

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Derek Pooley

Volume 28, No.11

December 2005

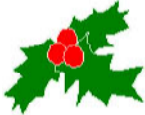
TIPS for an EXHAUSTING CHRISTMAS: by Doggerelle



Your cards you must design
 With an artistry so fine,
 Choose your presents with great care
 And gift-wrap each with flair.
 Perfect mincepies you must bake
 And concoct a scrumptious cake
 Which you cover with white icing
 In a manner most enticing.



You must stir and boil a pud
 That is rich and really good;
 You mustn't buy the sauces
 That you eat with various courses,
 But make them, it's a breeze,
 And all of them will freeze.



For your tree dream up a scheme
 That ties in with this year's theme,
 And you must indulge your passion
 To be dressed in latest fashion,
 So at parties you will shine
 And look perfectly divine.



Not a minute you must waste,
 Decorate each room with taste,
 In the centre of your table



Place some highlight if you're able.
 Homemade crackers are the best
 If you want to please each guest,
 Entertainments must be planned
 So have novel games on hand.
 On Christmas Eve take time
 To create a look sublime,
 Hairdo, manicure and facial
 And you'll appear sensational.



Remember last to nod
 To the baby Son of God



Then: If you've not retired to bed
 With a migraine in your head,
 As you tuck into your turkey
 Behave in manner perky,
 So your guests will say with cheer
 "We'll be back for more next year!"



The CHRONICLE BEYOND GEOFF!

To misquote the 1961 inaugural address of the late US President John F Kennedy, 'ask not what your Chronicle can do for you, but what you can do for your Chronicle!'

Drayton has been singularly fortunate for 33 years in having two talented and dedicated people to manage our village newspaper; first Harry Bisby and, for the last 10 years since Harry died, Geoffrey Long (pictured right). Neither ever stinted time or effort to make sure the Chronicle team was viable and effective. The village owes them both a great debt of gratitude, for creating and developing what is widely recognised as one of the best of the local village newspapers in south Oxfordshire. But nothing is for ever and Geoff now wants to hand over the responsibility for our newspaper to someone new (do read Geoff's piece on page 7)



All Geoff's many tasks don't necessarily have to be done by one person, but we do need an overall team coordinator. Can you be that person – and isn't it time we had a woman in charge? Or can you think of someone you know who would be good, or can you help us think of new ways of running the Chronicle? **Then come to our special Chronicle Team meeting at Drayton Hall at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 10 January 2006.** We will appreciate your ideas as well as practical help.

Derek Pooley

Also In this Issue:

- P3: Have you memories of Drayton's brickworks?
- P5: Remember whose birthday are we celebrating!
- P6: Drayton researchers knock Atkin's Diet.
- P7: Geoff's farewell message as Chronicle Coordinator.
- P8: Try shaming those speeding lorries.
- P9: The Parish Council loses John Cross.
- P9: The Fluvius reservoir group may help Drayton.



MERRY CHRISTMAS



to ALL OUR READERS
 from the members of the
 CHRONICLE TEAM

CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The **Jan/Feb 2006 Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Friday, 20 January 2006** from **Helen Brassington, 1 Cheers Farm (534045)** who should be contacted by any Agents requiring copies additional to their allocation.

The Editor will be **Tony Holmes, 53 Whitehorns Way (531180)**. Contributions should be emailed to the issue editor or placed in the Chronicle letter box, which is outside Vickery's hardware store on Drayton Green,

no later than 5.15 pm on Monday, 09 January 2006

After this deadline, only urgent items will be considered for inclusion and only then if emailed or delivered directly to the Editor by the following Wednesday.

THE FOLLOWING THREE MONTHS		
Issue for	Copy for publication and return of Agents Lottery Packs needed by Monday:	Chronicle published and available for distribution on Friday:
March	13 February 2006	24 February 2006
April	13 March 2006	24 March 2006
May	17-April-2006	28-April-2006

NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

Contributions to the Chronicle are most welcome. Please be sure always to include your name, address and (in case clarification is necessary) telephone number. Without names we will usually not print an item at all.

A contribution can be sent to us in one of several ways:

1. By **email** to the relevant editor. These contributions should either be in **plain text** or attached as a **rich-text** or **Microsoft Word** document; we do not have all word processing packages! The editors' email addresses are:

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

2. On a **3½" diskette**, in PC format, preferably as a Microsoft Word file. Please include your address if you want the disk returned to you.

3. As a **good quality, fairly large, simple black typescript, without underlining** on white A4 paper or smaller. Our optical character recognition software can read typescripts but only imperfectly, especially if the typeface is elaborate or small.

4. Any **hand-written items** are dictated directly to the computer or typed up by a willing team of typists. **Please write the names of people and places in capital letters.** This does save a lot of mistakes.

The Editor clears the box at Vickery's from time to time during the previous week. It can therefore be a great help if items are left in the box a few days before the closing date. Many contributors are indeed doing just that and it really does help. Thank you.

ADVERTISING RATES

For a single Block Advert (about 1/12th page)

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

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

Double-size adverts are charged at **twice** the above rates.

