

# DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Tony Holmes

Volume 29 No. 6

July 2006

## DAMASCUS YOUTH PROJECT

My name is **Gary Hibbins** and I am a youth worker for the DAMASCUS Youth Project. I am also studying at Ruskin College, Oxford for a foundation degree in Youth and Community Work.

Many people are not aware of what DAMASCUS Youth Project is about. We provide a service to young people in the five villages:- Drayton, Appleford, Milton, Sutton Courtenay and Steventon.



My job is to help, support and enable young people according to their need so that they can realise their full potential. My job is not to stop anti-social behavior by trouble shooting but to engage with young people to help them to feel valued and motivate them to become active members of their community. We work closely with young people to organize activities such as football and netball. We also arrange drug- and alcohol-awareness sessions, we advocate on behalf of young people and support them in making contact with agencies that can give them specialist advice on job opportunities etc.

Recently young people from the villages played Didcot young people in a friendly football match at Drayton. It went really well and everybody worked together and behaved fantastically. And just to top it we beat Didcot 14-2 (easy, easy, easy!). Because of the success we will be looking to organise more games like this in the future.

The DAMASCUS bus visits Drayton on a Monday night (7.15pm to 9pm), on a Tuesday it visits Milton Heights (5pm to 7pm) followed by Steventon (7.15pm to 9pm where it complements a youth club). From the end of June (starting 29th) it will visit Sutton Courtenay every other Thursday from 7pm to 8.30pm. There is also a fortnightly youth club in Sutton Courtenay. We are working with a group of volunteers in Appleford to support youth provision there.

**Please do come and see what we are about.** If you feel maybe **YOU can spare a couple of hours a week** working with young people in our villages that would be fantastic. **Young people need your support** and the project relies heavily on volunteers – without them we could not deliver the work of the project – so a **big thank you** to all of them.

I have tried to describe some of the activities of the project. However, this does not give you a full feel of what goes on because a lot of the work that is at the heart of the project happens in those encounters at bus stops, shops, parks, street corners etc where young people, eager to be heard, stop for a chat.

During the summer holidays I will be out and about; **do join us** when you see me chatting with young people.

The project is a registered charity managed by a voluntary management committee; members are people who live in the DAMASCUS villages. It is funded mainly by a grant from the Big Lottery Fund, which is used to run the mobile drop-in bus and employ two part-time youth workers.

**Far more manpower** is required to provide continuous youth provision. It is also a community project, which requires the community to engage with its young people for its success.

**Come and find out more at our AGM at St. Michaels' Hall, Steventon on 5 July at 7.30pm. ALL WELCOME**  
(call Anne Whitehead - 01235 848514 - for more details)

### The Alzheimers' Society

Invites us to collect the plastic tops from plastic milk bottles, (they'll get paid for them, that's green, red or blue ones, with the recycling symbol inside and a 2, 4 or 5 in that triangle), and then drop them off at the MACE shop for collection (so just remember to take them off before putting the bottles out in the recycling box?) - THANKS

**AND - WHAT ELSE** should we be collecting for various charities? Occasionally we get such appeals (see page 6 in this issue for instance) but we could display a reminder list.

Send us an e-mail (see page 2) or tell us at the Community Day (see page 8 for more on that)

# COMING CHRONICLES

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

The Editor will be **David Lee, 15 Corneville Road (202699)**. Contributions may be e-mailed (see below), or placed in the Chronicle letter box, outside Vickery's store on Drayton Green,

**NO LATER than 5.15 pm on Monday, July 17th 2006.**

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

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

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

## NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

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

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

Derek Pooley	derek_pooley@talk21.com
David Lee	david_r.lee@ntlworld.com
Tony Holmes	tony-holmes@ntlworld.com

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

2. A **3½" disk**, in PC format, preferably 'Saved As' WORD. **Please include hard copy** for checking the formatting and **your address** so that the disk can be easily returned. This is STILL an excellent way to receive copy since it removes much of the work necessary in 3 & 4 below, AND should help to eliminate misprints/errors.

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

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

## ADVERTISING RATES

For Block Advert (about 1/12<sup>th</sup> page)

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

Advertiser Category	1	3	6	12
Drayton Resident	£5.00	£14.00	£25.50	£48.00
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Half-size block adverts, normally for one or two inserts, are charged at half the above rates.

