

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Dave Lee

Volume 30 No. 8

September 2007

COMMUNITY DAY REPORT

Richard Webber

The 2nd Drayton Community Day was held at the Village Hall on the 7th July. The crowd was estimated as 800 over the full 6 hours. Most clubs and activities reported increased interest and potential new members. The Football Competition and the Bouncy Castle were much enjoyed by the young and about 30 people of all ages took part in the fun bike ride. The Community Choir was well attended by all ages as was the Players Music Hall. Lots of food was consumed including a complete Pig and lots of beverages drunk. Considering that the main purpose of the day was to stimulate community spirit, it was a tremendous effort that we made almost £1000 from raffle, food and drink together with a number of very kind donations. All the money is being used to set up a Hall Development fund. The extensive display on the Hall development proved almost too much for people to take in and it is proposed to hold a meeting at the Hall to present ideas to those who would like to hear and discuss more. More than 100 ideas slips were completed, and all those ideas will be given to the appropriate people to build into their planning. Many, many thanks to everyone for coming and helping to make the day such a success and in particular many thanks to the very hard working committee – Melanie Parker, Andrew Hopkins, Jim McGill, Gary Hibbins, Paul and Amanda behind the Bar, all the hard working people in the Kitchen – all of whom helped to make life so much easier for me.

Several people suggested that the 'Inconvenient Truths' board really should be put in the Chronicle – so here goes....

How much do you value your community?

'Of course I would like my home village to be quiet, happy, attractive, safe, well supplied with shops, pubs, services and opportunities for me and my family – so I value it very much indeed!'

Of the 2500 people living in Drayton, about 50 are actively involved in trying to achieve the above. Of the 2000+ people old enough to help, reasons for not being able to help are given as follows:

I am too young

You can help the community by taking part in village activities. e.g. Toddler Group, Playgroup, Brownies, Drayton Players, Youth Zone; Damascus Youth project.

Are you sure you're too young?

I am too old

The Caudwell Day Centre organises many activities for the elderly. The Sequence Dancing Club and the Bowling Club have many members in their 70s and beyond. Both our Pubs welcome the elderly and have special offers open to them. St Peter's Church organises home visits to the elderly who need them. The average age of the 50 people serving on Village Committees is 63.

Are you sure you're too old?

I am too busy

Everyone is busy these days. Busy people are organised and make the best use of their time. Some of the busiest people in the village are amongst the 50 people serving on village committees. Every extra person who volunteers to help relieves the pressure on others and helps to ensure that our community life thrives. Half an hour a month of a busy, organised person's time makes an enormous difference.

Are you sure you're too busy?

I am too important

(Well that's what their reason amounts to!)

If you are important, just a few minutes of your time when you can spare it can make a big difference. A few minutes of expert legal, financial or administrative advice and time helps enormously.

Are you sure you're too important?

I am too unimportant

(Well that's what their reason amounts to!)

This village is short of help with almost everything from litter picking to advice on how to raise £500,000. Everyone's help is needed and everyone's help is appreciated.

Are you sure you're too unimportant?

EVERYONE CAN HELP. IT IS AN UNCOMFORTABLE TRUTH THAT NO ONE CAN REALLY DUCK THE CHALLENGE.

Gardening Correspondent vacancy? - P3

Everything with chips? - P12

Does your project qualify for charity benefits? - P6

Poppy Appeal collectors wanted - P3

**Drayton Players
Present**

The IMPORTANCE of BEING EARNEST

By Oscar Wilde

Drayton Hall

Thurs 20th - Sat 22nd September

Tickets from (01235) 200350



CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The **October Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Friday, 28th September 2007** from **Helen Brasington, 1 Cheers Farm (534045)**, 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, 17th September 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:
November	15 October 2007	26 October 2007
December	19 November 2007	30 November 2007
Jan/Feb 2008	7 January 2008	18 January 2008

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

To discuss requirements phone **Stephen Fearnley**, the Chronicle's Advertising Manager, on 531347 or email:- struth@ukonline.co.uk

