

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Tony Holmes

Volume 31 No. 2

March 2008

DAMASCUS YOUTH PROJECT

Happy New Year to all.

The Damascus team is working very hard to develop a group of young leaders within the village – not least to secure the long-term future of the project. We have started many new projects to help train and develop their skills in becoming tomorrow's leaders. Eventually we want young people to help make decisions within their village. For example to work alongside the parish council, village hall committee, etc., this is very important for the development of the whole community.

Thank you very much to all the volunteers who help support the Monday night drop inn @ the village hall. **You do a fantastic job.** Especially to Simon Murray who's there EVERY week!

We really need more volunteers to get involved with the youth project. **If you do feel you could spare a couple of hours, PLEASE** do get in contact with me and I will explain the various projects we have running. The current volunteers really enjoy what they do; if you feel it would be beneficial to meet them I can also set that up.

AND - we are looking for young people to contribute to a youth page in the Chronicle. If you feel you are interested give me a bell. Kind regards **Gary Hibbins (07912 142334).**

JAZZ & SWING CONCERT

ST PETER'S CHURCH, DRAYTON
Music by **BOULEVARD SWING**
(www.Boulevardswingjazz.com)
Saturday 26th April 2008
7.30pm to 9.30pm

Tickets £8.00 (inc. complimentary glass of wine)
Telephone (01235) 531683 for tickets and info.
Tickets also available from Vickery's.

DRAYTON VILLAGE Face-Lift

DON'T FORGET – March 2nd Village Hall 2.30 to 5.30
Erase graffiti, pick litter, tidy-up. All welcome and all equipment supplied - **FREE drink & snacks to finish!**

ST PETER'S DRAYTON

MOTHERING SUNDAY - Sunday 2 March

10am Family Communion with flowers for all the Mums

CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP - Saturday 15 March

10am to 12 noon - Making the Easter Gardens - registration forms from the church or the vicarage

PALM SUNDAY - Sunday 15 March

8am Holy Communion

10am Dramatic Reading of the Passion Story

MAUNDY THURSDAY - Thursday 20 March

9:30am Holy Communion

7:30pm Passover Celebration in the church room

8:30 to 10pm Vigil in the Lady Chapel

GOOD FRIDAY - Friday 21 March

10am Ecumenical Service: Donkey procession from the Baptist church, round the village, to St Peter's church. Followed by hot cross buns in church room.

2pm to 3pm Devotional Service in church

EASTER DAY - Sunday 23 March

5:45am Dawn Service and lighting of Easter candle

8am Holy Communion

10am Family Communion - followed by Easter Egg Hunt

BIG BREW COFFEE MORNING

St Peter's Church Saturday 8th March
10 am to 12 noon

Fair Trade Refreshments

SALE of Crafts and home-made produce

RAFFLE - Proceeds to the

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY & ACTION AID

NB Re **YOUTH ZONE** see **NEW TIMES** (ad page 11)

Your Letters P7 Memorabilia Please P3 Golden Wedding P6 Get your message across P2 Life on High? P10
Exercise for a Pound! P3 Swinging & Singing P1 & 7 WE NEED YOU P9 A new friend/home? P8

DRAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Then come along to YOUR ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

7.00pm on MONDAY 7th APRIL 2008

at the CAUDWELL DAY CENTRE (down Gravel Lane, off The Green)

All welcome – Your chance to speak; your chance to vote!

(Followed by the Parish Council Meeting)

COMING CHRONICLES

The **April Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Friday, March 20th**, from **Helen Brasington (534045)**, who should be contacted by Agents requiring extra copies.

The Editor will be **David Lee (202699)**. Contributions may be e-mailed (see below), or placed in the Chronicle letter box, outside Vickery's store on Drayton Green,

NO LATER than 5.15 pm on Monday, March 10th 2008.

After this deadline, items are given less precedence for inclusion (No guarantees!), and certainly need to reach us by the Wednesday.

STOP PRESS - ADVERTISERS should note that the deadline for ads is EARLIER, Friday March 7th, due to their preparation time.

NB :- **Can we politely remind** Contributors that the above **deadlines** are exactly that; there seems to be a trend (with increasing use of e-mail) of sending items later. It should perhaps be realised that the later an item is received, the less precedence it gets, which can affect things when there is pressure on space for texts.

Editors clear the box from time to time before the deadline. It is a great help when items can be left in the box a few days before the closing date. Some contributors are indeed doing just that, and it really does help. Thank you.

NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

All contributions to the Chronicle are most welcome. Be sure to include the name, address and (in case clarification is necessary) telephone number of the author. Contributions can be made :-

1. If you've Internet access, by **email** to the relevant editor :-

Derek Pooley	derek_pooley@talk21.com
David Lee	david_r.lee@ntlworld.com
Tony Holmes	tony-holmes@ntlworld.com
(next editor)	editor@draytonchronicle.net

Please remember to check that you soon get a confirmation reply.