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

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

To discuss your requirements **phone Linda Semmens**, our Ads Manager (531180) or email:- [linda.semmens@ntlworld.com](mailto:linda.semmens@ntlworld.com)

# CHRONICLE LOTTERY

**Daphne Samworth, Hon. Promoter**

## RESULTS OF THE JUNE LOTTERY

Prize	Winner	Agent
£25	R Bruce, 4, Greenacres	Keith Clough
£20	K. Quarterman 2, East Way	Teresa Burnage
£15	A. Loughlin 32, Whitehorns Way	Jean Hager
£10	J. Beans c/o, 26 High Street	Mary Alexander
£10	C. Arnold, 95, Abingdon Road	Julie Brown
£10	H. Pardey, Cygnet Court Abingdon	Margaret Armstrong
£10	Mrs Pacey, 16a, Church Lane	Susan Brooks
£10	Mr. Purcell, Highfields, Abingdon Road	Gerald Redman
£10	Mrs Annells 39, Lockway	Jenny Pooley
£10	Mrs Bamard 2 Gravel Lane	Barbara Purbrick

Winning tickets, from a total of 2246 sold, were drawn by members of the Art Group (easel-ly done?!).

## Going Away? *KEYMINDERS*

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## THE FOLLOWING THREE MONTHS

Issue for	Copy for publication and return of Agents Lottery Packs by Monday:-	Chronicle published and available for distribution on Friday:-
September	14 Aug 2006	25 Aug 2006
October	18 Sept 2006	29 Sept 2006
November	16 Oct 2006	27 Oct 2006



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## ALL AROUND

### DRAYTON WIVES

Daphne Barrand

We had our AGM in May. Eve Sharp kindly offered to help with planning the programme and will be most welcome. Otherwise the committee remains the same.

We finished the afternoon with a Quiz, 'How well do you know your Biscuits' (ladies, if you're going to have a topic like that - I can help . . . Ed), which was won by Daphne Pointer and then we indulged in a cream tea.

Dates for your Diary in July:-

Mon 3rd COFFEE Pam Lacey, 15 Whitehorns Way  
Mon 17th WHIST Pat Hoyland. Caudwell D.C.  
Wed 26th A BRING & SHARE LUNCH ( 12 for 12.30 pm )  
at Mary Alexander's, 3A High Street. PLEASE BRING  
(if you can), a garden chair, knife & fork, and a glass.

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### DRAYTON PLAYERS

Jean Hager

Our entry in the Oxfordshire Drama Festival was played to very appreciative audiences who caught the hilarity of the occasion and rewarded our participants with much laughter throughout.

Our plans for **two one-act plays, with an interval supper**, are gathering pace, and dates for this venture are 28-30<sup>th</sup> Sept, so do make a note in your diary.

By the time you read this, auditions for our Feb 2007 musical will have been completed; we shall be presenting **The Boy Friend**, which is great fun and provides tremendous scope, especially for our younger members. Lots of singing and dancing incorporated into a very entertaining script - certainly not to be missed - so watch out for more news in future Chronicles.

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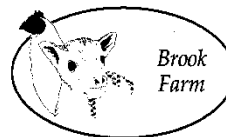
01235 833600

## The ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Pearl Stanbridge

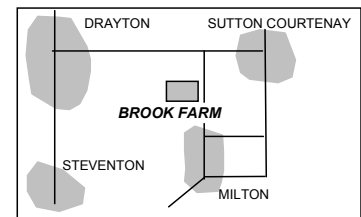
The branch President will be manning the Legion's mini-marquee on **Steventon Green** on Saturday (afternoon) July 1st; this to give up-to-date information, and hopefully raise the profile of the Royal British Legion generally and locally, so DO COME ALONG to see us and make yourselves known.

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

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<b>Licensed Lay Minister</b>	Dr Peter Barton	523702
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Mrs Sue Harris	848361
	Mr Peter Cline	530519
<b>Organist</b>	Mr Adrian Thompson	01865 714801
<b>Choir</b>	Mrs Rosie Bruce	525284

## CHURCH NOTICES

### REGULAR SERVICES

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

### REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Sunday	10.00 am	Sunday Pebbles (3rd Sunday)	Church Room
Monday	7.45 pm	Bellringing Practice	Bell Tower
Friday	7.00 pm	Choir Practice (Alt'ate Fridays)	Church Room

### CALENDAR FOR JULY

Sun	2nd	11.15 am	Sale of Fair Trade goods	
Tues	4th	3.00 pm	1st Tuesday Connections	Church Room

### PARISH REGISTER

<b>Wedding</b>	Jun 17th	<b>John Willis &amp; Rachel Green</b>
<b>Funeral</b>	Jun 20th	<b>Andrew Reid Sweeney</b>

**YOU STAY - WE PRAY** During this time we will pray for all the people who live and work in these roads:-

**25 Jun – 1 Jul:** Drayton Road; Milton Road; New Cut Mill; Fisher Close; Marcham Road; Meads Close; Ripington Court; Stone Hill

**2 – 15 Jul:** Steventon Road; Eastway; Eastway MHP

**16 – 22 Jul:** Church Lane; Henleys Lane; Caudwell Close; Gravel Lane

**23 Jul – 5 Aug:** Abingdon Road; Oday Hill; Binning Close; Haywards Road



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## The Red Lion



## Letter from St Peter's Church

Dear Friends,

The Blackbird Leys Estate and classical music do not immediately seem to go together. That was very obvious at the start of 'The Singing Estate', a new Channel 5 TV series.