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

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

To discuss requirements phone **Linda Semmens**, the Chronicle's Advertising Manager, on 531180 or email linda.semmens@ntlworld.com.

CHRONICLE LOTTERY

Daphne Samworth, Hon Promoter

RESULTS OF THE NOVEMBER LOTTERY			
Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	2112	Mrs Akers, 4 Marcham Road	Karen Jackson
£20	0759	Mrs Harper, 12 Church Lane	Susan Brooks
£15	1293	Mrs Ginnigiana, 28Steventon Road	Judy Henman
£10	0402	G. Logan, 34 Sutton Wick Lane	Jane Grey
£10	0002	P Badrach, 21 Abingdon Road	Jane Henderson
£10	1709	Mrs Pitts, 27 Lockway	Jenny Pooley
£10	0881	Miss J Palmer, 56 High Street	Margaret Long
£10	1644	B. Hands, 34 Lockway	Barbara Carter
£10	0291	Ms Webb, 7 Oday Hill	Gerald Redman
£10	0151	Carol Arnold, 95 Abingdon Road	Julie Brown
BOTTLES OF WINE			
Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
1st	1939	Michael Boyd, 26 Whitehorns Way	Mirja Boyd
2nd	1558	C. Turley, 18 Binnings Close	Christine Turley
3rd	1139	John Beames, c/o, 28 High Street	Mary Alexander
4th	0410	F. Adams, 36 Sutton Wick Lane	Jane Gray
5th	2292	P. Manthorpe, Windy Ridge, Sutton Courteny Rd	Claire Soper
6th	2140	K. Jackson, 10 Marcham Road	Karen Jackson
7th	1965	Mrs A Loughlin, 32 Whitehorns Way	Jean Hager
8th	0712	G. Mitchell, 50 Abingdon Road	Jennie Stevens
9th	1387	Mrs Sharp, 25 Steventon Road	Jackie Walker
10th	2134	Mrs K James, 15 Marcham Road,	Karen Jackson
BOXES OF BISCUITS			
Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
1st	0898	C Dewar, 3 Cheers Farm	Margaret Long
2nd	1140	Mary Alexander, 3 High Street	Mary Alexander
3rd	1664	D. Fincham, 29 Lockway	Jenny Pooley
4th	1006	Mrs Stimpson, 10 Cygnet Court	Mary Alexander
5th	0720	Mrs Deabill, Henley Lane	Angela Painton
6th	0166	Mr Buckell, 8 Cornville Road	Gerald Redman
7th	2572	V. Webb, 9 Lesparre Close	Steve Penney
8th	1331	Denise Harvey, 18 Steventon Road	Judy Henman
9th	2086	Mrs Bellinger, 74, Whitehorns Way	Daphne Barrand
10th	1629	S. McNeill, 4 Lockway	Barbara Carter
The winning tickets were drawn by Members of the Art Group from the 2386 tickets sold			

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YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor,

May we, through the Chronicle, thank all those who so generously supported our Charity Coffee Morning at the Caudwell Day Centre on 29 October. We were overwhelmed by the many items and donations given and not least by the back up from our stalwart friends, who gave up their valuable Saturday morning to help out. We raised £350.00 in support of Marang House, the Home for critically ill children, many of them orphans who painted the vibrant Christmas cards that were on sale.

Yours sincerely,

Cicely Willis-Dixon and Shirley Thomas

Dear Editor

Thank you for putting a report about our Drayton history meeting in the Chronicle. Unfortunately some names were incorrect. Bernice (not Tonys) Morgan sent photos of former (not formal) buildings and Daria Stimpson gave us photos of the impact of the proposed reservoir on Drayton (not Sally Dixon as reported).

We enclose a photo of the former brickworks. We have others courtesy of Barbara Bell. Does anyone have a father, grandfather or other relation who worked there? What was it like? It was somewhere in the area of the old labour club.



Yours sincerely

Judy Henman and Teresa Taylor

Editor's note. We are always sorry to make mistakes, but can I remind contributors that they can virtually eliminate the possibility of errors by sending us electronic copy by email or on diskette (which we return). Many of our contributors now do that and, if you are not email or PC literate yourself, perhaps someone else in your family could do it for you? The next best way to send contributions is as a clear typescript (not too small nor too elaborate and on white paper), since we can convert these to Chronicle files automatically and with very few errors.



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

MEMORIALS

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NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

Best wishes to Pam Lacey for a speedy recovery after her recent operation.

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We are, of course, still happy to accept handwritten contributions from people who can't provide electronic or typed copy. But our dictation software is quite error prone and it is easy to miss its mistakes when proof-reading in a hurry, as we always are when doing the Chronicle. As we say on page 2 (opposite) of every issue, it helps if contributors in hand-writing use capital letters for people's names. So, if you send us handwritten material, please write very clearly, use capitals for proper nouns and forgive the mistakes that we will surely make from time to time.