CHRONICLE LOTTERY

Daphne Samworth, Hon. Promoter

RESULTS OF THE AUGUST LOTTERY

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	0454	M. Ward, 31, Sutton Wick Lane	Beryl Dawson
£20	1138	J. Beanes, c/o, 28, High Street	Mary Alexander
£15	2043	Mr. Elms, 11, Whitehorns Way	Trudi Buckner
£10	1328	Mr. Gould, 16, Steventon Road	Judy Henman
£10	2496	A. Andrew, Middle Barn, Sutton Wick Lane	Jean Oliver
£10	0438	J. Cook, 43, Sutton Wick Lane	Beryl Dawson
£10	0105	Mrs. R. Willis, 105, Abingdon Road	Carol Arnold
£10	2469	D. Tettart, 9, Newman Lane	Jean Oliver
£10	1142	H. Hole, 26, High Street	Mary Alexander
£10	1305	Mrs. Scaysbrook, 9, Steventon Road	Judy Henman

The winning tickets were drawn by Staff at "Sabina" - Hairdressers from the 2275 tickets sold

The DAMASCUS Youth Project Invites you to the **Drayton Youth Zone**

**A drop-in evening for young people
Ages: school year 6 to school year 10**

Tuck shop; table tennis; board games;
arts and crafts; fun and games

Thursday 27th September

7.30pm to 9pm

Drayton Village Hall

Admission Charge £1



**An opportunity to have somewhere to go
and be with your friends**

Contact Claire Soper (531632) or Andrew Hopkins (07890 756829) for more details and membership form.

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

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YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor,

Natasha Jane Carder

Born 3/3/99 at 24 weeks (weighing 1.5 lbs)

Natasha has been in terrible pain with her hips for a long time. Her ball and socket joints were slipping out and showing through her skin, one leg had become shorter than the other. On July 12th she went into hospital and was operated on July 13th in the J.R. The operation was a success. Over the weekend Natasha started to go down hill – she needed blood and her lung filled with spinal fluid from her shunt, which failed to drain naturally. (Her shunt drains into her lung now after it was moved there after she had peritonitis just over a year ago). The doctors drained the lung without anaesthetic with a very long needle (very painful). Meanwhile Clare and Jeremy took turns staying with Natasha in hospital. She was very brave trying to make them laugh to cheer them up. She came home on Wednesday 25th July, her legs are in plaster straight out in a 'v' shape and she has metal screws and plates surrounding her body. She is very quiet for Natasha. She hates all the medicines but accepts them. Every other day she goes back to the hospital and they keep her, Clare, and Jeremy waiting all day. One Doctor was popping out to see her during a brain operation, another Doctor directed Derek and Clare into a toy cupboard to wait – he thought it was a waiting room! Meanwhile the lung continues to fill with spinal fluid. On Wednesday 8th August, she goes in to stay again to have the lung drained once more. Still Natasha smiles and tries to make us laugh but more and more she gazes into space. She must wonder what Clare meant when she told her that the operation would stop her pain and make her able to stand, walk with help and ride her bike. (She's given up asking for that). Clare said to me 'Granny, Natasha would like you to cuddle her'. I looked at her – 'her head' she said. That is all she has, she has lots of head cuddles!!

We all wish we could take her place and that she could walk and run like us even for one day, but would we be as brave.

The Nuffield Orthopaedic hospital where Tash went for the last night in hospital (the first time) and those surgeons who did the operation have not looked at her at all. She has terrible leg spasms at night and moans quietly.

Please pray for her – she could do with your help.

Judy Henman (Natasha's Granny)



MILLS OF THE GINGE BROOK

Saturday 27th October

Walk starts 11am from church

The cost of the walk is £2 for adults and children free, bring picnic lunch. Last year we explored the mills on the River Ock and this year we will follow those on the Ginge Brook. There will be a historical commentary to make the walk more interesting

Registration forms available from the church

or from Josie at The Vicarage 531374.

All proceeds will go to church funds

Oxfordshire Alzheimer's Society

Plant Sale

St Swithun's Church, Kennington

Saturday 8th September

10.00 am to noon

Public Car Park next to Health Centre



Plants

Refreshments



Produce

Gardening Information

Raffle

Dear Editor,

2007 Poppy Collection in Drayton

Last year the Poppy Collection in Drayton raised £1,289.36 (including a generous £108.20 taken at the Remembrance Day evening service in St.Peter's) which shows an increase over the 2005 total and continues the upward trend in Drayton over several years.

