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DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Dave Lee Volume 31 No. 3 April 2008

ABITS Richard Webber

(Abingdon Integrated Transport Scheme)

(Not to be confused with DIDITS for Didcot and WAGITS for Wantage)

Up to now, I have managed to steer well clear of this issue, partly because everyone seemed to know more about it than me, and partly because my political antennae told me anything I said would be bound to get everyone even more angry. So why am I saying anything now?

For my sins, I am now a member of the ABITS Working Group – this is an advisory body made up of County, District and Town Councillors amongst others. So far, I have managed to keep my mouth fairly firmly shut but listen and try to learn. What have I learnt?

First, that no-one is happy and that there is a tendency for everyone to blame everyone else and in this, everyone is probably right. The County Council are ultimately responsible but have only tried to do what Abingdon seemed to want. The District and Town Councils, in their efforts to keep everyone happy and to be seen to be listening, have managed to please no-one because for more than 10 years, everyone has disagreed. The Chamber of Commerce, faced with a steady fall in town centre trade (in common with most towns in the UK and Europe) blames the Councils, but does not agree with itself over what should be done. And you and I have either contributed nothing to the debate, or in some cases have claimed that we know all the answers - but would rather not carry the consequences for being wrong. Meanwhile, the media have sold lots of newspapers and gained lots of listeners and viewers by reporting and even in some cases stirring up the unhappiness. Conclusion? We are all to blame.

DRAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Or met YOUR councillors?

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7.00pm on MONDAY 7th APRIL 2008 at the CAUDWELL DAY CENTRE Followed by the Parish Council Meeting. EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

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Secondly, a town that had traffic jams in the 1950s, nestling in a curious bend in the Thames with too few bridges, no by-pass and faced with a five-fold increase in traffic and a doubling in population, is very likely to be having traffic jams in 2008. Conclusion? Until we have another bridge or by-pass or both, we are never going to be doing much more than tinker with the problem.

Whilst we are busy blaming each other, we certainly won't get, and won't deserve to get either a bridge or a by-pass. With combined pressure from all of us, we might, just might, persuade Government, the Highways department and whoever else needs to be persuaded that if they really want Oxfordshire to take all the extra housing planned for it, an Abingdon by-pass, or bridge (or both) is the only long term solution to the increasing gridlock. Yes, it will be horrendously expensive for them (and therefore us) and may take many years to achieve, but we must plan for it.

And in the meantime? Let's agree that we have all contributed to the present mess. Let's reject anyone who wishes to spend their energy merely on apportioning blame. And as for positive action? Where tinkering can help, let's tinker. But let no-one be certain that they have all the answers to a problem that has been with us almost as long as the motor car.

Abingdon is potentially a beautiful old town with a proud history, but it was built for the horse and cart. With bridges, a bypass and car parks, the centre might even be completely pedestrianised – now there's a thought for 2060.

At the risk of sending everyone incandescent with rage, I have decided to postpone thoughts on Abingdon shopping and VWHDC fly-posting enforcement until next month!

To give these topics an informal airing, it has been suggested that we hold a one-off meeting of 'The Drayton Grumpy Old Men Club' for all those who fancy ranting at each other on any topic in the convivial surroundings of the Red Lion at 7pm on April 1st. Open to anyone aged 18+ of either sex. (Grumpyol'manness is a state of mind). Everyone will return home being nicer to their loved ones having got it all off their chests. See you there!

WILL IT BE

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You will receive a leaflet through your door with a gift envelope.

Please fill this in and return to the Vicarage as soon as possible so that we can begin this work immediately.

Thank you for your generous support

Rev'd Josie Midwinter

CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The May 2008 Chronicle will be available for distribution to Area Agents on Friday, 25th April 2008 from Shirley Thomas, 48 Henleys Lane (531626), who should be contacted by any Agents requiring copies additional to their allocation.

The Editor will be **Derek Pooley**, 11 Halls Close (559454). Contributions should be emailed to **editor@draytonchronicle.net** or placed in the Chronicle post 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, 14th April 2008

After this deadline, only urgent items will be considered for inclusion and only then if emailed or delivered directly to the Editor by the following Wednesday.

