

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Derek Pooley

Volume 31 No. 4

May 2008

THE SYMBOLIC DONKEY

Donkeys have had a long association with the Christian story. A donkey carried Mary to Bethlehem with Joseph walking beside her. And surely there was a donkey in the stable watching the birth of Jesus; even if none are mentioned in the Bible at this point we have come to imagine that there must have been one there. Donkeys after all were the mode of transport for many poorer people. Mary could easily have ridden one on that Bethlehem road. We do know that Jesus rode on a donkey into Jerusalem, or rather a colt, a young donkey. Donkeys symbolise humbleness and gentleness. Someone riding on a donkey must be coming in peace and love. These characteristics are clear in both the Christmas and Palm Sunday stories.



Josie and Tracey lead the Good Friday Procession

Here in Drayton we had a donkey (Tracey) on Good Friday to lead our procession from the Baptist Church to St Peter's Church. Although there is no donkey mentioned on the road from Pilate's house to Golgotha, where Jesus was crucified, it is not out of place in this situation. In our procession we were remembering Jesus's journey from Palm Sunday to Good Friday, and also his and the donkey's humbleness, gentleness, peace and love.

But perhaps the strongest link to the donkey comes on its back; in the cross marked across its shoulders and down its back. Our Good-Friday donkey carried our faith's best-known symbol.

Josie Midwinter

NATURAL DRAYTON TIME

Thanks to a generous donation from Drayton's 'Charity of Robert Corneville', the Millennium Green Trust, set up to create and care for our beautiful Millennium Green, has begun a major refurbishment of the MG sundial.

Both the previous sets of clock-face numbers just failed to cope with the twin onslaughts of British weather and Drayton vandalism. The new ones are granite and set into the side of the sundial wall rather than its top. We hope they will resist rain, frost and wilful damage more successfully than the others, though the gold letters will need maintenance every now and again. You will see that two of the numbers, the early morning VI and VII, are not yet there. Please be patient!



Local craftsmen refurbish the MG sundial

Nor is there, nor ever has been, anything to cast the sun's shadow on the numbers in the sundial wall. A sundial's shadow-casting device is called a 'gnomon', from the Greek 'the man who knows', and to cast the shadow correctly it must be placed in the centre of the circle of numbers and lean to the north at an angle to the horizontal of the latitude of the site (51.6° for Drayton). Until we have a gnomon you can try casting the shadow yourself. Facing north from the centre is easy enough; just stand on the central mosaic and face the number XII. Defying gravity by leaning at 51.6° is more difficult and unless you are a capable gymnast it might be better to wait for the gnomon that the Trust will install when it has enough money to do so.

You can hasten that day by making a donation to the MG Trust or, better still, becoming a 'Friend of the Millennium Green' and giving regularly to help maintain it. In either case please contact the Trust chairman, Nick Hamilton, on 559291!

Oh! And even if you can lean at 51.6°, you must remember that sundials tell us the 'natural solar time' where they are positioned. In any place's solar time the sun is (on average) at its highest point in the sky at mid-day. Drayton's 'natural solar time' is just 5 minutes later than Greenwich Mean Time, which means you have to add an hour and 5 minutes to the sundial's reading of Drayton Time to get the British Summer Time we use in summer!

Derek Pooley

Saturday 3rd May 7pm – midnight Drayton Village Hall

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from CASS 07849 314916 or TRACEY 07732 533057

COME AND ENJOY A FAB NIGHT OUT

All proceeds to the Toddler Group

Also in this issue:

p6 **Bridging the Generation Gap in Drayton**

P7 The Need for more Recreational Land

P9 Drayton's Head Teacher Retires

p7 Springing into Abingdon

p11 Be sure to support your Post Office

CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The **June Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Friday, 30 May 2008** by **Shirley Thomas, 48 Henleys Lane (531626)**, 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, 19 May 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:
July	16 June 2008	27 June 2008
August	14 July 2008	25 July 2008
September	11 August 2008	22 August 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**. Your contributions should either be embedded in your email as **plain text** or attached as a **rich-text** or **Microsoft Word** document!

