

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Derek Pooley

Volume 29, No.11

December 2006

BRAVING MUD POOLS: for Opportunity International

On 12 November, 22-year-old Draytonian Mike Partridge (on the left in the picture) successfully completed the 11-mile adventure race 'Hell Down South' in Hampshire and raised over £800 for the Oxford-based international development charity Opportunity International, which tackles poverty in poor countries by lending money to people wanting to start businesses.

Some 2000 people ran the hell-run, which Mike and his three friends completed in a time of 1 hour and 45 minutes. He said, 'I feel shattered but the atmosphere was fantastic. Although at times we had to wade through waist-high pools of mud it was surprisingly enjoyable!'

Mike has just graduated from Nottingham, works for Opportunity International and, when not running through pools of mud, is usually seen waiting tables at Le Bistro Celte in Abingdon.



Opportunity International is a charity which provides people in developing countries with small loans (98% of which are repaid) and business training, enabling them to build sustainable businesses and work their way out of poverty. By raising over £800 so far, Mike will enable Opportunity International to provide 10 additional loans to poor entrepreneurs, which will have the knock-on effect of taking approximately 130 people out of poverty. If you would like to help this enterprise, Mike is still able to receive donations on www.justgiving.com/hellrunner.



PAINTING AT HEIGHT: for Drayton Village Hall

A group from Drayton Players got together a few weeks ago to repaint the main room of the Drayton Village Hall. Balanced on the ladder in the picture is Jon Crowley, whom we remember seeing on the Drayton stage as Professor Higgins. He was joined by Peter Bradley, Mike Davies & Deidre Jones.

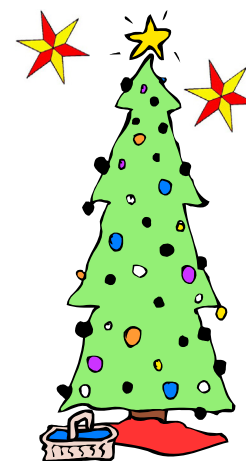
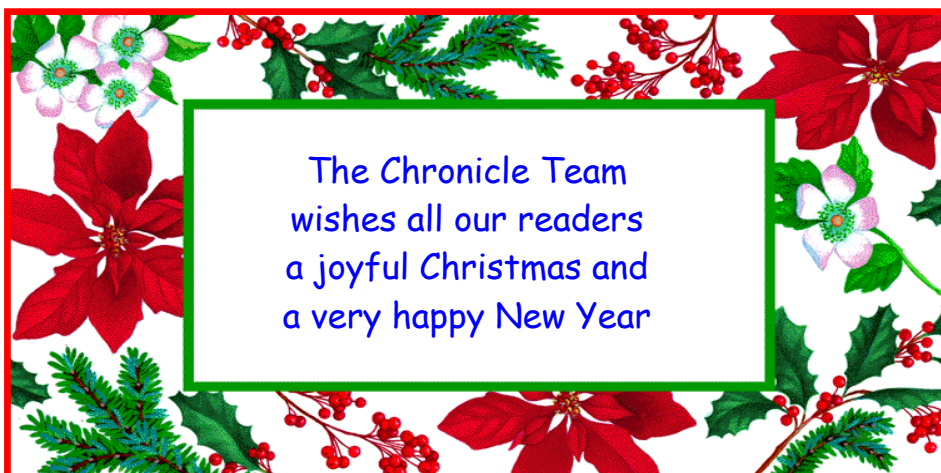
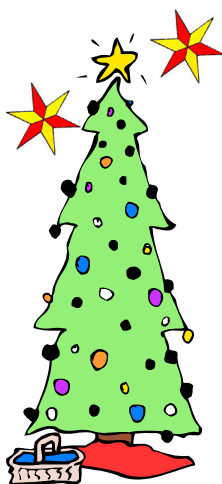
Ann Webb, chair of the Village Hall management group told the Chronicle, 'We are very grateful to the Players for their

wonderful gift of time, to paint the big hall and the inner ladies cloakroom, and also to the Parish Council for their donation towards the cost of the paint. We are sure that future patrons will be pleased with the results.'



Also in this issue:

- P3: The Chronicle needs an Advertising Manager.
- P6: More facilities in Drayton for children?
- P6: Visit Drayton's distant past!
- P7: Drayton's living churchyard.
- P7: Stuck in a queue along Ock Street.
- P11: Agonising over the reservoir.
- P12: A Parish Plan for Drayton?



CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The **Jan/Feb 2007 Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Friday, 19 January 2007** from **Margaret Armstrong, 1 Crabtree Lane (531122)**, 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, 08 January 2007

After this deadline, only urgent items will be considered for inclusion and then only 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	12 February 2007	23 February 2007
April	19 March 2007	30 March 2007
May	16 April-2007	27 April-2007

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
David Lee david_r.lee@ntlworld.com
Derek Pooley derek_pooley@talk21.com

2. 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.

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

CHRONICLE LOTTERY

Daphne Samworth, Hon Promoter

RESULTS OF THE NOVEMBER LOTTERY

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	1349	P Smith, 15 Steventon Road	Judy Henman
£20	0848	B Musgrove, 4 Church Lane	Susan Brooks
£15	1823	Miss Richardson, 102 WhitehornsW	Daphne Samworth
£10	0386	Mr Monger, 28 Sutton Wick Lane	Beryl Dawson
£10	0288	Mr Davies, Oday Hill	Gerald Redman
£10	0199	Mr Wilkes, 26 Corneville Road	Gerald Redman
£10	0751	Mrs Deabill, Henleys Lane	Angela Painton
£10	1368	Mr Evans, 35 Steventon Road	Jackie Walker
£10	0596	Mrs Krason, 108 Abingdon Road	Margaret Armstrong
£10	0396	Tom Shebbeare, 16 Sutton Wick Lane	Beryl Dawson

BOTTLES OF WINE

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
1st	2633	V Denton, 9 Lesparre Close	Steve Penny
2nd	1816	Miss Richardson, 102 WhitehornsW	Daphne Samworth
3rd	0285	Mr Eno, Oday Hill	Gerald Redman
4th	0665	Mrs Hillier, 33 Crabtree Lane	Jennie Keeping
5th	0185	Mr Tolmie, 18 Corneville Road	Gerald Redman
6th	0112	Mr Jarvis, 91 Abingdon Road	Carol Arnold
7th	1760	Mrs Pitts, 27 Lockway	Jenny Pooley
8th	1190	Mrs Wright, 1 Corneville Close	Barbara Purbrick
9th	0456	Mrs Barak, 37 Sutton Wick Lane	Beryl Dawson
10th	1124	Brenda Malin, 34 High Street	Mary Alexander

BOXES OF BISCUITS

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
1st	1040	Mr Martin, 1 High Street	Mary Alexander
2nd	1544	Mr Weri, 24 Binning Close	Anne Hutchins
3rd	1397	Mrs Lonsdale, 62 Steventon Road	Jackie Walker
4th	1029	Margaret Long, 62 High Street	Margaret Long
5th	1533	Mrs Morbey, Haywards Road	Judith Dunster
6th	2147	L Gill, 15 Marcham Road	Karen Jackson
7th	1378	Mrs Buckland, 39b Steventon Road	Jackie Walker
8th	1777	Mrs Sellars, 33 Lockway	Jenny Pooley
9th	2222	R Selby, 17 Lyford Close	Gerald Redman
10th	????	Mr Pitts, 9 Lockway	Jenny Pooley

The winning tickets were drawn by Members of the Art Group from the 2285 tickets sold

GARDEN RESCUE

FENCING, TURFING, PAVING & PATIOS.
ALL ASPECTS OF GARDENING & LANDSCAPING COVERED BY OUR FULLY TRAINED, INSURED PROFESSIONALS.

