

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Derek Pooley

Volume 31 No. 1

January/February 2008

MARGARET MACKENZIE

A long-serving and respected former Oxfordshire County Councillor has died at the age of 84. Former Councillor Margaret MacKenzie served as the county councillor for Drayton from 1981-85 and 1989-2005. She had also been a district and parish councillor and a school governor.

Councillor Keith Mitchell, the Leader of Oxfordshire County Council, said: 'Margaret MacKenzie was a very special councillor who was hugely proud of local government and fought hard for the causes she believed in. She has made a good number of people's lives considerably better through her efforts.'

His opposite number, Zoe Patrick, the leader of the opposition at Oxfordshire County Council, added: 'She was greatly respected by those who worked with her and her communities. I remember that in council, when it became hard for her to stand up, she used to vote with her walking stick. She was a real character. One of her most recent causes was her fierce opposition to the proposed reservoir in the Vale of White Horse.'

Councillor Neville Harris, a fellow county councillor from nearby Didcot, said: 'Margaret MacKenzie knew her area. She could tell you a positive story about every family in her villages. She had great patience in listening to people if she thought they had a real problem.'

Editor's Note: These tributes to Margaret MacKenzie were posted on the Oxfordshire County Council web-site; see also the Parish Council Reports on page 10.

DRAYTON INFORMATION

The Parish Council, prompted by Councillor Richard Webber and in collaboration with the Chronicle, has revived the publication of a Drayton Village Information Leaflet. All our readers should receive a copy of the leaflet with this Chronicle or soon afterwards. We hope that it will be particularly helpful to newcomers to the village and that Chronicle Agents will give copies to new residents as they arrive here.

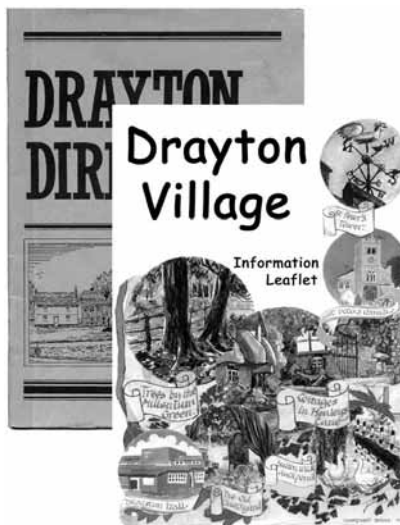
However, we are also sending a copy to every Chronicle reader for two reasons. First, we think that even old-timers in the village might like to see it, indeed might even find the leaflet a handy collection of contacts in the village, some of which are not in commercial telephone directories.

Secondly, we hope that established residents as well as newcomers will provide us with feedback. What have we left out that you think should have been included? On the other hand, should we have

bothered to include contacts such as Thames Valley Police or NHS Direct which can easily be found in commercial directories?

The new leaflet is essentially an up-dated and slimmer version of the 'Drayton Directory' last published by the Chronicle in the 1987. It is a lot slimmer, only 8 A5 pages instead of 32 in the Directory, and has been designed to allow very easy up-dating of the inner 4 pages containing most of the contact information, new versions of which will be circulated as an insert in the Chronicle from time to time. We are grateful to Margaret Jones for making the art-work on the front cover and to Mark Bisby for giving his blessing to our re-using many of his father's pen and ink sketches on the rear page.

Derek Pooley



DRAYTON VILLAGE FACE-LIFT DAY

SUNDAY MARCH 2nd; from 2.30 – 5.30 pm
Drayton Village Hall

PAINT OVER GRAFFITI / SORT / TIDY / LITTER-PICK
All equipment supplied

ALL WELCOME –THE MORE THE MERRIER
CLAIM A FREE DRINK AND SNACKS AT THE END

Also in this issue:

p2 & p3 New Email Address for Sending Copy to Chronicle Editors

p4 The Wonders of Reading

p6 Thames Water Abandons A Reservoir

p10 Drayton Green Land Swap Approved by DEFRA

p5 Contentious Debate in the Chronicle

p7 Information Required on Drayton Heroes

p11 Think of the Good Things of Drayton



Drayton Players Present - At 7.30pm in Drayton Hall
The Good Companions - The Musical
Music by André Previn. Lyrics by Johnny Mercer. Adaptation by Ronald Harwood. From the book by J.B.Priestley.
Thur-Sat 14, 15, 16th Feb + Thur-Sat 21, 22, 23rd Feb 08
Tickets £7.50 (Conc £6.50 Thurs) Tel 01235 200 350
Matinee to be decided - phone or see web-site
www.DraytonPlayers.org.uk

An amateur production by arrangement with Warner/Chappell Music Ltd, administered by Boosey & Hawkes.

CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The **March Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Friday, 22 February 2008** by **Margaret Armstrong, 1 Crabtree Lane (531122)**, 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 **editor@draytonchronicle.net** 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. **In any event, they should arrive no later than 5.15 pm on Monday, 11 February 2008.**

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.

