

# DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Dave Lee

Volume 30, No.11

December 2007

## COMMUNITY SINGS OUT



Drayton Community Singers at their first meeting  
Report on Page 12

## SUCCESS FOR UNDER 8's



Drayton Under Eight football team before their first ever home game against Hinksey Park, which they won 1-0

Back Row: Paul Evans (Manager), Glenn Woolley (Sponsor)  
Nik King (Manager)

Middle Row: Brandon Hewardene, Josh Dennis,  
James Hedditch, Cameron King, Harry Darley, Lisa O'Neill

Front Row: Brandon Lee, Alex McNeill, Luke Hayward,  
James Evans, Keiran Kelly

Report on Page 12



## BROWNIES 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



On Sunday November 11th, past and present members of Drayton Brownies, Guiders and supporters, gathered in St Peter's Church for a service and celebration. Report on Page 13

# CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The **Jan/Feb 2008 Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Friday, 18th January 2008** from **Shirley Thomas, 48 Henleys Lane (531626)**, 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.

**no later than 5.15 pm on Monday, 7th January 2008**

**Note that the deadline for adverts is Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2008**

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:
March	11 February 2008	22 February 2008
April	10 March 2008	20 March 2008
May	14 April 2008	25 April 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

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**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 NOVEMBER LOTTERY

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	0118	Mrs Keys 99 Abingdon Road	Carol Arnold
£20	0502	Mrs J Cook, 43 Sutton Wick Lane	Beryl Dawson
£15	2515	Angela McCall, 3 Newman Lane	Jean Oliver
£10	1392	Mrs Drew, 76 Steventon Road	Jackie Walker
£10	1667	G. Holder, 32 Lockway	Sue Ash
£10	0869	Mrs N. McSweeney-Bamford, 35 High Street	Margaret Long
£10	2318	Claire Soper, 127 Drayton Road, Sutton Courtenay	Claire Soper
£10	0418	Mrs Biddle, 11 Sutton Wick Lane	Beryl Dawson
£10	0166	Mr Buckell, 8 Corneville Road	Gerald Redman
£10	2423	D. Osborne, 7 Eastway	Teresa Burnage

## BOXES OF BISCUITS

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
1st	2696	Mr Hollick, 3 Mott Cottages	Margaret Watts
2nd	1862	J Cooper 120A Abingdon Road	Margaret Armstrong
3rd	1862	Mr Evans, 120 Whitehorns Way	Wendy Evans
4th	0434	Mrs Wallace, 19 Sutton Wick Lane	Beryl Dawson
5th	0605	D. Scharf, 122 Abingdon Road,	Margaret Armstrong
6th	1154	B. Purbrick, 4 Caudwell Close	Barbara Purbrick
7th	1499	L. Smiles, 6 Binning Close	Judith Dunster
8th	0730	Mrs Painton, 3 Henleys Lane	Angela Painton
9th	0614	B. Krason, 108 Abingdon Road	Margaret Armstrong
10th	1304	Mrs Cox, 2 Steventon Road	Judy Henman

## BOTTLES OF WINE

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
1st	0380	Mr. Law, Sutton Wick Farmhouse, Sutton Wick Lane	Beryl Dawson
2nd	2153	Mrs Robertson, 72 Whitehorns Way	Daphne Barrand
3rd	2075	J Hager, 27 Whitehorns Way	Trudi Buckner
4th	0440	Mrs Eato, 21 Sutton Wick Lane,	Beryl Dawson
5th	1089	Mrs Bird, 9 Gravel Lane	Barbara Purbrick
6th	1049	S. Powell-Jones, 9 High Street	Mary Alexander
7th	2341	S. Thompson 151 Drayton Road, Sutton Courtenay	Claire Soper
8th	0768	Ruth Pacey, 16 Church Lane	Susan Brooks
9th	1210	Mrs Taylor, 30 High Street	Mary Alexander
10th	2151	Mrs Robertson, 72 Whitehorns Way	Daphne Barrand

The winning tickets were drawn by members of the Art Group from the 2377 tickets sold



# DRAYTON HALL

## Ann Webb

### Drayton Hall Meeting Report 19th November

We began the meeting by discussing when we would try to sort out the storage in the lower hall area. We have accumulated a lot of equipment and possessions from various organisations and we are in danger of being overwhelmed by it. So, the weekend of the 29th Feb, 1st & 2nd of March, everything will be taken out of the storage space and the boiler room and assessed by its owners to keep or get rid, and the space will be given a good clean and a coat of paint. The Damascus group have offered to help us and all who have anything stored in this space needs to be there or remove it before hand. The Hall needs a good tidy up; we are getting overwhelmed by equipment.

The new doors have not arrived at this time but when they do we need to change keys and allocate new ones. New keys or lost keys will have to be paid for, £10 fee to replace or issue a new key.

All groups were reminded again to be vigilant with lights and heating. The lights are being left on more often in these darker nights, and lights turned on, for outside, in daylight and in areas not in use. Please help us to keep running costs down, and save the planet as well. Several items belonging to the Hall were removed through the back door while the performance of the Players latest production was in progress, this has caused a lot of aggravation. A fire extinguisher, a stool that has stood in the kitchen for 25+ years and a bain marie pot. The Blue powder fire extinguisher has not been found and will have to be replaced. The stool reappeared in pieces, and the pot reappeared after it had been used as a football for a few weeks, and therefore rendered useless. Someone must have retrieved them from the lane and put them in the recreation ground bin. Thank-you.

