

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Derek Pooley

Volume 30 No. 9

October 2007

LESPARRE, je vous aime!

Planning for a weekend with friends can have its stresses, if like me you fret about food, arrangements, entertainment and all the minutiae that go with socialising successfully. My husband has stresses too, as he worries about his inability to speak much French when our friends have English as a second language.

Our normal life is frenetic, with little time or energy for long weekends of entertaining - I have been told by close friends I have my home-work balance wrong - but all the feelings of pressure melted as I arrived at the village hall to collect my guests from Lesparre. The pleasure of meeting old friends was overwhelming; a great cure for feeling stressed - I recommend it!

Reflecting on the Drayton Lesparre twinning weekend as a whole, I am amazed how enjoyment speaks a common language and how laughter does not always need translating. My (still-pure-Allo-Allo style) French has definitely improved and with guests who like to garden it is easy as secateur (same word in French). My husband now has another word in his repertoire!

We even managed the usual dinner party conversations about politics, the economy, children of today and exchanged thoughts on the relative quality of our political leaders (our guest did suggest we could borrow theirs!)

Not only did the fun spread but also the sun shone. Everyone emerged from the weekend activities with a healthy glow (from sun or wine?). We thoroughly enjoyed everyone's company and much credit must be given to Michael and Barbara Bell for the sheer effort they put into making these visits a success.

How can anyone not want to be involved in having such fun. The worry of the planning is now a dim and distant memory and it is with great pleasure I look forward to seeing them again next year - when the planning is their problem. But I know it will also be worth it. Another weekend full of serious feel-good factor!

Sarah Seaman

Editor's Note: Emily Bell's full account of the Drayton Lesparre twinning weekend is on page 9

DAMASCUS, they love you!

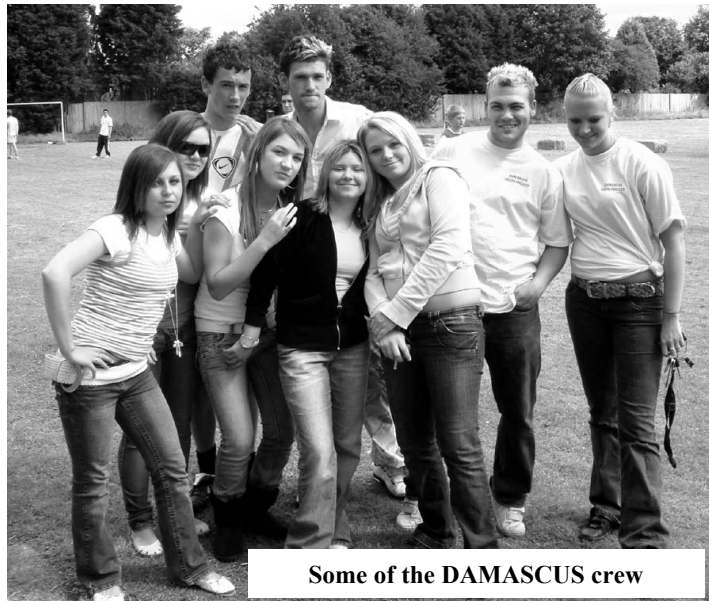
Each year Oxfordshire Rural Communities Council (ORCC) organises a 'Villages of the Year' competition, sponsored by Calor. So during the summer, on behalf of Drayton Parish Council, I filled in the comprehensive questionnaire for Drayton.

We and several other villages were subsequently chosen to enter the next stage via a presentation in Kennington village hall in August. Each was assessed by a panel of judges and all those taking part had ample opportunity to look at what the other villages had to offer. Altogether it was an interesting morning and Richard Webber and I learned a great deal from it.

Of the five villages supporting the DAMASCUS youth project only Drayton and Sutton Courtenay were represented at Kennington but we had asked that DAMASCUS could make its own separate presentation as this seemed to be the fairest way of demonstrating that this particular youth activity is shared between all five villages.

Drayton didn't win 'Village of the Year' but we (and the other DAMASCUS villages) have been highly commended for the youth project and we and Sutton Courtenay have been invited to send representatives to ORCC's AGM in October, each to receive £125 and a certificate. The money, of course, will go to the DAMASCUS youth work and therefore be shared fairly amongst all the five villages.

Jenny Pooley



Some of the DAMASCUS crew

Also in this issue:

- P3: Reducing Noise from the A34
- P4: Sowing Seeds of Hope
- P6: Keeping ourselves fit and healthy
- P7: GARD's view of water supply and demand.
- P8: Oxfordshire and the Slave Trade
- 13: Preventing future flooding



MILLS OF THE GINGE BOOK

Saturday 27th October

Walk starts 11am from church

The cost of the walk is £2 for adults, children free
Bring a picnic lunch.