Key Dates for the Subsequent Three Chronicles		
Issue for	Copy for publication and return of Agents Lottery Packs needed by Monday:	Chronicle published and available for distribution on:
April	10 March 2008	20 March 2008
May	14 April 2008	25 April 2008
June	19 May 2008	30 May 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 three ways:

1. The best is by **email** to **editor@draytonchronicle.net** or directly to the editor of the month – see next para. Your 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.

If you wish to email the editor of the month directly, the three editors' email addresses are **tony-holmes@ntlworld.com**, **david_r.lee@ntlworld.com** and **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.

ADVERTISING

Charge for a single Block Advert (about 9cms x 4.5cms)

----- 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 for advertising MUST be accompanied by cash or a cheque made payable to 'The Drayton Chronicle' and should arrive no later than the Friday BEFORE the main Chronicle Monday deadline given above.

They should either 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 or emailed to **advertising@draytonchronicle.net**.

To discuss requirements please phone **Stephen Fearnley**, the Chronicle's Advertising Manager, on 531347 or email **advertising@draytonchronicle.net**.

CHRONICLE LOTTERY

Daphne Samworth, Hon Promoter

RESULTS OF THE JANUARY LOTTERY

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	1531	Mr Cruxon, 10 Binning Close	Judith Dunster
£20	1286	Mr Harvey, 8 Steventon Road	Judy Henman
£15	0605	Mr Cox, 96, Abingdon Road	Margaret Armstrong
£10	2341	Mr. Rust, 135 Drayton Road, S.C.	Claire Soper
£10	2549	Mr. G. Cox, 1A High Street	Darren McDonald
£10	0215	Mr. Hudson, 21Conrville Road	Gerald Redman
£10	0499	Mr. Legg, 26 Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
£10	2036	Mrs Donovan, 1 Whitehorns Way	Trudi Buckner
£10	0971	Mr C Dewar, 3 Cheers Farm	Margaret Long
£10	2240	O. Booker, 23 Lyford Close	Gerald Redman

The winning tickets were drawn by members of staff and clients at Sabinas, the hairdresser from the 2229 tickets sold

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£5.95 including sweet

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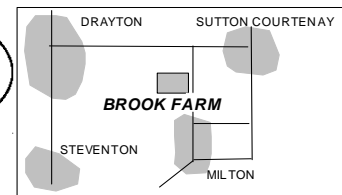
Brook Farm, Milton Road

OPENING HOURS

Mon to Sat - 9.00am to 1.00pm Except Friday 9.00am to 6.00pm

FREE RANGE EGGS, & POTATOES (if available)

Our own lamb available May to December



CHRONICLE NEWS

More Changes in the Chronicle Team

Two members of the team have recently decided to stand down.

Many thanks to Barbara Richards for her time and effort as lottery manager. This role has now been taken on by Kay Davies, so thanks to her for volunteering.

Our thanks also go to Susan Powell-Jones who, with others, has given her time as a Distributor, delivering the Chronicles around to each Area Agent.

We would still be grateful if someone has a little time each month to deliver the Chronicles and sell lottery tickets to the residents of Manor Close. Please let me know if you would like to find out more. It is a great way to get to know your neighbours.

Gareth Davies, Chronicle Co-ordinator, tel: 529510

The Chronicle Moves into Cyberspace

Our new advertising manager, Stephen Fearnley, has taken the Chronicle online. Thanks to Stephen's efforts we now have a dedicated website at www.draytonchronicle.net.

The immediate benefit will be for those of our contributors who send us copy by email. They no longer need remember which of the three editors is dealing with the latest issue but can always send their material to editor@draytonchronicle.net - or to advertising@draytonchronicle.net for requests for adverts. Readers can also visit the website to remind themselves of copy deadlines, charges for advertising etc. - instead of searching the house for the last Chronicle and looking for the information on page 2 - or phoning one of the Chronicle Team.

Derek Pooley

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NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

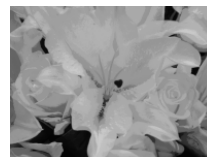
We extend a warm welcome to Debbie and Paul Ellaway and family, who have moved into Steventon Road from Abingdon.

Welcome also to Esther Jones and family, who have moved from Stanford in the Vale to Abingdon Road.

Welcome too to Mr and Mrs Samarasinghe and their son Rachitha, who have recently moved into Lockway.



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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*
 Wed 10.30 am Pebbles (term time only) *Church Room*
 Monday 7.45 pm Bell Ringing Practice *Bell Tower*
 Fridays 6.30 pm Choir Practice (fortnightly) *Church Room*

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

Sat 2nd 10.00 am Sale of Fair Trade Goods *Church*
 Sun 3rd 11.15 am Sale of Fair Trade Goods *Church*
 Tues 5th 3.00 pm First Tuesday Connections *Church Room*



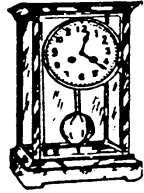
CHURCH REGISTER

Funeral:

23rd November Brian George Purbrick

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 5th February and 4th March. If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.