After a short discussion it was decided unanimously to NOT TAKE ANY MORE 18th BOOKINGS. We have given it a trial of 18 months, the abuse to the staff, the damage to the building inside and out and the intolerable mess inside and out is unacceptable to us so that's it. So from now on, the persons booking the hall will need to be 21 and over.

Two ideas were put to the committee by a member of the Parish Council as something for our comments. They caused quite a stir, as many thought the ideas were good for the first but the second required more thought. This was a shelter for young people to gather in, (this was discussed 35 years ago when my children were of this age group, nothing changes it just goes round and round). The second was an extension to the football club building to accommodate space for youngsters to change in and use away from the older users. We all agreed that it sounded a good idea, and would back it. We await further news on this.

Christmas is just around the corner and a small group of us will be putting up the decorations on Monday 3rd December, if you can help please do so. We aim to do it between 5 & 7pm.

Finally it is with great sadness that our treasurer gave us the news that he is leaving the village for countries new in the summer. I can't tell you how sad we all are that we are losing him, but obviously are pleased for him.

WANTED,

SOMEONE WITH ACCOUNTANCY SKILLS WHO CAN TAKE OVER THIS VITAL ROLE FOR THE FUTURE OF THE HALL

Please contact myself on 01235 531418 or any member of the Hall committee.



# NOTICE BOARD

## CHURCHWATCH

In recent months there have been a number of thefts of metal from churches, especially stealing lead from church roofs. We are not planning any maintenance on the building at this time so if you see any suspicious activity at the church would you please ring the Vicarage on 531374 or ring straight to the police on 0845 8 505 505. If you feel it is an emergency then please ring 999.

St Peter's Church has always benefited from the goodwill of the people of Drayton and therefore I feel sure you will be extra vigilant at this time.

*Revd Josie Midwinter*

*(Editor's note: The Abingdon Herald recently carried an article describing a liquid that can be used to identify material taken from a specific church. I have a copy of the article.)*

## RAISING MONEY FOR YOUR CLUB, OR CHARITY?

A new way for people to raise money for good causes, and save money for themselves at the same time. If you run or sit on a committee that requires the support of local fundraisers, members, parents, supporters etc THIS could be the opportunity you have been looking for. The opportunity for a regular income stream directly for the benefit of your organisation. For more information check it out on [www.realisemydream.co.uk](http://www.realisemydream.co.uk) or call Sarah on 07962 531985.

*Sarah Pearce*

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## REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

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- 6.00 pm Evening Service. A traditional form of service frequently with guest speakers. Communion every second Sunday of the month

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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. The next three dates are 4th December, 8th January (SEE NOTE) and 5th February.

If you need transport or further information, please give me a call on 531558.

PLEASE NOTE: BECAUSE THE FIRST TUESDAY IN JANUARY IS NEW YEARS DAY, OUR MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON 8th JANUARY.



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# NOTICE BOARD Contd.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

There will be a meeting at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 11th December at St. Michael the Archangel Church, Warfield. The speaker will be Paul Valentine, International Director, Christian Aid. Question and answer session follows.

Contacts: Church Office 01344 886900 or Diana Hastings 01235 834740.

## NATIONAL YEAR OF READING 2008

A National Year of Reading will be launched by the government in 2008 to promote reading for pleasure. It will be aimed at everyone from toddlers to grandparents, avid reader to the less enthusiastic. This is an event which very much involves the school as well as others in the community. St Peter's church and Drayton Community School are going to work together to promote this throughout the village. At 10am on Sunday 20th January there will be a combined church service and launch event at the school, then other events will take place during the year. If you are interested in reading, you are welcome to get involved.

*Revd Josie Midwinter  
Vicar and School Governor*

## GARD PUBLIC MEETING

There will be a public meeting on "Why GARD is right" in Drayton Village Hall on 10th December 7.00 – 9.00pm.

## UPDATE OF THE CLEARANCE OF THE MILLENNIUM GREEN

We had another successful Saturday morning tidying up the pond. As well as our original group of workers we had some new helpers who all entered into the spirit of the morning, working very hard. It was good to see four new youngsters as well, Holly, Sam, Kelsie and Kai. Sam was a picture in his waterproofs with water up to his waist. Kai said he was happy to be doing something towards the environment. We shall not be doing major clearance until the spring, but there is a certain amount of tidying up if any one would like to offer.

The litter rota this year has worked very well. Many people on the rota also do a regular tidy up. Many thanks to all these people. The rota will stay the same for 2008 but if you are no longer able to do it please contact me on 531205

*Gwen Price*

## LESPARRE FOOTBALL COMPETITION 2008 – COACH REQUIRED

For each of the past 25 years a tournament has been held in our twin town of Lesparre for teams to compete in the Mini International Tournament of the Southwest of Soccer. They have attracted teams from Cambridge and Scotland in the UK. It is friendly and although the level is not as high as a professional club, it is challenging and great fun for all those who take part. The tournament is held each year in the Spring Bank holidays and host families provide accommodation. Might there be a team from Drayton and the surrounding villages next year? YES there could be - but we need a Coach / Manager.

