

# DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Derek Pooley

Volume 30 No. 3

April 2007

## 100 YEARS OF THE

Amongst his '12 Books that Changed the World' Melvyn Bragg includes 'The Rule Book of Association Football'. He gives it a place alongside such massively influential works as 'Magna Carta', Isaac Newton's 'Principia Mathematica' and Adam Smith's 'Wealth of Nations', the foundation stones respectively of our law and of modern science and economics. He argues that the game launched onto mankind in 1863 by that group of former English public-school, Oxbridge men has changed the world just as the others did. I agree! It is estimated that 8 out of 10 people on the planet watched something of the 2006 Football World Cup in Germany; no other game comes close to that sort of popularity.

From that pub in Loncoln's Inn Fields in London, where the rules were formulated, football took 44 years to reach Drayton, which means that Drayton Football Club celebrates its centenary this year. Paul Evans (see opposite) wants everyone who has ever been associated with the Club to join in a celebration on 15 June 2007. We in the Chronicle wish them not only a successful celebration but also beautiful games for another 100 years.

*Derek Pooley*



The Drayton team of 1961/62

A Mott, D Smith, D Painton, I Chapman, T Wond, D Carter  
R Mott, A Wilkins, R James, E Russell, B Danby

## DRAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Ever wondered what YOUR Parish Council does?  
Or met YOUR councillors?

Then come along to YOUR

### ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

7.30pm on MONDAY 2nd APRIL 2007  
at the CAUDWELL DAY CENTRE  
Followed by the Parish Council Meeting.

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

Your chance to speak; your chance to vote

## BEAUTIFUL GAME

This year Drayton Football Club, who play in the North Berks League, are celebrating being 100 years old. To mark this achievement we are holding a centenary celebration evening at Drayton Golf Club on Friday 15th June 2007. We would like to see as many players and club officials, old and new, as possible attending. So if you would like to reminisce with legends such as Ivor Chapman, Tam Buckingham, Bryn Jones, Bob Paxman, Mel Rivers or Dick Talbot then this is a night not to be missed. Maybe you would like to spin a yarn and share a few beers with the likes of Tim Absolom, Alan Evans, Mel James, Dave Painton, Chris Russell or Keith Stopps. If so, whoever you may be, if you have had any involvement with Drayton Football Club over the years, we would love to see you all there. Even though we will attempt to contact as many people as possible via advertising, feel free to spread the word. Entrance on the night will be by ticket only, free of charge but you must reserve your ticket in advance. We expect the night to be extremely well supported, so please contact one of the people listed below as soon as possible.

See you on the 15th!

*Paul Evans*

Glenn Woolley (531457 or g.woolley@virgin.net); Alan Alston (531425); Paul Evans (203108 or Evans42@ntlworld.com); Barry Davis (07767 850251).

### Also in this issue:

- P2: The Chronicle reaches 16
- P3: Come to the Drayton Trusts' AGMs
- P3: Speeding in Drayton targeted by the police
- P5: Drayton's neighbourhood Methodists
- P7: What about an earth bund along the A34?
- P8: Living Drayton History
- P12: Football for the under-8's
- P14: Why not become a Parish Councillor?

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Invites you to the

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Drayton Village Hall

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and be with your friends**

Contact Claire Soper (531632), Melanie Parker (07799 850974) or Andrew Hopkins 07890 756829) for more details and membership form.

**Please note: no entry if form is not signed and returned.**

# CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The **May Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Friday, 27 April 2007** from **Shirley Thomas, 48 Henleys Lane (531626)**, 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 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, 16 April 2007.**

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

THE SUBSEQUENT THREE MONTHS		
Issue for	Copy for publication and return of Agents Lottery Packs needed by Monday:	Chronicle published and available for distribution on Friday:
June	15 May 2007	25 May 2007
July	19 June 2007	29 June 2007
August	17 July 2007	27 July 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. The best is by **email** to the relevant editor. These contributions should either be embedded in your email as **plain text** or attached as a **rich-text** or **Microsoft Word** document; we do not have all word processing packages! When using email make sure the editor acknowledges your contribution within 2 or 3 days. 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 accurately, but not 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.

It can be a great help if paper items are left in the box a few days before the closing date.

## 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, **no later than the Friday before the main Monday deadline given above.**

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

# CHRONICLE LOTTERY

**Daphne Samworth, Hon Promoter**

## RESULTS OF THE MARCH LOTTERY

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	2489	C. D'Cruze, 10 Newman Lane.	Jean Oliver
£20	1934	Mrs Fowler, 88 Whitehorns Way	Wendy Evans
£15	0323	R Bruce, 4 Greenacres	Keith Clough
£10	0634	Mrs Hillier, 33 Crabtree Lane	Jenny Keeping
£10	1111	A Galloway, 4 Halls Close	Mary Alexander
£10	1661	J. Mullins, 246 Steventon Road	Sue Ash
£10	2503	Mr Shepherd, 1 Newman Lane	Jean Oliver
£10	0113	D. Shurmer, 111 Abingdon Road	Julie Brown
£10	0793	Kay Davis, 4 Church Lane	Susan Brooks
£10	2338	Claire Soper, 127 Drayton Rd, SC	Claire Soper

The winning tickets were drawn by members of the Art Group from the 2266 tickets sold

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# CHRONICLE NEWS

We are delighted to welcome Sue Powell-Jones onto the team! She has kindly volunteered to be a Distributor. So she joins Margaret Armstrong, Helen Brasington and Shirley Thomas, who bring the Chronicles to the Area Agents for them to distribute. Her first duty is this month. Thank you Sue!

*Jean Barton*

Have you noticed that your Chronicles have been getting bigger? Back in 1999 the average number of pages over the year was 10.36 whereas by 2006 the average was up to 12.55.

Of course, each issue of the Chronicle must be a whole, even number of pages; the editor's puzzle each month is over what material he must add or omit to achieve that. In 1999 we had mostly 10-pagers, with some 8s and rather more 12s. By 2006 they were mostly 12-pagers with one 10 and several 14s. Now, for the first time ever, we have a 16-pager. We do welcome the extra material – despite the extra work for the poor editors!!

*Derek Pooley*

# NOTICE BOARD

## DRAYTON TRUSTS AGMs

**Andrew Bax**

Everyone is welcome to attend the Annual General Meetings of Drayton Community Trust (7.30pm) and Drayton Millennium Green Trust (8.00pm), both to be held in the Caudwell Day Centre on Tuesday 15th May.

## AGE CONCERN

**Alex Ivey**

Are you lonely? Do you have little contact with the outside world? On AGE Concern's Phone Link service, trained volunteers phone house-bound and isolated older people for a friendly chat once or twice a week, free of charge.

One client said: 'The Phone Link has given me something special to look forward to during the day. It is a lifeline. I don't know what I would do without it.'

If you think you might benefit from the service, or you know someone else who would, please contact me at Age Concern - Oxfordshire on 01235 849400.

