

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Webber

I do hope that you will forgive me for making this month's contribution a consideration of one aspect of one topic only. The time has come to draw attention to *the system* that is operating in deciding whether or not we should have a Reservoir next door to us. The District Council along with all other elected bodies is being asked to consider the case for need. The problem is that the scales are so heavily weighed in Thames Water's favour that the process of testing their case is threatening to become meaningless.

Reason and Fair Play v. Thames Water

Some Facts:

Thames Water (TW) is valued at £8billion+. It has more than 8 million customers

TW has made a very good profit for its shareholders every year since privatisation.

The proposed Reservoir is going to cost an estimated £1 billion+

The Reservoir is to be paid for by taxpayers / water rate payers.

TW has been 'given' £45million of taxpayers' money by central government/OFWAT to investigate and present the case for needing a Reservoir. TW has retained about half of the £45million to pay for / fight their case at a Public Enquiry. The rest has been spent on providing evidence for need and consultation documents.

The Reservoir if built will increase TWs Capital Asset value by £1billion+. Under OFWAT rules, the increase in TWs capital asset value will mean that OFWAT will allow TW to make more profit each year.

Should the proposal be passed at public enquiry, the financial benefits to TW will be enormous. If the proposal is turned down at Public Enquiry, apart from time lost, it will cost TW nothing. All expenses of the project are being borne by the Taxpayer / Water Rate Payer.

No money has been set aside to provide impartial, objective evidence for / against the proposal. So far *all* the evidence has been sponsored by TW using the £45million granted/allowed by OFWAT. No money has been set aside, as yet, to argue/test the case with TW at public enquiry.

Local government and other interested parties are having to fund their research and investigations from their own comparatively meagre resources. Government rate-capping severely limits how much councils can spend on seeking expert advice.

TW do not dispute the fact that the prospect of this Reservoir was a major carrot in the sale of TW to an Investment Fund run by

The Macquarrie Bank of Australia. Surely, this is outrageous.

There are questions that need answering by central government.

1. Why did the government not use the £45million to fund *independent* research?

2. Has central government set aside *any* money to aid interested parties in arguing their cases at Public Enquiry?

3. Was the Government aware that the Reservoir was being used as a carrot in the sale of TW?

4. Why have they not questioned TWs retention of £20million?

5. Is the government prepared to sponsor the Environment Agency and OFWAT to the same extent it has sponsored a private company?

6. Why has the government been treating TW as though it was a nationalised company?

It would seem that the TW proposed Reservoir is already full of some very dirty, muddy water and building isn't even due to start for several years.

Is there *no* sensible provision for the impartial testing of the case for the largest above ground water resource in Europe?

What a system for running a major resource! What a process for assessing the need and impact of a major project on the environment!!!

MOBILE PHONE MAST

Josie Midwinter

St Peter's church has been approached by an agent (QS4 Ltd), who is working on behalf of mobile phone companies, with a view to erecting a mobile phone mast on the tower of St Peter's church. The mast (if it were to be erected) would be concealed within a flag pole which from the ground would look very much like the flag pole which is presently there. There would be some additional electrical wiring and cabinets which will be placed behind the church. Everyone who lives within 100m radius of the church will receive a letter with more details. However to give everyone a chance to know what is happening copies of the letter plus a display of the plans will be available in church for people to see. On Saturday 3rd March from 10am to 12noon there will be a Coffee Morning in church and if you would like to drop in to see the plans and ask questions then you would be welcome to do so. After that copies of the letter will be left in the church and the plans can be seen on request to me or one of the churchwardens. The Ministers and PCC of the church are committed to doing only what is best for the future of the church and your views are important to us.

DRAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Ever wondered what YOUR Parish Council does?
Then come along to the **ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY.**

7.30pm on **MONDAY 2 APRIL 2007**

at the **CAUDWELL DAY CENTRE**

Followed by the Parish Council Meeting.

EVERYONE WELCOME!



CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The **April Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Friday, 30th March 2007** from **Sue Powell-Jones, (535044)** who should be contacted by any Agents requiring copies additional to their allocation.