Last year we explored the mills on the River Ock; this year we will follow those on the Ginge Brook. There will be historical commentary to make the walk more interesting

**Registration forms are available from the church
or from Josie at The Vicarage, 531374.**

All proceeds will go to church funds

LITTER-PICKING MORNING



Please consider joining the

YOUTH OF DRAYTON



At 10.00 am - 1.00 pm

On **SATURDAY 20th OCTOBER**

Meet outside the Village Hall at 10am
to receive instructions & refuse bags

Free refreshments at the end for all volunteers

If you would like to volunteer to help tidy Drayton

PLEASE RING 534001

CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The **November Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Friday, 26 October 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 **Tony Holmes, 53 Whitehorns Way (531180)**. Contributions should be emailed to the editor or placed in the Chronicle letter box (outside Vickery's shop on Drayton Green) or sent to Vickery's at 5 The Green, Drayton, Abingdon, OX14 4JA

to arrive no later than 5.15 pm on Monday, 15 October 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:
December	19 November 2007	30 November 2007
Jan/Feb	07 January 2008	18 January 2008
March	11 February 2008	22 February 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. 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! 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. As **hand-written items**. However, 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') and should be taken to the Chronicle post box at Vickery's Hardware Store on Drayton Green, or sent to The Advertising Manager, The Drayton Chronicle, c/o Vickery's Hardware Store, 5 The Green, Drayton, Abingdon, OX14 4JA. Requests for ads should arrive **no later than the Friday BEFORE the main Chronicle 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 SEPTEMBER LOTTERY

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	1040	Mr. Watkinson, 7 High Street	Mary Alexander
£20	1953	Wendy Mann, 41 Whitehorns Way	Mirja Boyd
£15	2405	L. Oram, 6 Eastway MHP	Teresa Burnage
£10	2474	A. Beacroft, The Holt, Sutton Wick Lane	Jean Oliver
£10	0004	Mr. Bachrach, 21 Abingdon Road	Jane Henderson
£10	1382	E. Simmonds, 236 Steventon Road	Jackie Walker
£10	0357	Mrs. Bruce, 16A Sutton Wick Lane	Beryl Dawson
£10	0096	Mr. MacPherson, 103 Abingdon Road	Julie Brown
£10	2389	I. Berry, 7 Eastway MHP	Teresa Burnage
£10	2490	C. D'Cruze, 10 Newman Lane	Jean Oliver

The winning tickets were drawn by members of the Bowls Club from the 2555 tickets sold

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YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor

I should like to thank everyone who sponsored me when I ran the 87 mile length of The Ridgeway in August. Due to everyone's generosity I've managed to raise £250. I'm sure that Helen and Douglas house will be very grateful.

Daphne Samworth

Dear Editor

I thought that residents might be interested in some facts and figures relating to the A34(T) (route Euro05 Algeciras to Greenock) passing close to the edge of the village. Noise is measured in decibels (dBA) and that from tyres alone would reduce by about 5 dBA were traffic limited to 50mph. This takes account of the fact that most HGVs are already speed limited →

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WIT & WISDOM QUIZ NIGHT

Drayton Hall: Friday 9th November.

Doors open at 7.00pm for 7.30pm.

£5.00 per head:

including ploughman's supper.

Teams of Four!

To register your team

contact Ann Webb on 531418

The bar will be open throughout the evening.



→ to 56mph but that about 50% of cars and light vans exceed the 70mph limit and nearly 20% exceed 80mph. Although tyre noise exceeds engine noise at higher speeds, the latter is a very significant component which would also be much reduced at lower speeds. Noise is very subjective and in Drayton the impact is dependent on the weather, wind direction, elevation of the road and time of day/night. However, in most conditions the reduction of engine and tyre noise from speed limiting is likely to be more than the 5dBA taken by Government as marginal. Of course there are types of road surfacing which would cut tyre noise still further.

The average daily flow of vehicles is 62300. Taking into account both the size of engines and current driving speeds, the average emissions per car/light van (those vehicles most affected by speed reduction) would be something around 180grams/km. A speed limit of 50mph/80km/h for the 2.5 km of the A34 which affects the village could reduce CO2 emissions by about 25% which amounts to about 7 tonnes per day, not very different from what an average household emits in a year.

While we are looking at ways to improve the quality of life in the village and reduce our environmental impact, it would seem that a speed reduction on the A34 would be a win-win. Incidentally the average driver might add something around 15 secs to the time of their journey but the road would be made safer by reducing the difference between the faster and slower vehicles.

Daniel Scharf

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

We offer a warm welcome to Steve and Michelle, recently moved into Binning Close from Abingdon



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The Red Lion



ST PETER'S CHURCH

Priest in Charge Revd Sister Josie Midwinter.....531374
Minister in Training and Choir
 Mrs Rosie Bruce.....525284
Churchwardens Mrs Sue Harris848361
 Mrs Val Cross535183
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
 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 OCTOBER

Tues 2nd 3.00 pm First Tuesday Connections *Church Room*
 Sat 6th 10.00 am Sale of Fair Trade Goods *Church*
 Sun 7th 11.15 pm Sale of Fair Trade Goods *Church*

YOU STAY - WE PRAY

30th Sept to 13th Oct, Steventon Road, East Way and East Way MHP; 14th to 20th Oct, Church Lane, Henleys Lane, Caudwell close and Gravel Lane; 21st to 3rd Nov Abingdon Road, Oday hill, Binning Close and Hayward Road.

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 2nd October and 6th November. If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.

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SOWING SEEDS OF HOPE.

A keen gardener walks into the local garden centre. To the gardener's surprise, God was behind the checkout counter. So the gardener seizes the opportunity to ask God for a supply of the very best plants available, to which God replied 'Sorry, I only supply seeds'.