## RADLEY HISTORY CLUB

**Christine Wootton**

The club is having an exhibition in Radley Village Hall, from 1.30 to 5.30 p.m., on May 12th and 13th. There will be many displays showing the history of the village. As there are likely to be people in Drayton who have Radley ancestors, I thought it might be of interest to them to know about the exhibition.

## HALL MANAGEMENT MEETING

**Ann Webb**

The March meeting was held last night (19th March) at the Hall. I know it was cold, but this was one of those virtual meetings when virtually everybody stayed at home. This is not only annoying but a total waste of time for those who did turn up. A total waste of light and heat, used by those who did, while we waited for the people who did not let us know they weren't coming to put in an appearance.

The items that we were intending to discuss last night but failed to were as follows:

- the cupboards and what is to go in them; a suggestion was made to charge each organisation for the area of storage space they take up.
- the new doors; these will not only improve the access but the locks as well.
- Replacement of chairs and tables and where they are stored.
- Stage carpeting and its cost.
- Many other smaller items that crop up during the evening.

All Drayton organisations will have received or will be receiving a letter from the secretary stating that if you can't come to the meeting you should find someone who can. I know it's not easy. I have 4 kids and 10 grandchildren and I try to fulfil all my obligations as well as baby sitting at a moments notice, as you do with children. If you can't come, and I appreciate there are times when it is not possible, you are not the only parent or member of the group; do try someone else! The village hall relies on the people that use it to make decisions as to its contents and its function.

We decided last night that we would hold another meeting, to give people a chance to attend and discuss the above-mentioned issues and a few other things as well because waiting another 2 months is time wasted. So we hope to shoe-horn everyone into the lounge at 8pm on Monday 23rd April and fly the St Georges day flag with us. It is after all the Village Hall

Please let either Sheila or me know that you will or will not be attending, either by phone or e-mail; Sheila at [merlincottage@fastmail.fm](mailto:merlincottage@fastmail.fm) or on 821833, Ann at [ann.1@btinternet.com](mailto:ann.1@btinternet.com) or on 531418. Thank-you.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION

**Mary de Vere**

Local residents in Appleford, Drayton, South Abingdon and Sutton Courtenay, together with Thames Valley Police formed a Neighbourhood Action Group (a NAG) last summer to tackle local concerns about crime and anti-social behaviour.

In the villages the problem chosen by residents to have top priority was speeding vehicles. Tests on speeding have now been done and speeds of over fifty miles per hour in the thirty miles per hour zones have been recorded. More speed monitoring will take place and Police Ultralase enforcement will happen at regular intervals. Those who drive too fast can expect to be caught. Remember that speeding kills!

Some of the culprits probably live in the villages themselves, others may be commuters hurrying to work or to their homes after work. Even people travelling late at night need to take note of the speeds permitted.

In South Abingdon residents saw the major problem as anti-social behaviour, so a dispersal order has been in place since last May covering a large part of South Abingdon. The number of complaints to the police has reduced from over 600 to nearer 500 so although things have improved we are still a long way from eradicating the problem. The police have been making more regular patrols in the area and young people can be asked by the police to 'move on' if they are creating a nuisance or behaving in a way which makes other residents feel uncomfortable.

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# ST PETER'S CHURCH

**Priest in Charge**     Revd Sister Josie Midwinter.....531374  
**Licensed Lay Minister**   Dr Peter Barton .....523702  
**Minister in Training and Choir**  
                                   Mrs Rosie Bruce.....525284  
**Churchwardens**         Mr Peter Cline .....530519  
                                   Mrs Sue Harris .....848361  
**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 APRIL

Sun 1st 11.15 pm   Sale of Fair Trade Goods     Church  
 Tues 3rd 3.00 pm   First Tuesday Connections   Church Room  
 Thurs 5th 8.00 pm   Maundy Thursday Service     Church  
 Sun 8th 5.30 am   Easter Vigil Service         Church  
           10.00 am   Easter Sunday Service       Church  
 Sat 14th 10.00 am   Churchyard Working Party   Churchyard  
 Sun 22nd 11.00 am   Annual Parochial Church Meeting   Church

## PARISH REGISTER

### Burial of Ashes

4th March   George Joseph James

## YOU STAY - WE PRAY in APRIL

1 - 14: Steventon Road, Eastway, Eastway MHP; 15 - 21: Church Lane, Henleys Lane, Caudwell Close, Gravel Lane; 22- 5 May: Abingdon Road, Oday Hill, Binning Close, Haywards Road

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Mrs Suzy Willis

MCSP SRP

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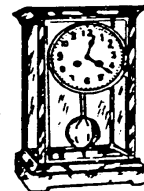
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## IT'S EASTER TIME AGAIN

**Dr Peter Barton**

I don't know how you have found the last twelve months but for me they seem to have flashed by. And as I write this once again here we are on the verge of Easter.



So what will you be doing over the holiday weekend? At present in gardens all around Drayton plant growth is well advanced as a result of another unusually mild winter. So will you be spending the time out in the fresh air, pruning, weeding, planting and mowing? It is of course a very popular weekend to have a go at all that, and will be all the more productive if the mower has already been given its annual thorough check-over. Or perhaps you have already decided on a bit of decorating. And of course there may well be relatives to visit or entertain.

But what is the origin of this Easter holiday anyway? At this time of year lots of eggs and fluffy chicks appear in the shops; symbols of new life, of hope and promise. Is all that what it is really about? For Christians it's about more than that. It's about celebrating something fundamental, paradoxically about both life and death. For Christians claim that through Jesus' suffering, death and rising again God provides us with a means of forgiveness, of the hope of a lasting relationship with Himself.

Now to many that may sound pretty far-fetched. And hasn't science disproved all that anyway, you may well ask. Some claim that is so and have written books to argue their case. And yet - the odd thing is that when we human beings are really up against it, there is no doubt that a lot of us turn to prayer. But to whom? Well, there is it seems for a majority of us, a sense of the reality of some "otherness", some being beyond ourselves to whom we turn especially at times of crisis, someone who will hear our prayers and hopefully is prepared to answer them.

Are such folks wrong to think like that? Christians are convinced that no, they are not. For Christians assert that this "otherness" is the God whom they worship and who is the source of all creation. And they go on to add that the real message of Easter is that this is a God who invites us to enjoy a lasting life giving relationship with Himself. A God who will never let us down and in whom we can trust and hope, however dark the present or the future may seem to you and me or indeed to the whole of humankind.

Now that, it seems to me really is a special offer worth taking up and celebrating this Easter weekend.

# 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**

## 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 3rd April and 1st May. If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.



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

### MEMORIALS

NEW MEMORIALS  
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## Bereavement Support Volunteers Wanted

**Please come to a Taster Evening  
at Sobell House to find out more**

Thursday 31st May from 4.00 - 6.00 p.m.  
Tuesday 12th June from 6.00 - 8.00 p.m.  
Sobell House Hospice, Churchill Hospital,  
Old Road, Headington, Oxford, OX3 7LT

**Please phone Jane Elliott or Carrie Bruce on  
(01865) 225878 for more information**

We do not recommend this work for those who have been bereaved during the last 2 years

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## LOCAL METHODIST WORSHIP

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

**Local contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409**

I would like to introduce Milton Methodist Church (see below) and to take this opportunity to welcome you to any of our regular activities which take place throughout each month.