THE FOLLOWING THREE MONTHS		
Chronicle Issue for	Copy for publication and return of Agents Lottery Packs needed by Monday:	Chronicle published and available for distribution on Friday:
June	19 May 2008	30 May 2008
July	16 June 2008	27 June 2008
August	14 July 2008	25 July 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.

The following lists methods for contributors but also see our website at www.draytonchronicle.net.

A contribution can be sent to us in one of several ways:

1. The best is by 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 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 but only imperfectly, especially 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 saves a lot of mistakes.

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All requests 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 phone **Stephen Fearnley**, the Chronicle's Advertising Manager, on 531347 or email:- advertising@draytonchronicle.net.

CHRONICLE LOTTERY

Daphne Samworth, Hon. Promoter

RESULTS OF THE MARCH LOTTERY			
Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	1859	Mr. Evans, 120, Whitehorns Way	Wendy Evans
£20	0441	Mrs Webber, Orchard Barn, Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
£15	0210	Mr Turner, 27, Corneville Road	Gerald Redman
£10	0911	Mrs S Middleton, 59, High Street	Margaret Long
£10	0430	Mrs Adams, 36, Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
£10	1631	C. Rogers, 14, LockWay	Sue Ash
£10	2178	G. Akers, 4, Marcham Road	Karen Jackson
£10	0777	Ruth Pacey, 16, Church Lane	Susan Brooks
£10	1441	Mrs J Pimm, 57, Steventon Road	Janet Dale
£10	1656	J. Mullins, 246, Steventon Road	Sue Ash
The winning tickets were drawn by staff at "The Sitting Room"			

The winning tickets were drawn by staff at "The Sitting Room" from the 2336 tickets sold

A belated thanks go to Shirley Schofield for taking on the delivery of the Chronicle and lottery tickets to the houses in Manor Close, we are grateful for her support with this in addition to her Chronicle delivery in Hilliat Fields.

Gareth Davies

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

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

YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor,

We would like to wish June and Ron Etheridge belated congratulations and best wishes on their Golden Wedding Anniversary which was on 20th February 2008.

Heather and Dave Lee

Dear Editor

Thank you to everyone who has bought tickets for the Jazz and Swing Concert in April. This is the third concert that the Boulevard Swing have done in the church and we are grateful to them for donating the proceeds to the church. All tickets are now sold out, so if you missed yours, we are sorry and hope you book early next time.

Josie Midwinter

Dear Editor,

We would just like to say to all our family and friends thank you so much for the lovely surprise dinner that you arranged for us for our 50th Wedding Anniversary, it was really thoughtful and nice. Although when we also received the details for the four day holiday in March that was an extra, definitely not expected, surprise!

All the grandchildren were really well behaved and we really enjoyed the company of you all.

We are very proud of you all and once again a big THANK YOU from us both.

Hazel and David Scaysbrook



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Dear Editor,

An Appreciation of "Good Companions"

In 1929 J.B.Priestly earned wide popularity with his humorous novel "The Good Companions", a story about a concert party who have hit hard times and who are given inspiration, enthusiasm and financial help, to ensure that "the show does go on" ", by three characters who are seeking new experiences and adventures. André Previn set the tale to music, and rather difficult music it would appear to be, sufficiently so to stretch professional performers and we felt that Drayton Players were brave to tackle it.

The large cast told the story well during the course of seventeen scenes (!) — a real test for the stage crew and costume department, a test which they passed with flying colours. There were some very entertaining moments - the Football Supporters song and walk home was one. How lucky Drayton Players are to be able to call on so many able men - they looked good and sounded good!. The large chorus numbers were all performed enthusiastically, not easy with so many people singing and dancing on the rather restrictive stage of the Village Hall. It was good to see so many different generations in this production, especially the younger members of the cast who promise much for the future of the Drayton Players. The show depends very much on teamwork, however, there were some individual performances which should be mentioned. VICTORIA HAWTIN as Susie Dean looked stunning and certainly had us believing that she was stage struck! MIKE DAVIES' quiet, wise Jess Oakroyd provided a pleasing link throughout the story, GEORGIA ALSTON played Miss Elizabeth Trant very convincingly and the singing of STEVE HOSKING and PAUL MARTIN was most enjoyable.