Could you be the coach the team need? Do you have a youngster (12-13 years in May 2008) who would like to take part? Could you spare the time to project manage? Perhaps you have a talent for fundraising? If you are interested in any of these or would like to know more please phone me on 07799 850974 or Michael Bell 531388.

*Melanie Parker*

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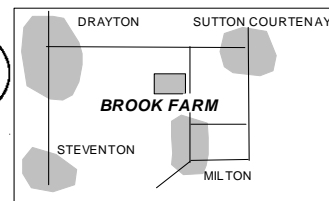
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## The Red Lion



## WESTMINSTER LETTER

Ed Vaizey

Although I get involved in a lot of local issues, my day job is to try and represent you and your views in Parliament. The beginning of November saw the State Opening of Parliament, and the Queen's Speech, when the Government set out its programme of legislation for the next 12 months. This seems a useful opportunity to tell you what is coming up, to hear your views, and to let you know how I intend to vote on each issue. There are a lot of Bills being put forward that are likely to affect us all in the years to come. To begin with, there is the Government's flagship Bill which will raise the school leaving age from 16 to 18. This means that children will stay on either at school, or if they are working, their employers will have to ensure that they are receiving some kind of formal training. The change, described as the biggest in education for sixty years, will cost about £1 billion. I am opposed to this legislation, which I think tackles the problem from the wrong end. In my view, it would be much better if the money went into early years education, and getting the basics right, rather than being spent on keeping unwilling young adults in education. Let me know what you think, especially if you have young children who will be affected by this change. Another major Bill is the Climate Change Bill, which was supported by the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats, so I imagine I will be voting for it! The Bill will set binding targets to reduce carbon emissions, and will force the Government to set out a plan to achieve this. The most controversial Bill is likely to be the Counter Terrorism Bill. Last year the Government tried to extend the period without detention for terrorist suspects from 14 days to 90 days. I voted against the move and eventually the Government compromised on 28 days. Now they want to try again and extend the period to 56 days. When I voted against 90 days, I got a huge amount of criticism from you - my constituents. But I am afraid that I will probably vote against 56 days as well. I don't think we should sacrifice our hard-earned liberties in this way. Other controversial Bills will be the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, which will up-date regulations concerning the use of human embryos; the Planning Bill, which will make it easier to impose large-scale developments on communities; and, of course, the Bill which introduces the EU Treaty/Constitution without a referendum! I look forward to hearing your views on these or any other issues of concern.

Future Surgery Dates:

30th November 2007: Held at Grove, Old Mill Hall  
from 5.30 pm until 7pm

14th December 2007: Held at Didcot, St Alfred Drive  
Community Centre  
from 5.30 pm till 7pm

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## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Jennifer Pooley

### Meeting on Monday 5th November 2007

The usual meeting was preceded by a three quarter hour public meeting addressed by two representatives from Thames Water. Although it had been previously publicised, only a few interested residents attended. David Cooke from TW explained that a recent statutory requirement, placed on all water companies, is for the production of Water Resources Management Plans (WRMPs). These will set the framework for demand management and new resources for the next 25 years. Whilst studies already show that a reservoir will probably be included in Thames Water's plans it may be subject to change; and it does mean that Thames Water has to take another look at its plans, feeding in all the information from Stages 1 and 2 of its previous exercise. There will be further public consultation (via public meetings and web-based consultation) before an interim WRMP report on the feedback is published in autumn 2008. The final WRMP is due to be published in July 2009. There may also be a hearing ordered by the Secretary of State for DEFRA should it be deemed necessary. All of this means of course that final decisions about whether the reservoir should be built have been delayed by another two years.

Eleanor Taylor from TW's communications department gave a provisional report on the results of the stage 2 public consultation, carried out early this year. This showed that the secondary uses for the reservoir preferred by the public, should it be built, were nature conservation, walking/cycling/bridleways and picnic, play and viewing areas.

As to the rest of the PC meeting further business was just routine. However, specially noted was the work and dedication of the members of the voluntary management committee who are responsible for the ongoing success of the DAMASCUS Youth work. Together with Gary Hibbins and his team of leaders they enable the young people in five villages to enjoy regularly meeting together. In the light of the recent Village of the Year award for the DAMASCUS project the PC sent a letter of appreciation to the Management committee.



Picture taken at the awards evening for the Village of the Year Competition. Left to right the girls are Sinead Hibbins and Sarah Tamburro from Drayton, & the man on the right is Doug Adie, the treasurer of the Damascus Youth project.

### CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP

10am to 12noon - In St Peter's church

Wednesday 19th December

Crafts, games songs and stories

all preparing for Christmas

For children aged 5 to 11

Registration forms available from the Church and the Vicarage

# YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor,

I would like to respond to Councillor Webber's item in last month's Chronicle when he wrote about pressure groups, he states that they have no power and are interfering in politics. As he surely knows these groups have always had a place in a democratic society long before the days of media hype and have made huge differences to people's lives such as the suffragette movement.

I have been a member of COG (Community in the Old Gaol) for the past year. This group represents many thousands of people who wish to see facilities and amenities for all ages in the Old Gaol when it is sold to a developer by the District Council.