Autumn is my particular favourite time of the year; its rich variety of colours and the fruition of the year's growth in the fields, hedgerows and gardens. At our next All-Age worship on 14th October, we shall be celebrating this harvest time of year. Harvest is not just about the gathering of food for the people however. It is celebrating all that is gathered and given and offered to God. This includes us too. We are all a harvest of unique gifts or talents. What we are and do, and how we use our gifts is our harvest when given to God. If you have never thought of yourself in that way before, harvest is a good time to start. I am reminded of last month's front-page article in the Drayton Chronicle by Richard Webber. This was his report following the Village Day held in July. In it he asked us all to consider how we might use our time and talents to help our community here in Drayton.


My favourite season, autumn, is also a time of change and excitement at the new academic year ahead for me. I wonder how many of my pupils feel the same way? I am forever thankful that we have the chance in this country to reach our full potential. However, as we celebrate our harvest we must not forget those many thousands around the world who are denied this chance. They are not able to access those things which would help them to reach their full potential. These are things which we take for granted: clean water, enough food to eat, a roof over their heads, education and healthcare.

Harvest celebration is a good time to start easing these inequalities. The main charity that St. Peter's in Drayton will be fund raising for this year's harvest service (USPG) is supporting children in rural North India. These children will be able to receive an education, which means they will have a chance to do a variety of jobs - and find a route out of poverty. They, like us, need the right conditions in order to grow, just like seeds do. Seeds need to be planted in the right soil, to be nurtured and cultivated if they are to flourish. So at this harvest time we give thanks to God for all the good things he gives us. But while giving thanks for all the good things that we have, let us also remember those who are living in poverty and ask how we can help by sowing seeds of hope.

I ask you to consider how you might help and support your community here in Drayton, and also for your donations to help support many grassroots church-run initiatives which help people to reach their full potential - sowing seeds of hope.

Rosie Bruce (Ordinand)




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 Old Lodge, Henleys Lane
 Drayton, OX14 4HU
 Tel 01235 531269
Please ring for an appointment

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
Sunday Service: 10.30 am

Local contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409

POPPY COLLECTION Peter and Diana Hasting

We have received some wonderful offers from people willing to collect this year, but are still short of people for some rounds in Drayton. If you could take over a well-established round, and allow the collector a well-earned retirement, this would be wonderful. We would also welcome more requests for static collections in shops or other outlets.

The 2007 Royal British Legion Poppy Collection starts on Saturday 27th October, giving collectors a chance to walk round in daylight that first day. The authorised House-to-House Collection continues until Sunday 11th 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.

SEESAW Rosie Nicol-Harper

Are you a warm, caring, friendly person? Do you have about 16 hours a month to spare?

If you enjoy a challenge and think you could make a difference to the life of a local bereaved child, SeeSaw (Grief Support for the young in Oxfordshire) would like to hear from you. We are currently looking for new volunteers to work with children following the death of a parent or close family member.

To find out more please come along to our Taster Evening in Oxford on Wednesday 7th November at 6.30 - 8.00pm

Please phone SeeSaw for further details Tel. 01865 744768

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All Souls Day Service



COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL
DEPARTED

A service at St Peter's
on Sunday 4th November at 3 pm

There will be an opportunity to remember our loved ones
by name and by lighting a candle

Please add names to the list at the back of church
The service will be followed by refreshments

CHIROPODIST - PODIATRIST

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

FOR A HOME VISIT
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NOTICE BOARD

DRAYTON HISTORY GROUP

Daniel Scharf

A meeting will be held in the Church Room, Church Lane on 23 October 2007 at 7.00pm to consider the information which has been collected by stalwarts of the group over many years and, if there is sufficient interest in the village, discuss a new programme of events. For more information contact Theresa Taylor (531396) or Daniel Scharf (531107).



RSPCA PET MICROCHIPPING

Ann Webb

On Saturday 13th October, the RSPCA will be at Drayton 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.



TAI CHI

Helen Grimwade

Would you like to keep fit, stay active and help maintain your independence, whilst making new friends?

Age Concern Oxfordshire, in collaboration with Oxfordshire County Council, are offering Gentle Exercise Classes at Christchurch Hall, Northcourt Road, Abingdon or, if you want to try something new, Tai Chi.

Tai Chi has been recognized as the most suitable exercise for all people - from children to older people - and can be practiced by individuals or groups alike. Currently, there are more than 1,000,000 people practicing tai chi in the world.

It offers great exercise, increases flexibility and helps improve and maintain balance and coordination. We have sessions, led by Grand Master Gou from the Oxford Taiji Gongfu Institute, currently running in Abingdon at Trinity Church Hall, Conduit Road on Tuesdays at 2.30 -3.30pm

Come along for a free taster session!



ABINGDON HEALTH WALKS

Chris Hutt

Try walking and feel the difference!

Health Walking is free, fun, friendly and good for your fitness. Our walks, led by trained leaders, are a part of a national scheme which is supported by the 'Walking the Way to Health' national initiative. They take place at 10.30 am every Wednesday and at 2.30pm the first Sunday of every month, starting from the entrance to the White Horse Leisure Centre in Abingdon.

For more details visit www.whltc.co.uk or contact 554751 (for Wednesdays) and 535543 (for Sundays).