2. A recording device such as Floppy disk, CD or DVD; **please include hard copy** for checking the formatting and **your address** so that it can be easily returned. This is still a good way to receive copy since it removes much of the work necessary in 3 & 4 below, AND should help to eliminate misprints/errors from scanner problems or dodgy handwriting.

3. A good, **black typescript** on white A4 paper or smaller. The scanner can read in typescripts and this is still much easier than re-typing. IF you prepare text on a PC to print the output and send it to us, thanks, BUT PLEASE SEE 2 above - we do return disks, honest!

4. Finally, **hand-written items**. It helps if all names of people and places are spelt out in **CAPITALS** (thanks to those who do), thus saving mistakes and possible embarrassment. **You KNOW who you're writing about, but please don't assume we do too!**

ADVERTISING RATES

For Block Advert (about 1/12th page)

----- Number of Inserts -----

Advertiser Category	1	3	6	12
Drayton Resident	£5.00	£14.00	£25.50	£48.00
Non-Drayton Resident	£6.00	£17.00	£31.50	£60.00

Half-size block adverts, normally for one or two inserts, are charged at half the above rates.

All requests **must** be accompanied by **cash or a cheque** made payable to 'Drayton Chronicle'.

They may be placed in the Chronicle Letter Box, outside Vickery's Hardware Store, Drayton Green, in shopping hours. OR send your requirements :- advertising@draytonchronicle.net

CHRONICLE LOTTERY

Daphne Samworth, Hon. Promoter

RESULTS OF THE FEBRUARY LOTTERY

Prize	Winner	Agent
£25	Dr. Riis, "Brambles" Binning Close	Judith Dunster
£20	Mr Morris, 59, Abingdon Rd	Jane Handerson
£15	Larson 27, High Street	Mary Alexander
£10	G Williams 28, Church Lane	Susan Brooks
£10	O. Kratzsh, 8, Binning Close	Judith Dunster
£10	Mr M Webster 8, Newman Lane	Jean Oliver
£10	Mr Law, Sutton Wick Farmhouse	Keith Clough
£10	Mrs Andrews, 58, Whitehorns Way	Daphne Barrand
£10	Mrs Samuels, c/o, 8, Church Lane	Susan Brooks
£10	Claire Soper, 127, Drayton Road, SC	Claire Soper

Winning tickets, from a total of 2378 sold, were drawn by staff at The Wheatsheaf. We do need more Agents - could YOU help?

Going Away? KE & MINDERS

RELUCTANT TO PUT UPON THE NEIGHBOURS AGAIN?
KEYMINDERS WILL VISIT YOUR HOME, PAMPER & FEED PETS, WATER PLANTS & CHECK SECURITY. WE ARE FULLY INSURED, CARING PROFESSIONALS.
 Tel: **01235 520290** email: info@keyminders.co.uk

THE FOLLOWING THREE MONTHS

Issue for	Copy for publication and return of Agents Lottery Packs by Monday:-	Chronicle published and available for distribution on Friday:-
May	14 April	25 April
June	19 May	30 May
July	16 June	27 June

GARDEN RESCUE

FENCING, TURFING, PAVING & PATIOS

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ALL AROUND

DRAYTON WIVES

Pam Lacey

At our January meeting Val and Victoria gave a very interesting and informative talk on Fair Trade stressing how important this is, enabling growers and traders in the poorer parts of the world to obtain a fair price for their goods. This was made possible by 'Tradecraft' who distribute these goods to shops and outlets in the UK. Fair trade goods are on sale in the Church Room at **St Peter's two days a month** and sales in the past year reached the large sum of three thousand pounds.

I would remind members that subs (ten pounds) are now due, to be handed to Trudi, cheques should be made payable to Drayton Wives.

As members are aware we are fast approaching our 50th Anniversary and we would be grateful to receive **any photos or memorabilia** past or present members may have. All photos etc. will be copied and the originals returned. (Please give to Ann Hutchings if possible.)

Reminder:- Please do not forget the Birthday Lunch at Steventon House Hotel on Wed 27th Feb 12pm for 12.30.

Dates for your Diary in MARCH

Mon 3rd COFFEE Daphne Barrand, 30 Whitehorns Way
Mon 17th WHIST Trudi Buckner Caudwell D.C.
Wed 26th MEETING Northmoor Trust - Ben Earl

THE WHEATSHEAF



**Austin & Geraldine
welcome you: to enjoy**

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Fine Wines and Beers
In Friendly Comfortable Surroundings.