(CONIFER HEDGES REDUCED TO COMPLY WITH CURRENT LEGISLATION)

FREE QUOTATIONS

PLEASE CALL A. M. OR D.J. NEWMAN ON

**01865 739621 OR
07901 826455**



CHRONICLE NEWS

A note to all Area Agents

With this month's lottery ticket packs, together with next year's dates, you will receive an "Area Agents' Lottery register". Many agents find this useful for keeping a check of the tickets that they are selling, although not everyone uses it. If you want further copies please let me know.



News of Area Agents

There have been one or two changes in the past couple of months:

Area Agent 22 – Cul-de-sac Whitehorns Way; I am delighted to announce that Wendy Evans of 120 Whitehorns Way has kindly offered to take over this round. Thank you Wendy – we do hope that you enjoy the task!

Area Agent 19 – Binning Close; As mentioned last month Ann Hutchings of 21 Binning Close has taken over from Christine Turley. Christine has done this job for nearly 25 years (having originally taken over from Ann!). A great example. Thank you so much Christine and Ann.

Area Agent 5 – Sutton Wick & Greenacres; Tom Shebbeare has handed over responsibility for the area to Beryl Dawson. Thank you Beryl for offering to take this on. Tom has been Area Agent for about 15 years. Thank you Tom for all your hard work. I know that this area works with three or four other volunteers. So thank you all for making it a success and selling so many lottery tickets!

Advertising Manager

We still need an advertising manager. This is a very important job, which brings in about one third of our income. It is possible that we may be able to split the job into two parts. PLEASE let me know if you are interested, or you may know of someone who would be perfect for the job. Either approach them yourself or if you let me know I will ask! This is important. I do have a job description, so do contact me. Email; jeanbarton@onetel.com or tel: 523702

With all best wishes to all our readers for a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Jean Barton

COLOUR IN THE CHRONICLE **Derek Pooley**

You may have noticed that the front and back pages of the December/Christmas Chronicle are always in colour. For many years we just added blocks of red and green to the usual black print and, last year, yellow as well. This year we are trying a full-colour print for the first time, allowing photographs to be used.

Any kind of colour printing costs more - of your money - and full-colour printing also needs better quality paper. Do you think it's worth it, once a year for the front and back pages? Perhaps you think we should use colour more often. Please let me (559454 – email opposite) or another editor know your views.

Looking for that special Christmas gift?

Sonali African Jewellery blends modern style and ancient tradition with an exclusive range of jewellery hand-crafted in Kenya

Prices from £20

Call Alison Dewar on 01235 531387



FOR HIRE

A Fantastic selection of hats in stunning colours & designs to suit everyone for all those Special Occasions

**Weddings, Christenings, Henley Regatta,
A Day at the Races, Garden Parties, Etc.**

Prices range from as little as £15.00 with a deposit of the same amount which you receive back on return of the item.
Contact Carol at **Hats & Tiaras** on 07967 509582
Or Email carol.chung@ntlworld.com

YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor,

Please send our congratulations and best wishes to Geoff and Marion Dix and family for the occasion of the marriage of their daughter Emma at the Baptist Church on Saturday 2nd December 2006. May God bless you all. Love from friends at the Baptist Church.

Jayne Henderson

Dear Editor

I would like to thank everyone for all their gifts, cards and good wishes that I received on my last week as pre-school supervisor. This was a week of very mixed emotions for me, leaving a job that I have loved and spent the last 11 years doing, and also looking forward to the challenge of starting a new profession with the NHS.

Thank you to all parents and carers that have entrusted me with their precious little ones over the years. It has been a privilege to watch them grow and change into individuals with wonderful personalities and characters. A huge thank you also to my co-workers Oz, Claire and Denise; their support over the years has been priceless. I won't say goodbye, just see you later.

With best wishes,

Christine Crook

NOTICE BOARD

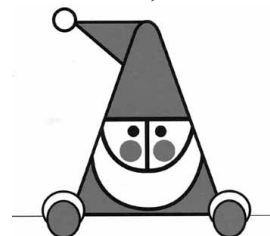
MOBILE LIBRARY

There will be some changes to the Mobile Library timetables in 2007. There was some inconsistency in the tables we were sent but the Chronicle believes the library will be at the following stopping points at the times given in the table, on alternate Wednesdays starting on 3rd January 2007. If you use the internet you can always find the current times at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk by following the libraries and mobile libraries links on that web site.

Stopping Point	Arrival Time	Departure Time
Haywards Road	10.15	10.35
Lyford Close	11.05	11.20
The Green	10.40	11.00

CARDS FOR GOOD CAUSES

If you still need Christmas cards and would like, at the same time, to help a charity of your choice, then go to the Abingdon Guildhall, before 16th December and between 09.30 am and 4.30 pm. For every £1 you pay for cards the charities receive at least 81p.



ST PETER'S CHURCH

Priest in Charge Revd Sister Josie Midwinter.....531374
Licensed Lay Minister Dr Peter Barton523702
Minister in Training and Choir
 Mrs Rosie Bruce.....525284
Churchwardens Mr Peter Cline530519
 Mrs Sue Harris848361
Organist Mr Adrian Thompson.....01865 714801

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 6.30 pm Choir Practice (fortnightly) *Church Room*

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

Sun 3rd 11.15 pm Sale of Fair Trade Goods *Church*
 Tues 5th 3.00 pm First Tuesday Connections *Church Room*
 Sun 17th 6.00 pm Carol Service *Church*
 Sun 24th 4.00 pm Crib Service *Church*
 11.30 pm First Eucharist of Christmas *Church*

PARISH REGISTER

Funerals

20th November George Joseph 'Jimmy' James
 24th November Anthony Julian Luker

YOU STAY - WE PRAY

26 Nov - 2 Dec: High Street; Chiers Drive; Cheers Farm; Halls
 Close. 3 - 16 Dec: Lockway and Whitehorns Way. 17 - 23 Dec:
 Corneville Road; Crabtree Lane; Lesparre Close. 24 - 30 Dec;
 Drayton Road; Milton Road; New Cut Mill; Fisher Close; Marcham
 Road; Meads Close; Rippington Court; Stone Hill. 31 Dec - 13 Jan:
 Steventon Road; Eastway; Eastway MHP

Home Helpers Care Ltd

The Office 22 High Street Drayton Oxon OX14 4JL
 Tel: 01235 550202 Fax 01235 533233
 (Established since 1993)

Providing Services in the South & Vale to:

*Private Customers / Direct Payment Customers / Social Services
 Funded Customers / Independent Living Customers.*

*Comprehensive Range of Care Services
 Day & Night Sitters : Meals : At home laundry
 Shopping / Collecting Pensions / Paying Bills
 Light Domestic*

Call the team for further information.