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WATER DEMAND & SUPPLY Nick Thompson

Some of the GARD Committee will be meeting the Environment Agency at the end of August to discuss the need for a reservoir. We intend to present the reasons we think a new reservoir is unnecessary and it is appropriate to share the argument and the essential details we have with the villages affected.

Reservoir Panned Output: The yield of the reservoir is planned at 309 MI/day (million litres per day). Our argument is that this can be met three or four times over by other means. We have researched the alternatives as shown below.

Thames Water Forecast Demand Figures. the total EXTRA demand in 2030 stated by Thames Water is 343 MI/d.

Leakage Details: the latest leakage is 862 MI/d (almost 3 times reservoir output). Allowing the very old pipes to continue leaking is thoroughly wasteful. To replace all London's mains over 100 years old, some 7,750 km, would cost just over £3 Bn and produce a leakage reduction of at least 400 MI/d (more than the output of the reservoir). The work must be done sometime soon anyhow.

Demand Reduction Measures: total saving by compulsory metering of 209 MI/d is quoted. This is two thirds of proposed reservoir output.

Rainwater Harvesting and use of Grey Water: rainwater and grey water use could reduce new demand by 75MI/d if used in new housing development.

Water Transfer: transfer from Deerhurst to Swindon, assuming a 900mm pipe could supply 60MI/d and cost about £50M to lay. A dual pipe could yield double at 120MI/d

De-Salination: the agreed de-salination plant at Beckton will result in 140MI/d and if a similar plant at Crossness is adopted 280MI/d. This represents almost the whole reservoir output and is a guaranteed on site supply for London.

Effluent Re-circulation: the water resources available will be increased if more use is made of effluent re-circulation. This needs quantification and costing.

Aquifer Re-charge: aquifer re-charge considerations have not been quantified in our assessment owing to the complexity of this subject. There must be scope to capture more run-off and add to underground reserves which are natural reservoirs.

Conclusion: there are substantial opportunities for the better use of existing resources and the generation of new ones. The 343MI/d estimated additional demand by the year 2030, quoted by Thames Water, can be met three times over within other projects. Our paper specifies 884 MI/d of savings or additional resources and a further 200MI/d of potential additions to water resources.

GARD believes that Thames Water customers should know these facts and be aware that they will be expected to pay for this huge and unnecessary investment.

Just Grass Weekly / Fortnightly Lawn mowing Service

Tel: 01235 553468
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Julian Cook. 43 Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton

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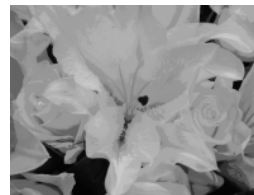
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LOCAL THEATRE

DRAYTON PLAYERS

Jean Hager

By the time you read this, our production of 'The Importance of being Earnest' will just be completed. We hope you enjoyed it - and more about it next month. (**Editors Note:** I certainly enjoyed it immensely. The two young stars, Rick Webber and Felicity Jackson, were brilliant - and our district councilor fits easily into the role of country yokel!)

We have now cast most of the parts for our forthcoming musical play, 'The Good Companions' but there is still time to contact our director, Deirdre Jones (527865), if you would like to become involved in some way. It does not necessarily have to be on stage; maybe backstage support interests you, or lighting. And our very hard-working wardrobe mistress, Georgia, would welcome some assistance. If any of these aspects appeal to you, contact Deirdre or any other member of the Players. There is a whole new world of interest out there waiting for you to explore it.



'THE DRESSER'

Margaret Long

I had never seen the play 'The Dresser' either on stage or on screen, so I was very keen to see the performance of it given by the new 'Breakaleg' company as their very first production at the Unicorn theatre in Abingdon at the end of August. I was certainly not disappointed

I was especially keen to see this production as about half of the actors and production team are either members of Drayton Players or have connections with it

The piece is a 'tour de force' for the two main leads, with Paul Martin as the dresser, the sinuously self effacing yet immensely manipulating character living his life through the success of 'Sir', the Donald Wolfitt type leading man, declamatory, vain and egotistic and played by Jon Crawley

Both these actors were magnificent in their extremely demanding roles and the rest of the cast supported them ably and performed their Shakespearean roles perfectly. The producer/director was Deirdre Jones who produces for Drayton Players and is directing the musical 'The Good Companions' in Drayton next year. This was a masterly production utilising every inch of the cramped Unicorn stage. Every detail had been meticulously attended to and the whole was a marvellously professional show.

Many congratulations to all concerned. I was sorry that the theatre was only about half full on the Thursday night performance. It deserved to play to packed houses.

TESTAMENT TO A TRADE

Felicity Peacock

What does the bi-centenary of the abolition of the slave trade mean to people in Oxfordshire? How were our lives affected by the enslavement of so many Africans? Are we aware that modern-day slavery continues to blight lives on our own doorstep?

What started as an archive search at Oxfordshire Record Office for connections with slavery has catalysed a dynamic cross-cultural theatre project examining the origins and impact of the slave trade. Archive material relating to slave owners and black servants in the county has been interwoven by three writers from the Oxford Playhouse Writers' Group with dramatic scenes telling the story of three young Africans kidnapped and sold into slavery in the 18th century. An alternating theme explores how two 21st century girls become victims of another form of slavery



The resulting play will be acted by players from the OXFORD THEATRE GUILD at a number of venues in October (see below - one of the venues is the Friends' Meeting House in Charlbury, chosen because of the Quakers' support for the abolitionist movement in the late eighteenth century). The cast of nine actors, six of whom are black, have done their own research into 18th and 21st century slavery, including some of the key abolitionists, and taken part in workshops of the traditional African music and rhythm which is an integral part of the one-act play. They will join in a discussion of issues raised in a forum with the audience after each performance, in which the writers and director will also participate, alongside representatives of human rights groups, Christian groups etc.