Another letter on page 5 ⇨

the quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog

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	Mrs Sue Harris.....	848361
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REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday	8.00 am	Holy Communion (Common Worship - Traditional)
	10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (CW), except 2nd Sunday when there is a non-Eucharistic Family Service
Mon - Fri	8.15 am	Morning Prayer (CW) in Lady Chapel
Wed	10.30 am	Parents' & Toddlers Service in Church Room
Thurs	9.30 am	Holy Communion (CW) in Lady Chapel.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Sunday	10.00 am	Pebbles (every 3 weeks)	Church Room
Monday	7.45 pm	Bell Ringing Practice	Bell Tower
Fridays	7.00 pm	Choir Practice (fortnightly)	Church Room

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

Tues 6th	3.00 pm	First Tuesday Connections	Church Room
Sun 11th	11.15pm	Sale of Fair Trade Goods	Church
Sun 18th	6.00pm	Carol Service	Church
Sat 24th	4.00pm	Crib Service	Church
	11.30pm	First Eucharist of Christams	Church

YOU STAY - WE PRAY

27 Nov – 3 Dec: High Street; Chiers Drive; Cheers Farm; Halls Close; 4 – 19 Dec: Lockway; Whitehorns Way; 18 – 24 Dec: Corneville Road; Crabtree Lane; Lesparre Close; 25– 31 Dec: Drayton Road; Milton Road; New Cut Mill; Fisher Close; Marcham Road; Meads Close; Rippington Court; Stone Hill

DECEMBER 11th FAMILY SERVICE

Our Prayer Partners, the Perrett family, are on home leave from China and will visit us on Sunday 11 December, taking part in the Family Service at 10am. There will be a **Buffet Lunch** at the Vicarage (8 Gravel Lane) from 12.30 onwards. Please phone Diana Hasting on 834740 if you would like to be included in the lunch numbers.







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A LETTER FROM REV JOSIE MIDWINTER

Dear Friends

When Charles Dickens wrote his book, *A Christmas Carol*, he had a particular message to put across to the people of his time. There were many people who could enjoy Christmas with food, wine and presents and much celebration. **But** there were many people who lived poor and mean lives, without enough to keep them warm and fed and sheltered. The divide between the rich and the poor in Victorian England was as wide as it has ever been. The true meaning of Christmas had become obscured by selfishness.



Dickens wanted to expose this double standard and he created the character Ebenezer Scrooge to do just that. Scrooge had plenty of money, but he was a miser who was too mean even to give his clerk, Bob Cratchit, enough coal for the fire. Dickens used the character Scrooge to demonstrate how easy it is to become selfish and tied up with our own affairs. However, Scrooge meets the 'Ghost of Christmas Past', who makes him face up to the things that happened to him in the past which have made him so mean. Then the 'Ghost of Christmas to Come' to show him the bitter end he faced if he continues along that selfish path.

At the end of the story Scrooge learns the error of his ways and shares a happy, loving Christmas with Bob Cratchit and his family. Dickens' portrayal of Christmas in that story has done much to influence our own understanding of Christmas today – a time of loving and sharing, and enjoying the spirit of Christmas.

It takes a time like Christmas to expose selfishness and meanness for what they are, because Christmas is about the supreme act of giving and sharing. God giving his Son, Jesus, to the world, which then encourages us to share with others that love which is so much needed in our world today.

Therefore, we need to be careful that we don't become Ebenezer Scrooges in our own day. The poor and needy may not be on our doorstep as they were in Victorian times. But they are still there in the world around us. By all means enjoy your Christmas, but remember that there are others in the world who need our help and love and support.

Jesus came to bring the message of love and joy to all people, not just a few – so celebrate Christmas by spreading his love throughout the world.

Josie Midwinter



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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 of the month.

SPECIAL FAMILY SERVICES

- Dec 11th 7.30 pm Candlelight Carol Service *Drayton Hall*
Dec 18th 6.00 pm Carol Service with readings *Church*
Dec 25th 10.30 am Family Service *Church*
Jan 1st 6.00pm Service with speaker *Church*
Note that there will be no 11.30 am service on New Year's Day

EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME

I heard this poem at a church service many years ago. I do not know who wrote it, but it sent a chill up my spine and left me with tears in my eyes. It put Christmas into perspective. In this day and age everyone wants more and more and the more materialistic the better it seems to be. Read this poem and think! What is this Christmas day all about? And whose birthday is it that we all enjoy so much?
Janet Strong

HIS BIRTHDAY

Last night I couldn't sleep!
Last night I thought of nothing but my special day
Last night I lay awake, longing for daybreak!
Last night I knew it was only a few hours to
MY BIRTHDAY.

Last night I thought back to previous birthdays!
Last night I eventually slept and dreamed today's party!
Last night I saw myself seated at the head of the family table!
Last night I saw myself blowing out the candles on
MY BIRTHDAY CAKE!

This morning I cried!
This morning I saw my family forget me!
This morning I had breakfast alone!
This morning I saw them reading cards they sent to each other!
This morning I watched as they gleefully unwrapped their parcels!
This morning I wasn't asked to my own birthday party!
This morning I watched everyone celebrate
MY BIRTHDAY without me!

Next year perhaps they'll remember me!
Next year perhaps they will make me the centre of attention!
Next year perhaps they'll concentrate on making sure I am happy!
Next year perhaps they will sit me down at the family table!
Next year perhaps I'll be satisfied!
Next year perhaps I'll enjoy MY BIRTHDAY!
Next year perhaps I'll be very much a part of MY BIRTHDAY!
Next year perhaps I'll find my family celebrating
MY BIRTHDAY for my sake!