THURSDAY STEAK NIGHT £9-95
(to include a pint, or a glass of wine)

Take away Fish & Chips: served Mon - Sat until 8pm

Delicious Home Cooked Roast Lunch: Sun 12-5pm

Senior Citizens Lunchtime Menu Tuesday to Friday
£5.95 including sweet

Bookings :- call Gel or Austin (01235 531485)

Drayton (on the village green)

The ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Pearl Stanbridge

Please help US to help THEM - by supporting our annual Easter Draw; all proceeds donated to the Royal Star and Garter home.

The next Committee meeting will be held on Easter Draw night, Monday 17th Mar at 7.30 pm.

ARE YOU IN THE DARK ? If your streetlight isn't working, or wastes resources by being on in the daytime, then PLEASE report it on the County Council hotline (free) 0800 317802 - help them by giving the town, road, and if possible the number on the post, or failing that the nearest house.

Margaret welcomes you to

Sabina's

for your next hair appointment

40 ABINGDON ROAD - DRAYTON - Tel. (01235) 531140

Mondays & Tuesdays & Saturdays 9.00am to 5.00 pm
Wednesday closed all day
Thursdays 9.00am to 6.00pm, Fridays 9.00am to 7.00pm

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HOME TELEPHONE JOHN: 01235 533433

WORKSHOP: 01865 864636

Drayton Table Tennis Club John Gould

We are now well into the Handicap Shield. This is a mid season tournament for individual teams where players are allocated a handicap to enable better players compete against the weaker sides on an even playing field. At least that's the theory although in practice it doesn't always work as intended! More often a Division 1 player will have to get about 15 points whilst their weaker opponent requires only 5. As many of the weaker players are beginners they invariably get better quite quickly and so the poor old 'top player' finds it to be one game too far!

It's no surprise that Drayton A didn't enter and also that the B & C teams have found the going tough. Conversely the D team have won their first two matches 8-1 & 7-2, the F team also won their first match & the E team had a narrow 5-4 defeat. As each plays in a round robin group of 4 teams we hope all three will progress to the knock out stages.

The Club's Bidmead Cup team will play their Semi Final away to Moreton at the end of February so I'll report on the result in the next issue. This will be a tough tie as Moreton have a lot of improving young players who will be favourably handicapped.

I have previously mentioned Nicole Hunt, our top-ranked junior player. She recently represented the county in an inter-county tournament, held in Cambridgeshire, Nicole won all her matches to star for the team. The county matches have now finished for the season and Nicole finished with 10 wins from her 12 matches played.

Our Monday Night open sessions are proving very popular. **At £1 per person** we feel this is good value for over 2 hours of ping-pong. This is a lot cheaper than hiring a table at a Sports Hall.

We have recently welcomed Idir as a new player and he has joined with the other new players that have become club regulars this season.

Anyone else wishing to join can **come along** on any Monday from 7.30 pm onwards at the School. We will be very happy to see you.

ST PETER'S CHURCH

Priest in Charge Revd Sister Josie Midwinter 531374
OLM in training & Choir Mrs Rosie Bruce 525284
Churchwardens Mrs Sue Harris 848361
 Mrs Val Cross 535183
Organist Mr Adrian Thompson 01865 714801

CHURCH NOTICES

REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday	8.00 am	Holy Communion (CW Traditional).
	10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (CW) except 2nd Sunday, when a non-Eucharistic Family Service is held.
Mon-Fri	8.15 am	Morning Prayer (CW) in Lady Chapel
Thursday	9.30 am	Holy Communion (CW) in Lady Chapel

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Sunday *	10.00 am	Pebbles (* every 3rd Sunday)	Church Room
Monday	7.45 pm	Bellringing Practice	Bell Tower
Weds	10.30 am	Pebbles (term time only)	Church Room
Friday *	6.30 pm	Choir Practice (*Alt'ate Fridays)	Church Room

CALENDAR FOR MARCH

Sat	1st	10.00 am	Sale of Fair Trade goods (until 11 am)
Sun	2nd	11.15 am	Sale of Fair Trade goods (until 11.45 am)
Tues	4th	3.00 pm	1st Tuesday Connections Church Room

NB For EASTER Services please see advert on page 1

PARISH REGISTER

Funeral Jan 25th **Neen Priestnall**

YOU STAY - WE PRAY During this time we will pray for all the people who live and work in these roads:-

1 – 15 Mar:- Lockway, Whitehorns Way
 16 – 22 Mar:- Corneville Rd, Crabtree Lane, Lesparre Close
 23 – 29 Mar:- Drayton Rd, Milton Rd, New Cut Mill, Fisher Close, Marcham Rd, Meads Close, Ripington Court, Stone Mill.