*Kay Davies*

### Sunday worship at 10.30am.

These services are varied, being led by both our own Minister, Rev Helen White, and a team of other Ministers and Lay Preachers. We also have a variety of musicians who lead the singing and are always pleased to welcome new people if they wish to join in. Children of all ages are welcome in the Junior Church.

### Lunch Club

This is always the first Tuesday of the month at 12.30, with the next lunch club on Tuesday 2nd April. There is always a two-course meal followed by tea or coffee for a cost of £2.50. This is followed by a speaker or activity of some kind. Any of you are welcome to join us but please ring Geoff Caudle on 531409 in advance.

### Art Group

The art group meets on Fridays from 2 - 4 pm in the church hall. This is a chance to relax and be creative and is open to all abilities. For beginners there is always a chance for advice and tips from the more experienced members. Please feel free to come along if this sounds like a nice way to spend a couple of hours - you will be very welcome.

### Games Club

Friday's from 7.30 - 8.30pm. Various games and activities on offer for children to join in with and socialise together. Please contact me (Kay Davies) on 529510 if you would like more details.

### Good Friday Event on 6th April.

This is for all ages of children (although under 5's must be accompanied) from 10am-1pm. It is free of charge and there will be lots of craft and cooking activities. It will end with a story time followed by homemade hot cross buns. Please contact Mary Hancock on 848336 if you would like more details of this event.

# NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

## The Chronicle Team offers a warm welcome to Drayton to:

- the Amin Family who have moved to Steventon Road
- Caroline and Philip Evans and their children, George and Fiona, who moved into Greenacres from Abingdon.
- Charles and Tessa Hobday who have moved into Church Lane from London
- the Laws who have moved into Sutton Wick Lane from Dorchester-on-Thames, with their children Olivia, James & Joseph and their dog Louis. Diane is originally from New Zealand and Ross is Canadian.
- Robert Legg who has moved into Sutton Wick Lane from Swindon, though Robert previously lived in Abingdon.
- Jim McGill, now in Sutton Wick Lane
- Mr and Mrs. McMinn, now in Steventon Road
- Holger and Tina Schmidt, who have moved to Halls Close from Germany with children Meika and Henrik and Labrador Barney

Editor's Note: We regret we cannot also welcome Jim McGill's long-term partner, Sara Birchall, but Sara died recently, just 7 days after moving here and after battling with illness for many years. See below:

## SARA BIRCHALL

Tragically, Sara Birchall died peacefully in her beautiful new home in Sutton Wick Lane on Saturday, March 3, 2007, just seven days after moving here. Sara (47) had bravely fought an insurmountable nine-year battle against illness and sadly passed away in her sleep, tucked up in her own bed in the home she had long dreamed of

Sara, who leaves her beloved soulmate Jim, had been eagerly looking forward to developing the lovely garden and harvesting our first crop of apples in the autumn. She had also longed to become part of village life and had already made her first moves to joining the book club.

A former senior press executive with Honda UK, first based in Chiswick and then at the car manufacturer's new UK headquarters at Langley, Sara was multilingual in German, French, Spanish and Portuguese, a member of Mensa, and a former diver and freefall parachutist.

Sara will, as you would expect, be terribly missed. Most importantly though, Sara is now free of the never-ending pain she endured over the past four months. May she rest in peace.

## Jim McGill



## MISSED OUT ON YOUR CHRONICLE?

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**Martin Underwood 01235 847104 or 07748 632563**

## 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](mailto:acventom@tesco.net)**

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## NATASHA

## Judy Henman

I have again been asked about Natasha and her progress in life. She is still the same caring little girl, full of happiness and love. She can count, knows her colours and loves stories and slapstick humour. She is a happy little girl who loves people and still has the same infectious giggle. She still cannot sit up unsupported and has a major operation on her hips scheduled for June, with a year's recovery time. One of her ball and socket joints is 50% out the other one about 35%. One of her legs is now shorter than the other and she only winces with the pain. She's still desperate to walk and gallops along, legs going everywhere, when supported by an adult. She is even more determined now that her baby sister Page, 14 months, is walking. She still has several convulsions a month but mostly minor ones. She is now very frightened when she feels one coming on - and so are we.

The Pace centre (the only school in England of its kind) encourages disabled children to become as independent as they can, and to be determined not to give up. Natasha tries to dress herself with her one good hand and does not give up. Thank you so much to Janice and Glen at the Red Lion, the quiz winners and patrons, who continue to support the Pace centre. The Red Lion has just raised £125.37 for the centre in Aylesbury to continue its good work. Also, Geoff and Marian Dix collected £27.75 this month for Pace. In the last few years they have collected over £333 which is wonderful.

If anyone would like to visit Pace and see the children working, it is open to visitors on the 14th of June and a 10th of October. It a moving experience! Expect happiness! Call me on 531651 and I will get you an invitation and give you instructions to get there.

## Janet Manning

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# YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank all of those who are supporting the JAZZ & SWING EVENING at ST PETERS CHURCH on 28 April. Tickets have now been sold out. Could those few folk who have not yet paid me, please do so or please return the tickets to me if you are not going to attend as I have a waiting list of people who would like to come.

Many thanks. Don't forget to bring a cushion!

*Brian Thompson*

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank people for responding so generously to the St Peter's Lent Charity Collection this year. We are supporting the Mothers' Union Overseas Department in training birth attendants for mothers who have no access to mid-wives or hospital care.

It only costs just £37 to train and equip such a person. At our Mothering Sunday service on 18 March £350 was given (with gift aid this will be £440) and we still have money to come from Lent Lunches and any remaining envelopes. So we can train at least 12 birth attendants. If anyone else would like to contribute, gift envelopes are available at the back of the church and can be put in the wall safe by the door. Thank you everyone - a safely delivered baby is a joy to everyone - we could help make it happen for more families around the world.

*Josie Midwinter*

Dear Editor

On behalf of GARD, I would like to thank your readers for the support for GARD that was demonstrated by the presence of over 100 people at the recent public meeting at the Steventon Village Hall.

The presentation was very well received and there was a lively Q & A session. GARD enrolled a further 65 people and raised much needed funds which were kindly donated by those joining GARD. A new committee was elected and the first committee meeting was held on the 5th March. At this meeting we discussed many next steps including setting up a web site, further presentations at other locally affected villages and how GARD takes its fight forward to the next step.

We are continuing to build our case and our campaign is gathering momentum whilst we continue to see significant flooding across the area. We have been receiving calls from local people who have expressed their dismay and desperation at what might happen to them and their livelihoods and we are more determined than ever to fight Thames Water's plans. Anybody who wishes to join GARD can do so by emailing Lesley Lovell on lesleylovell1@btinternet.com. We need your support so that we can protect you, your family, home and livelihood.