Let's put JESUS back into Christmas!
A very happy and blessed Christmas to everyone
From all at the Baptist Church

LOCAL METHODIST WORSHIP

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

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For Enquires and Appointments

FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS **Jean Hager**

Our next get-together is on 6 December and you may be sure that St Peters Church Room will be cosy and the tea and welcome warm enough to make up for any chill outside. Do come and join us, especially if you are feeling lonely, isolated or in need of company.

We meet between 3 pm and 4.30 pm. If you miss 6 December, we shall be wielding the teapots again on 3 January, to get the New Year off to a good start and we hope to see you then.

A Happy Christmas to everyone and good wishes for the coming year.

ANOTHER LETTER

Dear Sir

I would like to 'thank' those very inconsiderate people who held a party recently, issuing loud music well into the early hours of Sunday morning, causing much disruption to my sleep and also to my neighbours who are elderly and not in the best of health.

I hope that, when these party people are older, that they too are kept awake by the inconsideration of others.

Name and address given

Editors note: The Chronicle's policy is never to publish a letter unless we know the name and address of the writer. In this case the writer did give her name and address but asked that neither should be printed.

I know that some of our readers feel strongly that we should not publish letters of complaint by one villager against others. Our job should be, they say, to encourage friendship and not to foster discord in the village. But other readers think that using the Chronicle to release the frustration of complainants and make the targets of complaints aware of the annoyance they are causing may be helpful. What do you think?

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DRAYTON RESEARCHERS QUESTION ATKIN'S DIET

Some people in Drayton may have seen Pallab Ghosh, the BBC Science correspondent, filming recently on the Millenium Green. He was interviewing Draytonian Dr Nick Freestone, about his participation in a scientific trial being conducted at Oxford University by his wife, JR cardiologist Dr Michaela Scheuermann-Freestone MD. Nick was one of the guinea pigs in Michaela's study, which looked at the effects of Atkin's Diet on the heart.



The study found that using Atkin's Diet has profound effects on the energy available to the heart as well as to other muscles, effects similar to those seen in the obese, in diabetics and in heart-failure patients. Additionally, levels of cholesterol and free fatty acids were significantly increased after 2 weeks on this diet.



Michaela has recently returned from the US where she presented this research to the American Heart Association meeting in Dallas. Further work is being conducted on other diets to see if these are also potentially harmful, though it is currently thought that the high fat content of Atkin's diet is to blame.

Editor's note: Nick Freestone is Senior Lecturer in Physiology and Pharmacology at the University of Kingston on Thames.



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STELLA BURTON

Stella was born in Oxford. She married quite young by today's standards to Edgar Burton who was the 6th son of a Devonshire farmer who came to make his fortune in Oxford. He had 8 children and the solution was to put them all into a business that produced milk! Burton's Dairies was formed and grew over the years into a national sized dairy. Edgar and Stella opened a café near the Theatre in Oxford as well as running many milk rounds. They bought a farm on Lodge Hill, a hard life working all hours. Their three children Victoria (Vicky to all except Stella) Sarah and Martin were all brought up there and went to local schools. Their summer holidays were spent at a holiday home in Highcliffe.

Once Stella and Edgar had seen their three children married, they retired to Drayton. Sadly Edgar had a heart attack and Stella was left to entertain the residents of Drayton alone. Her door was always open to anyone for a cup of tea or, if you were lucky, a glass of sloe gin.

On holiday more recently she was still game to go out in a sailing boat. Or wrapped up on New Years Day at Mudeford Sandspit with her daughter Victoria and son-in-law in a beach hut, having a little tippie of wine. She was always game for a trip or expedition! Her skill at whist was second to none and indeed only a few years ago she went next door, with Martin to escort her, who was shocked when she cleaned the board!

She lived for her children and grandchildren and will be sadly missed by all. Her Memorial Service was held in Drayton Church on 15 November, attended by almost ninety friends and family. A fitting tribute to a great lady!

Vicky Fisher

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WOODEN SPOON RECIPE

Recipe No. 14 (from December 1980): Christmas Slice

8 oz shortcrust pastry, 12 oz mincemeat, 1 can apricots, 1 egg white, granulated sugar.

Preheat oven to 190° (adjust for fan oven)/gas mark 5. Use 3/4 of the pastry to line a baking tin. Mix the mincemeat with 1 tablespoon of juice from the apricots and spread into the pastry case. Arrange the drained apricots on top. Use remaining pastry to make a lattice top. Brush the lattice top with egg white and sprinkle with sugar.



Bake in centre of oven for 20 minutes then lower the heat to 180°/gas mark 4 and cook for another 20 minutes. Serve hot or cold.

Lois Rennels

Janet Manning HOMOEOPATH

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TIME FOR CHANGE AT THE CHRONICLE - Part 2

I shall be very sad when I relinquish my management duties on the *Chronicle* after ten years, but my general health continues to be very uncertain and I really must stick to my plan of retiring in January. I hope to continue as an editor as long as I am able but the *Chronicle* does need a management group if it is to continue at all. One or two people have expressed an interest in helping but I realise that so many people in the village are either getting older or are often very occupied with careers and families.

