiest of tasks.

Our coffee mornings and whist evenings continue to be very popular and we look forward to having good attendances at all our Wednesday afternoon meetings during this coming winter.

Dates for your diary in November: -

Mon 7 10.30 COFFEE Rosemary Barlow, 7 W'horns Way
Mon 21 7.15 WHIST Joyce Simmonds, Caudwell D.C
Wed 30 2.00 MEETING Christmas Special:

A Stage Coach Journey, Hugh Granger.

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BOWLS CLUB

ROLL UP



There's a little to catch up with since our last notes. The summer league is well and truly behind us, with the Tigers finishing third in their league, and the Lions unfortunately ending in bottom spot in theirs.

There have been a couple of internal competitions, the Gents' Singles with Bryn Jones and Tony Mullins qualifying for the final, and the Ladies' Singles final which will be contested by Barbara Watts and Avril Holmes, these matches will be played on Finals Day, 4th December. The Gents' Final held over from last year due to Fred Long being unwell was played and won by Bryn Jones.

The friendly with Kirtlington in August was a very close game with Drayton winning by just the one point. The winter league is under way with the Wasps and Rollers contesting Division 1 and the Hammers in Division 2 of the South Oxon leagues. We are all looking forward to repeat the success of last season, with the Wasps, promoted to the 1st Division, hoping to maintain their form. There have been some team changes this year but everyone is optimistic, with The Hammers hoping to improve on their position of bottom spot last year.

We are pleased to tell you that the three new members have settled in well, and are enjoying the experience. If there is anyone out there who would like to join us you would be very welcome, with bowls sessions on Mondays and Thursdays, 2pm till 5pm, and Wednesdays 7pm till 10pm. All that you need do is turn up at the hall on these times and take a look. We have everything to get you started, so pop in and see for yourself.

The annual presentation dinner dance will be held again at Abingdon United Football Club on the 20 January 2006 preparations for this are well under way, any ex members would be very welcome. A call to Gillis on Abingdon 201749 will get you in. The next internal competitions will be the 'Attwood Cup' on 16th October, and 'The Didcot Windows' open singles on 20th November, followed by Finals Day on the 4th December

ST PETER'S PEBBLES

Jackie Walker

If you are at home with a youngster on Wednesday mornings you are welcome to join Pebbles for a time of songs, stories and activities, followed by refreshments, toys for the children and a chance for parents and carers to chat with others in an informal and relaxed manner.

On 2 November we shall be starting the countdown to Christmas which will lead up to a simple nativity play for all youngsters on 14th December.

We meet every Wednesday in term time at 10.30am in St Peter's Church Room. Families of any religious persuasion, or none, are very welcome, but children must be accompanied by an adult. There is no charge. You can just turn up or if you want further details please ring Revd Josie Midwinter on 531374. Bring a friend!

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DRAYTON TODDLERS

Jane Nye

It has been lovely to see new faces when we meet in the Drayton Village Hall on Thursday mornings between 9.30am and 11.30am. Toddlers can play with our wide range of toys, have a juice and biscuit, enjoy our craft activity of the morning and have a singsong at the end! For mums there is the chance to have a natter, share experiences and form new friendships.

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 which would be appreciated – wine, chocolates, toys, etc.). For more information, please drop in on a Thursday morning for your booking form. If anyone would like to help organise the event, please contact us on 533861 with your ideas and how you are willing to help.

We are pleased to be able to tell you that we have raised at least £138 from our Toddler Fun Day! Money is still coming in from sales of photos taken by Tempest Photographic Agency. Our Toddler for Barnados raised £160, of which £82 is contributed to our own funds. Well done to Holly and family for raising the highest individual amount. Thanks once again to everyone who has contributed to our fundraising events, we couldn't do it without you!

We hope that you have all had a lovely half term and feel refreshed, ready for the countdown to Christmas!

DRAYTON PLAYERS

Jean Hager

We have (just!) Completed the run of our production 'When We Are Married' and already have had some very positive and pleasant feedback from our audiences. We thank everyone who came along to support us – and to enjoy a delightfully funny play.