The Red Lion

Glenn & Janet welcome you

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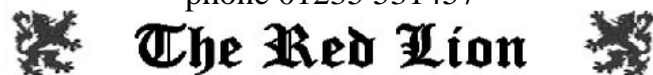
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For party bookings or enquiries
 phone 01235 531457



The Red Lion



Letter from St Peter's Church

Dear Friends,

Snowdrops round the tree stump Sun glinting on frosty grass
 Blackthorn blossom in the hedgerows The first cuckoo

All of these are signals that Spring is already on its way and this year it seems to have come very early. I love going down to the church early in the morning to see all the new growth and to hear the bird song. The daffodils are already in bud and will soon flower. In Germany they are called 'Easter Trumpets' and that is a very apt name for them as they seem almost synonymous with the Easter season.

EASTER:- The message of Spring is very close to the message of Easter which forms the central understanding of Christianity. Spring is about new growth, new hope after a dark and cold winter. It is part of the promise of God that we will never be without the Springtime and the Harvest. Sometimes in the darkest days of winter it does seem as though it is going to go on for ever and ever. THEN Spring comes and we have a distinct lift of the spirits - there is hope for the future.

TRUMPET:- We are very used to the presence of angels in the Christmas story we tend to forget they are also there at Easter to trumpet the message that Jesus is risen from the dead. The call is then taken up by Mary Magdalene, Peter and John and the other disciples. **"Jesus Christ is risen today - Hallelujah!!!!"**

EASTER TRUMPETS:- The hope, and peace, and love of Easter has to be repeated every year because it is not a message of history but a message of God's love for his people today and everyday. Each one of us, that calls themselves a Christian, is in a way an 'Easter trumpet' echoing the words of the disciples: **"Jesus Christ is risen today – Hallelujah"**

The world in which we live is in a sorry state and it is not difficult to find places where there is no peace, no love - therefore little or no hope.

This is why St John records these words in his gospel:-

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (John 3:16 & 17)

On Palm Sunday (16 March) we will have a dramatic reading of the Easter narrative at the 10am service which puts the story across very powerfully. It is an opportunity to absorb the words and see how they build up to the climax of Jesus dying on the Cross. The following Sunday, Easter Day (23rd), the triumph of resurrection can be proclaimed.

Easter Trumpet become Easter Triumph

Jesus Christ **IS** risen from the dead

and we can all have a share in his triumph - Hallelujah!!!!

Yours sincerely

Josie Midwinter

THAMES VALLEY FARMERS MARKETS – Fresh, Quality produce, Locally produced, at a Competitive price
(Discover the taste of really fresh meat & veg, and buy directly from the producer)

MARCH Dates

Abingdon (3rd Monday) – 17th Didcot (2nd Sat) - 8th
 Newbury (1st & 3rd Sundays) – 2nd / 16th
 Reading (1st & 3rd Sats) – 1st / 15th

TVFM news - ring 0870 241 4762 - website Tvfm.org.uk

Usually the markets run from about 8.30 am until lunchtime, Newbury market is on a Sunday and starts about 9; it usually has a fishmonger & greengrocer (remember them?!), an excellent stall for breads and pies, and wonderful meats.

(MORE) ALL AROUND

Drayton TODDLER GROUP Jane Nye

Firstly, welcome to all of you who have joined us over the past few weeks, it's nice to meet you. Our numbers are thriving and we plan to hold the sessions in the main village hall to give our young members more space to play in. If you are thinking of coming along and finding out more about us, we still run from 9.30 to 11.30 on Thursday mornings.

I am pleased to be able to tell you that we have successfully found 3 volunteers to take over and lead the running of our group. Caroline and Tracey are the new joint chairpersons whilst Michelle is taking over as treasurer. Thanks to them for taking the plunge! However, toddlers could never run without the help of all those who volunteer to open up the session, run an activity and generally help with clearing away. And, as ever, our thanks to Joy for helping to keep things running smoothly and her lovely cups of coffee.

Recently, some of the mums volunteered to clear out our toys and reorganise them. We managed to sell some unused items and made £61 which will be reinvested in the toddler funds. Watch this space to find out more about up and coming events as the year progresses.

This is in fact my last article for toddlers so, thanks for reading!

Mrs Suzy Willis

MCSP SRP

CHARTERED PHYSIOTHERAPIST

Old Lodge, Henleys Lane

Drayton, OX14 4HU

Tel 01235 531269

Please ring for an appointment

Drayton Pre-School Playgroup Debbie Bargus

We would like to welcome Louis Bury-Peters and Alex Hermon as they join us after half term. We hope they have a great time at Preschool.