Due to the increasing age of our Collectors and some removals away from Drayton, we are seeking several new Collectors for well-established rounds. In particular, we shall miss the splendid contribution of Geoff & Marion Dix, but no doubt, the village will all contribute to the collecting box in the **Mace Store** under new ownership!

The 2007 Royal British Legion Poppy Collection starts on Saturday 27 October, giving collectors a chance to walk round in daylight that first day. The authorised House-to-House Collection continues until Sunday 11 November (Remembrance Sunday). Most rounds have between 50 and 100 houses, and Poppy collectors are usually welcomed with a smile and a generous contribution from friends in their locality.

Sadly, with new conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan and other areas, the need for welfare services is once again growing and the Poppy

Appeal takes on an even greater urgency. If you could volunteer to take on a round, or share a round with someone else, please do get in touch with us on 01235 834740 *Peter and Diana Hasting*

(Poppy Appeal Organisers for Steventon & District)



Dear Editor,

Should horse riders carry poop scoops or poly bags as dog owners do?

More riders are using the footpaths in Steventon Road (much safer I agree) BUT piles of horse poo on the pavement is becoming the norm, and is quite unpleasant when deposited in a gateway.

Who should clean it up? It may be good for the garden but is not good for my temper.

Ann Richardson



Dear Editor,

How strange we have no gardening correspondent within the pages of the DRAYTON CHRONICLE. Help would be welcomed with so many of our problems. Those among us who struggle to keep plots tidy and produce fruit flowers and vegetables would gratefully receive advice and timely reminders.

Eric Curtis

(Anyone fancy becoming the village Alan Titchmarsh? Ed.)



Dear Editor,

May I through the Chronicle advise everyone that I will be holding a 'Grand Sale' on 29th September at the Caudwell Day Centre. The sale is on behalf of the Air Ambulance Service which has a vital roll to play these days but as you know is funded privately. We are heading towards £1500 so far this year so every one's support would be appreciated. The sale starts prompt at 2pm with all sorts of things for sale from books, homemade cakes, bric-a-brac, toys and lots, lots more. Looking forward to seeing you there, thank you all for your continued support

Mrs Betty Krason

Letters to the Editor

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

ST PETER'S CHURCH

Priest in Charge	Revd Sister Josie Midwinter.....531374
OLM in training & Choir	Mrs Rosie Bruce.....525284
Churchwardens	Mrs Sue Harris.....848361
	Mrs Val Cross.....535183
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.
Mon - Fri	8.15 am	Morning Prayer (CW) in Lady Chapel
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 SEPTEMBER

Sat 1st Sept.	10.00 am-11.00am	Sale of Fair Trade goods
Sun 2nd Sept.	11.15 am-11:45am	Sale of Fair Trade goods
Tues 4th Sept.	3.00 pm	First Tuesday Connections Church Room

PARISH REGISTER

Marriage	John Horton to Rebecca Webber
	Keith Barnes to Sarah Davis

YOU STAY - WE PRAY

2nd to 15th	Lockway and Whitehorns Way.
16th to 22nd	Corneville Road, Crabtree Lane and Lesparre Close.
23rd to 29th	Drayton Road, Milton Road, New Cut Mill, Fisher Close, Marcham Road, Meads Close, Rippington Court and Stone Hill.



208, Broadway, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 8RN

MEMORIALS

NEW MEMORIALS
RESTORATIONS
ADDITIONAL INSCRIPTIONS
VASES
GLASS CHIPPINGS

GARDEN

TABLES
BENCHES
FOUNTAINS
PLANTERS
STATUARY

KITCHEN WORKTOPS

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LETTER FROM REVD JOSIE MIDWINTER

Dear Friends

The Anglican Church is a worldwide organisation, which includes some 70 million members in 38 countries. It is also a church that has local concerns at its heart. One of the very earliest Archbishop's of Canterbury (Theodore 668-693) had the idea of dividing England up into parishes so that every person would have a church and a priest to minister to their spiritual needs. No other church has quite that commitment to **all** the people in its catchment area, whether they are churchgoers or not.