Please head your email and label any attachments with a name distinctive to you, such as 'Toddlers; May'. A name like Chronicle May Issue is of no use to us since all our contributors might use it. When using email, make sure the editor acknowledges your contribution within 2 or 3 days.

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 APRIL LOTTERY

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
25	0676	V. Parker, 46 Abingdon Road	Jenny Stevens
£20	1681	B. Hands, 34 Lockway	Sue Ash
£15	2026	B. Cole, 16 White Horns Way	Jean Hager
£10	0540	Mr McDaid, Charles Lodge, SWL	Keith Clough
£10	2734	Mr. McLaughlin, 2 Mott Cottages	Margaret Watts
£10	2270	J.V. Goodenough, 32 Lyford Close,	Gerald Redman
£10	0684	R. Seamark, 42 Abingdon Road	Jenny Stevens
£10	1501	C. Sawyers, Haywards Road	Judith Dunster
£10	2670	J. Brown, 14 Lesparre Close	Steve Penney
£10	0427	Mrs Edgington, 7 Greenacres	Keith Clough

The winning tickets were drawn by Malinda of Dane's Convenience Store from the 2315 tickets sold

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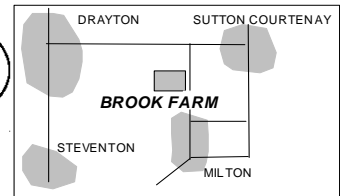
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YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor,

Regarding the letter printed in the April edition of the Drayton Chronicle, I have now opened an account at Barclays which is called "Drayton Fire Disaster", so all cheques should be made out to that name. As stated in last month's Chronicle a receipt will be issued for all monies received by me. With thanks.

Daphne Samworth.

Dear Editor

Local Christian Aid volunteers in Drayton will be delivering and collecting red envelopes from 11th to 17th May as part of the annual house-to-house collection. Last year we raised over £1200, contributing to a national total of £15million and hope to raise at least that again this year. Christian Aid works wherever the need is greatest, regardless of religion, helping poor communities to tackle their problems and build the lives they deserve.

I would like to thank the residents of Drayton for their donations in the past and hope the collection this year will be as generously supported.

Yours sincerely

Victoria Griffiths (collection organiser)

Dear Editor,

Some of your readers may have noticed that six young fruiting cherry trees have been planted near the top entrance to the Millennium Green. This is just our way of thanking the Village for allowing us to use the Green for our eldest daughter, Rebecca's wedding last July. It was a wonderfully happy and memorable occasion - and may be the first of other weddings in the future

Thank you everyone

Catherine and Richard Webber

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NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

Congratulations to Natasha and Archie Adams, who live on High Street. Natasha has just given birth to twin daughters, Annabelle and Harriet, sisters for Hugh and Max.

Welcome to Lisa Ricketts and Tom and Evie who have moved into Steventon Road from Marcham.

Our sympathy goes to Mrs Taylor of Lockway on the recent sudden death of Mr Taylor

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Dear Editor

The collection for the Children's Society, from houses in the West and South of Drayton during April, raised £147.39. Many thanks to all those who contributed, and for making it an enjoyable experience!

Doreen Bourne

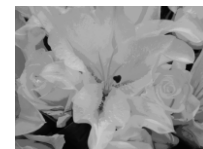
Dear Editor

May I thank everyone who has responded so positively to our leaflet and appeal for funds to repair a window and re-wire the church. I have already received a good number of donations through the Vicarage letterbox and I anticipate many more. The work on the window has already begun, with the iron grilles being repaired and stonework being replaced. We are now applying for permission, which as a Grade II listed building we need, to go ahead with the re-wiring. We hope there will be enough funds to do all of the work in one go as this will obviously be the most economical way to do it. However, whatever we receive will be spent on this vital work. If you want more details of what needs to be done don't hesitate to give me a ring.