I do think that a village newspaper is very important as a cohesive factor in village life and as a way of sharing news and views. I have certainly no regrets for the time that I have spent working on the *Chronicle*, with the satisfaction of seeing the *Chronicle* published each month and the pleasure of dealing with so many helpful people on the *Chronicle* team. I shall miss both.

Many, many people over the years have helped to produce and keep the *Chronicle* alive and continue to do so today. Please don't let it just fade away now. I'm sure that many people will agree that the *Chronicle* cannot be allowed just to wither away. To seek a way forward a meeting has been arranged on Tuesday 10 January to which all who are involved with the *Chronicle* are invited, along with any others who may have ideas on how to take things forward. More details are given on the front page. It may well be that totally new ways of organising and running the *Chronicle* would better meet modern conditions.

Let me close by saying a very big thank you to everyone, past and present, for all the time and effort so freely given to help keep the *Chronicle* 'on the road'. In particular I would like to say a very personal thank you to all who, through their individual help and advice, have supported me over the past ten years and made my job such a pleasure.

Geoffrey Long



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ALL AROUND

Editors note: I apologise to the several contributors who pieces I had to shorten this month, to fit them into the available space.

DRAYTON TODDLERS

Jane Nye

Firstly this month, congratulations to two of our young members who have had a recent addition to their family. Joey's mum, Anna, gave birth to Grace whilst Connor's mum, Helen, gave birth to Christopher. Our good wishes go to both families and a special thank you to Anna for all the hard work she does in keeping Toddlers going.

Preparations for the Christmas party are in full swing! Father Christmas has found time out of his busy schedule to meet and deliver presents to our children. The Salt Box Music company will be entertaining the young ones before sandwiches and cake whilst there will be mince pies and coffee for the bigger kids! The party will take place on Sunday 11th December from 2 pm to 4.30 pm at the Drayton Village Hall. The cost will be £3.50 per child. We are still collecting items for the Tombola, proceeds from which will help to boost the toddlers funds. If you and your children want to come to the party, please drop in to Toddlers on Thursday mornings, 9.30-11.30, to pick up a form.

The toddler group will close for the holidays at the end of the session on Thursday 15th December and reopen on Thursday January 5th. In the meantime, thanks to all of you who have supported us during the year, and a special thanks to Joy for continuing to do a great job.

A Merry Christmas to you all and all the best for the New Year!

DRAYTON PRE-SCHOOL

Trudi Humphreys

The children have been celebrating Divali and have enjoyed making Diva pots. They have also been keeping warm on the cold days by chopping vegetables and making soup. Good fun has been had by all. We would like to welcome Hollie-Mae to pre-school and say goodbye to Reece and Izzy who will be joining Drayton school.

Dates for your diary are as follows:

Ladies Pamper evening, Friday 2nd December at 8 pm at Steventon Village Hall. Stalls to include: reflexology, aromatherapy, jewellery, massages, crafts and lots more. There will be a £2 admission fee, payable on the door.

Christmas sing-a-long, Thursday 15th December, 10.15 am arrival for 10.30 start, followed by refreshments and raffle. Raffle tickets are available from pre-school.

Christmas Party, Friday 16th December 9.45 am until 1 pm. Rosie the Entertainer and Father Christmas will be visiting.

Pre-school staff would like to thank all parents for their support throughout the year. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Pre-school restarts on 9 January 2006.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Pearl Stanbridge

We wish all members and their families a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

The next committee meeting will be held on Monday 19 December at 8 pm. ➔

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SCHOOL REPORT

Claire Soper

The Lower Unit are now very busy rehearsing for their Nativity Play, 'Rock around the Flock' which sounds very lively. They have also been investigating colour, light and dark and have used torches to make reflections. They were also treated to demonstrations by Geoff Caudle of his narrow boat equipment. Year 1/2 have been learning about the Great Fire of London, both writing about how it felt for the people witnessing it and making a beautiful collage of flames on their classroom window.

The Middle Unit enjoyed a wonderful Viking Day recently and came to school in traditional Viking Clothes. They made a boat and village in the classroom and role-played travelling to a new land by walking to the Millennium Green, where some unfortunate monks (parent volunteers) were raided and their gold plundered in true Viking style. Lunch was a feast in the classroom with blackberry juice and Apricot wine!! Thank-you to Tracey Jesson who spent some of the afternoon helping the children to make Viking figure heads.

The Upper Unit have been busy preparing for their production of Scrooge, designing scenery and learning new songs. Congratulations to Ben, Jordan, Reece ('Man of the Match'), Connor Powell and Sean who were very successful in a recent 5-a-side indoor football tournament. They came top of their group and will play in the final on the 3rd December.

A big thank you to Lawrence and Debbie and to everyone who collects foil and aluminium at Vickerys; also to John Caudle for its transportation. A recent payment of £76 has been made to FODSA.

A polite reminder to all villagers that dog walking is PROHIBITED in the school grounds. Staff have the unpleasant job of clearing up and the risk to childrens' health is obvious.