Abingdon is Drayton's nearest town, the centre is now devoid of any facilities. What did local politicians do for the cinema which remained empty for eighteen years? When walking around the village with a COGs petition I didn't meet a person who refused to sign it and was thanked by many for my efforts regarding the future of the Gaol. Surely our local Councillor should be offering his support to COG and his constituents views. Yes there are and always will be people who do not trust politicians and prefer to attach themselves to a non-political group and who can blame them!

At COGs rally on the 20th October in the Market Place we were fortunate to be supported by a prominent politician. Evan Harris, Abingdon's MP, spoke words which should be a wake up call for all Vale of White Horse councillors. In his speech, he thanked COG for all their efforts and said we were doing our best to lobby people who have, after all, been elected to take a decision on the Old Gaol, not just in the interest of the Council but also in the interest of the people.

*Rosemary Barlow (Member of COG)*

Dear Editor,

Councillor Richard Webber wrote last month to Drayton people under the heading "Why GARD is wrong". Nothing in his text suggests that GARD is wrong or inaccurate in the facts it has published recently about the reservoir proposals. CPRE is also speaking out against the project which both say is not an essential resource. Councillor Webber's complaint is that single issue pressure groups are not elected, distract from the process of decision making in local government and undermine the public's view of politicians! If the politicians are not properly informed, have limited technical background, close their doors to well researched advice and work in secret, who else will protect the public? When one-sided and incomplete information is published by Thames Water concerning the need for and effects of this proposed reservoir few can challenge them. GARD can and does do so. The reservoir proposal affects both Drayton and the whole area's future very seriously and the public should be made aware of all the information. The Vale's Reservoir Advisory Group (RAG) which meets in private and the minutes of which are confidential has to date not welcomed input from GARD which is non-political and well informed with properly researched facts. I hope this situation will be rectified in future.

Thames Water has a strong vested financial interest in the project which would be paid for by water customers, whereas there are ample cheaper and more effective water resource options. The company has spent large sums on this commercial venture already. Meanwhile the Vale, which has no responsibility for water supply, but only planning duties regarding building on flood plains, flood prevention and dealing with the effects of flooding, and appears to be as interested in the potential planning gain (meaning roads and recreation facilities that might result from the proposals) as the adverse aspects and the actual need for the project.

GARD's information has been welcomed by OFWAT and discussed in detail with the Environment Agency which has so far

reserved judgement, while Thames Water has gone away to think up new figures. Our politicians must always be accountable and GARD is keen that Councillor Webber takes advantage of its technical and factual input which it will also continue to bring to public attention.  
*Nick Thompson CBE FICE for GARD*



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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## YOUR LETTERS Contd.

Dear Editor,

By now, most of you will have read Mr Evans' letter last month. He writes about 'freedom of speech', from his side of course. So now it's my turn! The first letter Mr Evans submitted was, to say the least, defamatory, so much so that both Graham and myself said if that was printed we would consider taking further advice. That letter has been revised, but still very hurtful. The apology at the end does nothing. He set out to cause maximum upset and he has.

Let me explain a few things to you all. Graham Bird is our treasurer, Karen Tinson is our secretary and I am chairman of this small charity. Claire Soper is the standing committee member (this means any requests for help between the regular meetings includes Claire so that we have another person to give a view on the request). This to my knowledge has happened twice in 25 years. She has no other function over and above anyone else who attends the meeting on the day. The requests are submitted to Karen, passed to Graham, he then brings me a copy of the letters a day or so before the meeting so that I can read them. Usual practice in any group, I believe.

I have attended every meeting of this charity except one (last year). Firstly as an independent overseer (WI), then as youth club rep then back to overseer, and for a few years as a standing committee member, when I was not party to any pre meeting information either. The format of the meetings has changed very little since the days of the first meeting. Then grants were discussed in front of the recipient and if you were last you had what was left, now Graham goes through all the previous years gifts and assesses what we have against what has been asked for, also what it is to be used for. The suggested amounts are read out at the meeting following the letters from the organisations, before any cheque is signed all are given the chance to contest the amounts for any reason. It took Mr Evans three months to decide he wasn't happy with the grants.

Both Melanie and Gary were first time applicants as was Mr Evans. So, when it came to their request, they were both asked to explain a bit more about it, to us, and for the benefit of the other people. That is not grovelling, that is pure interest shown by us in what they were intending to do with the money given. This is nothing new, all the others, at some point have been asked the same question if their letter did not clearly state their request. In past times, I was asked to have a definite project in mind for the youth club, not just a request for funds. So I went and trawled the shops for prices of a stereo system, and that is what we got with the money. Perhaps I should have cried out, but I respected their position and did as I was bid.

The three letters stated why they wanted the money but no exact figures were quoted. None of the three applicants were asked to stand up and grovel, all were asked to explain what their requests were to be used for as I was not totally clear. Further explanation was needed, about what one to one counselling was and how much a football kit cost. Quite reasonable requests you would have thought, but not for Mr Evans.

If Mr Evans had attended more than one meeting he would have known that Abingdon Eagles were told when they first applied that we would help them to get established, say three gifts and that would get them up and running. All five applicants got £500 last year because only five applied, so each got a share of the total.