Performance Dates (all evening performances at 7.30pm):

October 4 - 6: Burton Taylor Theatre, Oxford; also 2.30pm matinee on 6 October.

Oct 10: Lains Barn, Ardington, Wantage

Oct 11: Northbourne Centre, Church St, Didcot

Oct 12: Friends' Meeting House, Market St, Charlbury

Oct 13: East Oxford Community Centre, Princes St, Oxford

Tickets at all venues: £5 (£4 concessions)

Box Office: 01865 305305; www.ticketsoxford.com for all venues except Lains Barn

For Lains Barn, ticket reservations 01235 760176 or at the Vale & Downlands Museum, Wantage

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ALL AROUND

TWINNING VISIT

Emily Bell

The long awaited weekend finally arrived - after months of organisation by all members of the group we were delighted to be able to share in the Medocain sunshine which was an integral part of our planning – in January!

Bob Matthews and Barbara Bell joined the coach in Abingdon en route to Southampton Airport to meet our visitors. Unfortunately the flight was somewhat delayed (3 hours plus!) but eventually they all appeared through the arrivals gate. Much kissing ensued before embarking for Drayton.

What remained of Thursday evening was spent with host families and it wasn't until Friday morning that we all met up again at the Redbridge Park and Ride for a day trip to Oxford. The group were a lovely balance of young – not so young / old friends and new. Many were hosting or being hosted for the very first time but you would have thought they had all known each other for years.

Our first port of call was the newly renovated Oxford Unlocked - the prison complex. After the tour we walked through the city past Christ Church into Christchurch Meadow for a picnic lunch by the river. The day was glorious and we spent a happy hour eating and chatting with our guests, some of whom had never been to England let alone Drayton. It was a very exciting time. From there we explored the Botanical Gardens and the children in the party (and some big children!) went punting.

That evening was spent in various Twinners' homes with people bringing and sharing food. It was a good time to meet others in the group and discuss the plans for the following day.

Brilliant blue sky and sunshine for our trip to Bath. We all but filled a 52 seater coach – a proper charabanc trip. Our first appointment was at the Roman Baths. Everyone was enthralled by the visit, the Baths were truly stunning – unlike the Oxford Castle, French was available via personal guides. After two hours we were ready for our Cornish Pasties and an added bonus from the street entertainment directly in front of the café.

The open top bus was our next excursion. This had been requested by our French guests and was not in the original budget! A fantastic way to enjoy the wonderful views of the city and a very interesting commentary on the history of Bath. Everyone returned safely to the coach park bound for Drayton.

Bob Matthews had arranged a Jazz evening in the Village Hall with local artistes playing - namely Boulevard Swing. We were joined by some 40/50 folk from the village.



Sunday dawned beautifully, much to Ken Giles' delight as he had organised a walk around Wittenham Clumps and down to Days Lock for an al fresco lunch. Our fears of over taxing our guests were unfounded as, after a suitable siesta, they were ready to walk on to Dorchester and an impromptu visit around the Abbey. Those who remained at the Lock played Pooh Sticks and Rounders. The French and English children (teenagers really) loved it. One of our French friends explained as best she could that it had been for her and the others "a truly perfect day". Wonderful place, great company and excellent food (and wine)!



Once again Sunday night dinner was held in the homes of members – these evenings provide a very relaxed atmosphere to discuss the differences and similarities of our two towns and their peoples. From a twinning perspective these occasions make for a better understanding not just between our two towns but between two cultures and have helped us create the right atmosphere for lasting friendships.

Bank Holiday Monday was a day for each host family to entertain their own guests and/or do what their guests desired. It was a more relaxed day with quality time to get to know each other even better.

Many folk went to the Uffington Show which was a great success (Evelyn's arachnophobia was momentarily overcome when she had her photo taken with a tarantula climbing up her arms); others went off to Stonor Park where there was a big Craft Event.

Monday evening was our formal Farewell Dinner which was held at Steventon Hall this time and catered for by Jill Jarvis. We started with an aperitif of Pimms (which took some explaining) with all that green stuff in it! This was followed by a delicious meal of roast lamb and, of course, local French wine.

As always, Tuesday arrived far too quickly and we assembled at Drayton Hall car park saying goodbye. Again much kissing and hugging and lots of tears.

It was a truly wonderful weekend. To meet such lovely people was a privilege which I'm sure we will all remember. Hopefully our friendships will continue through email and letters and in a year's time we will see many of them again – in Lesparre, France.

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MORE ALL AROUND

TODDLERS

Jane Nye

It has been lovely to see everyone back at toddlers after the summer break and catch up with everyone's news. It's always nice to see new faces as well. We were all thrilled to hear the news from Becky and Natalie Dryden, they have a new little sister called Silvia Louise, congratulations to all the family.