P.A.W.S., the after-school club has recently elected a brand new committee, so thank you to all those noble people for volunteering to support this vital asset to the school. P.A.W.S. functions daily Monday to Friday from 3pm to 5.30pm with qualified staff and is fully inspected by OFSTED and it is independent of school. Places are available for any child to attend from age 4 upwards but priority is given to working parents.

Currently there are vacancies on most days. At £5 per session this is very cost effective childcare. For further details please contact Mrs Beverly Rayner on 01235 202417.

Finally the school plays will be held on Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th December, with a matinee at 1.15pm on the 13th and evening productions on both days at 6.30pm. Tickets are available from the school

The Carol service will be held on Friday 16th December at 1.30pm and school finishes an hour early at 2pm

Term 3 commences on Wednesday 4th January 2006

It just remains for me to wish everyone a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and Happy Holiday !

DRAYTON PLAYERS

Jean Hager

It may not seem like it - this far away from February 2006 - but it will soon be time to think about booking your seat for 'My Fair Lady'. We shall be presenting this spectacular musical during two consecutive weekends, on Friday 17th February and Saturday 18th (2 performances) and on Friday 24th and Saturday 25th (2 performances). This is a departure from our usual presentation and we hope that this flexibility will enable more people to come along. Tickets will be available in the new year and for these, and all other information, please contact Sue Stevens on 20350.

Rehearsals are well underway and we are sure the whole family will enjoy a really outstanding show. You are sure to go home humming one or other of the many catchy and familiar melodies.

As we approach the festive season, we send good wishes to everyone for a peaceful Christmas - tide and much joy for the coming year.

MORE ALL AROUND

BOWLS CLUB

Roll-up

We are now well into the winter league and the Wasps have made the best start of the three teams. They are second in Div 1; after coming up from Div 2 last year this is a fine performance. The Rollers are in mid table, in Div 2. The Hammers are just off bottom spot. The Attwood cup was won by Ron Gleed after a fine days bowling. This just leaves the Didcot Windows open singles to be played for and this will take place on 20 November, followed by finals day on 4 December.

Congratulations to Jean and Tony Mullins who, on recent bowling holidays in Torquay and the Isle of White, won the pairs at both venues. Well done to you both!

Bowling sessions are Monday and Thursday 2 pm until 5 and Wednesday 7 pm until 10. Please feel free to come along. We wish all our members and friends of the club a happy Christmas and healthy New Year

TABLE TENNIS CLUB

John Gould

We are almost half way through the League Season as I write this. However that is not the case with Iain Stuart's D team squad who have had 3 postponements and 1 rearrangement, so they are behind the rest of the Division 3 teams. This stop/start situation hasn't helped their form and currently they are bottom of the table. However they have picked up 7 points from their last two matches to help their need to catch up. As the saying goes form is temporary but class is permanent so the D team of long standing and experienced players should start a steady climb soon!

The A & B teams are thriving – A team in the top Division are for the first time ever not battling at the bottom but are comfortable in mid table, thanks to consistent performances by the three main stays in Craig Campbell, Matthew Davies and captain Tony Krason. The B team are in the top two of Division 2. They will lose the services of Francis Soltane after Christmas, when he goes back to Aix en Provence, and will have to recruit a replacement or substitutes may be required.

You can check the very good Didcot League website for regular updates on www.ddtta.org.uk. It is a comprehensive site of results, tables and general news.

We are hopeful of having a Quiz Night in the New Year.

As always our regular Monday Club nights are open to anyone – including beginners. Ring 205111 or 531328 for details. The cost is £1.00 per person not £2.00 as stated in the previous issue.

W.I.

Gwen Price

At our November meeting we were entertained and educated by the very convincing Lord of Sulgrave Manor named Lawrence Washington (Martin Sirot -Smith in real life). The theme of his talk was Yule Tide from Tudor times up to present day. He told us the origins of many of our Christmas customs. Our interest was held through out. We also held our annual Wit and Wisdom quiz evening. There was record attendance and was enjoyed by all.

For our meeting in December please bring a plate of goodies. We are also asked to make our own Christmas jewellery using any medium. The results should be fun!

We have a Christmas coffee morning on 3 December at the Caudwell Day Centre from 10.30 am to 12.00.

SPONSORED HIMALAYAN TREK Andrew Gould

Many of you may remember that I was taking part in a trek in the Himalayas to raise money for Action Aid. I have now returned and am back to the daily grind.

I would like to thank all of you who were so kind to sponsor me. You helped me to raise over £3,000 for a very deserving charity.

Whilst in Delhi, I visited an Action Aid project, which has been set up for the street children of the city. There is no one more deserving than those kids! Whilst in India I saw many great places, met many great people and took stacks of photos, which I am willing to show anyone who is interested. So feel free to pop round for a cuppa and I'll tell you all about my adventure.