The on-stage and back-stage teams worked splendidly together to present a really polished event and we are most grateful to all who contributed in any way to its success. Our director, Deirdre Jones, is to be heartily congratulated for pulling all the strands together so wonderfully well.

In parallel with rehearsals and performances for this play we have also been busy with 'My Fair Lady' and all work on this is continuing to go full steam ahead and will now step up several gears until the opening night next February. This musical will be a really special treat, so watch this space for booking details in the not too distant future.

LADIES' PAMPER EVENING

DRAYTON PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

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DRAYTON SCHOOL REPORT

Claire Soper

The children and staff have just returned from a week's holiday hopefully refreshed for the start of Term 2.

The Lower Unit children have been working on their topic about Homes. This has included studying the homes of various storybook characters like, Hanzel and Gretel, Goldilocks and Rosie and Jim. The children also made model lighthouses, which they displayed in assembly.

They have also looked at Old and New Homes and have collected lots of memorabilia in their classrooms which are very nostalgic, reviving memories of our first 45rpm record players for some of us oldies!!!

The children have also had fun measuring different things such as hands, feet and the netball pitch.

The Middle Unit have been busy preparing for their Viking Day, by making life sized Viking shields.

In Technology they have enjoyed making sandwiches with different fillings using a variety of breads.

The favourite filling was Marmite, much to everyone's surprise, as quite a few people said they didn't like it until they tasted it! The most popular breads were French Bread and Tortilla – all this tasting sounds yummy.

The children have also continued with their Science topic about Teeth and Eating, which has involved counting teeth and remembering the importance of cleaning them, especially after all that tasting above!

The Upper Unit had a visit from Christine Ellis of Barnardos who told the children about the origins of Barnardos in Victorian England. School would be very pleased to hear from anyone with items of interest related to the Victorian Age as the children continue with this topic.

They have also been looking at the Jewish religion and tasted food traditionally associated with the Passover including roasted egg! They also read a Hebrew Passover prayer.

Mrs Higgs has received many thank you notes in appreciation of the Harvest gifts distributed to over 40 villagers, and the children were reminded of the value of helping others. With this in mind thank you to everyone who helped to fill shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, this scheme provides children in Romania with an individual Christmas present. ↩

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FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS Jean Hager

Why not come along to our next tea and chat afternoon, on 1st November, and enjoy the company of old friends and new? We meet in St Peter's Church room from 3.00 to 4.30pm and invite you to drop in between those times. We especially welcome anyone feeling lonely, isolated or in need of some sympathetic conversation over a cup of tea. You will find the atmosphere very warm and friendly.

If you are unable to come in November then our next get-together will be on 6th December when we hope the occasion will be suitably festive!

If you would like transport or further information please do give me a call on 531558

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↩ An Action Plan has now been completed in response to the OFSTED inspection in July. All parents should have received a copy and an opportunity to discuss the contents with a member of staff.

The football team played in a six-a-side tournament in October hosted by Our Ladies Convent in Abingdon. The boys played well with lots of effort and were unlucky not to go forward to the next round. Congratulations to Ben Tinson for 'Man of the Match', awarded for his superb goalkeeping skills.

Recent F.O.D.S.A. fundraising efforts raised approx £180 from the Quiz Nite and £200 from the Fashion Show, many thanks to everyone who supported these events.

The next F.O.D.S.A. event is our Christmas Fair which will be on Sunday 27th November in school from 12-3pm.

There will be lots of craft activities for the children, plus Santa's Grotto and a Lucky Dip. Why not pop in for a turkey roll and glass of mulled wine, and have a browse around the stalls, you may find that Christmas present that you've been searching for!

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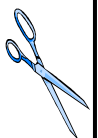
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More of YOUR LETTERS

Dear Sir,

I was surprised to read the letter from R. Loran in last month's Chronicle.