Mr Evans and Drayton under 8's went away with nothing from the meeting for several reasons which he has failed to mention. Firstly, when he was asked how much a kit cost, we were told about £500. When I queried that figure, I was told that was for a team, not one kit, even then he didn't know how much the kits would cost individually. He was asked to 'pop round and see me' by Graham when he had a better idea of the kit's cost. If that was grovelling, he has never grovelled. Secondly we need a definite

sum to put on the cheque, about £500 is not good enough. We are custodians of this money and have to be seen to obey the charity rules. Thirdly no-one was asked to do any thing that was any different from any other year. We three give freely of our time, as he does, we don't expect medals but do expect a modicum of gratitude, as he does for running his football team.

I have been a resident of Drayton for almost 50 years and worked for the PTA now FODSA, for 15 years, W.I. for 35 years, Drayton Hall for 33 years and DYCC for 25+ years. I hope during that time I have done a little good for those organisations, but Drayton is a very hard village to motivate, as Mr Webber stated recently. There are very few reasons why people cannot give a little of their time for the good of others. Perhaps they are afraid of getting letters published in the Chronicle, decrying their efforts. I know after this I have seriously considered giving it all up and retiring as I am thought so little of, what's the point.

Finally, I think I can safely say, there is not an organisation or business in this village that would survive if it wasn't for outside members coming in to keep them viable, so why should we discriminate between them. The charity states 'for individuals and groups of young people in Drayton and surrounding area'.

I have not gone out of my way to upset any one with this letter, that is not my way. I have tried to stick to all the facts, as I remember them, and the last thing I would do would be to upset any one. That's why I find it so hard to understand why this man has such a grievance against myself and Graham.

Ann Webb

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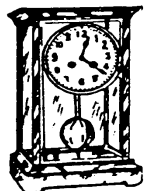
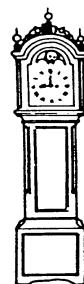
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#### **Letters to the Editor**

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.

## YOUR LETTERS Contd.

Dear Editor,

Our next door neighbours some years ago were John and Min Rackham. They were stalwarts of Drayton Players, John was usually the dame! Min was Chairwoman of Drayton Wives for some time.

This year they have had some bad luck. Min broke her elbow badly some time ago and it is not healing very quickly. John has very poor sight. However, they keep cheerful and are interested in village activities in Drayton.

They live in Swaffham in Norfolk. If anyone wants their number, I have it. I am in the phone book.

*Judy Henman*

Dear Editor, Poppy Appeal House-to-House Collection

We would like to thank everyone in Drayton, collectors and residents alike, for the truly magnificent total of £1,642.19 donated to this year's Poppy Appeal. This is an increase of 24.88% on last year's figure, which in itself showed a year-on-year increase. This includes £115.30 taken up at the Remembrance Sunday Service, of which £57 was Gift-Aided so the RBL will be able to reclaim about £16 in tax already paid.

To help this amazing total, we had one extremely generous donation of a year's savings-in-a-bottle, and also other collections made over a year. If anyone would like a small collecting box in which to donate throughout the year, please ask us.

We would like to thank our kind neighbour Robin Deabill for so generously giving up his time to invigilate the counting process, and Laurence Vickery for holding spare stocks of poppies for collectors in Drayton to replenish their trays.

If anyone collects foreign coins, we have got Euros, French francs and German marks, US and Scandinavian coins, a Mauritian rupee and a Hong Kong dollar - plus an 1853 Victorian penny which we will try to sell to a coin collector. Foreign coins certainly fox our money-counting machine!

Thank you very much for your generosity.

*Peter and Diana Hasting*

Dear Editor,

This year more than ever the residents of the High St. have shown extreme generosity in giving to the British Legion Poppy Day Appeal. We raised £161.44 and I would like to thank everyone for making my job of collecting so worthwhile.

*Shirley Thomas*

Dear Editor,

We would like to thank everyone who sent cards and floral tributes on the sad passing of my husband Derek Tame, formerly of High St, Drayton.

*Margaret Tame & Family*

Dear Editor,

We are now running several drop-in sessions for young people at the village hall as part of the Damascus Youth Project. There is a Monday evening session (ages15+) and the Drayton Youth Zone (10-15yrs) is currently held once a month on a Thursday. These sessions provide a place for young people to go and meet their friends.

We have a committed team of volunteers who give up their time to organise and attend these sessions. It gives the opportunity for us to get to know the young people in our village and provides them with a meeting place which is safe and warm, a bonus in the winter months! Young people are an integral part and indeed the future of our community. Would you be willing to give some of your spare time? It's fun and rewarding. If you are interested and would like to know more please contact me on 07799 850974.

*Melanie Parker*



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# ALL AROUND

## BOWLS CLUB

### Roll Up

The three teams competing in the winter league have all made a fair start to the season, but all will have to improve their away form if they want to be in contention for honours at the end of the season. The latest internal competition was completed on the 19th October, with Jan Cook winning 'The Attwood Cup' after a fine days bowling, two other internal competitions are well under way, they are 'The John Berry' fours leagues, on Mondays and Wednesdays, and these will be concluded by the end of November, and both look set for a close finish. The last internal competition of the year 'Didcot Windows' open singles will be held on November 18th with 4 players going through to finals day, this year it will be held on Sunday December the 9th, when all the other competitions will be completed. Two teams were invited to a triples competition at Wallingford recently with the team of Tony Wright, Olive Brown, and Josie Carter losing in the final to a strong team from Wootton in a very tight finish. We have a correction from our last notes in September with regard to the 'Wally Weightman' triple it should have read Tony Wright, Cyril Carter, and Gillis Tate who went through to play Barbara Carter, Avril Holmes, Ivy Harrison on finals day. The annual dinner dance will again be held at Abingdon United Football Club on Friday the 18th of January 2008, anyone interested in coming should get in touch with Gillis on Abingdon 201749. We close these notes with some good news, 16 members from the club went on a recent bowling holiday to the Isle Of Wight and were successful in winning the mixed 4s with Tony Wright, O. Brown, Doreen & Bryn Jones, beating a strong mixed team from Kent and Wales, also June Hyde skipped a team in a triples event and collected another trophy, well done to all concerned. And finally Gillis is making good progress after her knee replacement and we are all wishing her a speedy return to bowls.