The Editor will be **Derek Pooley, 11 Halls Close (559454)**. 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, 19th March 2007

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

THE FOLLOWING THREE MONTHS		
Chronicle Issue for	Copy for publication and return of Agents Lottery Packs needed by Monday:	Chronicle published and available for distribution on Friday:
May	16 April 2007	27 April 2007
June	14 May 2007	25 May 2007
July	18 June 2007	29 June 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! Please check that you receive a confirmation email. 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. On a **3½" diskette**, in PC format, preferably as a Microsoft Word file. Please include your address if you want the disk returned to you.

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

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

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

ADVERTISING RATES

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

---- Number of Inserts ----

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

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

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

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

To discuss requirements phone **Jean Barton**, the Chronicle's (temp) Advertising Manager, on 523702 or email:- jeanbarton@onetel.com

CHRONICLE LOTTERY

Daphne Samworth, Hon. Promoter

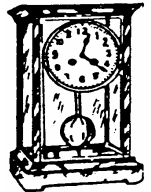
RESULTS OF THE FEBRUARY LOTTERY

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	1632	J Simmonds, 18 Galley Fields, Ab.	Sue Ash
£20	2534	C King, Gothic House, High St.	Darren McDonald
£15	1583	A Bartlet, 20 Binning Close	Ann Hutchins
£10	0374	J. Cook, 43 Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
£10	0943	Mr R Green, 66 Chiers Drive	Margaret Long
£10	0894	Mrs J Bott, 55 High St	Margaret Long
£10	0327	Mrs Shepherd, 6A Greenacres	Keith Clough
£10	2362	Mr Webb, Windyridge Farm	Claire Soper
£10	2277	Mr Thompson, 151 Drayton Road, Sutton Courtenay	Claire Soper
£10	0701	John Betteridge, c/o 52 Abingdon Road	Jenny Stevens

The winning tickets were drawn by staff from "The Sitting Room" from the 2264 tickets sold



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Drayton (on the Green)

YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor,

May we through the Chronicle, thank friends and neighbours for the many cards, flowers and letters received on the death of Maurice.

It has been such a comfort knowing your thoughts and prayers have been with us at this time.

Thank you all so much.

Sally, Julie, Rachel and families

Dear Editor,

Last September 'The Boulevard Swing' a local Jazz Band did an excellent concert in St Peter's church. All who attended thoroughly enjoyed the evening and a goodly sum was raised for the upkeep of the church. The group have offered to do another concert in April (see advert elsewhere in the Chronicle) and we at St Peter's have gratefully accepted their offer. Tickets are very reasonably priced and will be in great demand.

We look forward to seeing you for this Jazz and Swing Concert.

Josie Midwinter

Dear Editor

I wish to thank all the kind people who donated items for me to sell in 2006. I would also like to thank all those who helped me through the year. £1,000 was donated to Kingfisher School and they are buying a PA system. £300 was donated to the Caudwell Day Centre for various items that they require.

This year's chosen charity is the Air Ambulance which is relocating to Benson. My first sale is on 24th March 2007 at the Caudwell Day centre between 2pm and 4pm.

Once again thank you everyone for your continued support

Betty Krason

Dear Editor,

Last October the Chronicle printed an article about my selection for the Commonwealth Archery Championships; this letter is to give an update on my progress.

I competed as a member of the England team in the Commonwealth Archery Championships in India last November. The trip was a success and I came away with an individual placing of 9th and a team placing of 2nd, losing to India in the finals by just one point! Even still, a silver medal in my first international event was very pleasing! A big thanks to those who offered their help and support – I was extremely busy in the lead-up to the event and so wasn't fully able to take advantage of the offers.

Since then, I've been selected to represent England again, this time at the British National Indoor Championships. Each year, there is a home nation's match against Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. England is very hopeful for a win this year – we usually lose to Scotland! The tournament is in mid-February and will probably be over by the time this makes it to print.

Furthermore, in late January, I took part in the World Indoor Archery Championships selection event against the British Senior Squad. As the only entrant to have qualified on score alone, I came away from the selection shoot in third place, which was good enough to earn myself a position on the British team. This means I will be travelling to Turkey in mid-March to compete against the best archers in the world! As a major bonus, the trip is fully funded this time!

Grant Womack

Dear Editor,

My family and I would like to thank everyone for the cards, messages and donations that they sent in memory of Bob, also all who braved the chill wind to attend the Church Service.