We hope to have more news for you next month.

*Carole Hooper, Spokesperson GARD.*

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Dear Editor,

In early February I attended a workshop to discuss the various landscape, conservation, recreation and building design options for the possible reservoir. My clear preference is for the reservoir not to be built, but we need to face the distinct possibility that it may happen. There is too much to include in the space of a letter but there are three design features of particular note for Drayton:

1) Our northeast corner of the proposed reservoir would house all the negative infrastructure including: the pumping station, treatment works, car park(s), and visitors' centre. In other words just about everything that is not earth and water.

2) At the start of any building project an access road would be built from the Marcham side of the A415 near its junction with the A34 by Tesco. At Drayton, it would arrive at the north east point of the reservoir site alongside the A34, increasing the noise and pollution for us all.

3) Any reservoir would require an open channel between the reservoir and the bend of the River Thames between Sutton Courtenay and Abingdon. This would cross the road to Abingdon mid-way between the Sutton Wick and Preston Road junctions.

For Drayton the proposed reservoir would be disruptive both during and after construction. It would add to the nuisance of the A34 which is already exaggerated by the prevailing wind.

Speaking with Thames Water it became clear that there is one possible mitigation of nuisance that could hide much of the reservoir and take away much of the A34 nuisance. That would be for the soil from the open channel to be used to create a protective earth bund along our side the A34 to a height of the bridge behind Lockway. Speaking with neighbours I get the impression that although the initial bund construction would be disruptive, once built much of the proposed reservoir and A34 nuisance would be hidden from view making it a highly desirable landscaping option. It would also be in keeping with Thames Water's wish to spend landscaping monies in proportion to the disruption. Being of earth construction it should reduce much of the A34 noise that so blights this village. On the other hand some people whose gardens face the A34 may not like the loss of view but I would much prefer to see a distant earth mound, possibly clad with trees, rather than the A34, the reservoir and its entire infrastructure immediately beyond it.

I was wondering if other residents have thoughts on this matter.

*David Boyd, 26 Whitehorns Way*

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# LIVING HISTORY

## Josie Midwinter



Living history has become a very popular way of recording the events of the past from a personal point of view. Back in 1988 two members of the Drayton History Group interviewed Ethel Russell who was then 92. Her father was Charles Fisher the blacksmith and they lived in Forge Cottage on the High Street. She was able to recall the residents of High Street around 1900 and the following are extracts of her memoirs:

In front of the blacksmith's shop (Forge Cottage, below) was a walnut tree to which the horses were tied whilst the shoeing was taking place. Between the tree and the wall of the Almshouses was a stone circle where the wheels of the wagons were laid to have their 'tyres' fitted. The circle fitted the wheels exactly and there was a centre point for the hubs of the wheels. The blacksmith's shop was on the left with large doors opening outwards; inside was a large cask of beer because when the carters brought their horses for shoeing they needed to quench their thirst.



On the corner of Church Lane was a shop, a real corner shop that sold everything, occupied by Mrs Winter. This house is now called "Winter's Corner".

The large redbrick vicarage stood in spacious grounds in those days, surrounded by walls. The Rev. and Mrs Robinson lived there at that time (vicar 1878-1908). Mrs Robinson was a very good and kind person who always had soup on the stove. If anyone was ill or in need in any way Mrs Robinson was there to help.

Walnut Tree cottage was then a saw mill, occupied by a Mr Madoc who is remembered as the maker of coffins. Magpie cottage was Mr Belcher's butchers shop and previously it had sold faggots and peas. The Old Pound was occupied by Mr Carpenter who did some carrying in those days. The actual pound was between Old Pound and the School House. As well as stray animals, donkeys were kept there at Drayton Feast Times. The Feast was held on the last Saturday in June.

A cottage near the Green is remembered as having pig sties behind it and a pond in front. This was a pond with sloping sides so that the cart horses and their carts or wagons could be taken through it at the end of their working day to wash their feet and wheels.

(The Drayton Chronicle of Feb 1989 recorded Albert Augustus Clarke from the brick-making family which lived in both Bishop's Farm and White Lodge remembering: "They were also used by carters to wash the mud from the horses before they were stabled. It was quite a sight to see thirty or forty horses being ridden through the pond")

At the History Weekend (29 June to 1 July) there will be a display of Living History with some fascinating stories and memories provided by Drayton residents.



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## POND CONSERVATION

Gwen Price

I have recently completed a local pond survey for a national Pond Conservation inventory. I had to make observations and answer questions re plants, weeds, creatures, surrounds and the history of the pond. As I know the Millennium pond well, that is the pond I chose. There are three invasive weeds, brought in by the goldfish which arrived from somewhere. The weeds will stifle the pond if action is not taken. Offers of help to clear the weeds would be appreciated.

As a follow up of this study, the local pond survey would like to know how many ponds of any description, including garden ponds, there are in the village. Ponds work best ecologically when there are several in one area. If you have a pond, please could you let me have brief details of it by ringing 531205 or dropping a note into 39A Sutton Wick Lane. Thank you for your help. It will be interesting to know how many ponds there are in the village.

## Five Claims to Fame

An introduction to the history of five villages

A talk 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 included in the ticket price of £5

Tickets from Helen Kendrick 01235 848297

or Josie Midwinter 01235 531374

This is a taster for the **History Weekend** taking place from 29th June to 1st July in our local churches and schools. More information will be on display.

Editor's Note: For those of our readers without 6/6 vision (what used to be 20/20) the names of the 5 villages are on the spokes of the wheel. They are the DAMASCUS group; Drayton, Appleford, Milton, Sutton Courtenay and Steventon.



# DRAYTON'S BOYFRIEND

Glyn Johnson

When my wife Linda and I lived in London in the years B.C. (before children) we were avid theatre and concert-goers. Since moving to Drayton with our two boys opportunities have been scarce and entertainment outside the home has sunk to the level of 'Happy Feet' .....

It was a real treat therefore to see the Drayton Players, under Deirdre Jones's expert direction, put on Sandy Wilson's 'The Boyfriend'. I knew little of this work other than that Ken Russell had directed a film version starring Twiggy many years ago. It is, however, stuffed with familiar songs – not surprisingly, since its Broadway production ran a marathon stint from 1954 to 1996.

Wilson was born in Cheshire in 1924, around the time that the play is set. He wrote it as he approached the age of thirty and his education at Harrow School and Oriel College obviously set the backdrop for this delightful piece of escapism, which revolves around a finishing school in Nice. Here well-bred young ladies are taught how to appeal to well-bred young men and their families in order to ensure, well, breeding.

The central character is Polly Browne (charmingly played by Kate Green), only daughter of the widowed Percival Browne – a self-made millionaire. Pompous, poe-faced Percy is played with wonderful comic timing by Peter Jackson – who discovers that his daughter's headmistress was the French girl, Kiki, with whom he enjoyed an idyllic wartime affair many years previously.