A massive thank you to Glen, Janet and everyone at the Red Lion; you all made a huge contribution towards the total. To Alan Alston and the guys at the football club, thanks for your donation, which came from your golf day. Drayton Golf Club, you were fantastic in providing a great venue for the gig which I held. Everyone I have spoken to has said what a great night it was... I wish I could remember!! Of course there would not have been a gig if it weren't for all the bands that played. Your Sister Disco, Goldrush, Ivy and Retribution, a huge thanks to all of you. Lastly, thank you to my long-suffering parents. You were a great help throughout.

If anyone would still like to donate money to Action Aid, I am still collecting so please get in touch.

DRAYTON WIVES

Margaret Long

What a very unusual tale Miss J. Hardcastle had to tell at our meeting on October 26th. She was brought up as a Baptist but her parents died young and she went to live with an uncle who couldn't bear Freemasonry or Catholicism. Later, she came to feel she needed a complete change of life direction and a faith which gave absolute certainty so she converted to Catholicism. Her uncle changed his will because of this and she was left without a house or any financial support. She decided therefore to become a nun and became a postulant in a convent for six months and then a novice for two years. The life was very regimented with every hour of the day accounted for and in many ways a very hard life partly to test the vocation of the novice. Before the two years were up, she decided that the regime was so outdated that she made her mind to leave the order and took a teaching course instead. On qualifying, she found for various reasons she was unable to get a job and so decided to re-enter a convent where the regime was very much more modern. Here she remained for a number of years until eventually she elected to return to the outside world once again having thus hopped over the wall twice. An amazing story.

We were sad to learn of the recent death of Stella Burton, one of our very long-standing members (see the tribute on page 6)

We shall be having our Christmas coffee evening in the Caudwell Day Centre as last year. Please remember to bring a wrapped mystery gift with the value of approximately £1.50 which we shall all exchange in a lucky dip during the evening.

May I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year?

Dates for your diary in December: -

Mon 12	7.00	CHRISTMAS COFFEE EVENING	Caudwell D.C
Mon 19	7.15	WHIST	Trudi Buckner, Caudwell D.C
<i>And in January:-</i>			
Mon 9	10.30	COFFEE	Jean Hager, 27 Whitehorns Way
Mon 16	7.15	WHIST	Trudi Buckner, Caudwell D.C
Wed 25	2.00	MEETING	<i>Granny goes Sailing with Cat</i> Eleanor Timms



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DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Webber

As I write, I am about to host my first "surgery" at Drayton Hall. Grahame Ashe was particularly keen that this tradition should be continued by his successor. It is an opportunity for any Drayton resident to meet me to voice their concerns, complaints and requests face to face. These surgeries will happen every 3rd Saturday of the month between 9 and 10am in the Lounge at the Village Hall.



Drayton Youth

Following up a phone call from Gary Gibbins of Hilliat Fields, who is working with the Youth of the area, the two of us met in the Red Lion. Gary explained some of the needs and aspirations of the young of our village. At his suggestion, I visited the Damascus project "Bus", which visits the Village Hall Car Park every Monday evening. On the night I went, more than a dozen youngsters aged 11-18 were enjoying the relaxed and caring atmosphere the bus provides. I would strongly recommend this to any village teenagers who would like to meet others on a Monday evening. They could do with a more substantial generator to heat the bus on cold winter evenings and I am hoping to persuade the relevant Parish Councils to help here. Again at Gary's suggestion, we are holding a Youth Forum at the Village Hall next Saturday – but more of this next month.

Parish, District and County Councils

I attended the Drayton Parish Council meeting at the beginning of November and promptly found myself being co-opted onto it. Now, I can be blamed for everything that is the responsibility of the P.C. as well as the District Council. Oh happy days. Thankfully, traffic is the responsibility of the County Council and whilst I have been agitating strongly on these issues, so far the wheels seem to move painfully slowly. The more help I can get over traffic issues – speed, volume and noise – the better. Residents who have a point to make on these issues can help me to maintain the pressure by contacting our County Councillor – Mike Badcock (01235 201810). As for traffic speed reduction, residents will be aware that the current score is "one up" (the sign on the Steventon approach to the village) and "one down" (the much approved of sign in Abingdon Road). The one down was vandalised and is being repaired – it will be reinstated "shortly"! A third sign at the end of the High Street is planned.

Speeding Commercial Vehicles

Many of the speeding vehicles through the village are heavy commercial lorries which disturb not only the residents, but also the foundations of their houses. Since many of the older houses in the High Street do not have foundations, this is potentially very bad news. I have prepared a letter which can be sent to the MD of any company whose vehicle is reported to me as having been speeding through the village pointing out that their company's name is being brought into disrepute. ➔

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Swimming Pool.

News of a reprieve of the open air swimming pool in Abingdon has come as excellent news for many. Open air pools are very expensive to run and very little of the cost is being borne by Drayton residents, but if it is to justify itself, it will need the support of young families all around Abingdon next summer.

The Reservoir and other topics.