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LETTER FROM REV JOSIE MIDWINTER

Dear Friends,

Reading is an important aspect of our culture. It connects us with our past, helps us to understand our present and gives us tools to shape our future. As someone growing up in late twentieth century Britain I took reading and writing for granted. It came as a shock to me when I went to Uganda to discover that, after the disruption of the Idi Amin years, literacy was at a very low level. However I discovered that there was a core of older people who had learnt to read, even before there were schools, because they were highly motivated to do so. In 1910 the first missionaries had moved into the south-west corner of the country. They were not Europeans but fellow Ugandans who had accepted the Christian faith and were eager to communicate it to others. Therefore work was set in motion to turn the spoken language into a written one and then to translate the Bible into the local tongue. By the 1920s this was largely done. Then in the 1930s the Christian faith spread deep and wide across the south-western district. Many people learnt to read simply so that they could read the Bible. When I came to the area in the 1980s many of those early converts were still members of the church. I found it a great joy to go to remote villages and find elderly men and women who had been those new believers. They were still reading their Bibles and it was probably the only thing they had ever read. They treasured the gift of reading as something that had opened the door to the spiritual message which was so important to them. In fact written language and the spread of Christianity have gone hand in hand. Many languages throughout the world have been put into writing for the purpose of translating the Bible. Reading makes the Word of God accessible even to the most ordinary person and from that a wide range of written material also becomes accessible.

This year, 2008, is the National Year of Reading. It is an opportunity for us to share that great gift and the riches of our literary heritage. Reading is important to us all and it is good to know it is taken very seriously in our local school. Last year the Drayton Primary School came in the first 10% of schools for reading which tells its own story.

So both the church and the school have a united interest in reading, not just for pleasure (good though that is), but for also for growth and development. It therefore seems fitting for the church and school to join forces in promoting this National Year of Reading. On Education Sunday there will be a united service held in the school to launch the National Year of Reading and this will be followed by other activities throughout the year. This is also an opportunity for people across the village to help our school maintain its high reading standard and grow even more.

Feel welcome to join us at 10 am on 20th January in Drayton School for this Education Sunday launch and for other activities as they are promoted.

Josie Midwinter

YOU STAY - WE PRAY

19th Jan to 1st Feb., Abingdon Road, Oday Hill, Binning Close and Hayward Road; 3rd to 9th Feb., Sutton wick Lane, Greenacres, Newman Lane and Conifer Drive; 10th to 22nd Feb., Hilliat Fields, Lyford Close, Manor Close and The Green; 23rd to 29th Feb., High Street, Chiers Drive, Cheers Farm and Halls Close.

BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastoral Co-ordinator: Mr Roy Brown.....Tel. 531296

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

11.15 am Presently only one morning service per month.
A Family service on the first Sunday
6.00 pm Evening Service. Traditional format.

EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME

CONTENTIOUS DEBATE IN THE CHRONICLE?

Recent Chronicles have contained some very-hard-hitting letters. Some readers are unhappy with these, thinking that the Chronicle is thereby encouraging bad feeling amongst folks in Drayton. Daniel Scharf, Chairman of our Parish Council, is such a one and his letter to us on this theme is printed opposite. ⇨

We in the Chronicle team agree with many of Daniel's sentiments. We understand only too well that having people shout at each other through the Chronicle will usually be a bad way of resolving disputes in the village. Unlike courts of law, neither we nor most of our readers have the expertise or resources to test the validity of any arguments presented to us or the truth of any assertions made; nor do we have any authority to decide what actions should be taken, even if conclusions could be reached.

Because of this we recently insisted on delaying for a month the publication of one complaint letter, to give time for the face-to-face discussion that might have resolved the dispute. But one month proved insufficient time and the letter writer and his friends were so concerned that we wanted to brush the complaint under the carpet that we felt unable to delay its publication for longer.

In any case, we sympathise with readers who believe they have a justifiable complaint against a village organisation that appears to them to be unwilling to listen. They might well turn to the Chronicle in the hope that doing so will make someone take notice. That does sometimes cause action to be taken; see Geoff Caudle's letter opposite! ⇨

As to opinions, like professional newspapers we think that our readers do want us to publish them, on subjects of wide concern and interest such as the proposed reservoir, even if neither we nor our readers hold the same opinions. Of course, they must always be sensibly presented and politely expressed.

Derek Pooley

YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor

I have to say that recent editions of the Chronicle have made depressing reading. It must be tempting to use the village paper to express opinions, and I have been as 'guilty' as any other. However, it would be very regrettable if the effect of this correspondence either deters people in the village from taking positions of responsibility or results in their resignation from a role they are already performing. A village, which I hope is aspiring to a greater sense of community, should appreciate the work of those few who are prepared to spend their time and energy on our behalf. It is important that the Chronicle remains a 'good read', and this should be possible if correspondents concentrate on issues affecting the village, e.g. A34 noise, climate change, affordable housing, recreational facilities, representative democracy, water supply or the price of fish. Personal comments could be reserved for positive achievements. I don't doubt that passions are running high on other issues, but, in so far as the letters page might be becoming a substitute for face-to-face conversations, I wonder whether talking over a pint or cuppa might be more constructive.