Meanwhile, Polly's problem is that she has no boyfriend to accompany her to the carnival ball – no suitor could ever meet her father's expectations of a suitable man for his daughter. Having invented a Parisian beau to satisfy her girlfriends' curiosity, she is now faced with a lonely night under the public gaze – until she meets Tony, a messenger boy, down on his luck and broke (and with a fine singing voice as provided by Stephen Hosking). It is love at first sight but she keeps her wealth a secret as she wants Tony to love her for herself and not her money.

In the end, Tony turns out to be the Hon. Tony Brockhurst, son of a peer of the realm. The moral of the story? You don't need money to fall in love – but as we're all really fabulously wealthy, the gene pool is not going to be diluted by poor people after all! Hoorah!

Seriously though, in spite of the rather un-PC plot line, there were some stunning performances and stand-out numbers in this production. Unfair as it is to single out individuals from a cast that clearly all worked very hard to deliver such a polished result, I'm going to anyway. Georgia Alston as Kiki Dubonnet was determinedly seductive in her pursuit of Percy (stop sniggering at the back) – and also did a fabulous job as wardrobe mistress. Anton King, as the tipsy and lecherous Lord Brockhurst, was like a kid in a sweet shop as he found himself surrounded by delightful young girls. His comedy duet with Dulcie, played as a real, live, Betty Boop by Stacey Seigel in 'It's never too late (to fall in love)' was a scream. Stacey also showed off her consummate dancing skills in the 'Carnival Tango', ably partnered by Edward Henderson. Victoria Hawtin as Hortense (Mme. Dubonnet's prim & proper secretary, who finds her boss's charges rather silly and tiresome) showed us her naughtier side in the number 'Nicer in Nice', whilst Maisie (delivered in coquettish style by Alex Codling) apparently only had a naughty side, as demonstrated by her keeping four boys guessing in 'Safety in Numbers'. Polished and seemingly effortless dancing by Maisie's eventual fiancé (the rich American, Bobby) and his three French rivals was also a highlight. Jean Hager's portrayal of Lady Brockhurst as a terrifying harridan (part Boadicea, part Baroness Thatcher) struck fear into the hearts of every man in the hall – no wonder His Lordship took to drink!

Concluded opposite ⇨



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## WOODEN SPOON RECIPE

Lois Rennells

Cream Buttons (made on a number of occasions over the years to accompany mousse, pannacotta or syllabub desserts).

- 4 oz soft Stork margarine
- 2 oz icing sugar
- 5 oz plain flour
- ½ teaspoon vanilla essence.

Cream the margarine and sugar.

Add the vanilla essence and mix in.

Mix in the sieved flour, beating lightly.

Pipe onto creased baking sheets, keeping them a little apart and cook at 180° for 12 to 15 minutes adjusting for fan ovens. Leave the biscuits on the tray for a little while before removing to a wire rack to cool.



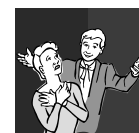
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⇒ All of the supporting roles were up to the high standards set by the main characters and the numbers which featured the whole chorus were a riot of colour, energy and fun. Wilson himself said that 'the creation of a musical is the most satisfying thing in the world' and it was clear that everybody had a great time in delivering this joyful production. Congratulations and thanks to all involved – can't wait for the next one.



## ALL AROUND

### TODDLERS

Jane Nye

We hope that you are all enjoying your Easter holidays and looking forward to the celebrations ahead at the weekend. Our Easter fun started last week when we held our Easter Egg Hunt. Prior to the egg hunt, our older children decorated paper eggs ready for them to be hidden in the hall. Everyone then covered their eyes whilst the mums hid the eggs. On the count of three, the children wandered around, helped by mum, to find an egg. When all the eggs had been found, the children had a little treat! Much fun was had by all, we mums and carers even had a cake or two!

Looking ahead, our Pamperchef evening will be held at the Village Hall on a date to be announced. For all of those of you who fancy improving your cooking or buying some new utensils, please come long for a fun and relaxing evening with friends, and maybe a drink or two!

Our little ones are already in training for the 2007 Barnardo's Toddler to be held this year on Thursday 14th June at Beale Park. This is a great day out which we all enjoy, giving us the opportunity to raise money for both Barnardo's and our own toddler group whilst having a train ride, seeing the animals and playing on all manner of outside toys. More details to follow.

A big thanks to all our mums and carers for doing so much to help out at Toddlers. Our rota system for opening up is working well and we have seen some lovely craft activities in recent weeks. Thanks to Joy for providing the coffee, juice and biscuits and for helping out where needed, her efforts are as ever much appreciated.

Our toddler group is closed for the Easter holidays and will reopen on **Thursday 19th April, 9.30-11.30**, in the village hall.

All of us at Drayton Toddlers wish you a lovely and enjoyable Easter weekend.

### PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

Debbie Bargasu

We would like to wish Kira Powell, Laurie Gill, Arun Parkin and Sam Clayton all the very best as they are now attending BIG school, also we would like wish Emilia and Julia Tala well as they are off to pastures new. Also welcome to Poppy Edwards who will be joining us after Easter.

Continued opposite ➔

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➔ Thank you to all who helped on our garden maintenance day, the children have been able to enjoy the recent sunshine outside, also many thanks to Tom and Charlie Booth at Sutton Wick Scrap Yard for their kind donation of huge tyres. They have been a big hit with the children. Thank you also to the Heery family for their kind donation of a composter.

Our topic for the Easter term is life cycles, we will be investigating growth and change, watching the already planted bulbs grow and introducing new plants. We also hope to visit the school pond to look for any new frogs.

We helped raise money for Comic Relief on Friday 16th March by doing lots of red activities including painting, face painting, playing with red toys and wearing red.

There is an easy way to help our fundraising, if you order goods via the internet, you can register at [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk). You choose a charity, we are on the list, then when you buy online from major companies like Amazon, Next, Play.com, Churchill Insurance, AA, Woolies, Ebay and The Book People, they give a percentage to us at no extra cost to you.

Tesco's are running the computer for schools vouchers once again; we need to collect 8000 vouchers to replace our old computer. These are to join the 5000 we banked last year. Please help us achieve our target.

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



## MORE ALL AROUND

### BROWNIES AND GUIDES. Mary Thompson

In Steventon, Drayton and Sutton Courtenay we have 2 Rainbow units (Steventon and Sutton Courtenay), 3 Brownie units (Drayton, Steventon and Sutton Courtenay), and 1 Guide unit (Sutton Courtenay). Rainbows are for 5—7years, Brownies 7—11 years, and Guides 10—14 years.

We are always on the look out for adult help with our meetings and activities and wonder whether there are people in our communities who would like to help us? Steventon Brownies and Sutton Courtenay Guides are in urgent need of help!

All units meet once a week in term time for about an hour and a half. If you are interested there is a Leadership certificate that you can look at, or you could be a unit helper on a regular or occasional basis. Do get in touch – it is great fun! Call me (Drayton Brownies) on 832077 or Jackie Norton-Shaw (Steventon Brownies) on 831003 or Jessica Caudle (Abbey District Commissioner) on 848142.