In this local area the five villages of Drayton, Appleford, Milton and Sutton Courtenay united with Steventon form the **Damascus Group** (an acrostic of the letters of the villages). This group was set up in 1997 to help us to work more closely together and share resources while retaining our local church structure. Over these ten years, the Group has grown and strengthened. There are regular joint services and pulpit exchanges. In May this year, members of the churches went on a weekend away at Lee Abbey in Devon. This was very successful, and another one is planned for 2009. The History Weekend was also an initiative of the Group. The ministers meet twice a month - to pray together and also to plan joint activities. This group works very well and helps each member church to retain its individual mission while co-operating with others for mutual support and encouragement.

The Damascus Youth Project was initiated by the Damascus Group, but has now become a separate organisation with its own structure. However, it illustrates how the Group can have influence to set something worthwhile going for the community.

As this year is our tenth anniversary we are planning a celebration. The newly appointed Bishop of Oxford - Rt. Revd John Pritchard - will preach at a Damascus Group Service. This will be 10:30am on Sunday 18th November at St Michael's church Steventon. Followed by a Bring and Share lunch to which everyone is welcome.

When Jesus was leaving his disciples to go back to heaven, he gave them this command: **"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have taught you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age"** (Matthew 28:19 & 20)

Through the worldwide organisation of the church, there is the opportunity to **'go to all nations'** preaching and taking care and comfort and support to those in need. But the command to **'baptise and teach'** needs a local focus to make them happen effectively. This is the genius of the Anglican system - a global church with a local focus.

Josie Midwinter

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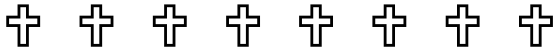
BAPTIST CHURCH

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



LOCAL METHODIST WORSHIP

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

Local Contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409



FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS **Jean Hager**

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



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NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

The Chronicle team offers a warm welcome to Drayton to:

- Ben Tyler and Jemma Wright who have moved into 35 Lockway. They are from Abingdon and Cowley respectively.
- The Tully family, Gary, Samantha and the children, Grace, Ethan and Paige, who have recently moved into the High Street.
- Lucy Willis, born 19th June, 6lbs. Born on The Hinksey Roundabout. Well done John and Rachel. Love from big brother Oliver.
- June Brown who has recently moved into 12, Lockway. Hope you feel very welcome. Lots of love from Emily, Lauren, Neil and Julie.

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American style refreshments

33 SUTTON WICK LANE, DRAYTON
SATURDAY 22ND & SUNDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER
11am to 3pm in the garden both days
IF WET IN THE CONSERVATORY
SO DON'T BE PUT OFF
NO PARKING - BE FIT - WALK!
SPEND MONEY & ENJOY YOURSELF
SEE YOU THERE!



THE DRAYTON PAROCHIAL CHARITIES

Part of the work of the Trustees of the parochial charities is to administer the Robert Corneville Charity, which has funds that can only be used for charitable purposes for the general benefit of the Parish of Drayton and which are not provided for out of rates, taxes or other public funds. In the recent past grants have been made to re-gild the church clock and provided stage curtains for the village hall for the use of Drayton Players. Two more major grants are now being paid out for the benefit of the village. The first is to the Millennium Green, to refurbish the stone-built sundial. The second is to provide new main doors and a kitchen door for the Village Hall. The Trustees are always ready to consider applications for funds so if you have a project, which falls within the above terms, please contact The Clerk to the Trustees, Mrs Camilla King at Gothic House Drayton. (863732)

Revd Josie Midwinter - Chair to the Trustees

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ALL AROUND

PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP **Debbie Bargus**

We would like to wish the following children well as they start at BIG school. Amy Belcher, Mason Brant, Mitchell Brownlow, Erin Currant, Michael Fletcher, Henry Gurl, Elise Heery, Jan Jordan, Sophie Malin, Mika Sherman, Kai Taboada, Douglas Wharton and James Woods.