A number of meetings are approaching on the subject of the Reservoir. One in particular is being hosted by the Fluvius Group – more of this and a radical idea for a car sharing scheme to relieve the Abingdon Road congestion in the next issue.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year

NOTICE BOARD

The Oxfordshire County Council South-West Mobile Library (01235 813103) will be in Drayton on alternate Mondays from 16 January 2006:

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- On the Green from 3.20 to 3.40 pm
- At Haywards Road from 3.45 to 4.00 pm

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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Daniel Scharf

Parish Meeting 7 November 2005:

The Parish Council has lost one of its hardest working members with the resignation of John Cross. As Chair of the Leisure and General purposes Working Group, John made sure that the village both looked good and that the equipment owned by the Council was safe and fit for its purpose. John has made friends with more officers of the County Council than he can remember, in suggesting how they might see to the needs of the village. He has also been a stalwart member keeping tabs on the Didcot Integrated Transport Strategy. He will be missed, particularly by me, who steps into his shoes as Working Group chair.

In fact the Council was returned to its original number by the recruitment of Richard Webber who will be known to some villagers as our new District Councillor and chief glutton for punishment. With County Councillor Mike Badcock also in attendance the Council has short cuts to the seats of power in both Abingdon and Oxford.

We have had a reply from RAF Benson on the helicopter problem but this warrants a proper article for next chronicle. Another issue that would justify an article is how to manage an allotment to inspire people to take up the vacant plots and enter their parsnips in the Grow Cook and Sew Show.

There is still no sign of anybody admitting responsibility for the damage to the bus shelter that has cost over £500 to repair and on the same sour note there are signs of a turf war between young people from different villages. The speed message sign has also been retired from Abingdon Road, where it seemed to be having an effect on general speeds before it was vandalised.

Those interested in the reservoir should be aware that a group has been formed with the objective of coordinating the contribution of the affected parishes so that we understand each other's concerns and seek benefits for the general area if the development is to go ahead.

On 14 December there will be a meeting to discuss the subsidised buses serving the Abingdon/Drayton Area. This primarily means the 44, that runs between Abingdon and Oxford during the day but extends to Drayton in the morning (7.25am) and evening (6.35pm). A very useful service, particularly for those working in West Oxford as it comes into Oxford along Botley Road. The Oxford Times reports an idea to have multi storey park & ride car parks. This would not be necessary if more people bussed all the way into the City instead of driving to the outskirts.

Anybody with views on any of these matters will be welcome to attend the next meeting of the Council on 5 December at 7.45pm at the Caudwell Day Centre. In particular, any views on how the leisure facilities in the village might be improved would be of interest to the new chair of the leisure working party (is that a contradiction in terms?).

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WESTMINSTER LETTER

Ed Vaizey

I know that many people in the Drayton area are worried about the proposal from Thames Water to build a new reservoir nearby. I share your concerns. As you know, I am opposed to the new reservoir for a number of reasons. I think it is too big. And I also think Thames Water could do more to prevent leaks and encourage people to use less water. However, I do recognise that Thames Water will continue to press ahead, and for that reason I welcome the new campaign group set up, called Fluvius. I met them recently to discuss the issue, and I think it is sensible to look now at what benefits the local community should demand, should Thames succeed in their campaign. If you have any thoughts on this issue, please get in touch.



Since I last wrote in this space it has become increasingly clear that the NHS in Oxfordshire is facing budgetary difficulties. The county's health services receive 15% below the national average each year which, coupled with the high costs of operating in an area like ours, means that there will have to be ward closures across Oxfordshire unless the government intervene now. Oxfordshire's MPs, who come from all parties, are calling on the government to intervene now to stop the cuts, and I also pressed the Prime Minister on this issue in the House of Commons.

My upcoming surgeries are on Saturday 10 December at 9.30 – 11am in the King Alfred Drive Community Centre in Didcot and also on 23 December at 5.30 – 7 in the Corn Exchange, Faringdon.

Alternatively, you can contact me at Ed Vaizey MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA; telephone 0207 219 6350; email to vaizeye@parliament.uk. Finally, I also have a new website: www.vaizey.com

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DRAYTON DIARY

FOR DECEMBER

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

**Regular Events are usually listed opposite but not on this occasion.
They were listed last month and will be again next month.**

Sat	3	Private Party	
Mon	5	7.45 pm	Parish Council <i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
Sat	10	Private Party	
Sun	11	2.00 pm	Toddlers Christmas Party (until 4.30 pm)
		7.30 pm	Carol Service
Sat	17	9.00 am	Richard Webber Surgery (until 10.00 am)

JANUARY

Mon	09	9.15 am	Chronicle Lottery deadline <i>Vickery's</i>
		5.15 pm	Chronicle copy deadline <i>Vickery's box</i>
Tues	10	7.30 pm	Chronicle Team Meeting

All Saints Singers Choral Society And Orchestra of Sutton Courtenay

Concert of Baroque Advent Music

By Bach, Vivaldi (*Gloria*), Buxtehude, Corelli
Sunday 4th December at 7.30 pm
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THE WHEATSHEAF

Christmas Lunches and Dinners

Menu from 2 December:

Starters:

Prawn Cocktail
Fresh Parsnip and Ginger Soup
Red Onion Goats' Cheese Tartlet

Main Course:

Traditional Roast Turkey
Poached Salmon with Dill Sauce
Fresh Vegetarian Pasta

Dessert:

Christmas Pudding with ice cream or custard
Crème Bruleé
Selection of Ice Creams
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