Rev'd Josie Midwinter



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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 3rd 10.00 am Sale of Fair Trade Goods *Church*
 Sun 4th 11.15 am Sale of Fair Trade Goods *Church*
 Tues 6th 3.00 pm First Tuesday Connections *Church Room*

CHURCH REGISTER

Funerals:

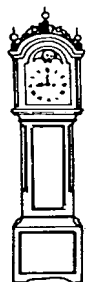

8th April Kathleen Joan Buckell
 9th April Doris Edith Sawyers

Burial of Ashes:

6th April Neen Priestnal

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 6th May and 3rd June. If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.


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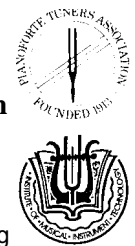
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LETTER FROM REV JOSIE MIDWINTER

Dear Friends,

In Ghana they say: 'One stick can be easily broken. But many, bound together, are strong'.

Life is tough in Ghana, on your own you can easily be 'broken' by poverty, lack of education, disability. Idrissu had all that and more because he was born deaf. On his own he probably would have lived a 'broken' life begging on the streets. But he was not entirely on his own because Idrissu became linked by Christian Aid to an organisation which could help him. It was still not easy, but bound together with others he had strength. So against all odds he overcome his poverty and physical disability to train to be a teacher. Then with incredible determination he also taught himself sign language and now works alongside others with disabilities to access debt relief money. By joining together, Idrissu and his community have gained access to free healthcare and the resource centre, to which they are entitled. His story proves the truth of the Ghana proverb. Many people joined together can make a difference. Christian Aid does not want to give people 'hand outs' but work with communities to help them achieve that corporate strength then they make the changes themselves. It has worked well in Ghana and a number of other countries too.



This story of Idrissu also illustrates the story of Pentecost (or Whit Sunday). When Jesus was arrested and taken away for crucifixion the disciples were afraid and they ran away. At that point they could easily have been 'broken' and scattered and there would have been no Christian church. However after his resurrection Jesus appeared to the disciples and promised them that he would send the Holy Spirit to strengthen and guide them. On the first Pentecost the Holy Spirit came to the disciples and they were completely changed. They were no longer individual 'sticks' which could easily be broken, but were bound together by the Holy Spirit. They became bold and strong and began to proclaim the Christian message. One of the things that was characteristic of that first band of Christians was their willingness to help others in need. So it seems very appropriate that this year Christian Aid week begins on Pentecost Sunday.

Sunday 11th May is Pentecost Sunday and at our 10am service we will have Chris Ward of Christian Aid to tell us more about the work they do. During the week there will be a house-to-house envelope collection. Last year the people of Drayton gave over £1200 (see Victoria's letter on page 3) and across the country £14.7 million was raised. So we are counting on your support yet again. Your single donation may seem like only a small 'stick' but joined together with others it makes a mighty 'bundle' which can help so many people like Idrissu fulfil their dreams.

Josie Midwinter

YOU STAY - WE PRAY

4th to 10th May; Sutton wick Lane, Greenacres, Newman Lane and Conifer Drive. 11th to 24th May; Hilliat Fields, Lyford Close, Manor Close and The Green. 25th to 31st May; High Street, Chiers Drive, Cheers Farm and Hall Close.

ALL AROUND

W.I.

Brenda Malin

We have had a busy year so far, a very successful coffee morning, and more social occasions have been arranged, details will be published in later chronicles.

Anyone interested in coming to one of our meetings is most welcome. We still gather on the second Thursday in each month at 7.30pm. please note we have moved our venue to Caudwell Day Centre. At our next meeting, Mr Cherry, a very popular speaker and wonderful photographer, will be giving a talk and slide show on The Ridgeway.