### SCHOOL REPORT Anita Hedditch

School recently underwent an audit of its provision for Children with Special Educational Needs. This is conducted in a similar way to an OFSTED inspection. The results were extremely encouraging. The overall result of the audit noted the provision as good. The inspectors commented on extensive evidence that pupils in this category were well monitored with their progress documented fully. In conclusion Drayton School offers good value for money and a good outcome for pupils with Special Educational needs. Congratulations, especially to Jo Allott who leads staff in this area. Many thanks also to all the Teaching Assistants who were particularly complimented on their exemplary performance.

#### Now some dates for your diaries!!

**WEDNESDAY 25th APRIL:** This is when the newly completed cycle racks and pathways will be officially opened. There will be competitions and special activities for pupils on this day. As always our thanks go to the parents who donated their time and energy and Meccano skills in erecting the shelter.

**FRIDAY 27th APRIL:** Quiz nite with a Gourmet Supper. Tickets are available from the school or Carol Arnold.

Continued opposite ⇨

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#### ⇨ News from individual areas include:

A letter from the Fairy Godmother! Reception and year 1 are, as a result, now busy designing new coaches and experimenting to find the best materials for Cinders mop. Some rather advanced model vehicle design (including axles) was shown off in the Friday assembly recently. The topic for this unit this term is clothes, there is also activity in non-fiction writing and weaving materials through bicycle wheels.

The Middle Unit is making roly-poly toys... yet to be seen.

Their Science subject is materials. Ice pops have been placed in various positions around the classroom to see where they melt the quickest. Cooking has also been an activity, to see what happens when ingredients are heated... rumours of cakes and meringues.

All members of school have been enjoying the outdoor sports equipment and toys that have been acquired with the Sainsburys Vouchers. Many thanks to all those who have collected!

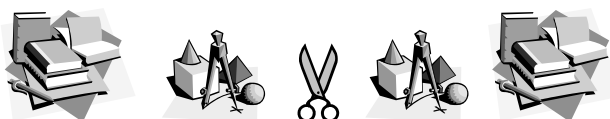
We are currently collecting Tesco and Sainsburys vouchers - so if anyone would like to collect for us, please drop them off at school.

The Middle Unit has also enjoyed a fantastic day out to tour Sulgrave Manor. This has served as a complement to their Tudor studies. The day included role-play enactment of the Kings and Queens in Tudor times. Collages have since appeared based on portraits of Tudor people. Various jingles are being chanted to help remember the order of the wives of Henry 8th - and their demise or not...

The Upper Unit has an exciting trip to Yenworthy Lodge to look forward to. This is an outdoor activity centre in Exmoor National Park. They will be able to discover new activities and challenges while experiencing the excitement of a residential week away with their friends.

The class have made two murals which will be on display at John Mason School on 24th March from 10:30-15:30. An artist joined them for a session to assist them in this. They have also attended Sutton Courtenay and became Eco Warriors for a day.

Extras include 12 children representing the school in a Gym Festival at Larkmead and raising over 220 pounds for Comic Relief in a red/bling/oversize day at school. The day ended with children's thoughts of where they would like their money to be spent. A thought-provoking way to end the day!



# YET MORE ALL AROUND

## FOOTBALL FOR THE UNDER 8's

Paul Evans

Drayton Football Club will be running an under 8's team in the Oxford Mail Boys' League for the 2007/8 season. Even though it says 'Boys' League', don't worry girls, you are allowed to play as well. To qualify to play you need to be under the age of 8 on the 31st of August 2007. Games are played on Saturday mornings and the season runs from September 2007 through to April 2008. Games are played on a 7-a-side basis, and each game will last 20 minutes (10 minutes each way). Drayton CP School has kindly allowed us to use their pitch and changing facilities, and Glenn and Janet Woolley of the 'Red Lion' have generously agreed to sponsor our kit. It is our intention to hold training sessions on Saturday mornings throughout the summer holidays



If you would like your son or daughter to be involved then please contact Paul Evans on 203108 (evening) or Evans42@ntlworld.com. Many thanks!

## BOWLS CLUB

Roll Up

We start these notes with really good news from the club. First, the 'Hammers' won Division 2 of the South Oxon league, this being their first success in any competition, and as they have been around for a long time this was very sweet. The team was made up from the following members, Doreen Jones (Captain), Anna Bartlett, Maurice Bartlett, Sarah Church, Bryn Jones, Tony Wright, Olive Brown, David Pimm and Derick Harrison, with reserves for the team Josie Carter, Cyril Carter, Jane Pimm and Ivy Harrison.

Secondly, the 'Rollers' match at Didcot proved to be the big match for both teams and was a hard fought game, with the 'Rollers' losing a very close game, and therefore having to settle for the runner-up spot in Division 1. So, all in all this was a nice success story for everyone connected with the club.

Still with good news the 'Friendly Fours' Tournament, held on 11th March, between Drayton, 'Stanford-in-the-Vale', and the 'Comrades Club' from Wantage ended with Drayton having 2 teams in the final, with the winning four being Sarah Church, Val Locke, Jean and Tony Mullins. It was a great day's bowling. A big thank you for a superb meal provided by Doreen and Carol, and most of the ladies helpers, and also to the bar staff from the Hall for opening the bar for a couple of hours at lunch time; this added much to the day.

The Rose Bowl triples league are at the half way point with still plenty of games to go, the next internal competition will be the 'Henry Bunce' handicap pairs now to take place on 29th April. And finally a team from the club are through to the quarter finals of the K.O cup and will take on Grove Grovelands in the last 8 on March 20th and 21st, home and away.

## TABLE TENNIS CLUB

John Gould

The Didcot league season has 3 weeks to go and 4 of our 5 teams are still near the top of their respective leagues. The A Team is in second place with games in hand. They have yet to play their nearest rivals for the Division 1 Championship so the outcome will be in their own hands.

The B team have slipped up a bit but are still in with an outside chance of honours. Second or third will be their likely final position with RAL C looking favourites and RAL B competing for the second place. Sutton A have fallen away following defeat against Drayton B.

The C team in Division 3 are clear at the top by 4 points. Sutton C are the second placed team but will need to win their remaining matches and hope our C team slip up. The two teams will meet in the last game of the season after Easter to decide the Champions.

Division 4 is certain to see Drayton D finish second and get promotion. This is a great effort as they have had to rely on the same three players since the New Year, so Derek, Allan & Martin are showing great commitment.

The biggest success in March was the 9-1 victory by our E team over Moreton E. This was the team's first win of the season and shows what a great improvement this team have made. They were all new players to table tennis at the start of the season but by regular attendance at out practice on Monday's have greatly improved their ability. Well done to Brian, Luke and Nicole Hunt our father, son & daughter team who achieved this first win. They have been a credit to the club and themselves.

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 turn up on the night.

We still have a few tickets left for our 21st birthday dance on 21st April. Any former members wishing to attend please get in touch on 531328 or 211764.