Ivor Setterfield, a world-class conductor, was sent to Blackbird Leys to recruit a choir of 40 people and train them well enough to perform in the Albert Hall – and he only had 12 weeks to do it in! At the first audition few people turned up and those who did had truly dreadful voices! Setterfield even went out onto the street to try and stimulate interest. Then a few people did begin to trickle in and gradually some with a bit of musical ability began to emerge. The fascinating thing is people came from such a variety of backgrounds: Ruth from the supermarket checkout; Mackenzie a bingo caller; Eric a 71 year old pensioner; Bob a light bulb salesman and Julie a night club bouncer. What a mixed bag ... and their voices were equally mixed and at the end of the first rehearsal Setterfield described the result as a truly ugly sound!

That was Setterfield's greatest problem, blending together 40 individual people with 40 individual voices. Choirs have to sing together and in harmony. At various points tempers got frayed and emotions ran high as it seemed like an impossible task. But Setterfield is a determined man and he brought all his musical and organisational skills into play – so for the Blackbird Leys Choir it was "Look out Albert Hall, here we come!"

When Jesus chose his followers they were just such a cross-section of people. Four of them were rough, uneducated fisherman. One was a former freedom fighter (the Romans would have called him a terrorist). Another was a tax collector who cheated his neighbours in order to grow rich. One of his female followers had a very shadowy past. A real mixed bunch but over the three years they were with Jesus they began to learn that it is not where you come from which is important, but where you are going.

Even so things did not always go smoothly. James and John pushed themselves forward and wanted to be seen as the greatest. Peter jumped in with his two big feet and often got it wrong. It was a hard job keeping that lot walking on the way of love and forgiveness.

But then love and forgiveness do show the way to go, from getting it wrong, to putting it right, and then continuing the journey. A lot of that took place in the three years they were with Jesus. Then at the end of it, when Jesus was arrested, one betrayed him, another denied him and the rest deserted him. Humanly speaking a bit of a mess. But something of the right message had got through – Jesus had brought about a huge change in their lives – deep in their hearts they knew they were forgiven people and that gave them the courage to go out and preach the message of God's love to everyone.

The story of the Blackbird Leys choir is like the story of Jesus and his disciples and gives hope to us all. God is able to take anyone – everyone – with all their thoughts and ideas, with all their problems and shortcomings, with all their hopes and dreams and fulfil their deepest longings with his love.

The church is not a 'holy huddle' of goody-goodyies, but a mixed bunch of people who want, with God's help, to love and be loved and make the community they live in a better place for all concerned.

Yours sincerely

*Josie Midwinter*

## (MORE) ALL AROUND

### Drayton TODDLER GROUP Anna Loughlin

It's always great to welcome new faces to our Toddler Group. Recently there's been quite an influx of new mums, babies and tots. New members include Kathryn and the twins, Theo and Charlotte, Julia and Brodie, Leena and Sam, Ellie and Daniel, Emma, Leah and Ella. Thanks for your support and company.

Toddler mums recently enjoyed fine dining at Pizza Express. It was an opportunity to say a fond farewell to Helen Keenan (mum to Cameron and Hannah) who's moving to Grimsby at the beginning of July. A lovely evening was had by all!

The Barnardos Walk at Beale Park, Reading, takes place on 20 June. The mums and toddlers are guaranteed a fun-packed morning and hope to raise lots of cash for Barnardos.

Finally, we hope to have a Teddy Bears' Picnic in July. More details will be given out at Toddler Group. See you all there!

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### DRAYTON W.I. Doreen Buckland

Our June meeting was well attended. The speaker for the evening was Mr Nick Brazil who talked about digital photography. He showed lots of good photographs and gave lots of good advice on how to use a digital camera. Many of the members had their cameras with them. I am sure they picked up some helpful hints.

Our usual meeting followed, with the news and views from the county. At the beginning of July members are going to Ewelme for an evening visit. **At our next meeting** in the Hall (July 13th) we have another visit from Mrs Creese doing Armchair Aerobics. **Please come and join us** for an entertaining evening.

#### Letters to the Editor

The Editor reserves the right to shorten, clarify or reject any letter. Each letter must bear a legible name & address, and Tel. No in case any text needs verification.