Betty Richardson



WARNING – ROAD CLOSURE

Councillor Mike Badcock (Abingdon West) has told the Chronicle of the following:

Road closure in both directions on the bend near the Fish, Sutton Courtenay on 3rd & 4th March. The suggested alternative route is via Ock Street, Abingdon



Dear Editor,

St. Peter's Church is a member of the Abingdon Traidcraft Group. The group is made up of around fifteen churches in and around Abingdon, who seek to promote the sale of fairly traded goods. For the year ending 31st December 2006 our sales amounted to £2276.89, this makes St. Peter's the highest selling church in the group, so a big thank you to everyone who has supported us.

Fair Trade goods are sold in the church on the first Sunday of the month from 11am to 11.45am and also on the preceding Saturday from 9.45 to 10.45am. Please continue to give us your support and if you would like to know more about Traidcraft then do come along and see us, perhaps you would like to place a regular order.

Traidcraft was established in 1979 as a Christian response to poverty and helps small producers in the developing world engage in international trade. Traidcraft works with people of all faiths and none to create opportunities for the poor to harness the benefits of trade, offering them hope for a better future.

If everyone could commit to spending £2-£5 a month on fairly traded goods (ie the price of a packet of tea and a jar of coffee) it would make a huge difference.

Val Cross and Victoria Griffiths

Dear Editor

How very refreshing to see, during the recent snows, children playing on the Millennium Green, having a great time throwing snowballs, building snowmen and generally enjoying themselves without a single Health & Safety Officer wielding a clipboard to be seen.

What japes Pip!!!!

Jeanette Anderton

Dear Editor,

Imagine a small village, with a village green with geese wandering around. Look over the wall see the cattle in the farmyard. Walk to the butchers, on the way talking with other people over their garden walls. Then visit the green grocers, pass the doctors surgery or dentists. All on your doorstep. Sounds idyllic doesn't it? This was Drayton just 30 years ago.

Now it's all gone, which to me is very sad. And now Thames Water are going to take away what is left of our once truly rural community with the construction of a vast (and in my opinion) not needed reservoir.

I visited the latest exhibition of the proposed project, and yes it all looks very nice on the computer generated images, but let's think of the reality. When completed it will be one of the largest man made bodies of water in Europe – with many visitors every day, all in cars, all contributing to the congestion we already have to deal with. Then the effect on our climate. Will we be engulfed in fog? All this after 10 years of construction, which we are led to believe won't affect us (no dust or construction traffic).

So please say NO to the reservoir, and don't be fooled by glossy presentations and computer generated images. Let's not erode even more our fast disappearing community.

Julian Cook

ST PETER'S CHURCH

Priest in Charge Revd Josie Midwinter.....531374
Licensed Lay Minister Dr Peter Barton523702
OLM 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 (CW Traditional)
 10.00 am Sung Eucharist (CW), except 2nd Sunday
 when there is a non-Eucharistic Family
 Service – but please see below
 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

Every Third Sunday 10.00 am Sunday Pebbles *Church Room*
 Monday 7.45 pm Bell Ringing Practice *Bell Tower*
 Every Second Friday 6.30 pm Choir Practice *Church Room*

CALENDAR FOR MARCH

Sun 4th 11.15 am Sale of Fair Trade goods *Church*
 Tues 6th 3.00 pm First Tuesday Connections *Church Room*
 (drop in for tea and a chat)
 Sun 11th 10.00am Special Eucharist to dedicate the new Lectern
Church
 Sun 18th 10.00 am Mothering Sunday Family service *Church*

PARISH REGISTER

Burial of Ashes

24th January Molly Bradfield
 11th February Maurice Dixon

Holy Baptism

28th January Madison Lily Brown

YOU STAY – WE PRAY

25th Feb– 3rd March High Street, Chiers Drive, Cheers Farm,
 Halls Close.
 4th – 17th March Lockway & Whitehorns Way.
 18th –24th March Corneville Road, Crabtree Lane,
 Lesparre Close.
 25th –31st March Drayton Road, Milton Road, New Cut Mill
 Fisher Close, Marcham Road, Meads Close,
 Rippington Court, Stone Hill

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LETTER FROM REV JOSIE MIDWINTER