## DRAYTON TABLE TENNIS CLUB John Gould

I am writing this some seven weeks into the season. Our six teams are all coming to terms with their opponents and the standards expected in their respective Divisions.

Starting at the top, the A team have had a good but unspectacular start in Division 1. After six matches they have won two, drawn three, & lost one. Karl Bushell is 100% after playing four of the matches. The B team also playing in Division 1 after promotion have managed three draws from their seven matches and are currently outside the bottom two. They have played all the top teams so will hope to pick up points and hopefully their first win against the lower placed teams. Craig Campbell's return to the club has given us high hope that the team will manage to stay in the Division come next April.

The C team have had an inauspicious start in Division 2. However this has been due to players being injured and not being able to select the strongest side to date. The team is confident that they will soon move away from the relegation zone and with over half the season to go this should be achieved.

The D team in Division 3 are struggling and are in 11th place out of 12. Kevin Davies suffering from a strained arm & Martin Honey fracturing his wrist when falling in a recent game hasn't helped their situation. Kevin has recovered and has won five of his last six matches and we hope Martin will soon be back in action.

The E team are the season's stars so far. They won their first five matches in Division 4 and are currently second in the League after seven matches played. Again, a team member has suffered an injury. Rodney Carr having fallen off his bicycle and damaged his ribs. The team are managing but hope Rod will soon be able to resume playing.

The F team lie second in division 5 after four matches. This is a good start for a team with four new players to league table tennis and the other two in only their second season. The Division started with only six teams, this increased to seven when Abingdon entered an extra team. It then dropped to six with the withdrawal of Howbery C. However Moreton have entered two new teams to increase it to eight. With each team playing the others three times, this will give them 21 matches for the season. So there is a long time to go.

Again, you are invited to come along on Monday evenings to our practice / social table tennis evenings. The sessions run from 7 pm to 10 pm at a cost of £1 each. Just come along Monday and have a go. Any age from nine upwards (parents must accompany under 16's). We have a current age range of 9 up to 63 attending.

Merry Christmas to everyone.

## THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Pearl Stanbridge

Wishing all members and their families a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful 2008.

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

## DRAYTON WIVES Pam Lacey

Many members attended our October meeting to hear a very entertaining talk given by Mr Norman Francis on the rather colourful life of Madam de Pompadour.

### Dates for your Diary in DECEMBER

Mon 10th CHRISTMAS COFFEE EVENING, Caudwell D.C.

Mon 17th WHIST Trudi Buckner, Caudwell D.C.

I would like to wish all members a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.



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## MORE ALL AROUND

### DRAYTON UNDER 8's FOOTBALL **Paul Evans**

The Drayton under 8's football team is well in to its first season in the Oxford Mail Boys Green League. We have played 9 matches (18 games) and our record reads as follows:

Won	3
Drawn	6
Lost	9

Top scorer with 7 goals is Josh Dennis.

We have done extremely well, considering most of the teams in the league have been together for at least one year, in some cases two. Remember we only formed a few months ago, and we are still learning, but the improvement has been immense. Well done to all of you

We play our home games at Drayton School on Saturday mornings, kick-off 10.30am, so why not come along and give them some support. We are at home on the 1st and 8th of December, against Garsington Boys and Goring Robins. For details of games, contact Paul Evans on 01235 203108 or Evans42@ntlworld.com.

May I take this opportunity to thank our extremely generous sponsors, Glenn & Janet Woolley (The Red Lion) for the kit, Jason & Debbie McKenna (Drayton Construction) for the tracksuits, training bibs and balls, and Liz & John for the goals. Without these contributions we would not have been able to get off the ground. Thank-you

*(See picture on front page, Ed.)*

### COMMUNITY SINGERS **Daniel Scharf**

With two adverts in the Chronicle, several personal invites and a \*\*\*\*\* great sign on the village green, nobody should have been unaware that the "choir" that sang on the community day in July was having another go on the afternoon of 4th November in the village hall. The fact that the 30 singers of varying ages, sizes, abilities, loudness etc had the time of their lives should not worry those who missed out, as we are meeting again on **2nd December 2007 at 3pm at the Village Hall**. To reflect the quality of this event, which was all down to Katie Bennett our incredible music master, I am afraid that we will have to charge more to cover her costs (£5 per head £1 for under 18s). If we pack the hall then the price will go down. More voices, lower cost and greater enjoyment is the aim, and nobody should think that they are not good enough - this is an event designed for everybody in the village. After just the second song there were calls for a concert, so amazed were we of our success. This is 'singing for fun' where it costs to join in, but if you draw breath to listen, the amazing 'concert' is free.