Our topic for this term is GROWING, we will be doing lots of planting with seeds. We will be using equipment we have received via the Tesco Sports vouchers, thanks to everyone who gave them to us.

We had our regular Ofsted Inspection in December, the visit went well and we have implemented the few improvements already. The full report is available on the Ofsted website. www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports.

Preschool is still running at near capacity, which again 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.

We are pleased to say that our supervisor Ann (Oz) has gained a place on the Early Years Foundation Degree course, this will start in September of this year, and we wish her well.

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.

Also coming up: Table Top Sale – date and details to follow.



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Letters to the Editor

You may request that your name & address are not displayed; however we MUST have those details, and phone number (it's a legal requirement).

Drayton BOWLS CLUB

'Roll-Up'

Teams in the winter league have had mixed fortunes at the start of the second half of the season with 'The Rollers', who were top of the league at the halfway stage, having a bad start by losing 2 of their first 3 games and dropping back to 2nd place behind 'The Barn Owls' from Didcot by 1 point, with the match away to them at the end of February now a really big game. 'The Hammers' on the other hand winning 2 of their matches, but losing heavily at 'The Barn Owls', are down in 3rd place. In Division 2, 'The Wasps' with 2 wins out of 2 are in a strong position to making a bid for top place, they are in second position with a game in hand, which if they could win would put them top, the big match for them will be 'Benson' at home, a must-win game, but whatever happens will be in a strong position to gain promotion to Div 1.

The club's run in the KO cup came to an end at the semi-final stage being beaten by Wallingford Regals.

The dinner presentation night was again another very enjoyable evening with 47 members and friends in attendance, we would like to thank all the staff at Abingdon United football club for making us very welcome.

The 'Rose Bowl' triple leagues Monday and Wednesdays are under way and will go on for the next 3 months; the first of the internal competitions is also taking place, the 'Wally Weightman' Triples, and going through to final will be, John Goodacre, Doreen Jones, Caroll Smith, who will play June Hyde, Kay Attwood, Eileen Long, this will be on finals day December the 7th.

Our next competition will be the 'Friendly Fours' this takes place on the 16th March, and will be the inter-club competition between Drayton, Wallingford and Hanney.

In closing these notes all members of the bowls club would like to wish Tam and Ann every success in their new venture in New Zealand, they will be leaving in the next few weeks. Both have been active members of the club for many years, and on various committees, and Tam was chairman of the club at one stage. They will be sorely missed and a hard act to follow, we all hope their dreams are fulfilled and they have a happy and healthy life together in New Zealand.

ST PETER'S CHURCH HOME-VISITING GROUP

will visit anyone who is, or has been, ill or is recently home from hospital, or unable to get out because of a disability, or is in any other circumstances where support would be welcomed.

Please contact:- Jean Hager (531558),

Sally Dixon (531547) or Jackie Walker (522361).

BAPTIST CHURCH

PASTORAL Co-Ordinator:- Roy Brown.....531296

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

- 11.15 am Presently only one morning service per month: this is the Family Service, and is on the first Sunday of each month.
- 6.00 pm Evening Service. A traditional form of service, frequently with guest speakers.
(Communion every second Sunday)

Come and join us every Sunday – we look forward to seeing you.
EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME

SIMON MURRAY MPTA CGLI M.I.M.I.T. N.T.C. DIPLOMA

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ED VAIZEY - Your Local MP

I am not sure how much joy we will get from the Environment Agency on flood defences, following the chaos from last year. If January was anything to go by, flooding looks like it will become increasingly common, but the EA does not seem to have the money to carry out engineering works. It has said, however, that it will oppose building on the flood plain, which is one piece of good news.

The new year came with the news of voluntary redundancies being sought at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in Harwell. The lab is run by the Science and Technology Facilities Council, which has an £80 million deficit. It is a ludicrous position to be in, to be sacking some of the country's top scientists for what is, in Government terms, a very small amount of money. I held a debate on the subject and will be pressing the Government very hard to sort out this mess.

Parliament has been unusually lively. In January, we debated proposals to abolish the crime of blasphemy, which have been put on hold while the Government consults the Church of England. I support proposals to abolish this law, which has not been used for almost a century. We also debated changing the law to allow householders greater protection when they use force against burglars.

If you need to get in touch with me, telephone 020 7219 6350, write to me at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA, or you can e-mail me on vaizeye@parliament.uk. The Website is www.vaizey.com with up to date news and surgery details, for which there is no need to book an appointment (times are from 5.30 pm to 7pm unless stated). Upcoming surgeries :- Wantage Civic Hall (March 7th), Faringdon Corn Exchange (April 11th) and at Wallingford Town Hall (April 18th).

MISSED OUT ON YOUR CHRONICLE?