Dear Friends

In preparation for the History Weekend which we are planning for later this year (see separate advert) I have been looking at the history and development of the church. Over the centuries the church has gone through a number of changes. The original building in the 13th century would have been a very simple construction consisting of just the main body of the church. The tower was added two centuries later in the 15th century and the older chancel was probably added then too. The biggest change in the size and shape of the church came in the 19th century. This was when Drayton, in common with many other towns and villages, began to grow as a result of Victorian expansion. In 1855 the old rood screen which went across the top end of the church was removed and a chancel arch and chancel were added. The three-decker pulpit was removed and replaced by a single pulpit. The Lady Chapel was restored and the clergy vestry on the north side was added. The medieval porch was removed and the current one built in its place. The pews were also reordered and new ones added. At this point Drayton was part of St Helen's Abingdon and the curate Thomas Gwynne Mortimer was responsible for overseeing these changes. He was followed by Fredrick Theobald, who after three years as a curate, became the first Vicar of Drayton in 1868 when Drayton with Sutton Wick (previously part of Sutton Courtenay) was made a separate parish.

CHURCH DETECTIVES: While clearing out the cupboards of the church I came across a small oil painting of the church probably painted about 1900. On the back of the picture it makes mention of the Wiggins Family and I would like to trace members of the family so that I can ask them about the picture and perhaps get it cleaned and framed to go in the church. Also while re-framing a picture we found sealed in the back a photo of a clergyman. We think it is probably Revd F. Chapman who was vicar from 1908-1924. The discovery of the photo gave me the idea of compiling a photo album of all the vicars of Drayton while there are still people around who may have suitable photos. If you can help with either of these issues please get in touch with me.

NEW LECTERN: The church is a living, growing, developing place - not a museum. Therefore every generation has an input into its growth and development as we have seen above. In 2003 a bequest was made to the church for the purpose of buying a new lectern as the old one had become unstable. It has taken a time to find the right type of lectern which gives us the things we need but which blend in with the present furniture in church. Last year we were able to take the final steps of choosing a medium oak lectern, with the crossed keys of St Peter on the front and an integrated mike which will fit in with our present sound system. The lectern will be dedicated at the **10am service on Sunday 11th March and the preacher will be Revd Dorothy Derrick.** Everyone is welcome to come along to this service and see how well the new lectern fits in - we pray that it will serve the church for many years to come.

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

EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME

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 6th March and 3rd April. If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.

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MISSED OUT ON YOUR CHRONICLE?

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

WANTED – CLERK TO THE DRAYTON SCHOOL GOVERNORS

A new clerk is required by the Drayton School Governors from September 2007. This is an essential, voluntary position as governors meeting cannot take place without a clerk. Duties mainly involve taking minutes at governors meetings, of which there are four per year, and a few administrative duties.

No experience is necessary.

For more information please contact

Clare on 534540 or email acventom@tesco.net

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

A warm welcome to Kath and Clive Norkett, and their two children Andrew and Rebecca, who recently moved in to Barford House, High Street.

Darren McDonald

Home-Start Antiques Roadshow!

Wantage Civic Hall, 23rd March

10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

Dig out your treasures and bring them along for valuation by the experts. Bonhams, who have been auctioneers and valuers since 1793 will be using their expert skills to value your household wonders, all in aid of Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire, a local charity helping local families with small children. The cost of valuing two items is £5.00 and £1.00 per subsequent item.

Refreshments available.

For more information, please contact
Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire on 01235 511152



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GREAT FIRE IN DRAYTON

(In 1780)

John Annells

When my father Alfred Annells, who lived most of his adult life in Drayton, died, among his personal effects were two pages of foolscap handwritten writing. It was entitled Drayton Great Fire. I have read it many, many times and each time I seem to find something in it that I had not noticed previously. This is a transcript of the pages exactly as it was written. The inappropriate use of capital letters, the spelling of 'furiously' and 'destructive,' the strange phraseology and the grammar are faithfully copied from the papers from my father. The sentence 'Only four persons were insured.....' is as written. It has since been suggested to me that it was perhaps incorrectly re-written out, and the sentence should read 'Only four persons were injured'. I totally agree with that interpretation, however I checked my father's copy and it was clearly written as 'insured'.