Thank you Drayton Players, your Director DEIRDRE JONES and able pianist ED RUSSELL for giving us, once again, a thoroughly entertaining evening.

Eve Sharp

Dear Editor.

I would like to thank all those kind friends that sent me cards, called and 'phoned and brought flowers, after my recent fall.

By the time you read this, I will be OK and you will all have helped. Thank you.

Daphne Barrand

Dear Editor,

We would like to thank all our neighbours and friends in Sutton Wick and Drayton for all their help, kindness and support. We are very grateful for everything that they have done for us.

Daphne and David Pointer

Dear Editor,

May I, through the Chronicle, thank everyone who has contributed throughout the last year towards the Thames & Chiltern Air Ambulance Fund. The funds we have managed to raise for them are now in the region of £2750.00, all of which has come from car boot sales and sales in the Caudwell Day Centre. As a reminder there is a sale on 12th April at 2pm in the Day Centre to boost the funds even more.

Once again a very big thank you.

Mrs Betty Krason

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ST PETER'S CHURCH

REGULAR SERVICES

Organist

Sunday 8.00 am Holy Communion (CW Traditional)

10.00 am Sung Eucharist (CW), except 2nd Sunday

when there is a non-Eucharistic Family

Mr Adrian Thompson.....01865 714801

Service.

Mon - Fri 8.15 am Morning Prayer (CW) in Lady Chapel
Thurs 9.30 am Holy Communion (CW) in Lady Chapel.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Every Third Sunday 10.00 am Sunday Pebbles Church Room Wednesday 10.30 am Pebbles (Term Time only) Church Room Monday 7.45 pm Bell Ringing Practice Bell Tower Every Second Friday 6.30 pm Choir Practice Church Room

CALENDAR FOR APRIL

Tues 1st April. 3.00 pm First Tuesday Connections *Church Room*Sat 5th April 10.00 am-11.00 am Sale of Fair Trade goods *Church*Sun 6th April. 11.15 am-11:45 am Sale of Fair Trade goods *Church*

CHURCH REGISTER

Funerals

At the crematorium 8th March John William Jones

17th March Elizabeth Caroline Porter

Internment of Ashes 8th March Eric Ronald Absolom

Baptism 9th March Owen Gale

YOU STAY - WE PRAY, APRIL

30th March to 12th April Steventon Road; Eastway;

Eastway MHP

13th March to 19th Church Lane; Henley's Lane;

Caudwell Close; Gravel Lane.

20th to 3rd May Abingdon Road; Oday Hill;

Binning Close, Hayward Road.

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LETTER FROM REVD JOSIE MIDWINTER

Dear Friends

Just before dawn on Easter morning a group of church members met at St Peter's church. At sunrise they lit the paschal candle to welcome the risen Jesus and proclaim the beginning of Easter festivities after the long weeks of Lent. This is something we do every year and it is one of the high points of our Christian year. It goes alongside, the Crib service when the children act out the nativity play, All Souls service when we remember those who have died, Harvest Festival when we celebrate harvest-home and Remembrance Sunday when we honour those who have died for their country. The church is here in the midst of us to remind us of that we are not just earthly beings, but that we have a spiritual dimension. The important moments of the Christian faith go alongside our daily lives and give them purpose and meaning. The fact that we can say 'Jesus Christ is risen' on Easter morning gives us the spiritual resources to bring comfort and support to the lost and bereaved. It gives us the willingness to work with children and young people through, workshops music group and pebbles. It gives us the commitment to visit the elderly or those in need and provide a monthly drop in centre. To be there every Sunday to worship God for the benefit of not just those present but for all of God's people. In short the church ministry is there to give love, support, courage and hope to the community through the Christian

The church, by its very presence, celebrates not just our Christian Heritage but our Christian Faith centred on God's love for us his creation. Maintaining this heritage and this faith takes resources. The church members gladly give both of their time and talents to do the work we do. They also give generously to cover the financial costs of the running the church. From time to time however we face bigger challenges when we need to call on the wider village for help. The church is an historic building as well as a place of worship and it requires regular maintenance. At present we need to install a lightning conductor, repair the stonework of one of the windows and rewire the church. This all needs to be done as a matter of urgency. We have received a bequest which will cover the cost of the lightning conductor and we are grateful to the family who have given this money in memory of someone who was a long time worshiper at St Peter's church. However, we still need to raise money for the remaining two items.