DRAYTON WIVES

Pam Lacey

Our talk in March by Ben Earl really inspired us to put on our walking boots. Ben is Director of Communications for Northmoor Trust whose aim is to bring people closer to their natural environment. The Trust, set up in the 1960's, owns 700 acres of countryside which includes the iconic Wittenham Clumps. Ben told us that there is now a new footpath leading from Long Wittenham up to the Clumps. We are so lucky to have this beautiful area on our doorstep and we all agreed to get off out there and explore and enjoy.

Dates for your Diary in MAY

Mon 12th COFFEE Mary Alexander, 3a High Street
 Mon 19th WHIST Jean Taylor, Caudwell D.C.
 Wed 28th MEETING Women Travellers & Explorers in the
 19th & 20th Centuries: Katherine Bradley



DRAYTON PLAYERS

Jean Hager

Plans for our next two productions are now underway and next month's Chronicle will give details of auditions to be held for them. We hope that anyone interested in joining us will come along then. We are always pleased to welcome new blood and invite you to come along at audition time, or to phone our chairman, Peter Jackson (telephone 531472) for an initial chat.

As I have said before, the onstage role is not the only option available in a drama group and if you are interested in lighting, props, sound effects, scene painting and/or shifting or front of house - to name just a few of the other interesting aspects to consider - then we'd very much like to hear from you. Our wardrobe mistress would also welcome help and is very happy to chat to anyone who would like some in-depth details of what is involved (telephone 531425). We do have need of another rehearsal pianist as one of our stalwarts he is moving out of the area. Again, we would welcome hearing from anyone who could fill this big gap.

We do all work very hard to provide good entertainment and in the process gain great personal satisfaction and, very important, have a lot of fun. So, come along to our auditions or call one of the phone numbers given above.

More All Around on page 8

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BRIDGING the AGE GAP

In March, young leaders from the DAMASCUS Youth Project welcomed 35 adults and young people for Drayton's first ever inter-generational workshop, in Drayton Village Hall.

Groups of adults and young people worked together to discuss the questions:

- Why is it important to know other age groups in our village?
- What are the barriers between age groups in our village?
- How can we get to know other age groups in our village?

The feedback from young people was fantastic. "It was nice to see that we can all get along" "I enjoyed meeting the adults" "I think we should do this again". These quotes are from young people who previously felt that the adults in the village didn't care about them and just thought they were all trouble-makers.

We need to build on this day and work really hard to bring the community together more. The young people are extremely keen to be more involved with their village and what a shame that we overlook so much talent.

Summary of Feedback:

Why is it important to know other age groups in our village?

- Helps us to understand people and their problems, to share ideas and opinions.
- Encourages respect and reduces stereotypes (which can cause barriers)
- Improves communication and brings people together, e.g. Community Day
- Helps us to get to know each other as individuals and therefore reduces fear of each other and bad vibes
- Helps us not to label people, we are all equal

What are the barriers to getting to know other age groups in our village?

- We don't attend the same events, there is lack of integration, as we tend to stay with our own age groups, and don't think we share the same interests
- Young people feel misunderstood 'we are not the thugs of the village' 'people need to get to know us'
- Appearance plays a part in this and different 'language' spoken by young people
- Adults feel a sense of fear and intimidation by 'gangs'; national media stirs these fears up
- Young people would like to get to know older people
- Young people don't say 'hello' to older people as they feel they might be rude back
- All age groups feel threatened when not knowing each other
- Older people have less time
- It can be intimidating for young people to meet new people and attend an older persons group, there is a lack of confidence for some young people
- Feeling that sometimes promises /expectations made are not adhered to

What can we do to get to know each other?