At the end the sum of £6300 is mentioned. I would have thought that this was a huge sum of money for thirty dwelling houses, barns and outhouses in 1780. I really don't know. Perhaps this is another example of mistranscribing down the years. The main unanswered question is who was the original author? The sentence 'The damage sustained US' suggests to me someone from the village. The piece ends with two sets of initials. --GH (MSS) and E.J.D. I read MSS as Manuscript but I could be wrong. Is GH a person or perhaps a newspaper? Every time I read it I come up with more questions than answers. *John Annells*

"Drayton Great Fire"

On Sunday between twelve and one o'clock at noon, the 16th April 1780 a most terrible fire broke out in a house next the Wheatsheaf at Drayton near Abingdon. Berks. There being a strong westerly wind, it soon spread itself on both sides of the road to the other end of the village, so that, within the space of two hours, about thirty dwelling houses, with all the Barns, Outhouses, and ricks near them were consumed. Mr. Eyston's house being the last on the south side of the road and having a court round it, enclosed with a stone wall, was with great difficulty, saved from the general destruction. The wheat ricks burnt furiously and looked like mountains, belching out flames. The heat was so exceedingly great during the height of the fire, that though the road is very broad, no body could venture themselves in it. The church was not hurt, but even the briars that were put upon the graves, in church yard were burnt. The flakes and ashes were carried by the violence of the wind as far as Wallingford. Only four persons were insured - a poor woman, about sixty years of age named Tyrrell, was so exceedingly burnt, that she died the next day - one mare burnt, belonging to Farmer Cheer. The damage sustained us on valuation was £6300. There was a great fire at the same place, which was likewise in April, about forty years before though not so destructive as this last.

GITI(MSS)

E.J.D"



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My Bookstart Treasure Chest is available to 3 year olds and is delivered to your child's pre-school. If your child does not attend a pre-school collect your Treasure Chest from the library.

If you run a pre-school and have not given the Bookstart co-ordinator the number of 3 year olds in your setting, please contact her as soon as possible to ensure delivery by August 2007.

For more information contact [Viv Kadobinsky](mailto:Viv.Kadobinsky)

Bookstart Co-ordinator for Oxfordshire on 01865 810243.

Or visit the web site at www.bookstart.org.uk

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Five Claims to Fame



An introduction to the history of five villages

A talk given by Michael St John Parker
(Former Headmaster of Abingdon School and local historian)

**7.30pm on Friday 20th April
In Steventon Village Hall**

A talk of 20/30 minutes followed by questions.
Light refreshments are included in the ticket price of £5
Tickets available from the church, the school,
or ring 531374

This is a taster for the **History Weekend** which will take place from 29th June to 1st July in our local churches and schools and there will be full information about this on display.

(Editor's note. John's item on the left may be of interest to the organisers of the History Weekend (29th June-1st July). I can pass on his contact details if required. Dave Lee, email on page 2)

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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Jennifer Pooley

This report covers the meetings of 8th January and 5th February.

Councillors having recently been to various Thames Water exhibitions/seminars, the proposed reservoir development was again discussed at February's meeting. Members of the Council are not all convinced that Thames Water has satisfactorily proved the case of need for the reservoir, and both the Council and the RAP group (Reservoir Affected Parishes) are monitoring the situation.

Progress is being made in the effort to provide better play opportunities for youngsters. If you've not yet returned the questionnaire in January's Chronicle there is still time to do so.

Concerned about fallen trees and also vehicles using Kiln Lane bridleway, two members of the public attended the last meeting. After recent storms many old trees have fallen; all have been reported to the OCC, although some are solely the responsibility of landowners. A group of Councillors will shortly walk the village paths to see if it might be possible to plant trees to replace some of the lost ones.

As to vehicles being driven along Kiln Lane it might be useful to clarify what the law is about footpaths and bridleways. **Footpaths** - "Where the public right of passage is **on foot only**". **Bridleways** - "Where the public right of passage is for **walkers, for those riding or leading a horse and, sometimes to drive animals. There is also a statutory right to ride a bicycle on a bridleway**". So bridleways are definitely not for motor vehicles.

The Parish Council is involved with the police in the Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) that meets regularly. At a public meeting last year Drayton residents highlighted speeding as the most pressing problem, followed by antisocial behaviour. The police are currently targeting with some success drivers who ignore the speed limit as they drive through the village.