Since the Millennium Green was created I have walked on it many times each week. I almost always see other people there, some walking dogs (as I do), some just relaxing, sometimes children playing on the Green or around the pond. I think it has become one of Drayton's most attractive features and I have enjoyed watching the pond, the new walnut trees and the woodland areas all coming to maturity

Unfortunately rubbish is sometimes thrown into the pond and around the Green and woodland. Occasionally the grass looks as if an extra mowing would not come amiss. But keeping the Green in good order costs both money and manpower. Most of those who look after the Green are volunteers and there is a rota of people who, throughout the year, clear up the rubbish. My husband recently donned his waders and cleaned out two bags of bottles and cans from the pond; the next day there were more thrown into the water!

The care of valuable village assets nearly always depends on people who are willing to give practical help or financial support rather than simply criticising. Anyone can become a volunteer, and, as recently suggested by Nick Hamilton (Chairman of the Millennium Green Trust), anyone can regularly make a financial donation towards its upkeep.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer Pooley

Dear Sir,

I note the comments made in the Chronicle as regards the untidy appearance of the Millennium Green. There are times when the Green looks neglected, but taken as a whole it is maturing well and many people, their children and their dogs enjoy its appeal.

Part of the problem is the cutting of the grass, since money allocated for this is limited.

Other problems are of people's own making, such as litter. There are volunteer wardens doing litter duty but I can never understand why people don't take home their own litter.

The sun dial has now been repaired and shortly new Roman numerals will be added so that it can be used properly.

If anyone has constructive comments about the Green they should attend the AGM which is advertised in the Chronicle.

The Millennium Green is an asset to Drayton and we should all work together to keep it so.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Price, *Millennium Green Trustee*

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NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER

Ed Vaizey

Since I last wrote in this space I have got married and enjoyed a wonderful honeymoon, but despite this the return of Parliament has meant that the past few weeks have been especially busy – not least because of our leadership election!

I have had meetings with a range of groups from Oxfordshire County Council to the local health authority, the Police and local businesses in order to better understand the range of issues that affect us in the constituency.

In Drayton, I have actually been knocking on some doors and chatting to people. I am getting a whole range of views on the reservoir. It now seems highly likely that Thames Water will be pressing ahead with proposals early next year, so I would be extremely grateful if people could let me know their views.

Please contact me at The House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, 0207 219 6350 or vaizeye@parliament.uk.

My upcoming surgery dates are:

Sat 5 November in Wallingford Town Hall from 9.30 – 11am

Fri 25 November at the Old Mill Hall in Grove from 5.30 – 7pm

Sat 10 December at the King Alfred Community Centre in Didcot from 9.30 – 11am.

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COUNCIL REPORTS

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Richard Webber

As your newly elected District Councillor, I would like to thank everyone who voted in the by-election, whether for me or for my opponents, for taking part in the process. I am very aware that it is **all** of the Residents of Drayton that I represent, and I promise to do this to the best of my ability.

I am afraid that this article will not be as detailed or as informative as the Grahame Ash articles we have all become used to reading each month in the *Chronicle*. Indeed, Grahame is not an easy act to follow in so many ways. It has become quite clear to me on your doorsteps over the last few weeks that he was very highly respected and appreciated by all of us. On behalf of the residents of Drayton, we will miss his wisdom, his care and his hard work over the past six years and we all wish Grahame and his wife a long and happy retirement in Cyprus. Grahame has asked to be kept in touch with a regular copy of the *Chronicle* – for which he has such a high regard.

Unlike Grahame, I am very much a new boy, (in experience – not so much in age!) desperately trying to learn the ropes so that I can represent all the people of Drayton on the Vale Council. I have been a keen but inactive observer and commentator on elections of all types all my voting life but it has been fascinating to see the whole process from within. I thought readers might find the following observations of interest:

I am told that a 35% turnout at a local by election is a little above average. By my calculations, about one person in five in Drayton made the positive choice to vote for me – a sobering thought. But if I am to act for you and argue for you, I need to know your opinions on current issues.

If a political party (and this applies to my own as to any other) is unable to find a local candidate (i.e. one on the electoral roll) to represent them, then should it not be barred from fielding a candidate in local elections? Politicians can hardly complain of low turnouts and low levels of interest in local politics if they cannot find local candidates!