Mrs Suzy Willis

MCSP SRP

CHARTERED PHYSIOTHERAPIST

Old Lodge, Henleys Lane

Drayton, OX14 4HU

Tel 01235 531269

Please ring for an appointment



*M & J Didcock
 Funeral Services*



A caring independent Family Funeral Service
 A Chapel of Rest in the heart of the countryside

17, Park Road
 Didcot, OX11 8QL
 Tel: (01235) 510292
 Fax: (01235) 512789

*Memorials &
 Funeral Plans
 arranged*

LETTER FROM REV JOSIE MIDWINTER

Dear Friends

"I'm dreaming of a white Christmas." crooned Bing Crosby back in the 1950s, "...just like the ones we used to know." But things have changed, and in the 21st century, such a song might cause offence and perhaps the words need to be changed. 'Christmas' is out because it only favours one religious group and that might exclude others. Perhaps 'white' might also be misunderstood and it needs to be replaced. So we could end up singing: "I'm dreaming of a colourless Winterval."



Some how I don't think it will catch on! Because it would be just that - colourless - and therefore valueless. If we just celebrated a 'Winterval' then we would feel justified in eating and drinking and spending and giving lavish presents without a second thought for anyone else. The whole point of Christmas is that we celebrate a real event that happened in human history. That event is the birth of the most important baby that has ever been born - God's own son - Jesus. This is not an event just of food, and expensive presents, and overspending. It is an event when we look to the values of our society and use the opportunity to give and share with one another. Food and gifts may play a part in that but only in so far as they contribute to the building up of our family life and help us to be generous and unselfish towards those around us.

This year the St Peter's Christmas card will feature the central panel of the triptych behind the main altar in the church. (editor's note: see the rear page of this Chronicle) This shows Joseph and Mary with the baby Jesus on her lap. The three wise men are kneeling before the baby to offer their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. It is this sense of giving which encapsulates the Christmas Story. God so loved the world that he made that he gave his only son - Jesus - to come and live amongst us so that he might show God's love in human form. The shepherds came with their humble gifts to show that Jesus would himself be humble and a servant to all. The wise men came with their gifts to show that the rich, the wise and the powerful all owe their homage to Jesus.

It is this challenge to sacrificial giving which distinguishes Christmas from some anonymous 'Winterval' type of event. Over the Christmas period there will be a number of services at St Peter's and also at the Baptist Church, when we have the opportunity to celebrate and also pay homage to the King of Kings; the baby Jesus. You are welcome at any of these services which are listed elsewhere in the Chronicle. Christmas cards from both churches will be delivered to every house in the parish - to wish you a 'Happy Christmas' (NOT Winterval) and invite you to come and join us at our services.

Josie Midwinter



BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastoral Co-ordinator: Mr Roy Brown.....Tel. 531296

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 of the month.

EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME

MY CHRISTMAS SONG

Bill Dewe

The windows of the village inn
are all ablaze with light.
The night is clear and wonderful,
the stars are big and bright.

A little child on the earth has been born,
laid in manger all safe and warm.
Shepherds and wise men from far away
make the journey, kneel and pray.

Every star shall sing a carol,
all the choirs on earth below.
We will rock the King of Heaven
in '06 on Christmas Day.

The Christmas story will never grow old,
it's there every year for all to see.
It's offered to you, it's offered to me,
It's offered to us as a family.

When you open all your presents
think of him so far away.
With the shepherds and the wise men
in the manger on the hay.

Through the ages all along
this is still my Christmas song.
Hark! The Herald Angels sing
glory to the New Born King

LOCAL METHODIST WORSHIP

High Street, Milton, (near the Post Office)
Sunday Service: 10.30 am

Local contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409

FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS Jean Hager

Are you feeling lonely, isolated or in need of some friendly company? Why not come along to our monthly tea and chat afternoons. They are held on the first Tuesday of the month in St Peter's Church Room from 3.00 pm to 4:30 pm and you are invited to drop in during these times. The teapot is always at the ready and you can be sure of a warm welcome. Our next two dates are 5th December and 2nd January. If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.

HAVE YOU TRIED OUR FREE RANGE EGGS?



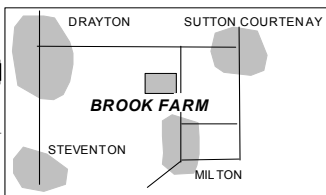
Brook Farm

Brook Farm, Milton Road
OPENING HOURS

Mon to Sat - 9.00am to 1.00pm Except Friday 9.00am to 6.00pm

FREE RANGE EGGS, & POTATOES (if available)

Our own lamb available May to December



"The Computer Lady"

Internet, email, modem/broadband, security,
virus/spyware/adware removal, networking,
parts upgrades, training, PC basics

All types of computer problems and
maintenance covered

Call Tracey Talbot

on 01235 848415 or 07776 41360

Benton & Bryan

Renovation & Maintenance Services

- 24 hour plumbing service
- Loft conversions, extensions, brickwork etc.
- Plastering, decorating, carpentry, electrics etc.
- Commercial or private
- All work to a high standard

Tel: Steventon 01 235 832 513; Mobile: 07 905 386 150

Email: suzanne.benton@bopenworld.com

DRAYTON HALL

Ann Webb

Nine people attended the November meeting at which the future of Enterprises was discussed, with ideas put forward for its future but, as no-one from Enterprises was present, nothing was finalised. An explanation was given for the weekend's events of the 21st October, when the bar alarm went off three times in 24 hours and Chubb's actions resulted in a large bill and no power to several circuits. We are protesting to them about the bill and the inconvenience to users that followed.

We had a wonderful response from the village with Christmas decorations for which we thank-you all, it was very kind of you and we will use all we can. We have suffered 2 bad weekends of broken glass in the vicinity of the building; again I say to parents of youngsters in the village, please be aware of where your youngsters are and what they are doing. Large quantities of lager and other alcopop-type bottles and cans have been cleared from all round the building, full and empty, smashed and whole. Alcohol in these young people is not doing them any good at their young age; also broken glass is lethal to children playing in the area. There are several people who pick up any dangerous glass they see, thank-you. The local police have promised to patrol the area more often.

The hall has purchased a small freezer to store fresh ice as required and the ice machine will be sold. The bar is to be fitted with a glass washer to free the kitchen of glass washing personnel. In the treasurer's absence, a report was read out from him showing an up turn in bookings and of course finances, but we need this to continue. After a meeting with our cleaning material suppliers, it was decided to purchase a second hand buffer to scrub the floors and then renew the polish, but this item and several other groups' equipment need storage which has always been a problem. This was discussed at great length and a solution was put forward which will not please every one, but short of expensive building work we don't have much choice.

Finally I would like to thank the Bowls and Sequence-Dance clubs for their cooperation at very short notice and the Players for their wonderful gift of time to paint the big hall and the inner ladies cloakroom, also the donation from Parish Council towards the cost of the paint for the big hall. Thank-you all

Ann Webb



RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Melanie Parker

When Toby Sloper came to the Parish Council meeting to lament the lack of facilities for youngsters in the village we could only agree with him. Sutton Courtney has recently made some wonderful improvements to their recreation area and this was a clear illustration of what might be possible.

Although Drayton is a vibrant community, with excellent shops, pubs and post office and many clubs and societies (including a terrific football club), there is the possibility that the areas around the village hall could be utilised to provide new facilities.

Before anything is decided, drawn up or requests for funding submitted, we need to know what you think and what you might like if you were given the opportunity. We could forge ahead with play schemes, a basket ball court or ice rink (?) only to find you really wanted a five-a-side football pitch. It is vital that you give us your views. Mums – are you fed up with being a taxi service for teenagers? Girls – do you feel all the sports are currently geared towards the lads? We might be able to do something about it but we need to hear from everyone.