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### Drayton READING GROUP Andrew Bax

At the Drayton Community Day on Saturday 8 July the Reading Group will be displaying many of the books we have been enjoying during the last two years. It will be an opportunity for those who may be interested in joining us to **meet some of our members and find out what we do**.

In June we discussed 'A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian' by Marina Lewycka. This is a hilarious tale about an elderly man who falls for a glamorous Ukrainian half his age, and she wants to marry him so that she can get a work permit.

But behind the laughs are the sadness of loneliness in old age and hints of desperate suffering in the Ukraine during and after the War, which forced many to find new homes in the West. But why the whacky title? To find out, you will have to read the book.

For July we are reading Sons and Lovers by D.H. Lawrence and, in August, it is A Long Walk in Winter by Libby Purves, who began her broadcasting career at Radio Oxford. For more information contact Oenone Grant, tel 531229.



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## BAPTIST CHURCH

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### REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

- 11.15 am Presently only one morning service per month; this is the Family Service, and is on the first Sunday of each month.
- 6.00 pm Evening Service. A traditional form of service, frequently with guest speakers.  
(Communion every second Sunday)

Come and join us every Sunday – we look forward to seeing you. Next Family Services are (all 11.15am):-  
July 2nd; August 6th.

EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME

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### Drayton Pre-School

### Trudi Humphreys

We would like to say a fond farewell to Hugh, Morgan, Della, Alice, Jacob, Gracie, Louis G, Melissa, Jade, Kira, Louis K, Devina, Leah, Jordan and Taylor who will be leaving us to go to Drayton primary school or pastures new.

A sponsored toddle took place on 20<sup>th</sup> June at Child Beale. The children toddled for ½ mile raising funds for Barnardos with a percentage of sponsorship going to pre school. It was a fun day and all the children who took part had a great day.

A Teddy Bears picnic will be taking place on the last day of term (21<sup>st</sup> July) at 12.30pm on Millennium Green. All children welcome, please bring along your teddy and your lunch.

Pre-School are holding a cake sale on 14<sup>th</sup> July at 3pm. **Please donate** homemade or shop-bought cakes and biscuits.

**Nestle box tops and Persil stars are still being gratefully received. Geoff Dix has a collection box for vouchers in his shop, please donate any you have and we'll collect them.**

Pre-School are hoping to improve their gardens and play area in the near future, any **donations of plants, fencing, paints** etc would be gratefully received.

There are places **available at pre-school** Monday to Friday, morning and afternoon sessions. Also, lunch club is available daily, which with a morning and afternoon session would equate to full day childcare in term time. Please telephone 01235 536094 for an information pack or to arrange a visit.

Term Dates: Term 6 ends 21<sup>st</sup> July (please note there will be no afternoon session that day) & Term 1 begins on Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Sept.

### MISSED OUT ON YOUR CHRONICLE?

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



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## YET MORE ALL AROUND

### Drayton BOWLS CLUB 'Roll-Up'

We start these notes with the AGM, held on June 7<sup>th</sup> in the Hall, with over 30 members in attendance. The treasurer Cyril Carter stated that the club was in a better position this year mainly due to the increases made to green fees last year, and that there is no need for any changes this coming year (there are 59 members registered).

Secretary Jane Pimm thanked all members for their support throughout the year, and said there was a need to try and encourage everyone to generate some new blood in the club. Although the membership is still over the 50 mark, members attending meetings were falling, and this could not continue too long.

The Chairperson thanked all the green stewards, and everyone who helped organise the internal competitions, for without these people the club would soon fail to flourish, she also agreed with Jane that we all should try and generate some new blood, with an opportunity on the 'Community Day', on July 8<sup>th</sup>; we intend to put a mat down in the Hall so **people can have a 'roll-up'**, there will be bowls and footwear, and experienced bowlers in attendance to help with tuition; we may JUST get a few new people to come along to one of our sessions in the week (Mondays & Thursdays 2 till 5, and Wednesdays 7 till 10).

Three further internal competitions have been completed, the Ladies v the Gents for the second year running had the Ladies running out comfortable winners, and the Monday Rose Bowl Triple League has been completed with the winners being Gillis Tate, Marion Webster, Bryn Jones going through to finals day in December. The Don Alexander Memorial Trophy was competed for on June 11<sup>th</sup> and the two teams going through to finals day will be Cyril Carter, David Pimm, Tony Mullins who will play Julie Brain, Barbara Carter, Bryn Jones (this was a single, pair and triple competition).

As these notes are being written, Peter Madley has undergone a major operation, a triple by-pass, and we wish him well and a quick return to bowls, good luck Peter. Also hoping Sarah will soon be back bowling after breaking her wrist recently.