Our Toddler Fun morning is days away, to be held on Thursday 4th October in the main hall from 10.00 am until midday. Stalls already confirmed are Tempest Photographers, Usborne books, Katrina with her variety of goods including T- shirts designed by her, as well as Mona selling cards and felt toy food. 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 hope to see you there!

Just to let you know that we raised £125 for Barnados when we did the Toddle back in June. Consequently we raised £33 for the toddler group itself. A special mention to Harry who raised £85. Well done Harry!

A quick mention about subs. As you know, we ask you to pay £1.50 for one child and then 50p for each sibling. This money goes towards the running costs of the group, for example hire of the hall, insurance and the cost of snacks and resources. Very rarely does each session make enough money to cover the cost of running one session. So, a friendly request please to ask that subs are paid on the day and to make sure that IOUs are paid up. Thank you.

Looking ahead, a reminder that the Christmas party will be held on Thursday 13th December, more details to follow. We will be open on Thursday 25th October, half term, as a couple of mums have volunteered to open up.

We look forward to seeing you on Thursday mornings - from 9.30 -11.30am!

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PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

Debbie Bargus

We would like to welcome Max Adams and Lauren West as they have now joined us for the new term. We hope they have lots of fun and enjoy being with us. We would like to wish both Oz and Claire a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing them back at Pre-School soon.

We have continued our theme HOMES this term, the children have had great fun making paper mache igloos, they have also been making 3D models of various shaped houses. The children have been enjoying the good weather and have been playing outside, which they love. We are currently applying for a grant to help us improve the outside play area, and if we are successful it will add greatly to the fun had by all.

The Tempest photographer is visiting Preschool on Friday 9th November, from 3.30pm. If you would like you child/children photographed, please see the list of available times on the Parent Notice Board inside Preschool.

Great for Christmas. Having been brave enough to mention Christmas already, we are holding a Christmas Fayre on Friday 2nd November from 8 till 10pm, in Steventon Village Hall. There will be various stalls selling lots of great things for Christmas from jewellery, toiletries, cards, books and much more. Please look out for the Yellow Moon catalogues available in Preschool.

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.

SCHOOL REPORT

Anita Hedditch

School has been back for a week and a half. The new children are settling in and injuries sustained by teachers in the previous term are healing. A formal welcome to Mrs Coade, who replaces Mrs Allott who has moved on to specialist teaching.

A date for your diary is a fashion show on 18th October at 7:30 in the school. School children have an opportunity to walk the catwalk in fashions from numerous big labels. It is a fun evening and there are bargains to be had, please come and support us.

The youngest children in the lower unit have learnt a poem about our senses and performed a rendition in the recent assembly. The middle unit is studying drama and report writing, and getting to grips with healthy eating and caring for their teeth. They go back in time to study the Vikings both in art and history classes. The upper unit too are studying report writing and learning about narrative writing, plays and poetry. Their history lessons will take them to Victorian times and science introduces the concept of earth in space.

The play leaders in year six are taking to their roles well, noticeable in their red caps, they co-ordinate giving and collecting of activity games during the lunchtime periods. Whoops and shouts of children having fun from these - mostly items from Sainsbury's vouchers - are audible during the lunchtime break.

YET MORE ALL AROUND

BOWLS CLUB

Roll Up

Summer league has now finished, with both teams in the top half of their respective leagues but unable to get among the honours. The winter leagues get underway the last week in September, with the club fielding 3 teams this year. 'The Wasps' rejoining and playing in Division 2 of the South Oxon league, with June Hyde as captain, and with Val Locke captain of 'The Rollers' and Doreen Jones captain of 'The Hammers' who will be competing in Division 1 of the South Oxon

Three more internal competitions have been completed 'The Wally Weightman' Triples with Tony Wright, O. Brown and Julie Brain going through to play against Barbara Carter, Avril Holmes and Ivy Harrison. Also down to the final stages, the Ladies Singles, with Jean Mullins through to play Jan Cook, and the Mens Final will be contested between Fred Long and Bryn Jones. All these matches will be held on finals day December the 9th. So far there have been no ideas on how to celebrate the 20th anniversary next year. If anyone has any ideas please get in touch with anyone on the committee. A reminder to anyone thinking of coming to join us, sessions are Monday and Thursdays 2 pm till 5, and Wednesdays 7 pm till 10.

TABLE TENNIS CLUB

John Gould

By the time you read this we will be a couple of weeks into the new season. Hopefully our teams will get off to good starts. Since the last Chronicle we have welcomed Julie John, Stewart Jones and Ellis Bicknell as new players in the League for the F & A teams respectively. Also we have Tony, Dean, Ryan & Anna Gimigliano together with Katie Jones and Helen Hudson as new members at our practice evenings. We would still like some more new members and welcome anyone who is interested in joining.

The club has also received sponsorship from The Oxford Fireplace Centre, enabling us to purchase a set of new club shirts with our name badge embroidered on the chest. We are grateful to Ray Massie for his support in sorting this out. Steve Gardner has been busy obtaining some new dividing netting so that on match nights the two teams playing will not interrupt each other's play. Steve has also extended the support poles the give the netting extra height.

So we're all set for 7 months of Ping Pong! Best wishes to all for the season.

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ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Pearl Stanbridge

The branch will be having its annual dinner at the Lantern Restaurant on Friday 23rd November at 7.30 for 8pm., so come along and join us for a first class meal and good company. I feel sure you will enjoy it so please contact Pat Bucklan on 831499 for a reservation, we look forward to seeing you there.