Readers may know about recent Government legislation making regular topple testing of grave headstones compulsory. This is an expensive operation and consequently the Parish Council, mindful that it must endeavour to use public money responsibly, has decided that in future graves in the burial ground may have tablets placed at an angle but not upright headstones.

Two dates for your diaries: Monday April 2nd at 7.30pm the Annual Parish Meeting in Caudwell Day Centre; Saturday 7th July Drayton Community Day.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 5th at 7.45pm in the Caudwell Day Centre. All are welcome. Also please do think about Daniel Scharf's plea in last month's Chronicle for new Parish Councillors as from May this year.



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WESTMINSTER LETTER

Ed Vaizey

If there is one thing I have learned since becoming an MP, it is the frustration many people feel at not having control over what happens in their local communities. We are all aware of the campaigns to keep our community hospitals, or save our local post offices, and the huge concern over the growth in housing. It's a really big problem in rural areas in particular, where local services are under threat all the time. For example 70% of rural parishes do not have a post office, 75% no bus service and 83% no GP. This causes real hardship to many people, particularly those that are less able to travel outside their local area for the essentials. For the first time in years there is a serious proposal in Parliament to address the decline in many areas of community life. This has taken the form of the Sustainable Communities Bill. It has support from all parties and hundreds of charities, national pressure groups and councils. If passed it will force the government to draw up an action plan for every community to reverse the decline in quality of life resulting from closures of local shops, help small local businesses threatened by big national retailers and address the social cost of people having to drive more as less and less is available locally. You will all have the right to influence this plan through the local council. The government will have to accept the council's recommendations unless they can show good reason not to. The central financial implication for us is that South Oxfordshire/Vale of White Horse council would be given a breakdown of how central government spends money on local services in our area. If the council disagrees with how these resources are currently spent they can come up with an alternative plan that the Communities Secretary will have to accept and implement unless he can prove that it conflicts with national government policies. This bill may not be a silver bullet but if passed may start to address the growing sense of alienation many people feel with the way things happen across the country. It has already passed one hurdle by 175 votes to 17; there are still many hurdles but there is a growing feeling in Westminster that this may just happen. Upcoming surgeries are in Grove on 2nd March, Shrivenham on 16th March and Wantage Civic Hall on 23rd March. All are from 5.30 - 7pm. I can be contacted at any time at the House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, 0207 219 6350 or vaizeye@parliament.uk.

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this service and see the new lectern which
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Steventon. Tel. (01235) 834093

ALL AROUND

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Pearl Stanbridge

Grateful thanks are extended to all supporters of our Easter Draw also ticket sellers and generous donors of prizes.

The next committee meeting will be held on Easter Draw night Monday 19th March at 7.30 pm.

PRE SCHOOL REPORT

Debbie Bargas

We would like to wish Max Greenall all the very best as he is now attending BIG school, also we would like to welcome Mitchell, Eliza, Aston, and welcome back to Arun and Dion.

Pre School is very busy this term discovering our senses, we have started by making different types of delicious bread using their touch, smell and taste senses, which has been enjoyed by the children at snack time. Watch this space for more of the children's discoveries and activities.

We will be helping to raise funds for Red Nose Day 07 on 16th March with various RED activities, including dressing in red pyjamas, face painting and making red cakes in the week leading up to RND 07.

With the generous donation of the large piece of garden given to us by Drayton School, we are looking for ways to raise funds to equip and update the play area for the children, so here are some fund raising events we are holding in the future.

An Easter raffle will be held on Thurs 29th March, tickets will be on sale shortly, all donations gratefully received.

We are also organising a Table Top Sale on Sunday 25th March at Steventon Village Hall 10am to 12pm. Please come along and find a bargain, refreshments will be on sale. If you have unwanted items you would like to sell and make some money for yourself then why not have a table for £10. Ring Annette on 555216 for details.

Also coming up, the AGM Friday 4th May 8pm and Family Open Day Saturday 19th May 10am, details to follow.