The next internal competition will be held on July 16<sup>th</sup> and will be the Beryl James Memorial Triples.

**LOST / FOUND** (at the Hall):- a large black short coat (ladies) in the kitchen - approx. 2 months ago; and a 4-section collapsible green metal pole, in a brown case - left by kitchen exit door about four weeks ago. **Call Ann on 531418**

## NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

Molly Munnock, who lived in the High Street for many years, is going to the Isle of Wight shortly to be nearer her family.

We wish her well in her new home.

## YOUR LETTERS

### Darts - Thank You

Dear Sir, 42 Lyford Close

We would like to thank everybody who played in the darts match at the Red Lion in memory of our son Antony Belcher.

A big thank you to Glenn & Janet Woolley. Also we would like to thank everyone who donated prizes for the raffle.

A big thank you also to Mrs Sharon Davis, Brian Davis and Dennis Glead, who donated a big cuddly dog.

The money raised is going to the Alzheimer's Club, Marcham Rd, Abingdon; from raffle and darts monies we raised £237.

Thank you all once again Freda Mewin (Belcher).

(NB Ed's note:- please see the front page appeal which also benefits the Alzheimer's Society)

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### CHANGES Hair Salon – Cancer Research

Dear Sir, 8 Milton Rd, Sutton Courtenay

On Saturday June 3rd, Jackie, Jade, Karen & Cat (with Tracey supporting) took part in the Cancer Research 'Race for Life'.

We have been promised in sponsorship an amazing amount, **£1350**. A **great big thank you** to all who sponsored us, we are proud of the amount raised . . . **PLEASE** can we have all sponsorship monies as soon as possible?!

Many Thanks 'Changes'

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### **ED VAIZEY - Your Local MP**

The main issue that has dominated local headlines has been the future of local health services. Representatives from all the three main parties have been campaigning on this issue. In particular, we all want to keep our community hospitals, but we also want to prevent cuts to other services. The case is pretty unarguable. Oxfordshire receives the **lowest funding per head in the country**, and the John Radcliffe is the most efficient hospital for its size in the country. I have been reassured that the cuts will not effect the quality of service, but it will certainly lead to delays in operations, which is a matter of great concern. The mayors of all our towns have collected petitions, as have most of the MPs in the County. By the time you read this, we will have presented petitions to the local Primary Care Trust, the Prime Minister and Parliament.

A lack of an effective transport system is an issue that could have a huge impact on the future of our local economy. I receive many letters from businesses who are concerned about the huge pressure they face from a creaking road network. I also attended a public meeting to look at ways of re-opening Wantage Road station, which faces some pretty difficult obstacles. I managed to speak in the final debate before the Commons rose from the Whitsun recess to draw these problems to the Government's attention. The point I wanted to get across was that, as we are one of the most economically important areas of the country, the Government cannot simply leave us on our own to sort these issues out. It must have a strategy and buy in to it.

On the wider front, I have just come back from a fascinating trip to Iran. I am planning to write about it, and will include a link to the article in my next article.

**If you need to get in touch with me**, write to me at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA, e-mail me on [vaizeye@parliament.uk](mailto:vaizeye@parliament.uk) or telephone 020 7219 6350; The Website is [www.vaizey.com](http://www.vaizey.com) with up to date news and surgery details:-

There is no need to book an appointment (times are from 5.30 pm unless stated) 14 July :- Grove, 21 July :- Didcot.

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### **OTHER LOCAL PLACES OF WORSHIP**

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Local contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409

## YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

### Village Community Day – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July

Many thanks to all those who have already given time and energy to this project. I reckon I have been round this village more times in the past year than in the preceding 30 put together. One thing that has struck me on my rounds, is that although the Village is a much wealthier place than it was in 1976, today the majority of the houses look inwards. More people show less interest in their local community than ever before. This is not just Drayton's problem, but a national trend, and it saddens me. If we want a vibrant village where people are happy, young and old, we are going to have to work a little harder at it.

Several people have wished me luck with 'my' day, but it is not my day. It is 'our' day and a unique opportunity to get together to find out what is on offer and contribute to the future development of Drayton. I do hope that as many people as possible will be there and that those who had not intended to come will be persuaded to change their minds. There will not be a better barometer of Drayton's community spirit for many years. If reading this in time, please, **Show you care – Be there!**

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### Marcham Road Hospital

Thank you to all those who responded to our Save the Hospital campaign, particularly to those who sent in contributions to the cost of the campaign. We are making as much noise as possible and I will keep you regularly informed.