Shortly you will receive a leaflet through your door giving more details and asking you to donate to this important work. All we would ask you to do is consider your response. You may not be a churchgoer or have any regular involvement with the church, but you may well see the church as an important part of the community. Myself, as priest in charge, and the churchwardens are charged with the duty to maintain the worship of the church and the building where that takes place. On this occasion, we are asking you to help us fulfil that duty, not just for now but also for generations to come.

Josie Midwinter

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BAPTIST CHURCH

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

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

11.15 am Presently only one morning service per month.

This is the Family Service, and is on the first Sunday of each month

6.00 pm Evening Service. A traditional form of service

frequently with guest speakers. Communion every second Sunday of the month

EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME

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 1st April and 6th May. If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.

COLLECTION FOR FIRE VICTIMS

As you are all aware, there was a terrible fire in Sutton Wick Lane when one person lost their life. A number of people have suggested that a collection would be appropriate for the victims. Should you wish to contribute please forward your donation to: -

Daphne Samworth, 27, Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton.

A Receipt will be forwarded for all donations. I am sure your help will be gratefully appreciated.

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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT JENNIFER POOLEY

This month's meeting dealt mainly with routine matters and the finalising of certain decisions brought forward from previous meetings

Councillors were consulted about a planning matter brought to their attention by a member of the public. Unfortunately, in this case it was not in our remit to act upon the concerns raised, as it is likely that no planning permission was required. The Parish Council does have a voice over many planning applications but not over all and by no means always with success. As mentioned in last month's report anyone interested in current planning applications can find out more by reading Council agendas and minutes posted on the village notice boards.

Last month there was discussion about new tenancy agreements for allotment holders, and that discussion continued this month in an effort to finalise a fair system of modest rent increases to be implemented next year.

The thorny problem of burial ground regulations came up again. It is necessary for headstones to be absolutely safe, with no danger of their falling and causing injury. To ensure this is so, the Council has to have, at large expense, all stones 'topple tested', otherwise there would be a considerable insurance risk. So to minimise costs, in recent times the Council stipulated that only flat or slightly angled memorial stones could be used. However, this caused disquiet amongst bereaved people wishing to use the burial ground and did not improve safety, so that rule has been relaxed. It is nevertheless extremely important that upright headstones should be strongly secured into the ground and we are now relying on the supplier being registered with the British Association of Monumental Masons (BRAMM). Another requirement is that in order to keep the burial ground cared for, the area around graves should be easily accessible to the mower, and to this end, the requirement since 2005 is that the grave should be flat and any surround should be below ground level.

Talking of insurance, those who use the bus stops on the Green will be pleased to know that the claim for vandalised bus shelters has been honoured and new panels are on order. Similarly, the replacement bench for the Green in Sutton Wick is also on order.

Drayton's young people, joined by a small group of adults, have been busy cleaning up the outside of the Village Hall and surrounding area and also litter picking. They also painted the outside doors of the hall and the Parish Council funded the cost of that. As mentioned last month, the Brownies raised funds to help pay for a fine new litter bin in the playground, and at the end of February they had a small ceremony to hand over their cheque to the Council Chairman, Daniel Scharf, and the Chairman of the Leisure and General Purposes working group, Melanie Parker. Last month I also mentioned the refurbishment of the village notice boards by our caretaker; two are completed and the third will be shortly. In addition, there is soon to be a new board installed specifically to advertise activities and special events for young people.

The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Assembly on 7th April in the Caudwell Day Centre. Please note the earlier time than usual of 7pm. This is your chance to voice concerns, ask questions or just listen, so please do come along.