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⇒ BOWLS CLUB

Roll Up

Both teams in the winter league are well placed to be among the honours this year, in Division 1, The Rollers are 6 points behind Didcot Barn Owls whom they will be playing on the 20th February..This now is a really big game for both clubs, and could mean that the winner will take the title. The Hammers in division 2 are still leading the field but their lead has been cut to 1 point and this is likely to go to the wire with Warborough (who inflicted their first defeat of the season at Drayton) looking like the only other contender at this stage. Forty three members and friends attended the dinner dance presentation night at Abingdon United Football Club and everyone had a very enjoyable night, with the meal much improved on recent years, this made for a very nice evening. A donation of £100 pounds was given to the British Heart Foundation. The Rose Bowl Triple leagues are well under way at the club and these will run until the end of June, so there is a long way to go but these leagues are proving once again to be very competitive.

And closing these notes, everyone at the club was very pleased to see Jean back bowling after recovering from her recent operation. Well done Jean.

DRAYTON WIVES

Daphne Barrand

The year started well with a talk by Diane Wilson on Dragonflies (Crime, Sex & Violence). Accompanied by some excellent digital pictures that showed the life cycle of these beautiful insects. (Digital pictures being a lot less fiddly than slides). It is amazing what goes on in our garden ponds while we are not looking. Drayton is covered in snow at the time of writing this. Very pretty, but I hope it will soon go and global warming restored in time for our Lunch in Steventon.

Dates for your Diary. March

Mon 5th COFFEE Margaret Long, Chiers Drive, High St.

Mon 19th WHIST Joyce Simmonds, Caudwell DC,

Wed 28th MEETING LOCK KEEPING, Sue Knight
Stanford in the Vale.

Subscriptions were due in January. £10. Please let Trudi have them 531516.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF COFFEE MORNING VENUE from the programme.

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MORE ALL AROUND

TODDLERS

Anna Loughlin

Toddler Group got off to a super start in 2007. It's been great to say hello to new mums and toddlers, and we welcome mum Judy and daughter Sienna, and mum Michaela and daughters Becky & Natalie. Also, congratulations to Michelle and family, whose son Freddie was born in early February.

Please come along to our group on a Thursday morning between 9.30 and 11 a.m. in the small hall at Drayton Village Hall. Come and have a coffee and chat and let your toddler enjoy playing with other children and quality toys. There's time for drinks and snacks, a craft activity and a sing-song at the end of the session. Come along and investigate or give Anna a call on 206170.

Looking ahead, Easter is not far away and an Easter Egg hunt is planned for Thursday 29 March. This will take place in the main hall, where toys, Easter craft activities, and, for the carers, coffee and cakes, will make the morning a very enjoyable one. Also on the horizon is the annual Barnardo's Toddle at Beale Park on June 14. More details will be available nearer the time.

Finally, is anyone fed up with being stuck in the kitchen? Here's your chance to cut down the food preparation time and indulge in some much needed relaxation time. Look out for details of the Pampered Chef evening...coming soon. All welcome!



HISTORY WEEKEND

29TH JUNE - 1ST JULY



Five local villages, including Drayton, will have their churches and schools open to display items of local and family history.

On the 20th April there will be a Launch Event (see separate advert) and then on 22 June a talk by the Wilts and Berks Canal Society. Leaflets with full details will be available at 50p from the church or the school or by ringing 531374.

More details in the next Chronicle

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FODSA FAMILY BINGO EVENING



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FUN FOR EVERYONE

⇒ TABLE TENNIS CLUB

John Gould

The Club is this season celebrating 21 years in the Didcot League. To mark this we are holding a dinner dance at the Abingdon Four Pillars on 21st April. Tony Krason is working hard to arrange the event. This is a 60's & 70's evening with a three-course meal included at a cost of £16.50 per person. All current members and former members have received invitations to attend with their families, but if anyone reading this has been missed then they should ring 531328 or 211764 for details.

The Didcot League season has about 8 weeks to go and 4 of our 5 teams are near the top of their respective Leagues. The A Team is involved in a 3 horse race in Division 2 with Didcot A and Crown. Drayton has never won the top division so we are all keeping our fingers crossed.

The B team is up against RAL B, RAL C and Sutton A for Division 2 honours. The team still have to play two of them and those results could decide if the team is ultimately successful.

The C team in Division 3 is sure to finish in the top two and get promotion. They are vying with Sutton C for top spot and are currently 4 points ahead. The two teams will meet in the last game of the season in April so it will go right to the wire.