- More Community Days!
- Mixed Group Activities ie football/cricket matches;
- Saying 'hello' and making eye contact with each other;
- Different age groups organising events together;
- More days like today to improve integration;
- Better information for young people about various organisations and things to do in Drayton;
- Free tasters for young people to try out new group/activities;
- Exchanges with different age groups attending each others activities e.g. young people could attend Bingo!
- Improve facilities for young people i.e. teen shelter;
- Involve young people in volunteering opportunities within the community
- Make sure we revisit suggestions and report back on actions.



Damascus Youth Project Drayton Youth Zone

A drop-in evening for young people
from school year 6 to school year 10
7.30pm to 9pm Drayton Village Hall
Admission Charge £1

Next dates: 22nd May and 26th June

Note: no entry if membership form is not signed and returned
Contact Claire Soper (531632) or Andrew Hopkins (07890 756829) for details.

⇒ Next Steps:

Drayton has a lot going on; how many times have those of you who are actively involved in various activities wished for more help and support. Well, have you thought of asking young people if they could help? At the workshop at least 17 different clubs and organisations were identified. They are the very essence of Drayton community life. Who will ensure the long-term sustainability of these organisations? Please think of creative ways in which young people can get to know the various activities that go on and feel that they can take part too – if they should so choose.

More intergenerational events – come and join us at the next one. We welcome suggestions and would like to form a focus group of adults to gather their views on what we are trying to achieve. Please do get in touch with Gary.

Meanwhile come down to the Drayton Drop In (DDI) on a Monday evening. This is a fantastic opportunity to get to know your young people. And they really enjoy meeting new adults at their sessions.

Finally we would like to thank Claire Soper for compiling the feedback at the workshop; Melanie Parker for publicising the event and organising the food; the Corneville Trust for providing a small grant and the Village Hall Management Committee for use of the hall.

Gary Hibbins (Youth Worker) and Rita Atkinson (Trustee)

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RECREATION FACILITIES

Melanie Parker

At the Annual Parish Assembly last week, the point was raised that there hadn't been a recent update on the situation regarding improved recreation facilities. As some of you may know I have been looking at ways we might improve the recreation facilities in the village and in particular those for the young people.

The area in Lyford Close was surveyed as a possible site for more play equipment but the rules on play areas and their proximity to houses rendered it impossible to develop this land. However, it is an attractive open space with natural ramps that is used by bike riders and youngsters for unstructured play.

The area of land by the village hall is available to all and is well maintained by the football club and the village hall management but there is no free space for play equipment. No other land is currently available. Although there are other possibilities and they are being explored, they are long term as they involve complicated planning applications and must be integrated with much larger planning objectives which are out of our hands.

So, for now, we are concentrating our efforts on the Drayton Youth Zone and the Monday Drayton Drop In evenings for young people at the village hall (see advert on page 12). We are looking for more volunteers to take part in these evenings. Please contact me (07799 850974) or Gary Hibbins (07912 142334) if you would like more information.

GARD

Nick Thompson

The excellent attendance of well over 100 at the public meeting in the Village Hall on 8th February was rewarding for the GARD Committee. This battle is not just for our villages, but to prevent the water company constructing a massively expensive structure which is not required.

Since the public meeting, and with the help of our water consultant, Professor Chris Binnie, we have produced more data which further erodes Thames Water's case. We have presented this to OFWAT and the EA. Our MP, Ed Vaizey has tackled DEFRA and we are now awaiting the publication of the Thames Water Resources Plan which we expect will be made public on 2 April. There will then be a six-week consultation period during which we can challenge Thames Water's latest figures.

In the late 1970s a massive reservoir (Keilder) was built to serve Northumbria's predicted water needs. The final cost of £400M was ten times the original estimate. Since then it has hardly been used for its original purpose and is still costing millions of pounds a year to maintain and for the debt to be serviced. As this took place before water privatisation the taxpayer is still footing that bill. The estimated cost of the proposed Upper Thames Reservoir is £1,000M and this will almost certainly escalate. The trouble is that it is Thames Water's customers who would have to pay for this structure, and McQuarrie, the Australian owners of Thames Water, would reap a handsome profit by lending its subsidiary Thames Water the cash with interest. This project would cost every Thames Water customer at least £20 per annum.