POST OFFICE

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ALL AROUND

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Pearl Stanbridge

Grateful thanks are extended to all supporters of our Easter Draw and special thanks to all ticket sellers and generous donors of prizes. I feel sure that the Royal Star and Garter Home would also wish me to convey their thanks for all who will benefit from your generosity. The next Committee meeting will be held on Monday 21st April at 8pm.

TODDLERS Cass Barlow, Tracey Heery

Firstly, thank you for all who attended our Nearly New Sale; we raised £100.00 for the toddler group. We're going to get some aprons so that the children can enjoy some mucky play and some other art materials.

We had our first session in the main hall and we had a few new faces joining us. The feedback we received is good and the children had more space to play and let off steam.

We now have an enclosed baby area, so our youngest members are safe from our boisterous tots.

In the coming weeks we will be introducing a Healthy Eating Snack Time with plenty on offer.

Come along and give us a go Thursday 9.30 - 11.30, first session is free and we run strictly on a membership only basis.

One of our Fund Raisers this year is the Family Disco to be held in Drayton Village Hall on Saturday 3rd May 2008,

7pm - Midnight. Tickets are: £5.00 per adult, £2.50 per child

(5 - 16 yrs), under 5s free. Tickets only available beforehand, not on the door. Tickets available from Toddlers on Thursdays or call: Cass 07849314916 or Tracey 07732533057

Watch this space for more events as the year progresses.

DRAYTON WIVES Pam Lacey

As in previous years, many members had a very enjoyable Birthday lunch at The Steventon House Hotel on 27th February. Unfortunately, I was unable to come because I went into hospital on that day but my husband took my place, which he thoroughly enjoyed.

Dates for your Diary in APRIL

Mon 7th COFFEE Margaret Long, Chiers Drive Mon 21st WHIST Pam Lacey, Caudwell D.C.

Wed 30th MEETING AGM

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BOWLS CLUB

Roll Up

The winter leagues have ended with 'The Rollers' being the best of the three teams finishing 3rd in Division 1 of the South Oxon failing by one point to get into the runner up spot, 'The Hammers' did very well to finish mid table after gaining promotion last year. The Wasps in Division 2 failed to keep the momentum of the first half of the season, and with one game to play looks like a mid table position for them, but all in all, all teams can feel satisfied with the outcome and will be looking to improve things in the forthcoming summer leagues.

Plans are in hand to make this a special year as it is the 20th year since the club was formed (June 1988) and getting things underway with a quiz night to be held on Friday 18th April. All members old and new will be very welcome, names please to Norman on 01235 525433. We are also intending to have a dinner dance, venue to be decided, will keep you posted as and when, and any other things that will be going on. While we have had a great time over the last 20 years, thanks to all the people who got things underway, 40 members got the club off the ground, many of whom made a voluntary contribution to buy the equipment, and were reimbursed when the club became established, the late Harry Bisby being the main architect. There are eight of the founder members, Jim and Freda Bray, Jean and Tony Mullins, Kathleen Attwood, Sarah Church, Marian Webster, Doreen Jones, who are still enjoying their bowls today. But, having said that, unless we can find new members in the coming years it will be hard to see us getting in another 20. If there is anyone out there who would like to join us, bowling sessions are, Mondays and Thursdays 2 till 5, and Wednesday evening 7 till 10, you need absolute nothing, we have all the equipment, all you have to do is walk in the Hall and there will be a very warm welcome for you. You won't have to commit yourself one way or the other, you never know you might just find it very enjoyable and stay perhaps for 20 years who knows !!!

There has been a change to the 'Friendly Fours', this was going to be played on the 16th March but will now take place on the 6th April and will be between, Drayton, Wallingford, and Wootton. 'The Beryl James Triples' will now be on the March date, (30 members participating) results of that we will give you in the next Chronicle. May will be 'The 'Don Alexander Trophy' and will be played for on the 11th. In closing these notes we would like to send our condolences to Doris (Warren) and her family on the recent sad loss of her husband Reg, both of whom had been members of the club for over 18 years and very active until they both retired last year. Our thoughts are with you all.



MORE ALL AROUND

SCHOOL REPORT

Naomi Broomfield

It is really nice to know that the Chronicle is well read in the village; the school has received some offers of help from local people to talk about their experiences of mountain life as requested last month - thank you very much, Pauline will be arranging visits very soon.