Drayton D is also in a race for honours in Division 4. They are currently second and look good for at least runners up spot.

Our E team is still bottom of Division 4 but are making up the gap in points so hopefully they will have a strong finish and climb a place or two.

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 along.

Janet Manning

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YET MORE ALL AROUND

DRAYTON TWINNING SOCIETY Alun Griffiths

Following successful visits over the past 8 years, we will again be hosting a visit by a group of around 25-30 people, of all ages, from Lesparre over the August Bank Holiday weekend (24th – 28th August). The visitors stay with host families in Drayton and we are organising a range of activities for them during the day. In previous years, these activities have ranged from “large scale” outings, such as trips along the Thames to Oxford or a visit to Warwick castle to smaller outings where the host family simply show their visitors the attractions of the countryside surrounding Drayton, perhaps over a leisurely picnic or the odd pint in a local pub.

We already have several families who have offered to act as hosts but are always keen to expand contacts between Drayton and our Twin Town of Lesparre. So, if you have a spare room and would be prepared to put up one or two visitors during this period **PLEASE HELP!** by contacting either Michael Bell (531388) or Alun Griffiths (531463). It is not necessary to speak French: indeed, half the fun is trying to communicate!!

These visits are reciprocal, with a party from Drayton visiting Lesparre in alternate years. For those of you who may be new to the village, Lesparre is a town in the heart of the Medoc region, and opportunities for sampling the local food and drink abound. Details of last year’s visit can be found on our website at:

http://www.oxnet.org.uk/club_clubDetails.asp?ClubID=22320

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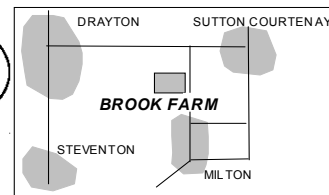
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DRAYTON DIARY

FOR MARCH

All events are at Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise
(To book Drayton Hall call Ann Webb on 531418)
website address www.draytonvh.org.uk

Regular Events are listed opposite

Sat	3rd	9.45 – 10.45am	Fair Trade Sale	Church
Sat	3rd	10am - 2pm	Parish Council	
Sun	4th	11 – 11.45am	Fair Trade Sale	Church
Mon	5th	7.45pm	Parish Council	Caudwell DC
Sat	10th		Private Party	
Sun	11th	All day	Bowls	
Sat	17th		Sequence Dance evening	
Mon	19th	5.15 pm	Chronicle copy deadline	Vickery's box
Sat	24th		Private Party	
Fri	30th		Oxfordshire Drama Network AGM	
Sat	31st		Sequence Dance Annual Dinner Dance	
Sat	31st	9.45 - 10.45am	Fair Trade Sale	Church



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REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

MONDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	School Ground Bldg
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
5.45 pm	Beavers (Boys / girls, 6–8 yrs, Tel. 512834)	Steventon Hall
7.00 pm	Scouts (Boys / girls, 8-10 yrs, Tel. 512834)	Steventon Hall
8.30 pm	Badminton (Private Group)	
7.15 pm	Drayton Wives Whist (3rd Monday)	Caudwell DC
7.30 pm	Table Tennis Practice	School
7.45 pm	Parish Council (1st Monday)	Caudwell DC
7.45 pm	Bell-ringing (for 1½ hours)	St Peter's

TUESDAYS

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

THURSDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	School Ground Bldg
	followed by lunch club and afternoon session	
9.00 am	Foot Clinic (First Thursday in Month)	Caudwell Day Centre
9.30 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's Lady Chapel
9.30 am	Parent & Toddler Group	
9.50 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	Haywards Rd
10.15 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	The Green Car Pk
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
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)	Sch'l Ground Bldg
11.00 am	The Friday Club (fortnightly) 202466	Caudwell Day Centre
6.30pm	Choir Practice	St Peter's

SUNDAYS

8.00 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (Family Service 2nd Sunday)	St Peter's
11.15 am	Family Time (1st Sunday)	Baptist Church
6.00 pm	Evening Worship	Baptist Church

Editor's note: If anyone knows of any inaccuracies in the above list, please contact one of the editors (see page 2)

There has been a recent instance of a person arriving at an advertised event only to find that it had been discontinued.

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.

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