The next Committee meeting will be held on Monday 15th October at 8pm.

DRAYTON WIVES

Pam Lacey

My apologies for lack of information in the last edition of the Chronicle, due somehow to an e-mail malfunction. In July many members enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon at Milton Manor followed by afternoon tea. Our August meeting was a very scrumptious Bring-and-Share lunch in Mary Alexander's lovely garden which we all thoroughly enjoyed.

Dates for your Diary in **OCTOBER:**

Mon 1st	COFFEE	Ann Hutchings, 21 Binnings Close
Mon 15th	WHIST	Doreen Eato, Caudwell D.C.
Wed 31st	MEETING	Madam de Pompadour – Norman Francis

W.I.

Brenda Malin

First, I would like to announce that our President, Ann Webb is now out of hospital and making good progress. We wish her a speedy recovery and look forward to having her back with us very shortly.

At our September meeting Mrs Franklin, from Cross Lanes Fruit Farm, gave a wonderfully informative talk on the history and the vast number of varieties of apples available. Only the Crab Apple it seems is native to Britain. The Romans certainly knew a thing or two when they came invading, they brought their own medicines and remedies with them, in the form of apple trees; An apple a day should certainly keep the doctor away, also the need to visit 'Holland & Barratt' the health food shop, if the abundance of goodies packed in a simple apple is anything to go by. Sadly, another invader 'The Common Market' has tried to reverse the Roman's initiative by encouraging the grubbing out of over 40 of our British orchards.

Our coffee and card making morning was well attended and we all went home with our very own masterpiece.

Next meeting, Thursday October 11th is a talk on medals and old coins. at 7.30 pm at Drayton Hall; visitors are welcome.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Daniel Scharf

In the absence of the Council's normal reporter I have the opportunity to choose a few items from the 3 September meeting for public consumption. On the subject of the alterations to The Green which were agreed in principle by the PC in 2002, and on which DEFRA is continuing to consult, the Council decided that the delay in reaching a decision was getting in the way of the important issue of planning for the provision of recreational facilities within the village. The covenant entered into by the owner of Manor Farm to transfer about half of the remaining land south of Henleys Lane to the District Council as public open space and to use the remainder only for agricultural purposes depends on the building and occupation of the houses for which permission was granted in 1997 (as does the payment of £100,000 to the PC). The PC felt that the time had come when we should all know whether or not the development could go ahead as approved so as to remove the current uncertainty. If the position becomes clear, the PC are thinking that a public meeting might be appropriate to discuss the use of the land not being used for the building of the houses.



The issue of accesses being taken across the recreation ground to the rear of houses on Steventon Road was discussed and, when the houses are identified, the PC will be writing to the owners/occupiers to see what arrangements could be made to regularise or prevent this practice. Those affected could help the Council by providing their names and addresses to the parish clerk, with some indication of what access they would like to have to the rear of their properties.

The question of neighbourhood policing was raised as the County Council funding for the current scheme is being reviewed. The PC had some reservations about how the scheme had been run, but particularly the impression that the scale and incidence of vandalism and disorder in the village was increasing at the same time as traffic speeding (which had been chosen as the highest priority) was also not being effectively controlled. The PC hoped that the Neighbourhood Action Groups would become an opportunity for residents interested in these and related matters to be involved (contact the parish clerk if interested). The PC cannot and should not pretend that it can take responsibility for the behaviour which causes damage to public and private property in the village, where friends or relations of the culprits might have more influence. The regular damage being caused to the bus shelters is not only senseless, but the cost of repairs comes out of the same budget which could go towards the attempts being made by the Council to improve facilities and activities in the village.

The Upper Thames reservoir proposal is on hold for about two years while TW update their Water Resources Management Plan. A representative from TW has been invited to speak on this at 7.00pm, before the meeting of the Parish Council on Monday 5 November and the public are invited to attend.

Our attempt to become 'village of the year' may have fallen at the last hurdle because we lacked a co-ordinated and planned approach to energy and the environment. The school has launched the GreenCred scheme and adoption throughout the village would give green credibility to the application in 2008.

Finally, the planning applications at Barton Garage and Marcham Road (the former Labour Club) were discussed, both for four houses. It seems a shame that not more residents are engaged in the debates involving the future of local employment, energy efficient design, affordable housing and rights of way which are raised by these proposals.

Next Meeting: Monday, 01 October, 7.45 pm, Caudwell Centre.

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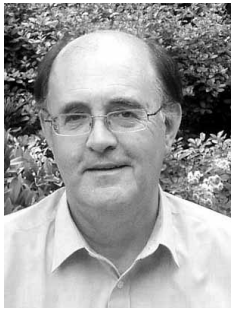
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DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Webber - on floods



I have just returned from an extraordinary Council Meeting at which the VWHDC response to and handling of the floods of July were discussed. Such events have dramatic consequences (780+ flooded homes in the Vale – most in Ock Meadow) and it is perfectly right and proper that questions are asked as to the preparedness and the actions of the authorities in response to them. Such events provide the opportunity to blame but also the opportunity to learn. It is fair comment that authorities need to be much more proactive in planning for extreme climatic events than they are or ever have been and much more organised in their reactions to such events. I am happy that the Vale is learning much of what it needs to learn and, given the funding, will improve its response to these events. However, we have a problem in that we do not know precisely what we are planning for.