A netball tournament has been arranged for the 18th March which will give all of the children chance to experience competitive matches - a big thank you to Julie Lester and Maggie Weir for arranging this.

Years 5 and 6 are also taking part in a 6 a side football tournament to be held at Our Lady's convent - good luck to all players and thank you to those who were able to help with transport and cheer the players on.

It has become a tradition at the school for the head teacher to be sponsored to be 'gunged' during the summer fair. Last year, as we held the fair in conjunction with St Peter's church, Sister Josie also bravely volunteered. This year we are planning a variation on this theme with a 'handle a critter' from the Python's Lair. Pauline and Josie have again both bravely volunteered. The person with the most sponsorship will face their fear and handle one of the many exotic creatures for sale in the Python's Lair. Please pledge as much as you can to see either your favourite person scared or spared. All money raised will be split between the school and the church, sponsor forms at church and school.

As many of you will already be aware, our head teacher Pauline Higgs is retiring and will be leaving the school at the end of the July term. Pauline has been a very dedicated head teacher for many years and all at the school wish her well in her retirement. Interviews will be taking place very soon and we all hope a new head teacher will be appointed before the new school year starts in September.

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 and players from the village welcome. Eyes down from 7pm, single games or books for sale on the night with hot snacks and a donation bar available.

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

PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP **Debbie Bargus**

We have continued with our topic of GROWING, we have been weeding and tidying the vegetable plot ready for planting. We have lots of new seeds to plant and can't wait to see them start to

Thank you to everyone who supported and helped at the cake sale at the end of last term. During the February half term we had a sheltered walkway and covered outside play area added to preschool, this will add greatly to the children's fun as they will be able to play outside whatever the weather. We received a grant to fund this addition and we give thanks to Ana Gurl for the hard work entailed to succeed with the application

Congratulations to our Play Assistant Sam Dennis who has recently achieved her NVQ 2 qualification in Early Years

The children with us who will be moving on to school soon have been having regular visits over to school to help them prepare for the change. They have all seemed to have enjoyed their visits.

We have set the date for this years AGM, it will be held on Friday 9th May 2008 at 8pm in Preschool. We will be looking for a few new members to join our committee, wine and nibbles will be available, all welcome.

This years Open Day will be held on Saturday 17th May from 10am until 12; this is a great way for new and existing Parents/Carers and Children to come and meet our staff and to see how our Preschool runs, also to join in with some activities. More details to come.

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, Sponsored Toddle 17th June, location details to follow.

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St Peter's Drayton

Wednesday Pebbles

and their Mums/Carers

For Babies and Toddlers

from 10:30 am to 11:30 am in St. Peter's Church Room. We do singing, stories and craft. Time for the children to play and mums and carers

to have a cup of tea and a chat. We will be meeting all through April and May (no break at school holidays).

Come and join us!

YET MORE ALL AROUND

DRAYTON TWINNING

Michael Bell

Your village has been twinned with Lesparre-Médoc since the year 2000. Since then a great many Drayton residents have benefited from events organised here and in France. Lasting friendships are being forged, not just with our friends in Lesparre but between those living in Drayton! 2008 will bring our fifth visit to Lesparre.

Like all local groups, we are always pleased to hear from residents keen to become involved in our activities. If you would like to join us and become part of the group going to Lesparre you would be assured of a wonderful time. Our French friends welcome us into their homes, which is a fantastic experience, and an opportunity to sample Medocain hospitality. The visit will take place between Thursday 14th to Tuesday 19th August.

The following may answer a few of your questions.

What is Twinning?

Twinning links two communities in different countries. It allows people in one country to see how people in another live, work and play. Amongst other things, we organise annual exchanges between the two communities.

Who can join?

You – we welcome people of all ages. Families are especially welcome.

Do you need to speak French?

No! But, it obviously helps if you can speak a word or two. Part of the fun is finding a way to communicate with each other – ask any of our members!

Where is Lesparre?

Lesparre is a pleasant little town with around 5,000 inhabitants located in the south west of France between Bordeaux and the Atlantic Coast, where there are many miles of sandy beaches. It is the largest town in the world-famous Mèdoc wine-growing region and its connections with England date back to 1154.