The Parish Council, through the Leisure and General Purposes working group, is currently exploring the options and funding opportunities and we would love to hear from anyone who would like to be part of this team. In the Jan/Feb issue of the Chronicle there will be a short questionnaire and we look forward to hearing what you think of the schemes on offer. Following this there will be an open meeting at the Village Hall and one at the Caudwell Day Centre where more information will be available and the opportunity for further discussion. There might even be cake...

In the meantime if you would like to discuss any aspect of this please call me on 07799 850974. We want this to benefit everyone in the village and the only way we can do that is for you to tell us what you think.



GEOFF AND MARIAN'S MACE STORE

FOR ALL YOUR PAPERS
AND MAGAZINES,
GROCERIES, FROZEN FOODS,
CARDS, OFF LICENCE and
SAVOURY SNACKS.
LINK CASH MACHINE AVAILABLE
LOTTERY TICKETS
BREAD BAKED DAILY
ORDERS TAKEN FOR FRESH BREAD
MOST MAJOR CREDIT CARDS TAKEN
TEL: 01235 202855
FAX No: 01235 531217

MISSED OUT ON YOUR CHRONICLE?

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

DRAYTON HISTORY

Celia Haddon

Drayton's history goes back at least 6000 years. Next time you are anywhere near Drayton Mill, you are about 5,700 years away from a major prehistoric monument, a Neolithic cursus, an earthwork of two parallel ditches running for many yards. The ditches are no longer visible because the land has been ploughed on and off since Saxon times, but the cursus started not far from Mill Brook and ran towards Abingdon. Two sections of it show up in crop marks that can be seen from the air.

Because there is a large bit missing in the middle, it may even be two separate cursuses. Without archaeological investigation, we can't be sure. Stone age cursuses remain a bit of a mystery. The first to be recognised was one near Stonehenge and it was the early antiquarians who called it a cursus, wondering if it was some kind of racecourse. We still don't know what they are for, but if Neolithic man spent hours digging ditches with only antler picks as spades, they must have been very important ceremonial or sacred earthworks.

Not far from the cursus is a long barrow, (SU 4828 9495) at the back of Sutton Wick. This too is invisible on the ground and we only know it is there because it shows up in photography from the air. The two ditches either side of an elongated hump are visible from the air as is the traditional long barrow shape with one end wider than the other. Long barrows, like cursuses, must have taken time and energy to dig. The barrows have been called monuments of death. Yet even the really big ones found in the Cotswolds often only have a small area inside devoted to burials. Nevertheless the makers felt it was necessary to make a really huge earth or stone covering of the burial chambers. Sometimes they waited till the flesh had rotted off the bones before putting the bodies into the burial chamber. Sometimes they buried them whole, so to speak, with the flesh still on the bones. And occasionally long barrows don't contain any dead bodies at all; they are just empty tombs.

What were the Neolithic villagers of Drayton doing as they slaved with their antler picks? Was the cursus the equivalent of our church, a ceremonial area for processions? Were they burying their chieftains in their long barrow? Or were they heaping up the earth and stones partly to mark their territorial boundary? These mysteries are part of local history and the Drayton History Group believes local history is your history. Come and find out more at the Local History and Family History weekend next year from June 29th to July 1st.

The past is a really exciting place to be!

	MARSHALL & GALPIN S O L I C I T O R S
<small>www.marshallgalpin.com</small>	'The Best Legal Experience' Our services include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Commercial & Residential ConveyancingDivorce, Mediation & Family MattersMedical Accidents & Injury ClaimsProbate, Wills & TrustsCompany & Commercial mattersEmployment Law
  	Free initial interviews & fixed fees available Call us free on 0800 662266 Abingdon, Oxford & Thame

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

ST PETER'S CHURCHYARD

Josie Midwinter

The churchyard is a living place. This may seem like a contradiction in terms when we know that the churchyard is the place where we bury the dead. But Christianity is all about new life springing out of that which seems to be dead and gone. The churchyard is a good example of this.

Recently St Peter's PCC needed to authorise some work in the churchyard on some of the trees. This involved removing a dead tree completely and lopping larger trees with dead branches. One of the trees near the almshouse wall has been leaning at a dangerous angle for sometime. It has now been cut down, but it has not been lost to the life of the churchyard. The wood from the tree has been



cut into logs and piled up in a quiet corner of the churchyard. Here, as it rots down, it will become a habitat for a multitude of insects, woodlice and beetles. It may even make a winter home for a hedgehog or two. The yew tree behind the church is an ancient tree estimated to be about 350 years old. It is quite common to find old yew trees in churchyards. They can live for over a thousand years and there are examples of such trees in Steventon and Didcot churchyards. So by lopping and thinning this tree we are giving it space to continue its growth. If you should happen to be around in the year 2650 why not pop into the churchyard and see if our tree has made its 1000th birthday!

Such a prospect reminds us that in the management of both church and churchyard we are not thinking in terms of years or decades, but centuries and even millennia. With that in mind we at St Peter's would like to do even more to manage the churchyard as a conservation area for the future. There is a great deal of information available to guide groups in how to protect trees, encourage wild flowers, preserve lichen and provide habitat for small creatures and insects. But it requires a group of dedicated people to make it happen. This is something that might catch the imagination of one or two people in the village who could set things going. If you are interested in doing something along those lines please contact me and we can see how to follow it up.

Mayo Shin Do Karate

**Fitness, Confidence, Self Control
& Effective Self Defence**

We offer a small friendly adult group with expert tuition. Beginners welcome, first lesson is free and the following five sessions at introductory discount.

Milton Heights School Hall

Tuesday 18:30 till 20:00

Saturday 10.00 till 11-30

Call Sam with any questions on 01235

553524

Or Email: sgoffen@yahoo.co.uk

STUCK IN OCK STREET

Doggerelle

I went to the dentist today,
My teeth showing signs of decay.
By the time I got there they had rotted away –
I'd got stuck in a queue along Ock Street
And sadly I now cannot eat.

I needed a hairdo last week,
A shampoo and just a blonde streak.
By the time I got there I looked like a freak –
I'd got stuck in a queue along Ock Street
And my hair had grown down to my feet.

I went into town to the store
To buy haddock and beefsteak and more.
By the time I got home their condition was poor –
I'd got stuck in a queue along Ock Street
So the fish had gone off - and the meat.

I went to meet friends out for lunch,
Best buddies, a very fine bunch.
By the time I got there I had nothing to munch –
I'd got stuck in a queue along Ock Street,
So I missed a real savoury treat.

I battled my way into work
For work's what I never would shirk.
By the time I got there I felt such a jerk –
I got stuck in a queue along Ock Street,
Was so stiff I was fixed in my seat.

They say they are trying to race
To get all the lights fixed in place
So whenever you go you won't have to face
Being stuck in a queue along Ock Street –
It will clear by electronic feat.



Handcrafted
SET IN STONE

TEL: 01235
812222

TRADE &
PUBLIC

FAX: 01235
819999

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

MEMORIALS

NEW MEMORIALS
RESTORATIONS
ADDITIONAL INSCRIPTIONS
VASES
GLASS CHIPPINGS

GARDEN

TABLES
BENCHES
FOUNTAINS
PLANTERS
STATUARY

KITCHEN WORKTOPS

FLOOR TILES

*We are a family run business with years of experience;
customer care is our priority. No obligation home
appointments by male or female staff. We have an
outdoor show area and sales office near Travis Perkins.
Our garden stone is unique, each one is hand carved in
solid granite.*

ALL AROUND

TODDLERS

Jane Nye

As we head into December, we do hope that you are all getting into the Christmas spirit and making headway with your Christmas shopping. As to the little ones, we hope that you are enjoying your parties and have been busy writing your letters to Father Christmas. We at toddlers have been getting ready for Christmas by making decorations for the Christmas trees in the village hall. We are also making the final preparations for the big finale of our year, the Christmas party! This will take place during the morning of Thursday 14th December in the main hall of the village hall. There will be party food, a Christmas singsong and games including pass the parcel. Hopefully there will also be a visit from Father Christmas himself, if he is not too busy getting all the toys ready for Christmas Eve!