One of the things I have been learning very rapidly over the past months, is that there is no such thing as a simple issue. National government funding restraints oblige the PCT to make savings somewhere. Our local hospital has been struggling to fulfil its function as an 'intermediate' form of health care for some years now. 'Intermediate' is the jargon for something between health care supplied by major hospitals (in our case the JR) and GP surgeries. Too much of Marcham Road Hospital's space has been taken up with overspill from the JR. By spending more money on the JR, and reducing capacity at Marcham Road, the PCT feel that our local Hospital would be able to fulfil its primary role better albeit at a lower level. From a local point of view we want as many beds offering respite care at Marcham Road as possible, and it is local interests that I am trying to represent here. As I see it at present, it is a problem of Central Government/ National Health funding – we do not help our cause by demonising the PCT or anyone else. I would be pleased to here the opinions of anyone with anything to add to the above, in particular any of the medics in the village.

Another rather depressing statistic that caught my eye is that the Abingdon Caldecott ward is measured as having a lower than average UK life expectancy and the highest level of 'health deprivation' in the Vale by some way. In Drayton, we have a higher than average UK life expectancy and we are deemed to be in the 25% least health deprived in the UK.

### Youth

We are still desperately in need of more voluntary help to get a Youth Club in Drayton on a firm footing. If **YOU** would be prepared to give up an hour or so a week to this excellent cause – please let me know.

### Sorry Ed

Did Ed Vaizey really mean in his article in last month's Chronicle that "the US Embassy is refusing to pay the London Congestion Charge – something on which we might all agree"? Sorry Ed, but I for one do not agree and I suspect I am not the only one!

(This Ed's note:- or *maybe* he just meant that most people think it's a bad idea? – as per the Londoners I work with)

### Next Surgery

Saturday July 15<sup>th</sup>, Drayton Hall, 9 am. **Richard Webber**  
(Tel 01235 534001 Email info @RJW-online.co.uk)



## PARISH COUNCIL (June 5)

The meeting began with a very interesting presentation by Ian Bacon from Thames Valley Energy on the potential of energy conservation and renewables. He explained the value of energy audits and the various ways in which energy could be saved or produced without dependence on fossil fuels. Ian not only explained the role of his company but had examples of his own village (Blewbury) where some of the measures had started to be put into effect. This could form a central theme were the village to organise itself to produce a village plan. The Council would be **pleased to hear from anyone** with this particular interest.

The Council was faced with a second report confirming that the horse chestnut tree at the bus stop in the centre of the village may be past its sell-by-date. The **loss of this tree would be so serious** that we are seeking yet another opinion on the minimum works necessary to make the tree safe.

We then had a discussion about the alterations to The Green that might be necessary were the development of houses at Manor Farm to proceed. The Council has contracted to assist the developer to achieving a suitable access (in return for £100,000). However, there may be some prospect of less radical changes to the current road layout. It was agreed that our solicitor should be asked to approach the landowner's solicitor to see whether they would be prepared to look again at the detail of the access proposals.

Our clerk and chairman of finance produced the annual accounts to show how the Council had spent its (your) money (and some modest income) over the last financial year. We are very grateful for their hard work in this complicated area.

Finally it was agreed that the Council should support the Community Day (Saturday 8 July in the Village Hall) with a modest grant towards the entertainment and also to run a stall so that those residents who have never been to a parish council meeting could find out more about what is involved. If this results in more interest in the Council or even the recruitment of the few members required to make up the full complement, then this will be money well spent.

Next meeting of the Council to which you are **all welcome** to attend to speak or just to listen will be 3 July at 7.45pm at the Caudwell Day centre (at the end of Gravel Lane). **Daniel Scharf**



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### MAYTIME WALK (May 20th '06)

The weather leading up to 20<sup>th</sup> May did not look so good .... and the morning of the Maytime Walk dawned wet and windy.

However this did not daunt the walkers of Drayton. Some thirty people set off from the church at 10am to begin the 6 mile walk round the south-western **boundaries of the parish**. This included a group of Brownies with their leaders.

Towards the end of the route we had indicated an opportunity to go straight back to Drayton or continue an extra 2 miles round New Cut Mill. Almost everyone chose the longer route.

So when they reached the Church Room there were some hungry mouths ready for the soup, bread and cheese lunch. More than half of the walkers set off again for the afternoon section – again choosing to do the longer walk. They were joined by 10 more people to walk the north-eastern section. Tea was served from 3pm onwards and a good number of delicious cakes were consumed!