*(See picture on front page, Ed.)*

### W.I. **Brenda Malin**

October and November have been very busy and successful months.

One Tuesday in October seventeen of our members had a fun filled afternoon ten pin bowling at the Oxford Stadium. Our November meeting was a delight. Drayton Village Hall is not a likely place to come face to face with tiny bats, but we even had the opportunity to stroke a shy, tiny long eared bat and, a not so shy, elderly old lady by the name of Belinda, who had been grounded through injury as a babe, and has lived with our enthusiastic speaker David Endacott and his family ever since. One very fascinating fact was, bats do not have wings but webbed hands, a skeleton sketch clearly revealed the arms, elbows, fingers and the minute thumb, by which some species hang.

Our major event of the year, The Wit & Wisdom Quiz was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all those who organised and took part in the event. Our thanks to Austin and Geraldine from the Wheatsheaf, who generously donated towards our raffle, and everyone who attended and helped to clear the Hall at the end of the evening, this help is especially appreciated by all our members.

Our next meeting is our Christmas party. Please note that this will be held in the CAUDWELL DAY CENTRE on 13th December at 7.30pm. Please remember to bring a plate of food.

Our first meeting of the New Year is Thursday 10th January 2008, a meal at the Fox, Steventon.

### DRAYTON PLAYERS **Jean Hager**

We are now fully into rehearsal mode; the cast list for our February musical THE GOOD COMPANIONS is large, so getting us all organised is no mean feat for the director.

Enthusiasm is high as always and we are already getting carried along by the catchy tunes and lively action. Full booking details will be given in the next Chronicle but make a note of the performance dates to ensure you do not miss a really entertaining experience. We shall be on stage 14, 15, 16 February and 21, 22, 23 February; curtain up at 7.30pm and we look forward to your company then.

For now, the Players wish everyone a Joyful Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

### TODDLERS **Jane Nye**

Firstly this month, congratulations to one of our younger members, Grace, and mummy Anna, upon the birth of Helena Clare, born on the 24th October. A special welcome too to all those who have joined us at toddlers in recent weeks. It's great to have such a buzz of activity in the room in the mornings and to be able to make new friends.

Preparations for the Christmas party are in full swing! Father Christmas has found time out of his busy schedule to meet and deliver presents to our children. There will also be a Christmas raffle, Christmas activity and party food. The party will take place on **Thursday 13th December from 9.30am to 11.30 am** at the main Drayton Village Hall. The cost will be **£2.50 per family**. If you and your children want to come to the party, please drop in to Toddlers on Thursday mornings, 9.30-11.30 to find out more details and put your name down.

Also, if any mums would like to join us for a Christmas night out, this will take place on Saturday 8th December at the Wheatsheaf in Drayton, £19.95 a head. Please pop in to Toddlers on Thursday mornings to find out more details from Laura or call Jane on 01235 533861.

Toddlers will be open on the 20th December for the final session of the year and then reopen on the 10th January 2008.

In the meantime, thanks to all of you who have supported us during the year, and a special thanks to Joy for continuing to do a great job.

A Merry Christmas to you all and all the best for the New Year!

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# MORE ALL AROUND

## DRAYTON BROWNIES

Mary Thompson

### 50th Birthday celebrations

On Sunday November 11th, past and present members of Drayton Brownies, Guiders and supporters, gathered in St Peter's Church for a service and celebration.

Former Brownie Guiders Mavis James, who ran the Pack for 25 years, and Lesley Cotterell who succeeded her, both spoke about Brownies in earlier days.

The Service centred upon the words of the Brownie Promise and present members of the Pack led the prayers with symbols to illustrate each phrase.

"I promise that I will do my best

To love my God (a lighted candle)

To serve the Queen (a Remembrance Day poppy)

And my Country (a Union Flag)

To help other people, and to keep the Brownie Guide Law"

(a Brownie Promise badge)

All members of the Guide movement present, with fond memories and smiles on their faces, were led in the renewal of the Promise by Abbey District Commissioner Jessica Caudle.

After the Service, those present enthusiastically looked at the display boards with photos going back 50 years and many photo albums and memorabilia.

The Brownies laid on a great feast which was all consumed! The party finished with a presentation by the Brownies of some of their current activities and badges, and a group photo was taken.

*(See picture on front page, Ed.)*

This special event was a fitting recognition of the strong influence of Guiding in the lives of the young women of Drayton of successive generations. First Drayton Brownies are most grateful to all those who have supported them and look forward to the future.

## PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP Debbie Bargus

We would like to wish Connor Topping well as he leaves us for BIG school. We would also like to welcome Oz back to Preschool, also extending great thanks to everyone who helped out when needed, it was really appreciated.

During this term we have been looking at the winter festivals such as Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas, and learning what takes place. We have made Diwali pots and have been trying different Rangoli patterns. We have also continued to look at the changing of the seasons, collecting leaves to use in pictures and for printing and making snowflakes from paper. We had a visit from the local Firemen, who talked to the children about the dangers and safety of fireworks. The visit was loved by all including the staff!!!

Thank you to everyone who helped and supported our Christmas Fayre/Pamper night, the evening went very well. The photographer was also kept busy in Preschool with lots of lovely photos taken of the children.