Tickets for the party cost £2.50 per child. Please also provide a present clearly labelled with your child's name to pop into Father Christmas' sack. Presents need to be dropped off to Anna by Thursday 7th December. For more details, please ring Anna (206170) or Jane (533861) or pop in on Thursday morning.

As you read this, the mums will all be getting out their party frocks and polishing their shoes for our big night out on Saturday 2nd December. Laura has been busy distributing menus and collecting money to ensure that all goes smoothly on the night. Present and past mums are heading off to the Wheatsheaf pub which we are all looking forward to. Our thanks again to Laura for organising our special evening.

As we think of the coming year, once again a reminder that we reopen on Thursday 11th January, following our last session on the 14th December. We look forward to seeing all our old and new friends there. Toddlers is thriving at the moment and there is a lovely buzz of fun and companionship in the room. Any possible new members are reminded that we are open 9.30-11.30 am, everyone is welcome, as we join together to sweep away the January blues!

As 2006 draws to a close, we would like to say thanks to Joy for her tireless efforts throughout the year in making the tea and squash as well as supporting us in the running of our sessions and special events. We couldn't do it without you!

All that remains is for us to wish you a very Merry Christmas and all good wishes for a prosperous New Year.

CHIROPODIST - PODIATRIST

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

FOR A HOME VISIT
PLEASE CONTACT

Mrs Hazel MOODEY, 48 Hanney Road,
Steventon. Tel. (01235) 834093

SIMON MURRAY MPTA CGLI

M.I.M.I.T. N.T.C. DIPLOMA

Piano Tuning and Repairs

by Qualified, Experienced Technician

Most of Oxfordshire and
Surrounding Areas Covered

Please telephone **01235 525427** early evening
or leave a message on the answer-phone during the day



N. HAYCROFT PLUMBING

A complete Plumbing Service

Taps, Tanks, Ball Valves, Leaks,
Stopcocks, Burst Pipes, Pumps, Cylinders,
Immersion, Radiators, Basins, Sinks.
Installation of Washing Machines, Dishwashers,
Showers & Bathrooms

Over 30 years experience

All work fully guaranteed and fully insured

Tel : **01235 814739**

M S Lally

Gas Boiler Service

01235 848592

0796 7015 065

Servicing and Repairs

Systems Installed

Boiler changes

Systems Power Flushed

85 Milton Road, Sutton Courtenay

martin.lally@tesco.net



8134

PRE-SCHOOL

Helen Topping

Sadly Christine has left after over 12 years, all the best to her, she will be missed!

Welcome to Sam, the new play assistant; she has slotted nicely into the team. The Christmas sing along is on Thursday 14th December for children and parents. Please be there for 10:15 am for a 10:30 am start. After the sing along there will be a raffle, mince pies and coffee. The Christmas party is on Friday 15th December at 11 am; collect children at 2 pm. There will be a special visit from Father Christmas, with presents! There are still places for January, pick up an application form from pre-school and get them back as soon as possible. Term ends on 15th December and we start back on Thursday 4th of January. A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

SCHOOL REPORT

Anita Hedditch

School children and parents have been rewarded for their efforts in the park-and-ride they have undertaken since September. The School Travel Plan encourages the healthier option of using our legs to get us to school. Drayton school has had one of the best improvement records of the county and has been awarded a good sum of money by Oxfordshire County Council towards the new bicycle shelter and pathways in and out of school. Our thanks also go to The Red Lion owners who allow parents to park in their car park and then walk their children the distance from there to school. This has even been undertaken in the recent rain that insists on starting at 9am and 3pm on a regular basis!

Another thank you goes to UKAEA for their donation of £300 towards our next project of replacing all of the picnic benches with recyclable plastic ones. Whilst thank-yous are in the writing, another big thank you is for Lawrence who has raised £90 by collecting aluminium at Vickery's over the past year.

Meanwhile the foundation class has been learning about the Muslim Festival of Eid ul Fitr. Miss Higgs was chief taster of one of the traditional sweets that the children had made. Their Science project is 'Light' and they have learnt about Bonfire night and the story of Guy Fawkes, showing lovely pictures of fireworks at the parents assembly. Year 1/2 are studying electricity and have been having an interesting time making their own electrical circuits. It has created great excitement. Preparation for Christmas and the annual play is also consuming their time. Year 3/4 are working hard. Role play with a travel agent link to weather around the world has set up shop within the middle unit. →

MORE ALL AROUND

⇒ Packaging in Technology is taking some thought and effort. The children are making packaging boxes and are following all stages of the design process. Some designs worth looking at are beginning to emerge. Music this term is improvising a native American dance to the drum, a wonder yet to be seen.

In Years 5/6 the Christmas play roles have been cast after a tense wait. This year's spectacular will be Snow White - some mention of 12 dwarves I hear. This class has done really well and won a competition by designing a water related mural for a wall at Sutton Courtenay Field Centre. They were treated to a day at the Centre doing orienteering, pond dipping and other activities as well as painting their wall.

Some extras: the 5 a-side football team has reached the finals, to be held on 2nd December at Wantage; the new School Council members are learning about and fulfilling their roles; new Energy monitors in each class are ensuring that lights are being turned off, windows are closed etc to help us be more energy efficient.....

The school plays are to be held on 12th and 13th of December from 6:30pm

BOWLS

Roll Up

At the time of writing these notes both teams in the winter league have made a good start to the season. In the 1st Division the Rollers are in 2nd spot, while in the 2nd Division the Hammers have made a great start, winning their first 5 matches and are top of their league with one game to go before the mid season break. The latest internal competition has been completed with the 'Attwood Cup' going to Tony Mullins, after a great days bowling by all those who played.

It is nice to announce that we have some new bowlers. Marjorie, Heather, Bob and John have all settled in nicely and we hope they all have long and happy stay with us. The last of the internal competitions (the Didcot Windows open singles) took place on the 19th of November and the following players, T. Mullins, J. Mullins, B. Jones, T. R. Gleed went through to the semi-finals. These will be held on finals day, Sunday December 3rd, with all the other outstanding finals taking place then.

And it's with great sadness that we have lost another founder member of the club, Mr. Jim James. Jim bowled for many years with his late wife Beryl, and our thoughts at this time are with his family.

L. J. MULLINS PAINTING & DECORATING

Interior & Exterior, Domestic & Commercial

Local, reliable, professional, friendly service

Competitive prices

Contact Lee on 07815 288909
or 01235 554032



Going Away? KE & MINDERS

Worried about your home and pets? Keyinders will visit your home, pamper your pets, water plants & check security. We are fully insured, caring professionals.

Tel: 01235 520290 email: info@keyinders.co.uk



The Red Lion



Glenn & Janet welcome you

Lunch Served 12-2pm Mon to Sat

Evening Meals Served 6pm-8pm Mon to Fri

Open all day Everyday

Ask About Our Loyalty Reward Card

Enjoy dining in traditional pub surroundings or, weather permitting, in our beautiful garden, complete with covered patio.