If your Area Agent is unable to deliver your Chronicle, you can collect a copy from Vickery's shop in the week after normal delivery time. Lawrence has very kindly agreed to keep a small stock for us.



CLOCK REPAIRS AND RESTORATION

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Fellow, British Horological Institute
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NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

A warm welcome is extended to Paul and Sue Summers, their children Joseph and Lizzie, and the cats (Tiggy and Ellie). The family were living in Stadhampton but stayed in Aston Tirrold before coming to the High Street, Drayton in January.

Golden Wedding Anniversary :- Janet & Alan Stimpson

Congratulations Mum & Dad on your Golden Wedding Anniversary on March 29th. May you have many more happy years together! I love you both very much.

lots of love Kevin

FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS

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 Mar 4th, and April 1st. If you need transport or further information please give me (Jean Hager) a call on 531558.

Letters to the Editor

The Editor reserves the right to shorten, clarify or reject any letter. Each letter must bear a legible name & address, (address please even if received via e-mail), and Tel. No in case any text needs verification.

YOUR LETTERS

Sweet Sixteen

Dear Sir, Marcham Road

What a nice world we live in when there are such devoted, hard-working people around us. It is surely past time to **acknowledge the effort** which is made by **Dixey and Shirley** in running the Drayton Art Group, now in its SIXTEENTH year.

I am sure the rest of the membership will join me, saying "Thank You" to you both for all you do.

Here's to another sixteen colourful years!

Yours sincerely Eric Curtis

Janet Manning HOMOEOPATH

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Green ones and Red ones, Blue ones too

Dear Sir,

I wish to say THANK YOU very much to everyone who collected milk tops for Abingdon Alzheimers Club; we achieved our objective which was ONE TON (Ed:- and that's an awful lot of milk carton tops!), so, our collection has stopped.

BUT, please note, for anyone who would like to carry on collecting, there is an ongoing project at Abingdon and Witney College, Northcourt Road - same tops - ask for Tanya.

thanks again Shirley Schofield



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Neighbourhood update for Abingdon South

This is the neighbourhood update from Sgt Andy Cranidge (Thames Valley Police) for Feb '08.

At the last Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) for this area it was decided that South Abingdon would become part of Abingdon Town NAG and the villages of Drayton, Sutton Courtenay and Appleford would remain as Abingdon South NAG.

The residents of the villages will soon receive the local parish plan questionnaires and it is the intention of the NAG to review these when received, to look at re-engaging with the residents to identify if the speeding priority is still at the forefront of villagers' concerns. There has been work ongoing with the speeding priority with special constables undertaking speed enforcement in and around the villages.

It is with regret we said goodbye to Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Mark Miller as he has now left to become a police constable. His post will be filled in the very near future.

The next process to be undertaken is an Environmental Visual Audit (EVA) where members of the NAG will go out to the neighbourhood and record areas of that are suffering from graffiti, damage, littering etc. This will then be fed back into the NAG and a series of remedies sought to fix the issues as soon as possible.

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Unfortunately many people choose a puppy or a kitten if they get a new pet, I say unfortunately because although they can be a lot of fun, there are just so many older pets that get overlooked. And 'older' doesn't mean really old; all the centres have experience of relatively young animals, maybe just 3 or 4 years old, which get stuck for months in their kennels or cattery, no fault of their own. Bear in mind that a slightly older pet is less likely to whizz up and down the curtains, play skittles with your favourite ornaments, or chew vigorously through your clothes and shoes (or you!).

There are plenty of fairly local rescue sites to consider if you can help; Blue Cross and RSPCA are very well known, but very often insist that their animals are to be the only pet in the household, and are not suitable for children - hardly ideal pre-conditions with so many animals needing help?!

Here are a few suggestions if you are considering a new, or perhaps extra pet, either now (hopefully) or perhaps later in the year. →>>>>

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Support Shop:- 114 Broadway, Didcot.

CATS PROTECTION - OXFORD & DISTRICT

See their Web site: www.oxfordcats.org.uk for cats needing adoption or, if you cannot rescue a cat at this time, you can sponsor one of their un-homeable cats for a little as £15 per year, for which you will receive a certificate, photos and regular updates on your cat's progress. Sponsorship makes a great gift. Branch (Dorchester) phone :- 01865 341401

THAMES VALLEY ANIMAL WELFARE

TVAW is a small charity based in the Henley and Reading areas, they specialise in the rescue of abandoned, stray and unwanted cats and kittens. The animals are kept in purpose-built heated cat houses in the gardens of a team of fosterers until suitable permanent homes are found for them. The work is undertaken entirely by volunteers and they are completely dependent on donations to fund their work. Rescue & Rehoming - Tel. 01494 484527 or 01189 721871 and see their Web site: www.tvaw.org.uk

And a pair of special cases - FRED & MAX (Bengal Crosses) at Whiteknights Rescue, Reading. A pair of large, loving male Bengal Crosses, shorthaired, one ginger tabby and one spotted tabby, aged 3 years, and are both neutered.