We would like to welcome Elizabeth Fletcher, Charlie Gibbard, George Joyce, Andrew and Rebecca Norkett, Lucy O'Sullivan, Evie Rees, Ethan Taylor and Cayce Thornhill as they join us for the new term. We hope they have lots of fun and enjoy being with us.

We do still have a few sessions available, please telephone Pre-school on 01235 536094 for more information or if you would like a Welcome Pack.

Our theme for the new term is HOMES, looking at different types, building materials and also at the homes of animals. We will be making an igloo and using lego/duplo and boxes/junk to build our model homes. We also hope to have a tepee.

Thank you to everybody who contributed and supported the cake sale we held on the last day of term, it was a great success. Thanks also to everyone who helped on our garden maintenance day during the holidays; we now have a raised flower bed and a huge tyre that is now full of soil and ready to be planted. It looks great.

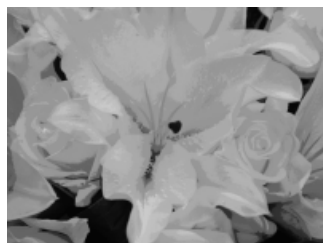
We look forward to receiving the new items that we managed to order via Sainsbury's Active Kids and Tesco Computers for School vouchers. Thank you to everyone who handed them in, they really make a difference.

There is an easy way to help our fundraising, if you order goods via the internet, you can register at 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.



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TODDLERS

Jane Nye

We hope you all had a wonderful summer holiday, spending time with family and friends, playing in the garden or park or even going away. Our toddler group has been running throughout the summer and we have been having fun playing and even catching up with old friends.

Thanks to everyone who helped to keep toddlers running throughout the summer by helping to open up, providing an activity and helping to put everything away. We would not be able to continue to run without your support and the continued use of a rota. It has also been nice to see some new faces and make new friends. As the new term starts, don't forget we run every **Thursday morning from 9.30-11.30am.**

Please note **we will not open on Thursday 20th September** due to the Drayton Players performance.

We are once again pleased to announce that we have received a grant of £200 from the Drayton Youth Charity Trust. Our grateful thanks go to this organisation for its generosity. The money will be well spent!

Looking ahead, our **Toddler Fun morning** will be held on **Thursday 4th October** in the main hall from **10am until midday.** Stalls already confirmed are Tempest Photographers, Usborne books and Katrina with her variety of goods including T-shirts designed by her. As ever, we would appreciate donations of raffle prizes, cakes to sell on the morning and for people to help setting up and displaying posters in the village.

We look forward to seeing you all soon.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION **Pearl Stanbridge**

The branch will be celebrating the 80th anniversary of formation on Sunday 16th September with a parade from the Village Hall at 1.30 pm followed by a service in St Michael and All Angels church at 2 pm and afterwards a reception in the Village Hall, we hope to see you on that day.

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

TABLE TENNIS CLUB

John Gould

We have been required by our insurers to revise the Club Constitution and after hard work by Kevin Davies & Roger Perry assisted by yours truly, we have come up with a document that should meet with the legal responsibilities of a sports club and will satisfy the insurers.

One requirement was to have a Club President. There was only really one person that is deserving of the post. We have accordingly elected Ray Massie a long time member and player to be our first in this role. Ray will have a position on the Executive Committee and will be our figurehead for the next 12 months.

Following our Pre – Season Meeting on 6th August, we have selected our teams for the coming season. With the B, C & D teams all earning promotion we expect the success of last season will be hard to emulate. As in most sports, our promoted teams will hope to consolidate their status in the coming season. The A & B teams will be in Division 1, the C team in Division 2, D team in Division 3 and the E team in Division 4. At the time of writing, the Divisions are still to be finalised but we hope the F team will also get a Division 4 spot, their players are too good for Division 5.

We have increased our numbers and welcomed Owen Shevlin as a brand new player and welcomed back Rodney Carr and Andi Cudden. Thereby we have increased our teams from 5 to 6. This will help the finances with two teams at home each night and has pleased our treasurer David Hudson. The Captains have been appointed and it will be all systems go from mid September.

We can still accommodate more players so if anyone wishes to join please get in touch. Or come along to Monday practice from 7.30 pm each Monday at the School.