Altogether over thirty people took part in the walks, plus ten children and two dogs. The weather was not so good, but the fun and fellowship of the day was of the best. This was such a successful occasion we will have **another walk in the autumn** with a different theme and next Maytime we will do a 'beating of the bounds' walk again. **See you there!** (*Revd Josie Midwinter*)  
(Lack of space prevents the inclusion of all the submitted pictures of everyone 'beating the bounds' but here are a few of the intrepid participants - note the very happy little one at the front)



## Drayton School Claire Soper

We are now starting the count down to the end of term and the long summer holidays that always seem to stretch ahead endlessly at this point in the year. In the meanwhile everyone continues to work hard and as usual there is lots of activity to report on.

The Foundation Unit/Year 1 class have been very topical in creating a World Cup ticket office and role playing being football commentators, they also wrote postcards home from Germany as footballers! They are looking forward to some work on space and Jewish weddings.

Year1/2 enjoyed a recent trip to the Play Park as part of their work for Design and Technology, this is in preparation for constructing their own playground equipment. Even more fun has been had digging for worms in the school play area to make a wormery. Two students from Didcot Girls School, Natasha Richardson and Rachel Workmen, have spent time recently with the children as part of their work experience.

The Middle Unit have also been out and about travelling into Abingdon to the Library and Museum by local bus. The children were complimented for their excellent behaviour, which is always encouraging to hear. They looked at old photos and maps of Abingdon.

As part of their topic about rainforests the class has constructed a magnificent rainforest by their cloakroom, which is definitely worth going to visit. They are also visiting the Living Rainforest near Chieveley. The children have also enjoyed another visit to St Peter's Church to look at the bells, hosted by Sister Josie. They too have enjoyed having extra help from Chloe Alston, also from Didcot Girls School.

The Upper Unit joined with the Middle Unit for a day of sporting activities with NPower, this included a focus on energy conservation and a visit from local MP Ed Vaizey.

The older children have been learning about Macbeth through links with Larkmead school and visiting teacher Miss Jordan.

Food Awareness Week saw the Upper Unit involved in a variety of related work, including examining food labels for surprising ingredients and recording their intake of food according to different food groups. >>>>

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>>>> In Technology they have made moving vehicles which were ably demonstrated in assembly by Jordan and Sean.

A group of children and parents will be travelling to Wembley Conference Centre on 15<sup>th</sup> July as part of the National Association of Primary Education's annual concert to represent Drayton. The children will practice with other schools from the region for an evening performance of singing.

**Finally a plea to dog owners**, the school grounds are NOT the place for dog walking and **dogs are prohibited from this area**, there have been several instances recently when excrement has been found on the field which at this time of the year with so much outside activity is particularly unpleasant.

It just remains for me to give you dates for end of term activities.

**Sports Day will be held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July** with a Family Picnic at lunchtime, and the Leavers' Assembly will take place on **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July** at 1.30pm, followed by a Leavers' Disco for children and siblings of Drayton School from 7.00 - 9.30pm.

Farewell to our current Year 6 as they prepare to start Secondary School in September, **we wish you all the very best** in your new schools.

I will be handing over the School Report in September to Anita Hedditch who will continue to keep everyone updated on school life. There will be no report during August.

Enjoy the holiday period, school restarts on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September**.

## NOTICE BOARD

### Patient Advice & Liaison Service (PALS)

Sometimes as a patient, relative or carer, you may need to turn to someone for on-the-spot help, advice and support. PALS is a private and confidential service, available to EVERYONE using NHS services, whether patients, relatives, carers, friends, NHS staff, or other professionals.


For advice & reassurance (in complete confidence) on any health-related services and care please contact 07879 816531 (Mon-Fri, 9.30 to 5) or you can email :- pals@swoxon-pct.nhs.uk.

### FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS

The next meeting will be a Summer Tea Party (July 4th, 3 to 4.50pm) hosted in conjunction with the Almshouse Trustees and Friday Lunch Club, to be held in St Peter's Church Grounds (inside if wet).

Looking further ahead, on Sept 5th we shall be holding a session of seated exercises to music, led by the local instructor who visited us last year very successfully.

If you are feeling isolated, lonely or in need of some good company, for whatever reason, do come along and join us. **If you need transport, or more information**, just give me (Jean Hager) a call on 531558.



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### Drayton Table-Tennis Club     John Gould

At the recent AGM we made a few changes to the Club officials. We now have a new committee and hope this will run smoothly. All are experienced and long standing members so hopefully there won't be anything major! The main change is in our treasurer as Iain Stuart is taking a well earned rest and David Hudson will take over. Iain has looked after our funds well and ensured that we keep 'in the black'.

It is now the closed season as Ping pong is essentially a winter sport. However our **annual day trip to Weymouth** will happen on 2nd July. We have a few spare seats so anyone feeling like a day out should check the poster in Geoff & Marian's or ring 531328. The cost is very competitive so check it out.