In the first 10 days of holding this office, I will have attended more than 18 hours of meetings alone. I, for one will never again accuse a local politician of any party of not working hard enough!

Some of the more entertaining conversations I have had in the last few weeks include:

“Well, if I vote for anyone, I will probably vote for you...but I probably won't vote for anyone.”

“No, I won't be voting for you – but it's very nice to see you.”

“Look, I was going to vote for you, but if you disturb me again today, I won't!”

“I really wanted to vote for the Monster Raving Loony Party, but they haven't got a candidate. So I've voted for the Liberal Democrats as the next best thing.”

“As a District Councillor, you cannot actually do anything, but you can be a complete pain in the neck to those who can do things”

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My family would say that when it comes to being a pain in the neck, I should be able to do an extremely good job. Indeed, the process has begun with some of the issues discussed on doorsteps over past weeks – viz. Traffic speed control, traffic noise on the A34, Bus services, Pavement repair, and vandalism at the Village Hall. I will give an update on these in the next issue.

In the meantime, I would be pleased to hear of any opinions on the biggest issue of all – The proposed Reservoir. – I understand that if I am seen to take a position on this, I would automatically bar myself from the planning application process. It seems to me we have to choose between the following options:

1. I listen to all opinions, but remain part of the Planning Application process by remaining neutral on the issue.
2. I remain outside the process, but represent the majority view – whatever it is.

The Reservoir – if it happens – is still many years away, but the sooner we prepare our position, the stronger it will be. Even if the plan was to go ahead without our consent, there will still be many issues over which we will be allowed our say.

I look forward to your reactions to all this by phone (534001) fax (523374) email info@RJW-online.co.uk or in person at the Village Hall, in the Lounge 9-10pm on Saturday, 19th November.

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COUNCIL REPORTS

PARISH COUNCIL

Daniel Scharfe

A slightly enlarged (by one welcome new member) Parish Council was asked at its meeting on 3 October 2005 by members of the public about the agreement with the Manor Farm on the development on their land relating to alterations to the Green. As far as the payment of £100,000 related to the value of the development it would be revisited by the PC, but from attempts to develop larger areas of land by objecting to the vale of White Horse Local Plan, it seem that the owners may have changed their plans in any event.

The owners of the site at Barton Garage have indicated that they will be starting on work early next year.

The Council does not have anything to report on the helicopters and are waiting for a reply from either or both RAF Abingdon and RAF Benson.

Reservoir watchers may like to know that Thames Water Authority are arranging a briefing with the Parish Council during November and we will be keeping you posted through the Chronicle, but before that you do have a chance to hear it being debated at the December PC meeting.

For those interested in allotments there are a few more that have been renovated and the Parish Clerk is your first port of call. This would give you a chance to impress at the Grow, Cook and Sew Show that the Council agreed to support in any reasonable way to make this an event the village can be proud of.

Perhaps we should not be surprised that we have not received any information on the damage to the bus shelter or offer to help with the cost of its repair.

If you want to discuss any issues relating to the village please bring them to the next meeting of the Council on 7th November at 7.45pm at the Caudwell Day Centre. Hopefully you will have the opportunity of seeing your new and relatively new District and County Councillors in action.

TIME FOR CHANGE AT THE CHRONICLE

Geoffrey Long

In January 2006 it will be ten years since Harry Bisby died and I took over the running of the *Drayton Chronicle*. Harry, founder of the *Chronicle*, had acted as its Organiser for 18 years.

With an all-absorbing interest in the running of the *Chronicle*, Harry treated it as a mini-business and, to the great benefit of the organisation and to Drayton, was prepared to give a lot of time and effort each month to ensure its continuing success. This involved doing several jobs which could well be done by other volunteers – Advertising Manager, Distribution Manager, author of regular articles and Paste-up artist, as well as Organiser and occasional Editor

It became quite clear, however, that it was impossible to find a replacement to take on the role of Organiser as performed by Harry. To continue at all meant devolving some of the tasks he undertook around a greater number of volunteers. The change in title - to *Co-ordinator* – was intended to reflect the new role of drawing together a team rather than running the show and it sought to give the message that the *Chronicle* could no longer rely on any one person to carry it forward whatever the circumstances. Against this background the job of Coordinator evolved.