In the space of 12 hours on that day in July, some 126.2mm of rain was recorded in Brize Norton. The trouble with such figures is that they mean little unless there is something with which to compare them. The previous record rainfall over such a period in Brize Norton was 79.5mm recorded in 1968. In simple terms, the events of July 2007 were more than 50% worse than anything experienced in the past 40 years. This gives the planners a very big problem. Clearing ditches and culverts, stockpiling sandbags and distributing them ever more efficiently can play a part, but if we are to plan realistically for events of the scale of July'07 (be they floods, hurricanes or hailstones the size of footballs) we have to think beyond the sort of measures that might have worked in the past. It can all seem very depressing and rather frightening.

But I am an optimist. I do not believe that the only solutions involve spending billions. The Thames and the Ock have existed for tens of thousands of years, in which time there have been periods of rainfall longer and heavier than anything we have seen in our lifetime. Man has survived it all by understanding and respecting floodplains. I do not know (I am not at all sure that anybody really knows) yet why the River Ock flooded in the way it did, but one thing of which I am quite sure, is that if the housing estates of South Abingdon had been built away from the floodplain, no-one now owning a home in Ock Meadow would have been forced out of it for six months. Building on floodplains is short-sighted and crazy. If we must have all these extra homes, they must not be built on floodplains. We must start treating floodplain land in the same way that more and more of us are treating CO2 emissions. Every time a little floodplain is lost to housing or building of any kind, we need to provide somewhere else for the extra water to flow – let's call it floodplain neutrality. And don't let us forget that the major exploiters of floodplain may not be building houses all over it – they might be filling up basins with fly ash or even building reservoirs on it!

WESTMINSTER LETTER

Ed Vaizey - with more on floods

Following the floods that have devastated our area, I have had a chance to sit down with the Environment Agency to try and work out what can be done now to prevent such devastation in the future. In particular, I want to see:



- more monitoring of rivers and brooks in order to better predict where future floods will happen
- much better drainage systems for any future developments. Present drainage systems are wholly inadequate and not built with any risk of severe flooding in mind
- all new schemes built on flood plains, or against Environment Agency advice, to be called in by central government

In addition, I am supporting the Vale of White Horse's call for grants to be given to homeowners who wish to install flood protection to their homes. I would also like a scheme to be considered to enlist local farmers in the important work of clearing ditches and brooks.

It is quite clear the Environment Agency is stretched to the limit. It even had its maintenance grant cut last year. In the future resources will be concentrated in urban areas like Oxford, Witney and Abingdon. The villages may end up getting less protection. The Government should urgently consider a scheme to allow farmers, who already get grants for environmental work, to apply for grants to clear ditches and brooks in villages. The prospect of thousands of more homes being built and their impact on flooding could be severe. Despite assurances from the Environment Agency, I still believe the huge developments being planned in Didcot, Grove and east of Swindon could increase flood risk. If these developments are imposed against the wishes of the Environment Agency I hope the Government will call them in. I will be waiting to see the Flood Risk Assessments for each.

Ed Vaizey



Floods in Steventon in July



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DRAYTON DIARY

FOR OCTOBER

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

Regular Events are listed opposite

Mon	1	7.45 pm	Parish Council	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
Tues	9	daytime	Blood Donors Clinic	
		7.30 pm	WI wit and wisdom quiz	
Sat	13	10.00 am	RSPCA pet micro-chipping (until 2.00 pm)	
Mon	15	9.15 am	Chronicle Lottery deadline	<i>Vickery's</i>
		5.15 pm	Chronicle copy deadline	<i>Vickery's box</i>
Sat	20		Rock Concert	
Sun	21	all day	Bowls Club	
Thurs	25	7.30 pm	Drayton Youth Zone (until 9.00 pm)	
Sat	27	9.00 am	Butterfly exhibition (until 6.00 pm)	



St Peter's Church HARVEST FESTIVAL

Supporting street children in India to get an education

10am Sunday 14th October

The collection will go to USPG India Project

Goods will go to The Porch or Home Farm Trust

Friends of Drayton School Association

presents the

'JAS'

FASHION SHOW

Thur 18th October at 7.30 pm at the School

A wide range of children's and ladies clothes
from leading-chain stores at discount prices!

Tickets in advance (01235 531316) or at the door

£2.50 Adult / £1.00 Under 16

DRAYTON COMMUNITY CHOIR

DRAYTON VILLAGE HALL

Sunday 04 November 2007

at 3.00pm to 5.00pm

ALL WELCOME

No previous experience required

Contribution £2 per person
(£1 concessions)

towards the cost of the hall, music master and refreshments



St Peter's Church CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 17th November

10.00 am to noon

Home-made Christmas goodies – mincemeat, mince
pies, Crafts, Tombola, Lucky dip, Raffle, etc.

Refreshments

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>
6.00 pm	Damascus Youth Club	
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>
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)	
7.30 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>

CRAFT FAIR

MORE THAN 30 STALLS



STEVENTON VILLAGE HALL
SUNDAY 11th NOVEMBER
10.30 to 16.30

REFRESHMENTS

Proceeds to support Marlin Nursery School in The Gambia

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