Hope to see you there soon.

MORE ALL AROUND

DRAYTON PLAYERS

Jean hager

Last reminder that our next production 'THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST' is fast approaching and you can see it from the 20th to 22nd of September inclusive. (No Saturday matinee). All details are in our advertisement, including telephone contact and address for postal bookings. This very stylish period play is full of wit and humour, so do come along for a really enjoyable evening's entertainment

Plans are now under way for our February 2008 production. This will be a musical based on THE GOOD COMPANIONS, a novel by J.B. PRIESTLY. There have been local posters inviting all those interested to attend an audition but, if you missed the opportunity on the 19th August and would like to take part, do contact the Director, DEIDRE JONES (527865) to arrange a meeting with her. This is the very lively story of the ups and downs of a Concert Party group, with catchy tunes (by ANDRE PREVIN) to keep your toes tapping, so do get in touch without delay if you would like to join us in this exciting production.

W.I.

Brenda Malin

My apologies for lack of information in the last two Chronicle issues, July's issue was due to the vagaries of 'email'; August's issue was due to a senior moment. We have, however, had a very varied few months.

July had our local celebrity chef, Tom Hale, demonstrate and present a varied menu of Tapas, this was greatly enjoyed by all present. Several members also had a leisurely cruise from Reading to Mapledurham where we had a tour of this fascinating house and working water mill set in a typical idyllic English riverside village, hopefully the village was not too badly affected by the recent floods.

August found us at the Miele Experience, where we were given a wonderful demonstration of cooking with the most modern cookers available; prices were mercifully **not** available so the afternoon was not spoiled by the vulgar, rather enhanced by the consumption of the food demonstrated. Not surprisingly, our August meeting was on Corsets and Crinolines, with the emphasis on corsets!

September's meeting finds us more down to earth, with a talk on Apple Farming. A few short years ago, this district was surrounded by orchards so maybe we can be persuaded to plant a tree both for the environment and to keep the 'doctor away'. On Saturday 18th September from 10 am-12 noon, at Caudwell Day Centre, we are having a demonstration of card making. Coffee and biscuits will be served.

Lastly do not forget to gather your team for our Annual Wit & Wisdom Quiz on 9th November, details to follow.

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A recipe for chocolate crunch

Heather Lee

(A recipe that children can do under supervision)

½ lb sweet biscuits, (rolled into crumbs)

Put in a saucepan & heat:

3oz. margarine

1 tablespoon of sugar

1 tablespoon of syrup

2 tablespoons of drinking chocolate

(or 1 tablespoon of cocoa).

Mix until smooth. Remove from heat & stir in biscuit crumbs.

Grease a sandwich tin & put biscuit mixture in & press down until smooth, allow to cool.

Melt a 2 oz. bar of chocolate & spread over.

Allow to cool & cut into squares, enjoy!

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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Jennifer Pooley

Meeting on Monday 6th August 2007

More members of the public than usual attended this month's meeting. This was partly due to the recent flooding and the distress it has caused. Several residents of Sutton Wick were affected, also a number of gardens backing on to the football field. Sutton Wick drainage system is apparently frequently inadequate and the Parish Clerk is to contact the County Council requesting that the drains be inspected and cleared if necessary. The conditions were exceptional and damage was widespread in our area, and it is not always obvious what can be done to prevent these very occasional occurrences.

The matter of grass cutting in Sutton Wick was discussed at length, it being unclear which areas are the responsibility of the Parish Council *. For the time being, the village caretaker, Steve Sharpe, is to be asked to mow the parts that are known to be common land. A decision about care of other areas adjacent to the public road will be made after further consultation between residents and the Council.

Once again, the Council received a complaint about the faulty speed indicator on Steventon Road south of the A34. Vandalism has often caused the problems and efforts to prevent this have been unsuccessful. As I write, the matter has already been reported to the relevant authority and it is hoped a solution will be found to make the sign vandal proof.