## DRAYTON WIVES

Daphne Barrand

In February we had a most enjoyable lunch at The Steventon House Hotel to celebrate the 46th Birthday of the Wives' Group. (Formerly The Young Wives; well, still young at heart!) Perhaps it's time for a new dynamic title to include all women. Any ideas?

Dates for your diary in April:

Mon 2nd	COFFEE	Trudi Buckner, 52 Whitehorns Way
Mon 16th	WHIST	Jean Taylor, Caudwell D.C.
Wed 25th	MEETING	A.G.M.

## WI

Ann Webb

The WI annual meeting took place on 8th March. After our usual business we were told about the forthcoming Villages' History Day and weekend at Steventon in June, and in the villages in July. This event is organised by the Damascus Group and it sounds very interesting and worth a visit.

The annual meeting brought forth no great surprises, but we did feel that we must make an effort to encourage new members and organise some daytrips for the coming year. Our next year's programme was outlined and it sounds very interesting so, as they say, watch this space. Next month we are going to discover the history of the Mitford Girls. If you wish to visit us, we meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month in the hall at 7.30pm. The charge is £1 which includes refreshment; we also run a cash raffle, so you could go home richer than when you arrived. Best wishes were sent to Doreen and Brenda, we hope to see them back with us soon!

## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Pearl Stanbridge

Branch Officers are attending the V.O.W.H.group meeting on Monday 16 April at Hanney Royal British Legion Club where the National President is the speaker so there will be no Committee meeting this month.

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## STILL MORE ALL AROUND

### DRAYTON PLAYERS

Jean Hager

Goodness me ! What a success we had again with our latest production, THE BOY FRIEND. This fresh and charming musical was enjoyed enormously by all who came along to support us. Great appreciation was expressed of all the cast who worked their socks off to present polished performances each evening, special admiration being given to the younger members who provided such enjoyable and bubbly entertainment. They committed themselves with great enthusiasm and team work and we are proud of them all. Because of the great energy and stamina needed by them at each performance it was decided that matinees should be foregone for this production, especially as several had Saturday jobs to maintain. We know that our usual matinee audience will appreciate that such difficulties do alter circumstances.

The costumes, as always, were impeccably chosen (and made, in many cases) by Georgia Alston and were full of colour and of the period. The music ensemble was wonderfully complementary and suited the 1920's era perfectly. Our thanks for this go to Paul Martin, Ed Russell and James Hunt. The whole enterprise was drawn together with great skill by the director, Deidre Jones, who must be congratulated, especially for achieving such wonderful choreography on a limited stage area. We also thank all those people working back stage and front of house without whose strong support the show could not have succeeded.

We did have one disappointing occurrence, on the publicity side, when our newly displayed advertising banner was taken from the Market Square railings in Abingdon. Despite our best efforts to recover this, it still remains a mysterious and disheartening disappearance.

Various plays are now being considered for our Autumn production, so watch this space for information in the coming months.

### IMCARTIAL

Justin Denno

Are you daunted or bored by having to choose a new car? If so, 'Imcartial' may be just what you need.

February 2007 was an exciting month for me because I launched into the world of business, ready to change the face of new-car buying by offering face-to-face impartial advice with my new company called ImCartial, based at the Harwell Innovation Centre.



The idea came to me after helping a busy lady in the village make sense of the car market. We discussed her specific needs, I accompanied her on test drives and negotiated the best price for her old car in part exchange. With so much choice available, knowing where to start can be a huge barrier and walking into a car dealership unprepared can be very daunting for some people. But I love cars; I eat, sleep & breathe them so helping people find the car that suits them is what I love doing.

'ImCartial' clients and I will have a face-to-face chat to clarify their exact requirements and then I will help them through the process, right through to familiarisation with their new car, with as much or as little input as they wish to have.

You may know that it is time to change your car. You may feel daunted by the task. You may not have enough time. Whatever your reason, contact me at ImCartial and I will find a solution for you. →



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& ask for Tim

⇒ Editor's Note: You may remember reading in past Chronicles about Justin Denno from Sutton Wick Lane. 24-year-old Justin, who grew up in Drayton, led the work to clear and renew the Sutton Wick Pond in 2003 and, more recently, he has been a volunteer driver of the Damascus youth bus.

I had never heard of a personalised car-choosing service so I asked him to write about his new line of business. You can see his advert on page 7.

# THE WHEATSHEAF



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**Thursday Night** is Curries Galore;

Take away Fish & Chips: Mon - Sat until 8pm  
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(Food Served 12 noon - 2pm and 6 - 10pm plus  
Morning Coffee and Pastries from 11am daily)  
Sunday, 12 - 6 pm and Monday, 5.30 - 11 pm  
At Drayton, on the village green.  
For bookings :- call Gel or Austin (01235 531485)

# PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Jennifer Pooley



Most of the matters dealt with at the last meeting, on Monday 5th March 2007, were routine, but those of note were twofold. Daniel Scharf (PC Chairman) has represented Drayton Parish on the Reservoir Affected Parishes (RAP) group since its inception. Thames Water has £45 million available (ultimately charged to their customers) to fund their public presentations and their case at enquiry. The Parish Council agreed with Daniel that the Parishes/ Ofwat/ DEFRA/EA and Thames Water are not playing on a level field, and unless there is an agreed process for consultation and participation and both parties have adequate finance to support their case at enquiry, there is little point in his continuing to attend RAP meetings. A letter to this effect has been sent to Thames Water as the response to Stage 2 of the process.

The second important matter was that Melanie Parker reported that work continues to provide proper play facilities for young people. This will take some time to accomplish and until then occasional activity sessions targeted specifically at the 10 - 15 year old age group will be arranged at the Village Hall. The first two sessions have been arranged for 26th April and 24th May. (Editor's note: see advert on the front page)

There are two other important dates to note in the near future. The annual Parish Assembly is on **April 2nd at 7.30pm** in the Caudwell Day Centre. This is a chance for you to ask questions, voice opinions or make suggestions. It is hoped that many people will attend to make it a worthwhile meeting.

Then, having been inspired by what you learn, maybe you will feel moved to join the Parish Council yourself! Elections are held every four years and this year they are on **Thursday May 3rd**. You can pick up an application form from Vickery's shop as Lawrence Vickery has kindly agreed to keep some. There are many aspects to the Council's work: planning matters, provision of facilities, footpaths, finance, environment, safety etc. The Council currently has 8 members, three short of its permitted quota. Working to make Drayton a good place to live is important and the more Councillors we have the more effective we can be.

**So please think seriously about joining the Parish Council and at least come to the Annual Parish Assembly and find out more.**



## JAZZ & SWING CONCERT AT ST PETER'S CHURCH, DRAYTON SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> April 2007

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when appointments aren't necessary, so why not call in?*

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# DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Webber

## Community Day

Detailed planning is about to begin on Drayton's second Community Day, due to be held on Saturday 7th July at the Hall. Please make a note in your diary. If you have any suggestions as to how we can improve on last year, please let me know.