Daniel Scharf

Dear Sir,

My careful study of the Drayton Youth Centre Charity trust deed and those minutes of committee meetings so far in my possession has convinced me that the charity needs more support from persons with no interest in the distribution of benefits. Under the trust deed, the Committee of Management has the power to co-opt at least two members to represent interests in the parish not represented by any organisation and in 1997, for example, 4 people present were listed as 'Local Government Electors'.

This particular item is what interests me most; we must bring more non-vested interest back into the management of the Charity. In order for the charity to be run properly, the committee must have sufficient capacity to enable decisions to grant a benefit to be made entirely by persons who have absolutely no vested interest in that particular request.

Since we have such good contact with all our villagers through these pages I would like to hear from anyone 'out there' to whom this description might apply who would be willing to put themselves up for election to the Committee of Management for 2008. The task is not onerous as there is usually only one distribution event each year, but the work can, of course, be very rewarding, in overseeing the proper use of the available funds for the benefit of the 'young people resident in the parish of Drayton and the surrounding district'.

If you feel you might like to help please contact me direct, as soon as possible, by letter to 46, Church Lane, Drayton.

Also, I still need to see the minutes for 1998 to 2005 if anyone knows of their whereabouts!

Geoff Caudle, DYCC Trustee.

Dear Editor,

I am very grateful to people in the village who have been keeping an eye on the church. I have received one or two phone calls and these have all been investigated. So far they have not been any instances of thieves. However the danger is still there and I would be very grateful to neighbours, dog walkers and other passer-bys to report any suspicious activity at the church. I would rather be called out on a false alarm than wake up one morning and find the lead gone off the roof.

Josie Midwinter

More of Your Letters on page 6 ⇨

THE NEXT GARD MEETING **Helen Brassington**

Our MP, Ed Vaizey, will address the next meeting of the Group Against the Reservoir Development, at 7.30 pm on Saturday 8th February in Steventon Village Hall.

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MORE LETTERS

Dear Editor,

Through the Chronicle we wish to express our sincere thanks to all those who supported our 'Crafts in the Conservatory' event at the end of November in aid of The Marie Curie Cancer Care Service. We raised over £400, which together with the £800 we raised on two previous occasions since May 2007, has provided a goodly amount to help towards the provision of specialist carers or qualified nurses to support the terminally ill and their families and allow a person to die with dignity in their own home. This service costs on average £20 per hour to provide and therefore we are more than grateful to the friends, neighbours, work colleagues and residents of Drayton in helping us to achieve this wonderful amount in memory of a special Husband, Daddy and Grandfather - Robert Anderton.

Once again thank you so much

Jeanette, Beverley and Faye Anderton.

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Dear Editor,

Kevin, Neil and I would like to thank all of Pam's friends for all the cards and support we received from you all. Thank you again.

Les Allen

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Friday Club, Sheila and I would like to thank the drivers, cooks and helpers for all their work throughout 2007.

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Bond

Dear Editor,

My wife, Lily Cole, sadly passed away on Monday 10th December 2007. I and my family would like to express our gratitude to all those who loved and cared for Lily; a wonderful lady and much-loved wife and mum; she will be greatly missed. All the donations made to the Nuffield orthopaedic centre appeal were gratefully received. Many thanks. Thanks also to Betty and John for shopping and gardening. Yours sincerely,

Bert Cole

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank all the people of Drayton who contributed to the work of the Pace Centre in 2007. Mahinda Sasanapala and staff at the paper shop collected £29.34 and Drayton Post Office collected £8.45 on the same day. Janet and Glen at the red Lion and all their customers collected £319.94 in a big whisky bottle. I did my usual Christmas collection around some of the village and collected a sum of £355.70. I was staggered by people's generosity in the two days I was collecting.

Everybody asked about Natasha! Natasha will be nine on 3rd March. She is slowly recovering from her double hip operation on 13th July 2007. The Pace Centre used some of their funds to employ an extra bank physiotherapist just for her! She has lots of pains in her legs and back, night and day and has become very thin. Doctors are concerned that, since the operation, she has been losing weight. Evidently bone density only increases until we are 13 years old age. I can get my second finger and thumb to circle her arm. She is dangerously thin, so that doctors have put her on the waiting list to have a tube inserted straight into her stomach, which will feed her the proteins and medicines she needs. Whatever else she eats will be a bonus.

Despite all this, Clare's home still rings with Natasha's laughter. We keep telling her she will walk and ride her special bike again. All at Pace are so good to her; she loves school.

Thank you so much Drayton, with love from

Judy and Derek Henman

Dear Editor,

What an interesting surprise it was to see the recent local TV news report about a dispute in Reading, where Thames Water want to **close** a reservoir (Bath Road) and redevelop the area for housing, angering local residents.

This after several years of TW first proposing, then actively planning and moving towards a supposedly essential new reservoir near us, despite a substantial campaign pointing out that preventing leaks and wastage would more than provide the necessary water for us all.

If the new reservoir is 'essential', isn't it an odd decision to redevelop the existing one? Is some water more essential?! Or would the funds from the new housing go into TW's coffers, whilst we all end-up paying for the new one?

Cheers

Tony Holmes

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ALL AROUND

VILLAGE VOICES

Daniel Scharf

Simon and Garfunkle made an appearance between a song from South Africa and one from the Philippines and the singing ended with a song from New York.