The Parish Council owns the burial ground (not the churchyard) and, following recent government guidelines, decided in the spring of 2006 to permit only commemorative tablets on graves, rather than upright headstones. Some headstones become unsafe and have been known elsewhere to cause serious injury. As a consequence, we are required, at considerable expense, to have all upright headstones topple tested. The Council made the decision not to permit upright headstones after much deliberation; it was felt that public money could be better spent. Since the ruling was made the Council has had appeals from two people whose family members were buried before the Council's decision was made, and who had planned on putting in place an upright headstone once the ground had settled. Under these special circumstances, the Council decided in both cases to waive the ruling and allow an upright stone.

Once again, Steve Sharpe had to report an incident of vandalism. The bus shelter on the Green was covered with graffiti and the nearby waste bin was badly damaged. By contrast with this mindless behaviour the Council was delighted to receive a letter from the Brownies asking how they might help the village. They even suggested placing a waste bin somewhere and so they are to be asked to provide a bin for the play area.

Good news for the residents of Caudwell Close! After a very long wait since the request was first made, the dangerously uneven surface of the road has now been repaired and is much improved.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on **Monday 3rd September at 7.45pm** in the Caudwell Day Centre, and all are welcome to attend.

* A fire some years ago in the offices of solicitors Morgan Cole destroyed the Parish deeds. Work is ongoing to try to reconstruct these, but meanwhile there are a few areas of uncertainty.

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MORE PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Melanie Parker

Recreation Facilities

As some of you may know, I have been looking at the recreation facilities in the village and in particular those for young people.

The area in Lyford Close was surveyed as a possible site for more play equipment but the rules on play areas and their proximity to houses rendered it impossible to develop this further.

In the Jan/Feb issue of the Chronicle there was a recreation facility survey for villagers to comment on possible improvements. Some of the views expressed were for a Bridge club, a shelter for young people to congregate, an all-weather pitch, netball, tennis and a lady's over 50 keep-fit class.

There is the possibility of developing the training strip between the village hall and the football pitch but the space is very limited. In the meantime there are discussions to update and improve that whole area including the village hall so for now we are concentrating our efforts towards the Drayton Youth Zone, a drop-in evening for young people (see advert).

My thanks to all those who completed their questionnaires and all those who have given their time and energy to explore this situation.

abbey

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WESTMINSTER LETTER

Ed Vaizey

On 1st August, First Great Western in association with Network Rail, released the new December 2007 Train Timetable.

It all sounds like the premiere of the latest Hollywood Blockbuster, but for many commuters the release of the new timetable will be have been awaited with bated breath. Following the debacle of the December 2006 timetable, which caused chronic overcrowding, delays and cancellations – a cross party group of Thames Valley MP's have been working closely with FGW, Network Rail and Commuter Groups to ensure that problems are not repeated.

Didcot commuters can now breath a little easier - the new timetable offers a significant improval on both the December 2006 timetable and the present one. There are now 3 trains that leave Didcot prior to 7am. Additionally, there are now 6 trains that depart Didcot between the hours of 7am and 8am; with the much loved 7.17am now a permanent fixture in the timetable.

In total, there are 10 trains that will get commuters into central London by 9am.

This is good news. Following months of negotiation, with all Thames Valley MP's trying to get the best for their constituents, a consensus has been reached between the parties involved. The emphasis is now on ensuring that the new timetable runs smoothly and without fault.

However, there are still many problems on our train lines. My mailbag is constantly being filled with tales of the poor service that commuters have experienced on our rail network. I will continue to lobby all parties involved to ensure that we have the 21st century network that we deserve. Overcrowding, delays, poor customer service, sub-standard train stations, late delivery of improvements, all on the back of inflation busting price rises are unacceptable – and the time for excuses has run out.

I have been given assurances by FGW and Network Rail that the track improvements and increases in capacity will soon come online and will make a positive difference to all those who use our railways.

I will continue to monitor the situation closely, and if anyone has concerns over the standard of service received, please get in touch.