## Drayton Singing and Dancing.

For the first time in more years than I care to remember, I had absolutely nothing to do with the Players' February production of The Boy Friend. All of us who saw it were struck how lucky we are in this village to have such a highly talented group of actors and actresses of all ages from all round the village and beyond. Anyone wishing to see Drayton's community spirit at its best should never miss a Drayton Players production. Very well done to Deidre Jones and the whole cast and crew.

## Environmental Singing and Dancing.

I have just returned from a Carbon Savers Day at the Guildhall. The day has been planned for many months with some excellent information and experts on hand to advise on how we can all do our bit to save the planet – Solar panels, wind turbines, ground heating, low energy lighting and a number of outstanding speakers on global warming and other environmental issues. The day produced a steady trickle of visitors. Outside on the steps of the Guildhall was a demonstration on the 'Save Radley Lakes campaign' with about 200 people of all ages – cyclists, fishermen, ornithologists, ramblers, mothers, babies, and all with the common purpose of trying to prevent the mighty Npower from filling Thrupp Lake with their toxic fly ash. The noise of the pro-environmental singing and flag-waving was all but drowning out the voice of the speaker in the Roysse Room.

And what, I wondered were we all achieving? We were all on the same side – yes, global warming was happening, yes we cared about the environment, be it global or local. The contrast between the small numbers considering global issues inside the Guildhall and the large numbers considering a local issue outside was striking. Singing and dancing is always more fun than sitting inside. Shouting at our elected authorities is always more fun than electing them!

Most of us who witnessed the objections to the Newbury bypass will remember Swampy. I wonder what happened to him? He and his environmental friends did all they could to prevent the bulldozers moving in on the thousands of acres of ancient woodland that were about to be destroyed. But they failed. I think most of us thought they would fail. It is a sad reflection on placard-waving, marching protests that most of them seem to fail. – Ask Swampy, ask Scargill, ask the Greenham Common ladies. It seems that if you want to win an environmental argument, you have a much better chance of success, if you present carefully considered, reasoned argument, based on impartial evidence. And is that such a bad thing? Indeed, one useful thing that Swampy et al may have taught us is that placard – waving may actually be very counter-productive.

I very much hope that when it comes to the arguing the case for or against the Reservoir, those of us who enjoy singing and dancing remember this lesson.

You can contact me at my surgery at Drayton Hall on Saturday April 21st 2007 at 9am, or by phone on 534001, or by email to info@RJW-online.co.uk

Richard Webber

# WESTMINSTER LETTER

Ed Vaizey

I hope that some of you will have seen my Westminster Report. I plan to send one out every six months or so to give you a fuller picture of what I am doing.



As those of you who have seen it will realise, the problems with the train service from Didcot have been dominating my constituency mailbag. I think that we are making progress. First Great Western are laying on extra capacity at the end of March, and I hope there will be an additional train to London in the mornings from May. In addition, there will be a whole new timetable in May. While I have to concentrate on the trains that run between London and Didcot, I have not forgotten Appleford, nor my constituents who commute to Oxford, Bristol and Swindon. In short, the whole thing has been a complete nightmare, but a cross-party group of MPs is working very hard to make changes.

The national issue that has dominated my postbag has been the future of our independent nuclear deterrent. I have always made clear that I will not do party politics in this column, but Trident is in effect a cross-party issue - there are supporters and opponents in all the main parties. I will give you my own personal view. I do recognise that the end of the Cold War means that there is an opportunity to debate again whether Britain needs its own nuclear deterrent. Many people do argue that the money could be better spent on conventional weapons, or indeed on other things completely. And still others argue that we could set an example. However, I decided to support retaining an independent nuclear deterrent because I think the world has become less safe, not more. Many more countries are likely to acquire nuclear weapons, and many of those will be capable of launching them against other countries. I believe that we have an important role to play the world and that retaining our nuclear deterrent is important in this respect.

As usual, I can be contacted at one of my surgeries (see the Drayton Diary on page 16) or by writing to the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. You can phone me on 020 7219 6350 or email me at vaizeye@parliament.uk.

With best wishes

Ed Vaizey

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# DRAYTON DIARY

## FOR APRIL

All events are at Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise  
(To book Drayton Hall call Ann Webb on 531418)

Regular Events are listed opposite

Mon	2	7.45 pm	Annual Parish Assembly, followed by Parish Council	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
Tues	3	10.00 am	Jewellery Valuation (until 1.00 pm)	
Wed	11	10.00 am	Vale Youth Sports Event (until 3.00 pm)	
Fri	13	5.30 pm	MP Ed Vaizey Surgery	<i>Wallingford</i>
Sat	14	7.00 pm	Spinal Injuries Charity Event	
Sun	15	9.00 am	Dog Show (all day)	
<b>Mon</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9.15 am</b>	<b>Chronicle Lottery deadline</b>	<b><i>Vickery's</i></b>
		<b>5.15 pm</b>	<b>Chronicle copy deadline</b>	<b><i>Vickery's box</i></b>
Fri	20	5.30 pm	MP Ed Vaizey Surgery	<i>Faringdon</i>
Sat	21	9.00 am	District Councillor Richard Webber Surgery	
Thurs	26	7.30 pm	Drayton Youth Zone (until 9.00 pm)	
Sun	29	all day	Bowls Club	



## F.O.D.S.A.

Presents a Quiz Nite  
With gourmet supper  
At Drayton School

Friday 27th April at 7.30 pm

Entry £6 per person & teams of 6 maximum  
Raffle, Donation bar and great prizes

Contact Colin Arnold on 531923 for details & tickets



## ST PETER'S SUMMER WALK AND PLANT SALE

Saturday 19th May from 10am to 1pm

### THE WALK

around the boundaries of the parish  
starting at 10am and finishing  
back at the church for a soup lunch.  
Cost including lunch: £5 per person.  
Application forms available from the church  
or the vicarage.



### THE PLANT SALE

from 10am to 1pm  
Refreshments available  
Come and buy your bedding plants  
and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee  
with homemade cake.



## DRAYTON SUMMER FETE

at the School  
Saturday 16th June  
from 2pm to 5pm



Proceeds to Drayton School and St Peter's Church  
Look out for more details in the May Chronicle  
**Please put this date in your diary**

## REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

### MONDAYS

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

### TUESDAYS

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

### WEDNESDAYS

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

### THURSDAYS

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

### FRIDAYS

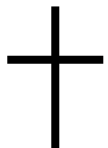
9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>Sch'l Ground Bldg</i>
11.00 am	The Friday Club (fortnightly) 202466	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
6.30 pm	Choir Practice (alternate weeks)	<i>St Peter's</i>

### SUNDAYS

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

## Good Friday

**Ecumenical Open Air Service**  
10am - Friday 6th April



10am assemble at Drayton Baptist Church.  
We will then move to the Green for an Open Air  
Service. At the end of that service we will process  
along High Street carrying the cross to St Peter's  
church where there will be a final act of worship.  
Refreshments of drinks and Hot Cross buns  
will be served in the church

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