Sounds interesting? Who should we contact?

Michael Bell (01235 531388) - Stephen Fearnley (01235 531347) - Bob Matthews (01235 531204), would be delighted to tell you more.

For more information, see the web site

 $http://www.oxnet.org.uk/club_homepage.asp?clubid=22320$

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7 pm on Saturday 29th March Old Mill Hall, Grove

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MILLENNIUM GREEN

Gwen and Tony Price.

The litter rota is working well. It is more or less the same as last year. Do contact us on 531205 if it no longer suits you.

We have changed the contractor for grass cutting and hope he will do more than just cutting the main areas of the field. The skips which were used after the fire, have done some damage but this should be put right eventually. We hope to have three sessions of maintaining the pond this year. They will probably be in April, July and if needs be, September. The work we did last year has been well worth it but we do not want the invasive weeds to become a problem again.

If any one has a little knowledge of fruit trees and would like to be responsible for maintaining the orchard area, we would be pleased to hear from you.

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DRAYTON PLAYERS

Jean Hager

The Good Companions have now gone their separate ways – to recuperate from an excess of singing and dancing, I shouldn't wonder; also to relax after the many lightning costume changes required which were, collectively, an art form in themselves! Anyway, the end result was much appreciated by all our audiences and we thank them for their enthusiastic support. We also thank, most heartily, all those people not seen on stage but vital to the smooth overall running of the production, especially our director, Deidre Jones who managed to control a very large cast expertly and firmly. No mean feat that! Our backstage and front of house teams worked extremely hard and to good effect and they were much appreciated.

Now we are looking to the next year and what that might bring. Our AGM is due shortly and no doubt, there will be plans to announce sometime after that, so – watch this space.

Because we have such a hard working and imaginative wardrobe mistress, our stock of costumes has grown enormously over the past few years and we are becoming desperate for proper housing for them. If anyone has some clean and dry suitable accommodation which we might reasonably rent, preferably within the village, please contact 01235 531425 for a chat with Georgia. We would be so grateful for your help. Also don't forget that our wardrobe covers recent and period decades, suitable for fancy dress and other occasions and may be borrowed for a small donation, again, contact Georgia for details.

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The PACE Centre



Natasha has learnt how to use both hands together for playing, since attending the PACE Centre.

The PACE Centre is a charity for children with motor disorders such as cerebral palsy. Currently about one in every 400 children in the UK is affected by cerebral palsy.

Derek and Judy Henman of Drayton are keen supporters of PACE and their granddaughter Natasha Carder has attended for six years.

Natasha recently celebrated her 9th birthday. She is a pretty little girl with a lovely smile who happens to have cerebral palsy. She has low tone throughout her body which means that she finds it very hard to keep a stable position. Her right arm and hand are very weak, and she

finds it difficult to carry out activities with either hand. Natasha also has difficulty in processing the information that she receives through her senses and body. This makes learning in all areas of development very hard for her.

Natasha, like nearly eighty other children aged 4 months to 12 years and beyond, has been receiving Conductive Education which addresses her motor, sensory, academic and self-care learning. Activities have focussed on helping Natasha to become more aware of her body and how to control her movements. She has now learnt how to support herself in sitting and standing. She has learnt how to use both hands together for playing, helps dress and feed herself, and in particular, how to look, listen and talk.

You can help PACE reach more children with cerebral palsy through its innovative daily programme sessions, training and outreach services. Please come to our regular open days and meet Natasha and all her friends. The next open day is 13 June, 11am to 1.30pm in Aylesbury - @25miles from Drayton. Let us know if you can make it, call Simon on 01296 392923 email simon.ekless@thepacecentre.org

To discover more and watch a short three minute film all about PACE visit our website today at www.thepacecentre.org If you don't have access to the internet please call us.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

Andy and Lisa of Abingdon Road, Drayton would like to announce the birth of their baby boy Harry Alfie Wood

on 11-02-08

Belated good wishes to Mary, Mike, Julie and Barney the dog who in November moved from Steventon Road to Didcot.