Village Voices is a scratch choir made up of people who don't normally sing, and would welcome anybody who would like to have a go (next meeting 3 - 5pm at Drayton Hall on 10 February, £3, concessions £1), really, no experience or talent required. A challenge has been issued to other groups (e.g. Damascus, Football Club, School) to see if we could have a contest, a 'Clash of the Choirs' so that there should be an opportunity for everybody who fancies a bit of singing to join in.

DRAYTON WAR MEMORIAL

Josie Midwinter

In the November issue of the Chronicle I wrote about the War Memorial and the list of Drayton young men who died in two World Wars and also the Korean War. I want to gather information about the men listed and build up a memorial book with details about each one of them. I had hoped to hear from people in the village who had information about some of them. So far I have only had two replies. So I would like to make a renewed appeal for help. This November will be 90 years since the end of the First World War and I would like to use it as an opportunity to remember those who died not just with their name but also with and exhibition about them. So please help by getting in touch and letting me know what you know.

DRAYTON PLAYERS

Jean Hager

Shortly after the Christmas break we had our first run through of THE GOOD COMPANIONS on stage in the Drayton Hall. That's always a telling occasion and draws our attention smartly to the imminence of the actual show. We were pleasantly surprised with the result and are now working even harder to ensure another wow factor musical.

To remind you of our production dates: these will be over two weekends: 14, 15, 16 and 21, 22, 23 February, curtain up at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £7.50 (also £6.50 concessions on Thursdays only) and may be booked either by sending a written request plus S.A.E. (cheques made out to The Drayton Players) to 'The Good Companions' Box Office, 40 Castle Street, Steventon, Abingdon, Oxon. OX13 6SR, or by phoning 01235 200350.

For matinee booking information please contact the number already given. The show zips along with dances and songs galore and some of the very catchy tunes are sure to send you home humming happily; so book early to get your seating choice and we look forward to the pleasure of your company.



Don't expect to see Alex Taylor's beautiful model-T Ford but look out for Georgia Alston and Mike Davies in Drayton Players' 'The Good Companions'

DRAYTON WIVES

Pam Lacey

At the November meeting Mr Hugh Grainger gave a very entertaining and amusing talk on 'The Joys of Old Age'. The Christmas coffee evening was held in the Caudwell Day Centre which the members thoroughly enjoyed. The partaking of the usual Christmas nibbles was followed by a fun game of Beetle, the evening being rounded off with the exchange of gifts and the singing of carols.

Dates for your Diary in **JANUARY & FEBRUARY**

Mon 21	Jan	WHIST	Helen Sainsbury, Caudwell D.C.
Wed 31	Jan	MEETING	Fair Trade - Val Cross
Mon 4	Feb	COFFEE	Daphne Barrand, 30 Whitehorns,
Mon 18	Feb	WHIST	Joyce Simmonds, Caudwell D.C.
Wed 27	Feb	BIRTHDAY LUNCH	Steventon House Hotel (12pm for 12.30pm)

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MORE ALL AROUND

DRAYTON TODDLERS

Jane Nye

Happy New Year! All of us at Drayton Toddlers hope that you had a lovely Christmas and enjoyed your celebrations as we ushered in 2008. Hopefully you have recovered from the excess of turkey and mince pies and feel refreshed from your festive break, ready for the coming term.

Thinking back to December, both adults and children thoroughly enjoyed the Christmas party. Traditional games such as Pass the Parcel were played and all the children enjoyed making Christmas decorations with Justine. Father Christmas found time in his busy schedule to pop in to hand out presents to all the children and stayed on for a photo session at the end. Money was raised for the toddler funds through a raffle. Our thanks to everyone who helped to make the party a success and for pulling together to make it a team effort.

A new year is always a good time to ring in changes and this article is a good opportunity to announce that, after several years as chairperson, Anna Loughlin has decided to stand down as chairperson to make way for someone else to take up the reins. We would all like to thank Anna for all the hard work, dedication and commitment she has shown to toddlers. She will still be coming to the group with Grace and Helena and will be happy to give advice if requested to the new chairperson. I have also decided to stand down as treasurer given that our days at toddlers are numbered and will also be happy to continue to support the new team that takes over as I will continue to attend.

Ideally, we are looking for mums to take up the role of chairperson, treasurer and secretary. We have been without a secretary for a while and a team of three to coordinate the running of the group will help to spread the workload during the major events of the open morning and Christmas party. If anyone is interested, please chat to Anna or myself about what is involved.

Just to let you all know that £56 was raised by the sale of photos following the fun morning in September. Thanks to all mums who brought them.

It's time for us all to renew our membership at toddlers. This money goes towards paying insurance on the hall during the sessions. It's £5 for a family for a year and £2.50 for half a year. Forms will be handed out and money collected in the coming weeks.

Drayton Toddler group continues to run every Thursday, held at the Village Hall from 9.30am to 11.30am. Please call Jane on 533861 to check if we will be open during the February half term. We look forward to starting the New Year by making new friends and catching up with old ones. Do please come to join in the fun!

PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUPE

Debbie Bargasu

We hope everybody had a great Christmas and hope the New Year has started well. We would like to wish Connor Topping well as he has now left us to go to BIG school.

We had quite an exciting time in the run up to Christmas, as well as the children and staff practising their singing, we also had a Christmas party and the children had the chance to dress up as police when we had a visit from a Police Van and Policeman. Everyone enjoyed themselves.

Our topic this term is Traditional Stories and Pantomimes, we will be making and drawing lots of pictures and models. ➔

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➔ Preschool is currently running at near capacity, which is fantastic, this does change every term and availability does vary, we also have a healthy waiting list at the moment. Please do keep supporting us, the children have great fun and are always learning new things.

Many thanks to all who donated in exchange for apples in Sutton Wick Lane, we really appreciate all contributions. Also thanks to everyone who helped with the Children's Christmas party and Raffle and thanks Liz Malin for manning our stall at the school Christmas fair.

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

Naomi Broomfield

School will be returning after the festive season on the day this goes to press, I hope all have recovered from the various bugs that were going round. Congratulations to all of the children for their efforts in the marvellous school plays which were held at the end of term, especially to those who had solo parts.

Claire Soper (Governor) has asked me to put in the following report:

Following a recent routine monitoring visit from Steve Coleman the School Improvement Partner, Drayton school has been judged outstanding in relation to the progress and achievement made by pupils during the last academic year.

Of particular note were the results of Key Stage 2 tests taken in May 2007, which put Drayton in the top 10% of schools nationally for English and in the top 12% for Maths.

Staff and Governors are delighted with such excellent progress, especially the comment made about the quality of teaching in years 5 and 6. There will be an opportunity to have a look round school and meet staff and governors on Wednesday 23rd January from 6pm.

If you have a child ready to start school in September please make a note for your diary and come along to see what the school has to offer.

Another diary date is Sunday 20th January at 10am when school and church will be holding a service to mark Education Sunday. Please come along and support this important event.

YET MORE ALL AROUND

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Pearl Stanbridge

At the recent A.G.M. all Officers were returned unopposed. A delegate and the secretary will be attending the County Conference at Arborfield on Saturday 19 January 2008. The next Committee meetings will be held on 21 Jan. and 18 Feb., both at 8pm.

'Please Help us to Help them' by supporting our annual Easter Draw, tickets will be on sale from the normal outlets. All proceeds will be donated to the Royal Star and Garter Home.

BOWLS CLUB Roll Up

All three teams playing in the league finished strongly, picking up points away from home. 'The Rollers' ended up leading Division 1 at the half-way stage by 10 points, and are well placed to capture the title if they can continue their form. 'The Hammers' also, by winning their last 3 games, are in joint second place in the same league, while 'The Wasps' had a fine run in, and are joint second in Division 2 and well placed to be among the honours at the end of the season. Also with only one team competing in the K.O. cup this year we have progressed to the quarter final and will play Wallingford Royals for a place in the semi-finals.

Finals day was again very successful, with over 30 members in attendance and no fewer than 8 competitions being concluded. To summarise the year, the following were the winners of all competitions held. Starting with the 'Friendly Fours' inter-club competition held between, Drayton, Comrades Club Wantage and Stanford-in-the-Vale, Drayton (represented by Sarah Church, Val Locke, Jean and Tony Mullins) were the winning team.

The internal competitions were won by the following:

- 'Didcot Windows' open singles: Bryn Jones
- 'Derek Messenger' ladies singles: Jean Mullins
- 'Jean Mullins' Gents singles: Bryn Jones
- 'Henry Bunce' handicap pairs: Jean Mullins & Jan Cook
- 'Don Alexander' Memorial Trophy: Josie Carter, Eileen Long and Bryn Jones.
- 'Beryl James' Memorial Triples: Marion Webster, Olive Brown and Tony Wright.
- The Attwood cup: Jan Cook
- 'Wally Weightman' 2 wood triples: Pat Hoyland, Cyril Carter and Tony Wright.
- Ladies vs. Gents: Gents
- 'Rose Bowl' Triple league: Pat Hoyland, Kay Attwood and Ron Gleed.
- 'John Berry' fours league: Pat Hoyland, Cyril Carter, John Beale and Gordon Smith

Next year we will be celebrating 20 years and, if there is any one out there who would like to join in the fun, bowling sessions are Monday & Thursday afternoon 2 till 5 and Wednesday evenings 7 till 10. Throughout last year we acquired a few new members and they have been very active in all things that go on within the club. Here's hoping that next year will bring the same success. We are all pleased to see Gillis back bowling after her knee replacement; well done Gillis! And in closing I wish all members, old and new, a happy and healthy new year.

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TABLE TENNIS CLUB John Gould

We are now half way through the season. Regular readers will know we have 6 teams competing in the Didcot & District Table Tennis Association. This is one more than last season, and 2 more than in 2005-06; a good indicator of how the club is progressing.

The sport of table tennis is seen by many as an occasional pastime they indulge in whilst on holiday or played in their childhood at school or youth club. That is how most of us started. However, it may surprise some to learn that more people play table tennis worldwide than any other sport! Of course this is mainly due to vast numbers in Asian countries for whom it is their main sport. There are over a billion players in China so I'm told.