Office email:langleya@parliament.uk

Office Tel:.....0207 219 6350

Office Fax:0207 219 2718

email:vaizey@parliament.uk

website:www.vaizey.com

Surgery Times

7 September 2007: Held at Grove, Mill Hall House, Old School Lane from 5:30 pm for 1 hour 30 minutes

21 September 2007: Held at Shrivenham, Memorial Hall from 5:30 pm for 1 hour 30 minutes.

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FLOODS

Ed Vaizey

Like many of you, I was caught in the floods that hit Oxfordshire. I had to abandon my car in Longcot at about 3pm, and got a lift home to Sparsholt in a 4x4. My own home was saved from flooding by a quick - thinking neighbour, who dug a trench at the end of the road to allow water a foot deep to drain away. I spent the rest of Friday visiting villages nearby with County Councillor Iain Brown in his jeep. On the Sunday, I was able to get to most places to see what had happened, and spent the afternoon filling sand bags with other volunteers at the Regis Depot in Challow. We probably filled a thousand sand bags between us.

I saw Hanney at its worst on Friday, looking much better on Sunday. When I got to Marcham on Sunday, most of the water had drained away, but I know a few houses were badly hit. Lyford was devastated. The Ladygrove in Didcot suffered terrible problems, mainly because of the poor drainage, which I am taking up urgently with Thames Water. Certain parts of Grove were badly hit, particularly Kingfishers, Vale Avenue and the houses by the Barley Mow. Steventon was also hit badly. I never made it to Stanford, or the other villages near Faringdon.

It is perhaps too soon to draw conclusions, but here are three thoughts. Although the rain and the consequent flooding is the worst we have seen for fifty years, we cannot assume it won't happen again for fifty years. Events like this are likely to become more frequent. Secondly, increased housing development must be a factor. It prevents water draining away, and many of the drainage systems themselves are very poor quality. This must cause real doubts about whether developments east of Swindon, in Grove and Didcot, not to mention the reservoir, can go ahead.. Thirdly, and related, the local councils and the Environment Agency must sit down and analyse the worst affected areas and ask themselves what we can do to defend ourselves in the future, and whether, in that context, these developments should be allowed. I am pleased the Government has said they will reimburse councils for the flood damage and I will be supporting the councils in their dealings with Government.



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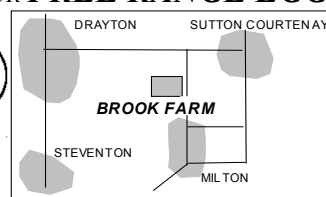
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DRAYTON DIARY

FOR SEPTEMBER

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	1st	10.00 – 11.00 am	Fair Trade Sale	Church
Sun	2nd	11.15 – 11.45 am	Fair Trade Sale	Church
Mon	3rd	7.45pm	Parish Council	Caudwell DC
Thur	6th	7.30 – 8.30 pm	Abingdon YFC	
Sun	9th	All Day	Bowls Club	
Sat	15th	Lunchtime	Private Party	
Sat	15th	Evening	Sequence Dancing	
Mon	17th	8.00 pm	Hall Management Committee	Lounge
Mon	17th	5.15 pm	Chronicle copy deadline	<i>Vickery's box</i>
Thur	20th	Drayton Players	The Importance of Being Earnest	
Fri	21st	Drayton Players	The Importance of Being Earnest	
Sat	22nd	Drayton Players	The Importance of Being Earnest	
Thur	27th	Toddlers Fun Day		
Thur	27th	7.30 – 9.00 pm		Drayton Youth Zone
Sat	29th	Private Party		

ADVANCE NOTICE

On Saturday 13th October, the RSPCA will be at the Hall between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm for an animal micro chipping session. Any size of animal can be chipped from a mouse to a horse all at a very reasonable price. No appointment necessary, just turn up with your animal and they will do it while you wait.

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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
6.00-7.30 pm	Damascus Club (Not 17th Sept.)	
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
2.00 pm	Whist – now each week	Caudwell Day Centre
2.00 pm	Drayton Wives (Last Wednesday in the month)	
2.15 pm	Badminton	
6.30 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)	
7.30 pm	Sequence Dancing. Tel: 531701	

FRIDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	School Ground Bldg
11.00 am	The Friday Club (fortnightly) 202466	Caudwell Day Centre
6.30pm	Choir Practice (fortnightly)	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.

**Printed by Dataprint, 11a West Way, Botley,
Oxford.**