Jane Henderson

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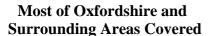
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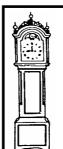


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DRAYTON DIARY

FOR APRIL

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

Regular Events are listed opposite

Mon	7th	7.00pm Par	ish Council Annual Asse	emblyv
Sun	6th	All Day	Bowls Club	
Sun	6th	11.15 - 11.4	5 am Fair Trade Sale	Church
Sat	5th	10.00 - 11.0	00 am Fair Trade Sale	Church

Sat 12th Private Party

Mon 14th 5.15 pm Chronicle copy deadline Vickery's box

Fri 18th Bowls event Sat 19th Private day event

Thur 24th 7.00pm – 8.30pm (new times) Youth Zone

Sat 26th Private Party

VILLAGE HALL CLEAN-UP

A few weeks ago, groups of young people, under the guidance of Gary Hibbins, our Damascus Youth Leader, cleaned, swept, painted and polished much of the inside and outside of the Village Hall. A group of adults continued the good work by sweeping, dusting and sorting all the equipment stored in the rooms at the back of the Hall. All cleaning materials were supplied by the Village Hall Management Committee and the Parish Council. It was truly a tremendous community effort — not just in getting a much-needed job done, but also in bringing people of all ages together for the benefit of us all. We are aiming to do it all again in the near future — don't miss your opportunity to do your bit!!

The Hall Committee would like to give a big thank-you to all involved in the work, they did a great job. Thanks also to the ladies who fed them after their task and Fred for giving it all a top coat and doing the ceiling, I'm sure the users of the area are very appreciative of their efforts.

Ann Webb/Richard Webber

Caudwell DC







A few sample pictures showing some of the work in progress. A team effort across a wide (very) range of age groups

REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

9.00 am Pre-School Playgroup (in Term) School Ground Bldg

MONDAYS

2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 h	ours)
5.45 pm	Beavers (Boys/girls, 6–8 yrs, Tel. 512834)	Steventon Hall
6.00-7.30	pm Damascus Club	
7.00 pm	Scouts (Boys/girls, 8-10 yrs, Tel. 512834)	Steventon Hall
7.15 pm	Drayton Wives Whist (3rd Monday)	Caudwell DC
7.30 pm	Table Tennis Practice	School
7.45 pm	Parish Council (1st Monday)	Caudwell DC
7.45 pm	Bell-ringing (for 1½ hours)	St Peter's
8.30 pm	Badminton (Private Group)	

TUESDAYS

	~	
9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	School Ground Bldg
1.45 pm	Drayton Art Group (until 4 pm)	Caudwell Day Centre
3.00 pm	First Tuesday Connections (1st T	uesday) Church Room
3.00 pm	Junior Netball (for 1 hour)	School
6.00 pm	Ladies' Netball (for 1 hour)	School
7.30 pm	Senior League Table Tennis	School

9.00 am Pre-School Playgroup (in Term) School Ground Bldg

2.00 pm Whist – now each week Caudwell Day Centre

WEDNESDAYS

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) Steventon 1	Hall
7.00 pm	Junior Table Tennis, Age 9+ (for 1 hour) Sch	hool
7.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	

7.30 pm Bingo Session Caudwell Day Centre7.30 pm League Table Tennis School

THURSDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term) School Ground Bldg
	followed by lunch club and afternoon session
0.00 am	Foot Clinic (First Thursday in Month) Candwell Day

9.00 am Foot Clinic (First Thursday in Month) Caudwell Day
Centre

9.30 am Holy Communion St Peter's Lady Chapel

9.30 am Parent & Toddler Group

9.50 am Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min) Haywards Rd
10.15 am Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min) The Green Car Pk
2.00 pm Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)

7.30 pm Women's Institute Meeting (2nd Thursday)
7.30 pm Sequence Dancing. Tel: 531701

FRIDAYS

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

SUNDAYS

8.00 am Holy Communion St Peter's
10.00 am Sung Eucharist (Family Service 2nd Sunday) St Peter's
11.15 am Family Time (1st Sunday) Baptist Church
6.00 pm Evening Worship Baptist Church

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