Senior Citizen discount 20%, Monday – Friday

For party bookings or enquiries

phone 01235 531457



The Red Lion



TABLE TENNIS

John Gould

The Didcot League held its Divisional Championships recently. This is a week that is set aside for individual competition between players in their respective Divisions.

Drayton has had quite a few winners in the past. This year was no exception when David Hudson saw off all of his peers to take the Division 3 trophy. In all he played 22 games starting at 7.45pm and finishing at about 11.00 pm. I understand he suffered for his sport the next day!! David is famous for his 'dead' rubber backhand that he combines with deceptive footwork to bamboozle opponents. This opens up opportunities for him to utilise his devastating cross table forehand using the angles to his best advantage.

David plays in the Drayton C team that is currently riding high at the top of Division 3 some 5 points clear of the second place team – Sutton C. The Drayton Team, captained by Roy Stocker, is hoping to carry the form through to next April and gain promotion.

Drayton A is also doing us proud, sitting pretty at the top of Division 1. The division is very close this year so it will be a tough task for them to stay top through to the spring. However they have a strong squad and we are confident they will finish there or thereabouts.

We continue our Club Night table tennis on Mondays from 7.30 pm at the village school and will be pleased to welcome anyone who wants to try ping-pong. From teenagers to OAP's everyone is welcome. We have bats so just bring yourself!

W.I.

Doreen Buckland

The speaker for our November meeting was Mrs Jean Warr, an Oxford Tour Guide. She showed slides of many of Oxford's college gardens, and explained how these were made; very interesting and good photography. The Wit and Wisdom quiz held on the 10th November was very well attended and enjoyed by all. Our grateful thanks to everyone that came and we are pleased to have raised £300 for our chosen charity, the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust. Our next fund-raiser is a Coffee morning on Saturday 9th December 10am to 12 noon in Drayton Village Hall. We will have coffee and mince pies, plus books, videos and jigsaws for sale. We hope to see you there to help us raise more money for our charity. Our next meeting will be on December 14th when we will have a 'Bring and Share supper'.

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 18th December at 8.00 pm.

Yet More All Around on page 10 ⇒



Aladdin's Cave



www.alcave.co.uk

A real life Aladdin's Cave for the home.

**See our Brand New Divan Beds,
including mattress**

Double £99.00, Single £69.00

Modern and Antique furniture for the Lounge,
Dinning room, Bedroom, Kitchen and Bathroom.

If you're just setting up your first home or you are
looking for that something special.

Viewing appointments available for outside of business
hours.

Telephone for an appointment

**32 The High Street, Drayton, Oxon
(rear of Forge Garage)**

Tel: 01235 ALCAVE or 01235 538500

email: sales@alcave.co.uk

**B WILLIAMS
UILDERS EST 1961**

CARPENTRY
EXTENSIONS
DECORATING
FITTED KITCHENS AND WARDROBES
TELEPHONE (01235) 531262

SWEDE MADE UK Ltd

WE FIT KITCHENS AND WARDROBES

WE CAN MAKE YOU A KITCHEN OR WARDROBE

OR SIMPLY FIT ONE YOU HAVE BOUGHT!

**ALL TILING, ELECTRICS & PLUMBING INCLUDED IN
THE PRICE**

HOME TELEPHONE JOHN: 01235 533433

WORKSHOP: 01865 864636

WOODEN SPOON RECIPE

Lois Rennels

Stilton and onion soup (a delicious way to use up left-over
Christmas Stilton)

2 large onions, 2 oz butter, 2 heaped tablespoons cornflour, 1
pint milk, 1½ pints chicken stock (using 2 stock cubes), 8 oz
crumbled Stilton, pepper (no salt as the stock cubes and Stilton
provide enough).

Chop onions finely and soften in butter over a gentle heat. Add
the flour and stir for a minute or two. Gradually pour in the milk,
stirring all the time and bring to the boil. Add the stock and
simmer for 5 minutes.

Remove the pan from the heat and immediately add the cheese,
allowing it to melt without boiling.

If you prefer a smooth texture the soup can be liquidized.

YET MORE ALL AROUND

DRAYTON PLAYERS

Jean Hager

Rehearsals are accelerating now for the BOY FRIEND and
everyone involved is finding the 1920's subject really fun to
tackle.

We shall be performing over two weekends again, from
Thursday to Saturday, curtain up at 7.30 pm, and I can give you
the dates now for your diary. They are 15th to 17th and 22nd to
24th February. Look for our advertisement in next month's
Chronicle, book your seats early and join us for a real Boop-a-
Doop and Vodeo-Do experience !

Our main concern at present is that, since the tragic loss of our
dear friend David Coates, we have been without an experienced
lighting person and we would like to encourage anyone having
such experience, and interested in lending a hand with our
productions, to come forward. Our chairman, Peter Jackson,
would be pleased to discuss what exactly is involved and he can be
reached on 531472. We would very much appreciate hearing from
you.

DRAYTON WIVES

Daphne Barrand

In October our speaker was Celia Crook from Oxford, who
came with her collection of hats and told us how it was that, from
being originally a teacher, she became a milliner. It happened
mostly through adversity, the death of her husband, when she
could no longer face teaching. She had always been into making
costumes for various functions, when someone asked her to make
a hat, which she did. Then when she had breast cancer and lost her
hair she made herself various hats and from that it progressed to
her new career. Her hats are charming and we had great fun in
trying them on, also the Fascinators, small confections that clip on
the hair, and practical ones for wind and rain that fold up. It was
most enjoyable.

Date for your Diary in December:

Mon 11th COFFEE EVENING 7.00 pm Caudwell DC.

Please bring a small wrapped gift costing £1.50. No more, no
less. (Please, no unwanted items that usually cost a lot more).

Mon 18th WHIST Trudi Buckner, Caudwell DC

Finally, the subscriptions have been increased to £10 as from
January 2007.

Tess M. Goldblatt BSc. Hons (Pod) HPC Registered MChS, SRCh

PODIATRIST/CHIROPODIST

Specialising in all types of foot care

Home visiting practice

Evenings/Weekends/Emergencies

- Corns
- Callouses
- Ingrowing toe nails
- All general foot problems

Over 12 years experience working in the NHS

TEL: 01235 526505 MOBILE: 07976 974115

NEIL ALLEN

Windows & Doors

Quality Double Glazing Products

Windows & Replacement Seals
Conservatories, Patio & French Doors

Competitive Prices 20 Years Experience

*For a FREE no-obligation quotation call
Neil Allen on 01235 528446 Or 07770 456321*



DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Webber

Youth Club

Many thanks to all those who responded to our appeals for help. We are now in a position to begin activities in earnest in January. The whole thing has taken much longer to get going than we had hoped, but we have got there in the end. Thank you to all the young for their patience. We hope we can reward them with a rewarding activity that will be a permanent part of Drayton's youth provision in the years to come. If you would like to join the team, please contact Gary Hibbins on 07904182601.

As Youth Leader of the Damascus Youth project, Gary was invited to speak at the Leader of the White Horse District Council's Gala evening in October. This was a daunting task in front of an audience of nearly 200. As a son of Drayton we can all be proud that Gary gave us a thoroughly entertaining summary of the excellent work carried out by the project and as a result helped to secure donations in excess of £3000 towards the project's running costs.