Table tennis is also a major sport in many European countries such as Holland, Belgium and especially Germany where top players earn a very good living in the Bundesliga and have celebrity status. Although some of Drayton's players are often seen around the village, I'm not aware of any yet being asked to sign an autograph or endorse any products! We've never been asked to open a supermarket yet!

Still the club does have two teams in the top division of our local league and in Nicole Hunt have the county's top ranked junior girl player. There are currently 13 clubs in the Didcot Association with 53 teams in the 5 divisions. The numbers are gradually increasing. There were only 43 teams as recently as season 2003-04 so things are looking up.

With the holiday season soon being upon us why not come along one Monday evening to brush up your ping-pong skills. This could lead to great things – possibly a win in the tournament they are bound to hold at whichever holiday venue you visit this year. Or even an offer to open the next Tesco's! You can play socially for a £1 fee for up to 3 hours. Whatever age from 9 upwards we will be pleased to see you.

Best wishes to all those who enjoy their weekly ping-pong for a happy and prosperous 2008.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

MEETING on 3 DECEMBER 2007 Daniel Scharf

Standing in for Jenny Pooley, I have to report on the most action packed Council meeting I can remember. We started with a presentation from the Damascus project team. The village may not yet appreciate how lucky we are to be included in this project and we hope to put that right early in the new year. A workshop will be held in the Village Hall for grumpy old men like me to work together with the beautiful young people benefiting from Damascus on how to build on its successes and not to lose the momentum. This will be open to anyone in the village who wants to join the conversation between the young and not so young.

The issue of the unsafe headstones in the burial ground continues. A 'faculty' has been applied for, to enable topple-testing to be carried out. Meanwhile the Council has reconsidered its policy of requiring memorials which could not become unsafe by only accepting tablets/books set at a very shallow angle. While these are still its strong preference as there is no possible future liability for the owners or the PC, the Council decided that memorials erected to the standards of the British Association of Monumental Masons (BRAMM) by approved companies will be approved. We will write again in the Chronicle before testing starts.

DEFRA has approved the land swap so that the roads across the Green can be reduced from three to one if the Earl of Plymouth chooses to do so in order to access its approved development of 16 houses at Manor Farm.

I had attended a meeting of the Oxfordshire Rural Housing Partnership. It was explained how affordable housing had been provided at Kingston Bagpuize, Marcham and Steventon on what are called "exception sites" (land on which housing would not otherwise have been granted) at relatively low rents or on shared equity. In my 30 years in Drayton I have never been engaged in a debate on housing for local people at affordable prices. This is an issue which the Council will pursue in the new year. However it will require a lot of work in identifying the need and possible building sites and we would be pleased to hear from anybody who is interested in this matter.

A village information and welcome pack is being produced and will soon be on its way to all existing households as it contains information in a handy form of use to residents however long they have been living here.

We have asked Thames Water to make sure that the consultation on the Water Management Resources Plan will withstand any legal challenge, so that this time we can participate with confidence, ⇨

⇨ and that we will receive a fair hearing on a level playing field.

Finally, a plea to all those who think that they might be able to contribute something to the work of the Parish Council. The very sad loss of Brian Purbrick, who as a new councillor was starting to make a valuable contribution, has left your council very thin on the ground.

MEETING on 07 JANUARY 2008 Jenny Pooley

For the most part this very long and busy meeting dealt with ongoing routine matters: flooding in Sutton Wick, topple testing of grave headstones, new litter bins, new benches, street lighting, illegal vehicular use of bridleways, ownership of various land areas in the village, provision for young people etc. etc. All of these are important, some are slow to be dealt with and some difficult to resolve. But by perseverance much eventually gets accomplished and the Parish Council, we hope, continues to help to ensure that Drayton is a good place to live.

So the Council, along with all of Drayton's residents who have noticed the damage, is distressed by the mindless vandalism that took place on Christmas night. Both of the bus stops in the centre of the village were severely damaged, leaving very few windows intact. It is only a matter of weeks since the one on the west side of the B4017 was repaired at considerable expense. Much time was spent discussing the best way to repair the shelters in order to make them vandal proof. In whatever way the work is done the Council faces a very large bill.

The Parish Council, in conjunction with the Drayton Chronicle, has initiated a Drayton Village Information leaflet. A lot of work has gone into the production of what is hoped will be a useful leaflet for all residents. Everyone will receive one with this month's Chronicle and thereafter they will be given to newcomers to the village to help them settle in Drayton and find their way around.

The Council noted with sadness the death of our erstwhile County Councillor, Mrs. Margaret MacKenzie. She worked tirelessly for very many years on behalf of her constituents and nobody who knew her, whatever their politics, could doubt her dedication.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on **Monday 4th February at 7.45pm in the Caudwell Day Centre**. Everyone is welcome to attend and there is always an opportunity to voice your concerns.