Ten years on

Much has happened in these ten years: in the way the *Chronicle* is set up, published and distributed worldwide by e-mail and also to the people involved, not least that we are all ten years older! That, along with health problems, has led me to decide that it is now time, early in the New Year, for me to hand over the reins to a younger person, male or female, to keep the *Chronicle* moving forward. As it happens, both Harry and I took our turns at the time-consuming job of editing, since we both enjoyed the challenge and stimulus that it brings, and I hope to continue with that. Editing, however, is certainly not inevitably part of the manager's job.

I feel sure that in the village there are many people who would want see the *Chronicle*, now in its 28th year, continue for another 28 years and equally sure that among them there are those who would be prepared to take a lead in its organisation. There are challenges ahead but none has to be faced immediately. Is a single manager the best way of running things? Would a small management group sharing responsibilities be a better way? When will home computers be so widespread that we stop printing and delivering (and paying for) a paper copy and send out each issue by e-mail or even publish it as a web site? This may well come sooner than one might think. There is plenty of food for thought.

Please do ring me if you are interested in finding out more about what this job entails. It is very satisfying and pleasurable in so many ways and the Team hope that the *Chronicle* really does mean enough to the village to ensure that we do not risk losing it.

I look forward to hearing the telephone ring – Geoffrey Long on 531321.

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DRAYTON DIARIES

DIARY FOR NOVEMBER

All events held in Drayton Hall unless otherwise stated

To book Drayton Hall ring 531501		To call the Hall ring 528686	
Sat	5	Wedding	
Mon	7	7.45 pm	Parish Council Meeting <i>Caudwell D.C.</i>
Fri	11	7.30	WI 'Wit & Wisdom' Quiz – see p6
Sat	12		Private Party
Sat	19	9-10 am	Councillor Richard Webber Surgery <i>Lounge</i>
Sat	19	2-4pm	Baptist Church Christmas Bazaar
Sat	19		Private Party
Mon	21	9.15 am	Chronicle Lottery Deadline <i>Vickery's</i>
Mon	21	5.15 pm	Chronicle Copy Deadline <i>Vickery's</i>
Sun	20	11.15 am	Fair Trade Stall <i>St Peter's Church</i>
Sun	27	12.00 noon	FODSA Christmas Fair <i>Drayton School</i>
Sun	4 December		Bowls Tournament

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

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



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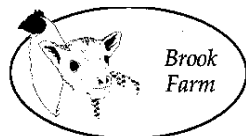
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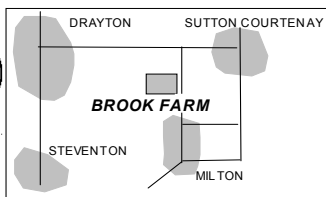
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REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

MONDAYS

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

TUESDAYS

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

THURSDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
9.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>St Peter's Lady Chapel</i>
9.30 am	Parent & Toddler Group	
9.50 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	<i>Haywards Rd</i>
10.15 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	<i>The Green Car Ph</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 (202466) - fortnightly	<i>Caudwell D. C.</i>
6.30pm	Choir Practice (Alternate Fridays)	<i>St Peter's</i>

SUNDAYS

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

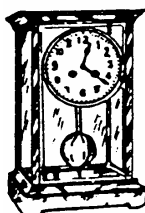
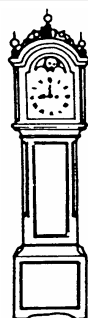
ABINGDON AND DISTRICT MUSICAL SOCIETY CONCERT

Silk Hall, Radley College, 26 November 2005 at 7.30pm.

Clarinet Concerto *Finzi* Symphony No 7 *Dvorak*. Tickets £8 from Modern Music, High Street, Abingdon, £10 at the door, Children £1

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