An awesome responsibility

In 50 years time it is perfectly possible that the area we now know as the Vale of the White Horse will be dominated by the largest stretch of man-made water in Europe. Will our grandchildren thank us for our foresight, our readiness to face problems, our willingness to provide them with a recreational facility that stimulated the economy of the area, that solved the water shortage in the south east of England and enhanced what was a dull, flat piece of land. Or will they curse us for allowing the development of an eyesore, which not only was not necessary, but did not solve anything and reduced the area from partial to total gridlock.

I wish I knew, I wish the District Council knew, but most of all I wish Thames Water knew!

Stage 1 of the Upper Thames Major Resource Project proposed by Thames Water is entitled 'Needs and alternatives'. We have been given, under their consultation process, a mere few weeks to consider this – surely by far the most important issue in the whole process. Of course it matters what sort of boating facilities we would like to have on the proposed reservoir, and what price the current landowners might get for their land, and how high the banks will be (will they really be 80 feet+?) and what size the nature reserves will be – but surely, none of these issues carries the same weight or the same responsibility for the decision makers as the issue – Do we really **need** a Reservoir? ⇨

⇨ Based on Thames Water's own figures, the following questions and answers occur to me. Real water shortages are due to kick in the early 2020s. How long will the proposed reservoir solve the problem? - 9 or 10 years apparently. Then what? Another reservoir? Another £1 billion?

On worst case figures, what is the rate of annual water shortage in London and the South East? Approx 40 megalitres per day each year from 2020 to 2030.

If the £1 billion due to be spent on the reservoir were to be spent on leakage fixing (currently 800+ megalitres/day in London alone), what effect would this have on the shortfall? If we were to reduce our per capita consumption of water in the TW area to the European average PCC, what effect would this have on the shortfall figures? TW's 8 million customers all reducing their daily consumption by 50 litres per day is an awful lot of water saved.

My other major concern is that the playing field is so uneven. Under present regulations, the capital assets of TW gained by building the reservoir would oblige OFWAT to allow TW to increase its annual profits considerably. There is nothing wrong with this, but it does give TW an overriding profit motive. And whatever the outcome of the planning request, the project costs will fall on TW customers and general tax payers.

The two organisations charged with regulating TW (OFWAT and the Environment Agency) are arguably both overstretched, under resourced government QUANGOS each with only a fraction of the financial resources of Thames Water. When it comes to it, an enquiry may come down to which side can afford the best consultants and which side can afford the best QCs.

The Environment Agency states that it accepts that there is going to be a shortfall by the year 2020 and that this shortfall will be alleviated only in part by reduced leakage and water consumption.. Should it not look at this again? Using the Stage 1 Report figures the savings that could be made by compelling TW to reduce leakage and by making/encouraging us all to reduce our daily water consumption would seem to be able to more than fix the problem - at least for 30 years or more. It may be that the EA has access to figures not in TW's Stage 1 Report and not available to the rest of us. If so, might we please see them? In this area, we are not short of academics capable of understanding complex figures.



Certainly, we owe it to our descendents to have scrutinised the case as thoroughly as we possibly can. It is an awesome responsibility for all of us. I have no desire to be party to a process which resulted in a horrific waste of public money simply because we had not scrutinised the project thoroughly enough. Water is as precious a commodity as any energy source. In this country, we are not used to treating it as a rare commodity. The time has surely come when we should.

A.L.VICKERY & SON
5, THE GREEN, DRAYTON, OX14 4JA
01235 531497
COOKSHOP – HOUSEWARES – DIY
ELECTRICAL TOOLS – GARDENING
LOCKSMITHS – KEYS CUT WHILE YOU WAIT
OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY, 9 to 5.30
CREDIT CARDS TAKEN
Park your car outside the Store

Tonks Brothers
Funeral Directors

Abingdon
01235 - 539444



Holiday Villa to Let
Near Calis Beach, Fethiye,
TURKEY

This well equipped villa is one of 12 set round a lovely swimming pool. It has four air-conditioned bedrooms and can sleep seven in comfort. Prices range from £200 to £360 per week, from April to October.

If you would like a brochure please contact –
Iain Stuart on 01235 531474 or IainStuart@btconnect.com

THE LAVENDER ROOM

Beauty Clinic
Steventon, Oxon.

Provides perfect balance between maintenance and unhurried relaxation in a unique environment
Our philosophy is to calm, relax, refresh and make you feel special
Facials – Massage – Hands & Feet – Waxing – Body bliss
01235 833600

Margaret welcomes you to **Sabina's**
for your next hair appointment

40 ABINGDON ROAD - DRAYTON - Tel. (01235) 531140

Mondays & Tuesdays & Saturdays 9.00am to 5.00 pm
Wednesday closed all day
Thursdays 9.00am to 6.00pm, Fridays 9.00am to 7.00pm



*Men's hair-dressing on Mondays, 6.30 to 8.00pm,
when appointments aren't necessary, so why not call in?*

Special rates for Pensioners and Free Car Parking

Janet Manning
HOMOEOPATH

B.A. Dip.Ed. M.A. Lic LCCH. RSHom
Safe, gentle healing, suitable for all ages
Daytime, Evening appointments and Home visits

01235 527603

11 Newman Lane, Drayton

Neil Greenaway
Carpenter & Joiner

**Doors, Skirtings, Windows, Flooring,
Kitchens, Locks, Bookcases, Etc**

Tel: 07771517536

Email: neilgreenaway@btinternet.com



A PARISH PLAN?

Chris Fursdon Davis

I am writing this note because I have been asked to look into something which is thought to be 'a good thing' for rural communities, the development of a 'Parish Plan'.

The general aim might perhaps be summarised as a way of encouraging greater interest and involvement in all aspects of the fabric and function of the local community, in this case Drayton. The process of stimulating, exploring and perhaps implementing both useful and imaginative ideas would be intended to involve, and take account of, the views of as many as possible. Ideally, this interaction would enhance the natural good neighbourliness and constructive social commitment that exists across the village. A cynical view could be that it is a good way to divert frustrated attention from the results of bad decisions outside our control.

The experience of other communities suggests that they may have seen associated benefits in the way of new projects: these could, however, perhaps have been achieved without the process of a village plan. At worst the process may be little more than a time and effort-wasting exercise at taxpayers' expense.

You may think that I should perhaps stop there and sign off, but my own thought is that, while potential benefits of such an idea are undoubtedly questionable, the concept could perhaps be developed to create a framework within the parish to achieve as sound a process as possible for decision making in the longer-term, both for conservation and development. This could, at a local level, greatly enhance the quality of an informed democratic process which would sadly seem to have been progressively eroded by 'the establishment' (i.e. machinery of State).

This may sound a somewhat grandiose idea and, while others will no doubt take a very different view of the matter, it is perhaps worthy of discussion to discover if our community has the will and the stomach to attempt to develop such a 'Parish process' in the hope of an improved 'Drayton democracy'.

Casual conversation has already thrown up a number of ideas, but if anyone out there is interested in becoming involved in initial informal discussion (without any commitment), they might perhaps like to give their contact details to our excellent Parish clerk, Marie Sellwood (mariesellwood@hotmail.com or 200042).

I should close now and apologise if, having read this, you have found it less than inspiring. I do, however, think it possible that there could be something really worthwhile in this for Drayton in the long-term were it to be developed in the best way.

With best wishes for the month of Christmas,

Chris Fursdon Davis

Thoughts which have come up so far:

Development of Recreational Facilities; Energy efficiency and Global warming; a village event ('Drayfest'); Sustaining and enhancing availability of local affordable housing; Traffic, transport and highways issues.



NEED COMPUTER HELP?