They ideally need a semi-rural type home, away from busy roads, and not to be homed with small children or other cats. They came into the rescue due to a marriage breakdown, and sadly have been **in care 18 months!** Desperately seeking a rural home, OK with older children and cat-friendly dogs, but need to be the only cats. If you feel you may have their perfect home, please call:- 01189 875657 or 01189 885700 Email: karensutton26@hotmail.co.uk

PARISH COUNCIL (Feb 3rd)

CAN YOU HELP?

Drayton is allowed eleven councillors in all; currently we have seven, six of whom were able to attend the recent meeting. Being so short of Councillors puts a heavy burden on the existing Council, so once again I have been asked to **emphasise the urgent need for more residents to offer their services.**

The Parish Council has several sub committees and working groups dealing with finance, upkeep and provision of village amenities, rights of way, conservation and planning. The new Council year starts in May, with membership of the various committees being agreed. **If you have a little spare time and an interest in helping to make Drayton a good village** in which to live please think seriously about volunteering to join the Council. The Chairman (contact details in the new Drayton Village leaflet) or any Council member would be delighted to hear from you.

PLEASE - Don't Leave it THERE !!

One member of the public brought to the Council's attention a problem that affects one or two roads in the village, especially the fairly new ones off the B4107 & B 4016. Some people park their cars very close to the exit of fairly narrow residential roads in which they themselves do not live. This is potentially dangerous as cars exiting and entering the roads come face to face with each other. An added problem is that cars parked so close to the road entrance force recycling and emergency or large vehicles to drive over and badly damage grass verges. So the Council would **urge drivers to bear those problems in mind when parking.** →>>>

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Improvements

Some recent improvements in the village were reported. There is a new litter bin in the children's playground, **thanks to Drayton Brownies**, who recently raised a large sum of money towards its cost. Following the vandalism to the bus shelters, better lighting is to be provided for the most vulnerable one (to help deter vandals who prefer to work in the dark!). Our caretaker, Steve Sharpe, is working on making two new notice-boards to replace the shabby ones at Eastway and outside the newsagent's shop. He is also doing a good job of improving the surface of Gravel Lane and Sutton Wick paths, which connect Sutton Wick to the centre of Drayton and are always very muddy in wet weather.

Eastway and Kiln Lane are also in poor condition. Both are officially bridleways but Eastway also being residential, which is not the case for **Kiln Lane which should not be used by vehicles**. The Parish Council is in ongoing dialogue with the County Council about ways to improve both.

Allot me one?

The Council spent some time discussing the provision of allotments for which there is now a waiting list. A new tenancy agreement is being drawn up for those renting an allotment. Also discussed was provision of opportunities for members of the public to find out about and comment on planning applications in the village. This is a little difficult as plans are submitted at frequent but irregular intervals. However, the Parish Clerk always puts agendas and minutes of Council meetings on the various notice boards, so if planning interests you that is the place on which to keep an eye.

Pointing the Way

It is well over two years since the Council decided to reinstate some of the historic footpath names in the village. For reasons beyond the Parish Council's control and too complicated to explain, it has taken until now for the work to be completed. Even now Barrow Way sign is mistakenly worded (to be corrected by the OCC some time in the future). Anyway Kiln Lane, Gypsy Lane, Rook's Nest, Frogmore Tree and Barrow Way have now all got their new finger posts.

Youth Workshop

On Saturday March 29th The Damascus Youth Project will be holding a workshop between young people and adults in Drayton as a spring board for **inter-generational community interaction**. The event will be held at Drayton Village Hall from 10.30am - 12.30pm with a buffet lunch for anyone who would like to stay on and discuss points raised. **All welcome.**

DO COME ALONG !!

The next Council meeting is on Monday 3rd March 2008 at 7.45pm in the Caudwell Day Centre, and everyone is welcome to attend.

Jenny Pooley

Drayton School Naomi Broomfield

A warm welcome to Jordan, Jade and Kayley Gerring who have recently joined Drayton school.

The term is in full swing and lots of interesting subjects are being investigated. Reception and year 1 are looking into different materials, winter and bears! Year 2 are studying the Great Fire of London and the forces of push and pull. Years 3 and 4 are studying Kenya, with some lovely artwork on display, and in design and technology they are learning about pop-up books. The children are very keen to get started on making their own pop-up books. Years 5 and 6 are doing all about the mountain environment.