We will be having our Christmas singing and raffle on Thursday 20th December at 10.30am, children will need to be at Preschool for 10.15am and must be accompanied at all times. The raffle will be drawn after the singing, we would be grateful for donations, please place in the decorated box inside Preschool.

The annual Christmas party is being held on Friday 21st December 11am till 2pm, children can be dropped off, although there will not be any normal sessions.

There is an easy way to help our fundraising, if you order goods via the internet, you can register at [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk). You choose a charity, we are on the list, then when you buy online from major companies like Amazon, Next, Play.com, Churchill

Insurance, AA, Woolies, Ebay and The Book People. They give a percentage to us at no extra cost to you.

Also coming up: End of Term: Last sessions on Wed 19th Dec, Christmas Singing and Raffle on Thurs 20th and Christmas Party on Fri 21st Dec. Spring Term begins on Mon 7th Jan 2008.

## SCHOOL REPORT

Naomi Broomfield

The school year is marching on and all of the children are busy preparing for Christmas especially the school plays. The lower unit with a nativity play and the middle and upper units with a Snow White themed panto, more to follow!!

The Christmas fair will have taken place by the time this goes to print, lots of preparation is taking place so hopefully this will have been a great success, more next month.

Years 5 and 6 have been very active, there has been a five-a-side football tournament as well as a friendly netball match and rugby tournament planned this week. Well done to all the children that took part in these events.

A book fair was held at the school which was a great success and has raised at least £60 of books for each class – thank you to all those children and parents that purchased books. The fashion show held last month was great fun and raised some money for the school. Thank you to all of the children and parents who bravely became models on the night.

Friends of Drayton School (FODSA) raises lots of money for the school through all of the activities and events organised through the year. So far this term FODSA have paid for 20 new computer chairs for the IT suite and two digital cameras for the classes. The children and teachers are very grateful for these and lots of great thank you letters have been written by the children. As you can see the money raised by FODSA events make a real difference to the whole school; please support the events by coming along and parting with your money!

REMINDER, please do not exercise your dog on the school grounds; we have had too many incidents of dog mess being left and then being walked through the school, we have also had it smeared around the doors and windows. I am sure you will agree this is not only very unpleasant but a serious health risk.

HAVE YOU ANY SPARE TIME? Can you spare a few hours per month doing odd jobs around the school and its grounds? It would be great if there is a local person willing to offer what ever they can to keep the school looking tidy, please contact either Naomi on 532248 or the school on 531316 for further information.

## Going Away?

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# DRAYTON DIARY

## FOR DECEMBER

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

**Regular Events are usually listed opposite but not on this occasion.**

**They were listed last month and will be again next month.**

Sat	1st	Private Party	
Sun	2nd	3.00 – 5.00 pm	Community Singers
Mon	3rd	7.45pm	Parish Council Caudwell DC
Sun	9th	All Day	Bowls Club
Sun	9th	7.30pm	Candlelight Carol Service
Mon	10th	7.00pm	GARD meeting
Sat	15th	Private Party	
Sun	16th	Private Booking	All day
Thur	20th	Youth Zone Party	
Fri	28 <sup>th</sup>	Wedding Reception	

## Candlelight Carol Service



Drayton Hall at 7.30pm  
Sunday 9th December

Enjoy your favourite carols,  
readings, poetry, singing

Music by Abingdon Town Band  
and Wallingford Hand Bell Ringers  
Mince pies, tea and coffee

Free admission

Collection for:

NCH Action for Children



## Christmas at St Peter's Church

Carol Service: 6pm Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December

Crib Service: 4pm on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> Decembe

Midnight Communion 11:30pm on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> Decembe

Family Communion 10am on Christmas Morning

Christingle Service: 10am on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January

All welcome to any of these services



# MERRY CHRISTMAS



The DAMASCUS Youth Project

Invites you to the

# Drayton Youth Zone

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thursday 20th December

7.30pm to 9pm

Drayton Village Hall

Admission Charge £1

Tuck shop; table tennis; board games;  
arts and crafts with a special Christmas activity



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

An opportunity to have somewhere to go and be  
with your friends. If you haven't yet registered,  
now is your chance!

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.



# SPLITZ

Celebrate Christmas in style  
Visit Splitz – Didcot's only fine  
dining restaurant

- ◆ Christmas menu
- ◆ AA rosette
- ◆ Chef's table
- ◆ Ideal party venue
- ◆ Full a la carte
- ◆ Sunday lunches
- ◆ Raymond Blanc trained chef

A free glass of wine each with this advert

Open Tuesday-Sunday

For more details, visit [www.splitzdidcot.co.uk](http://www.splitzdidcot.co.uk)

Tel: 01235 817711 or come in and see us at  
32/34 Wantage Road, Didcot

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

## Wantage Stage Musical Company Christmas Variety Show

Wantage's finest entertainers present an evening of Songs & Dances,  
Singalong choruses and Comedy sketches, including a pantomime -

### "LITTLE TOMMY TUCKER"

Licensed Bar

at Steventon Village Hall Saturday 8th Dec at 2.30 & 7.30pm

Tickets: £8 (£5 conc) from Mike Davies 01235 821351

See [www.WantageStageMusical.co.uk](http://www.WantageStageMusical.co.uk) for more information or Tel. 01235 770087