Home, home office, small business

Repairs, Upgrades, Email/Internet connection issues, Anti-virus, Web-site design, Installing new hardware or software, Networks, Broadband.

Tuition: Internet, Email, Scanning and Photo-enhancing, Spreadsheet, Word Processing, or simply a basic introduction to your computer any issue that prevents you getting the best from your PC.

I can make it easy by offering tuition and guidance **IN YOUR HOME or BUSINESS** at a time to suit you.

Martin Underwood 01235 847104 or 07748 632563

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Jennifer Pooley



As last month, play facilities for youngsters was one of the main issues discussed by a rather depleted number of Councillors at the meeting held on Monday 6th November. Three members of the public attended including Toby Soper who first raised the issue. Since October much research has been done by our new Councillor, Melanie Parker (see page 6), and by Clare Soper, revealing sources of funding and types of equipment. The next step is for the Parish Council's General Purposes Working Group to meet with Melanie and Clare to decide how to proceed.

It is possible that improved play facilities could be part of a much larger 'Parish Plan' which might incorporate a number of ways to enhance village life. Two Councillors have attended a workshop about how to implement a Parish Plan and already a small number of villagers have met for further discussion. This idea is still in its very early stages and a lot more thought and work needs to be done before it is decided whether this idea is worth pursuing further.

We were impressed to hear from Clare Soper, who is a Drayton School Governor, that the school is taking very seriously the need to use less energy and has appointed monitors to keep an eye on each class's use of electricity and gas, turning off lights and monitoring temperature. Energy use throughout the village, both in public and private space is an item that could be included in a village plan.

Once again the reservoir was a hot topic for discussion. Following a recent presentation to councils explaining the need for a reservoir, Thames Water requested a response by November 9th. Drayton PC feels the need for more time and for the aid of an independent body to help us interpret the technical data and assess situation; this is what we have asked for, although it may not be forthcoming.

The Council owns a large number of assets including the play equipment at Lockway, some of which is about to be overhauled. All assets have to be insured and recently our treasurer, Robin Butler, has been very busy searching the village to ascertain whether all the seats, notice boards, rubbish bins, bus stops etc. etc. are where they are supposed to be. It's amazing how elusive a public seat can become!

The next meeting of the Council will be on Monday 4th December at 7.45 pm in the Caudwell Day Centre. If you have any concerns that you wish to bring to the Council or if you would just like to see how the Council operates, you would be very welcome.



WESTMINSTER LETTER

Ed Vaizey

By the time you read this, the Queen will have opened Parliament (November 15th), delivered what is known as the Queen's Speech and a new session of Parliament will have begun.

The parliamentary year runs from November until the following October, and it is during this period (with the odd exception) that the Government must pass its legislation.

The Queen's Speech sets out the pieces of legislation the Government hopes to pass. Because of publishing deadlines, I am writing this a couple of days before the Queen's speech, so this is informed speculation about what the speech will contain, with a few lines giving you my views, and an invitation to all of you to write to me with any concerns you have about it. After all, the main bit of an MP's job description is to scrutinise and vote on legislation on your behalf, so I do need to hear from you!

It looks like there will be three or four main Bills. Firstly, a Pensions Bill will establish a National Saving Scheme to support the state pension. It will also make it automatic for individuals and companies to put money into a pension, unless they specifically opt out. I like this idea, as I think it will increase saving, though I am aware of the burden it could place on business. Secondly, a Mental Health Bill has been trailed. This is an interest of mine and an area where action is badly needed. As I found when campaigning to save the Park Hospital in Oxford, for which Young Minds have nominated me for a Charity Champion Award, adolescents are too often forgotten, and I will be campaigning to ensure they are included in this Bill. Thirdly, I do, of course, welcome a Climate Change Bill but will be looking closely to make sure it is not used as an excuse to raise tax on people in rural areas who rely on their cars. Finally, there will be some more terrorism legislation and the government may well try and increase the time people can be held without charge. As most of you will know I voted against the 90-day limit last session. Many of you expressed anger at my decision, and many of you supported it - it was certainly the most controversial issue this year. I will vote against 90 days again as I believe this would be a huge and unjustifiable incursion into our civil liberties.

Let me know what you think of the Queen's speech by using the address below.

My last surgeries of the year are in Grove on 8th December and the Faringdon Corn Exchange on the 15th December; the first of next year is at Wallingford Town Hall on 12th January. I can be contacted at any time at the House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, 0207 219 6350 or vaizeye@parliament.uk. Up to date news can be found at www.vaizey.com from which you can also go to my blog.

Merry Christmas and a Happy new year!



W. J. TAYLOR & SONS
FORGE GARAGE
HIGH STREET, DRAYTON
Nr. ABINGDON, OXON OX14 4JW

SUN Tuning
Car, M/C & 3-Wheeler
M.O.T. WHILE YOU WAIT

CAR - Service and Repairs

VINTAGE ROLLS-ROYCE WEDDING HIRE
Telephone ABINGDON 531350

**CLOCK REPAIRS
AND RESTORATION**
DAVID N. BENN
Fellow, British Horological Institute
4 Latton Close, Chilton, Oxon. OX11 0SU
Telephone (01235) 834303

FREE ESTIMATES, COLLECTION & DELIVERY

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.**

Sun	3	7.30 pm	Mozart Concert <i>All Saints, Sutton Courtenay</i>
Mon	4	7.45 pm	Parish Council <i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
Tues	5		Deck the Village Hall
Fri	8	5.30 pm	Ed Vaizey surgery <i>Grove</i>
Sun	10	7.30 pm	Candlelight Carol Service
Sun	31	8.00 pm	New Years Eve Dance

JANUARY

Mon	08	9.15 am	Chronicle Lottery deadline <i>Vickery's</i>
		5.15 pm	Chronicle copy deadline <i>Vickery's box</i>
Sat	20	9.00 am	Richard Webber Surgery (until 10.00 am)



Walk by the Thames when it's frosty?

All Saints Singers and Orchestra Sutton Courtenay



MOZART

250th BIRTHDAY CONCERT

Sunday 3rd December at 7.30 pm

All Saints Church, Sutton Courtenay.

Admission £10 - Concessions £8 - Family £20

www.allsaintssingers.org

Candlelight Carol Service



Drayton Hall at 7.30pm

Sunday 10th December

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

Music by Abingdon Town Band

Mince pies, tea and coffee

Free admission

Collection for:

NCH Action for Children



See the Nativity Panel in the St Peter's triptych?

Printed by DataPrint, 11a West Way, Botley,
Oxford.

New Years Eve Dance !

The Village Hall, Lockway, Drayton

Sunday - 31st December 2006

From: 8:00pm to 01:30am

Doors open 7:30pm

Dance & Jive the night away to

50's Rock & Roll and

60's & 70's Music

Bar until 1:00am

Bring your own Food if you wish,

Dress to suit any of the 3 Decades (Optional)

Tickets £ 10:00 per person.

Available from:

Mace - Paper Shop, Vickery's - Hardware Store
Drayton School

Or

Tel: 01235 535587

Email: Paulc@Blueleaf.net

**Tickets only. NO admittance on the door
(Numbers Limited)**

Over 18 Adults Only - No Smoking Venue

Proceeds to Drayton School and Church

Christmas at St Peter's Church



Carol Service: 6pm Sunday 17th December

Crib Service: 4pm on Sunday 24th December

Midnight communion: 11:30pm on 24th December

Family Communion: 10am on Christmas Morning

Christingle Service: 10am on Sunday 14th January



All are welcome to any of these services



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**