Is there anyone in the village that would be willing to **come in and talk** about their experience of being on holiday or living in the mountains? If you can, it would be great to hear from you.

'Bully's Paradise' was the title of a special show that was presented to all of the children by three actors. Its three main themes were:- Standing up for yourself, not accepting bullying and telling an adult. This was a fun way to look at the issue of bullying and I know all of the children as well as the teachers found it an excellent way to tackle all issues of bullying.

Sports and activities:- Julie Bradbury is kindly giving tennis coaching to year 2, which they are all really enjoying.

The school recently took part in a hockey tournament at Tilsley Park, 3 separate teams were entered, 2 girls teams and 1 mixed. All teams did really well especially as they had only just started having hockey lessons in the PE classes.

The school football team are currently playing in the 'Smallest schools' football tournament. These have included some very wet and muddy matches! **Good Luck** to the team in future matches. Thank you to our coach Chloe Groves and all of the staff and parents that give support and do all of the transporting. →>>

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Dates for your diaries:-

Quiz night Friday 28th March – teams of up to 6 welcome. This is a great evening and it is always nice to see new faces. The ticket price is £6 pp which includes a lovely hot meal, please contact school or Carole Arnold on 531923 to purchase.

Bingo evening Friday 25th April – this is a fun evening for the whole family, further details to follow.

School grounds clean up Sunday 27th April – this is essential to keep the school looking clean and tidy. All volunteers are greatly received; no special skills are required (although we will always make good use of any!). Please come along at 9.30am.

Did you know the school has its own website? It can be found at www.drayton-pri.oxon.sch.uk. If you have any suggestions or comments on the website please email drayton.school@gmail.com

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There are displays, interviews and videos to listen to and watch, and children's activities. The exhibition is in Abingdon County Hall Museum UNTIL Weds 27th February. It is open daily from 10.30am to 4pm and admission is free.

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Parish (Clerk) Marie Sellwood (200042);
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Meetings are held on the first Thursday at 2.30pm, business then a social activity. Feel free to come along and see what goes on. More Info :- Joan Leahy (01235) 831546

Drayton Youth Zone

DAMASCUS Youth Project

Thursdays - 27th March & 24th April

Note :- **NEW TIMES 7.00pm to 8.30pm**

Drayton Village Hall (Admission Charge £1)

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DRAYTON DIARIES

DIARY FOR MARCH

All events held in Drayton Hall unless otherwise stated

To book Drayton Hall ring 531418 To call the Hall ring 528686

NB You may now check Hall bookings online :-

www.draytonvh.org.uk or call the above number

Sun	2	2.30pm	Village Face-lift	
Mon	3	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting (p9)	<i>Caudwell DC</i>
Tues	4	3.00pm	First Tuesday	<i>Church Room</i>
Fri	7		Chronicle Adverts DEADLINE (p2)	
Sat	8	10.00am	Big Brew Coffee	<i>Church</i>
Mon	10	5.00pm	CHRONICLE DEADLINE	<i>Vickery's</i>
Thur	27	7.00pm	Youth Zone (NEW TIME)	
Fri	28		School Quiz Night (page 10)	<i>School</i>
Sat	29	10.30am	Youth Community Interaction W'shop	

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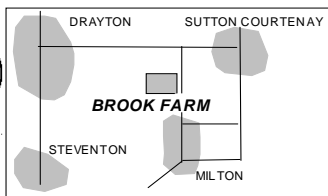
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ANY ERRORS IN THE EVENTS LIST? - LET US KNOW !!

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REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

MONDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
5.45 pm	Beavers (Boys/ girls, 6-8 yrs, Tel. 512834)	<i>Steventon Hall</i>
7.00 pm	Scouts (Boys/ girls, 8-10 yrs, Tel. 512834)	<i>Steventon Hall</i>
7.15 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>
7.30 pm	Table Tennis - League	<i>School</i>

THURSDAYS

9.00 am	Foot Clinic (1st Thurs)	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
	followed by lunch club and afternoon session	
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>
6.30pm	Choir Practice	<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 (1st Sun)	<i>Baptist Church</i>

DISCLAIMER This Journal is published in all good faith and every care is taken in its compilation. The organisers of the DRAYTON CHRONICLE, and its Agents, therefore accept no responsibility for OPINIONS EXPRESSED, nor for the validity of any ADVERTISEMENT, nor for any EFFECTS ARISING WHATSOEVER from the publication.

LATE LATE NEWS ! DRAYTON TWINNING

tells me that it's their turn to visit Lesparre this year (several successful exchanges already); that'll be in August, and the group is keen to hear from residents who'd like to join their activities. Call Michael Bell (531388) or Bob Matthews (531204) for more info - & we should have a proper write-up in the next issue.