**We are very keen to increase our numbers.** Last season we had 4 teams - the lowest for a long time. If **anyone in the village** fancies playing table tennis next season (running from September to April) ring the above number or 205111 for more details.

**It would be great to have some new blood.** No matter whether you are 9 or 90 we can find a place for you!

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**OXFORD CAT CLINIC** dedicated, expert Vet Services, whether routine prevention or in the event of injury or illness; two of the country's leading Cat specialists (Martha Cannon & Caroline Blundell) have recently set-up in business; they both regularly consult and lecture on feline health, but are now available in the area (Westway, Botley) sympathetically giving the finest advice and treatment, at reasonable rates. A **cat-only service** provides a calm and quiet environment that avoids unnecessary stresses like barking dogs and unsympathetic handling (see [www.cat-clinic.co.uk](http://www.cat-clinic.co.uk)).

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Call 01865 243000     Appointments are available weekdays 8.30 to 6.30, Sats 9-2, and Sunday mornings 10 until noon.

### DRAYTON HALL

The 31st A.G.M. of the Hall took place on 22nd May. We said hello to a few new faces and goodbye to some as well. Wives rep Doris V has retired, thank you Doris for many years of attendance, and of course we said an official goodbye to Dot, she is much missed, and we all wish her and Tony well for the future; I know how difficult the job is to juggle the bookings to keep everyone happy and the hall clean and tidy as well.

A chance now to say thanks to our 2 loyal cleaners, one sadly is moving to pastures new, they do a grand job. The three main officers stay as before, to them also grateful thanks, the hall would not function without the generosity of their time and patience. And thanks to all the others who do the little jobs, especially to my husband, without his help I could not function.

We have at last paid the final payment on the heating bill, we hope to close the book on that for now anyway. Nice new mats greet you as you walk in, and blinds have now been fitted to most doors and the kitchen window. Our triennial electrical inspection has been done and new batteries fitted to the fire alarm. Although not my section, we are grateful to our temporary barman who quickly stepped in to help when Daniel left. Thanks to Daniel as well, the Hall would not function so well without the bar staff and the background workers.

The next meeting will be on the 3rd July. The main items on the agenda will be:- Broken windows and how do we protect them? The P.A. system (we hope, by then to have purchased); The NAG meeting and its outcome. And lastly the Village Day.

Finally (sadly) it has been brought to our notice that a **small group of youngsters** aged about 8 or 9 seem to be causing a great deal of trouble in and around the playing field. **Please don't wait till one of them is hurt** before you find out where YOUR youngsters are and what they're doing. *Ann Webb*

#### YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL CONTACTS :-

<b>Parish (Clerk)</b>	Marie Sellwood (200042);
<b>District (VofWH)</b>	Richard Webber (534001);
<b>&amp; Oxfordshire County</b>	Mike & Marilyn Badcock (201810).

## DIARY FOR JULY

All events held in Drayton Hall unless otherwise stated

To book Drayton Hall ring 531418 To call the Hall ring 528686

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

Sun	2	Private Party
Mon	3	Hall Management Committee
	7.45pm	<b>Parish Council Meeting</b> (p9) <i>Caudwell DC</i>
Tues	4	3.00pm 1st Tues Connections (p11) <i>Church Room</i>
Sat	8	4.00pm Village Community Day (until 9)
Sat	15	9.00am District Councillor 'Surgery' (p8) <i>Lounge</i>
Sat	15	Private Party
Mon	17	5.00pm <b>CHRONICLE DEADLINE</b> <i>Vickery's</i>

## REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

### MONDAYS

9.00 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)	
7.00 pm	Keep fit / slimming class	
7.15 pm	Drayton Wives Whist (3rd Monday)	<i>Caudwell DC</i>
7.30 pm	Senior Table Tennis, League (for 2 hours)	<i>School</i>
7.45 pm	Parish Council (1st Monday)	<i>Caudwell DC</i>
7.45 pm	Bell-ringing (for 1½ hours)	<i>St Peter's</i>

### TUESDAYS

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

### WEDNESDAYS

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

### THURSDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
	followed by lunch club and afternoon session	
9.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>St Peter's Lady Chapel</i>
9.30 am	Parent & Toddler Group	
9.50 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	<i>Haywards Rd</i>
10.15 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	<i>The Green Car Pk</i>
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
7.30 pm	Women's Institute Meeting (2nd Thursday)	
8.00 pm	Sequence Dancing. Tel: 531701	

### FRIDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>Sch'l Ground Bldg</i>
11.00 am	The Friday Club (fortnightly) 202466	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
7.15pm	Choir Practice	<i>St Peter's</i>

### SUNDAYS

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

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### ST PETER'S CHURCH HOME-VISITING GROUP

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

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



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