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DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Webber

Was it me? Was it another surge of what my family call 'Grumpyolmanitis'? Or was the last edition of the Chronicle a bit depressing? It was its usual full, informative, well-edited self, and the special Christmas colour front page got the whole thing off to a very festive start. But I wasn't far through it before I began to feel profoundly depressed. So many people in Drayton seemed to be angry with the world, or Drayton, or each other. Had I encouraged the whole mood by "banging on" about Reservoirs, Pressure Groups etc.? What could I do to change the mood?

First, into the bin goes the article on the badly vandalised bus stops (Do people have nothing better to do at Christmas?). Secondly, I vow to be positive this month and dwell only on the good things about life in Drayton. Here are just a few:

- We live in what is, statistically, one of the safest, wealthiest, healthiest parts of Europe.
- We have a hard-working, well-led Parish Council.
- We have two great, well-managed but very different Pubs.
- We have one of the last independent, well-stocked, well-run hardware shops in the area.
- We have a Post Office.
- We have the excellently produced and edited Drayton Chronicle.
- Our village is part of a youth project that is attracting attention and envy from all - round the country - the Damascus Youth Project.
- You can act, sing, dance, play, read, discuss, reflect, socialise and relax in one of the many Groups, Clubs and Societies in the village. (See your new Drayton Information Leaflet).
- We have a Community Day, a Community Choir, Community Litter-Picking, and last, but not least, at the suggestion of the Youth of the village we are holding a:
- Drayton Village Face-lift Day on Sunday March 2nd at 2.30 - 5.30pm, starting in the village hall. Come and paint over graffiti, sort, tidy, litter-pick and make things look nicer. All equipment required will be supplied; everyone is welcome - the more the merrier and there will be a free drink and snacks at the end

Have a very Happy New Year in 2008

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WESTMINSTER LETTER

Ed Vaizey

I wrote my last column in mid-November. I wasn't yet in festive mode so stupidly forgot to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope you all had a good break.

Sadly the New Year is not going to start very well. By the time you read this, the Post Office, displaying peculiar sensitivity, will have announced which Post Offices are set to close in the constituency. I know of at least one, possibly two, that have been earmarked for closure. The public are being told in January. There is then a six-week consultation period running from early February until mid-March, and the final decision is made in May.

The Post Office has been told to close 2,500 Post Offices across the country, and I doubt they will listen much to our protests. Nevertheless, if your local Post office is set to close, please write or e-mail me setting out how important the local Post Office is to you. I need genuine letters - everyone will be doing petitions and we need to stand out. Certainly the Post Office that I know is earmarked for closure is a prime example of a shop at the heart of its community providing a much-needed service. I will fight to keep it and the others open.

The other piece of bad news is that the new timetable from First Great Western does not seem to have made much difference - although I am pleased that much of the Appleford service has apparently survived. I have been getting letters from angry commuters unhappy with the service and the overcrowding. So no doubt 2008 will carry on much as 2007 in this regard.

Thames Water will be pushing hard to get approval for its reservoir, and as I have repeatedly stated, I remain sceptical about whether it is needed, and will continue to fight the proposal. We will also hear more about the Government's plans for yet more housing in the south-east, again an issue of huge concern, especially if there is no money to up-grade our over-stretched road network.

Thanks to all of you who responded to my last column giving me your views on the new proposals on detention without trial, and on staying on in education until 18. I really do appreciate hearing from you.

Future Surgery Dates; all at 5.30 pm

25 Jan. 2008, Faringdon Corn Exchange

8 Feb. 2008, Didcot, King Alfred Drive Community Centre

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DRAYTON DIARY

FOR FEBRUARY

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

Regular Events are listed opposite

Mon	4	7.45 pm	Parish Council	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
Tues	5		Blood Donors' Clinic	
Mon	11	9.15 am	Chronicle Lottery deadline	<i>Vickery's</i>
		5.15 pm	Chronicle copy deadline	<i>Vickery's box</i>
Thurs	14	7.30 pm	Drayton Players – The Good Companions	
			Also 15, 16, 21, 22 and 23rd February	
Thurs	28	7.30 pm	Drayton Youth Zone (also 24 January)	
Fri	29		Hall Tidy-up Project	
			Also Sat 1st and Sun 2nd March	

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arts and crafts; fun and games

Thursday 24th January and 28th February
7.30pm to 9pm



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Drayton Community School



Open Evening

Wednesday 23rd January 2008

From 6 pm

Drayton Community School was judged to be
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for pupil progress and achievement in 2007
and rated 15th out of 240 primary schools in Oxfordshire.

Come and meet staff and governors and see what your local school
has to offer you and your child.



Children's Workshop

10 am to 12 noon

Wednesday 20th February
in St Peter's Church

This day is during half term and the workshop is
open to children of the village
between the ages of 5 and 11

Registration forms are available from the Church or
from the Vicarage (531374)

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>
7.15 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>
8.30 pm	Badminton (Private Group)	

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>



Beetle Drive

2pm on Sunday 24th February
in the Caudwell Day Centre

Beetle is a game,
easily played by all age groups and lots of fun.

Refreshments included.

First prize and booby prize. Raffle.

Tickets £3 for adults and £1 for children.

In aid of St Peter's Church

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