Thames Water's reservoir proposal is a project for commercial gain. It is not the best nor the most economic nor an environmentally satisfactory solution, and it is certainly not in the best interests of customers.

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SPRING INTO ABINGDON

Hester Hand

Abingdon shopkeepers and community representatives are fighting back against recent negative media publicity. They emphasise that, as well as the usual retail chains, Abingdon has many independent shops of all kinds, from décor to delicatessen, from books to sports equipment, from flowers to patisserie.. Parking in town is easy, with most car parks offering up to 3 hours for £1 and there are plenty of cafes and restaurants in which to recover from the shopping

To encourage people to check out what is available the shops are running a "Spring into Abingdon" promotion from 17 to 31 May. Shoppers making purchases at participating shops during this period will be able to enter a draw to win up to £250 of shopping vouchers. The start of the promotion coincides with Abingdon's Spring Festival on Saturday 17 May. Starting at 10.00am in the Market Place there will be plant stalls, entertainment and Morris and Maypole dancing and the launch of the annual "Abingdon in Bloom" competition.

MORE ALL AROUND

BOWLS CLUB

Roll Up

The annual 'Friendly Fours,' was again a very successful day, with teams from Wallingford, Wootton, and Drayton taking part and a Drayton team of J. Mullins, T. Mullins, C. Carter and O. Brown winning the competition. A roast Sunday lunch was provided by Doreen and Caroll with many of the lady members helping out. Thanks to those who helped to make this a great day

The following teams went through to finals day of 'The Beryl James' triples: B. Jones, J. Hyde & M. Bartlett will play L. Locke, J. Carter & E. Long. This competition was well supported with 30 members taking part; the next competition will be 'The Don Alexander' singles and pairs to be held on May 11th.

Plans for the 20th anniversary celebrations are taking shape starting with a 'Quiz and Beate Drive' on the 18th April in Drayton Hall, followed by a 'Dinner Dance' at Drayton Golf Club on 13th June (live music 60s style). It would be nice to have some of the founder members who are no longer playing to join us for this occasion, anyone interested please contact Doreen on 202568, or any of the committee members. Following the dance there will be a night at 'The Dogs' and a 'Skittles Evening' at Radley; dates for these will be confirmed at a later date.

The club are hoping to field two teams for the summer triples league, this will be starting the first week in June. In closing we wish a quick return to bowls to Eileen (Long) after her recent hospital visit and hoping it won't be long before you are back bowling with us.

TABLE TENNIS CLUB

John Gould

I'm pleased to report that table tennis in Drayton continues to thrive. Our Monday practice evenings regularly see new faces joining. Recently we have welcomed Ashley, Ryan, Andy, Matt & Tony to the club. We hope they will become regulars for many years. We would still like more to join them. It would be especially good to see a few more female members as the girls and ladies are a bit outnumbered by us men!

The league season is nearing the business end and our 6 teams have mixed fortunes. After the unrivalled success of 2006 -07 season this was to be expected with most of our teams playing in higher divisions.

However the e team are currently 2nd in Division 4 with four ties to go. They are looking very good to finish at least in that position and thereby hopefully promotion will follow. Four of our other teams look to have consolidated in their respective divisions. The A team may finish 4th in Division 1, the B team 10th in Division 1, The C team probably 5th in Division 3 and the F team 4th in Division 5. The D team are one from bottom in Division 3 but can move up a couple of places if they get good points from their last two ties.

In the handicap shield we had three teams making it to the last 16 but the D, E & F teams were all beaten. However the Club has reached the Bidmead Cup Final to play Abingdon so I will report on that result in next month's jottings. ➡



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➡ Finally our 16th Club Championships will take place on 18th May. A good turn out is expected to see the conclusion of the ping-pong season.

DRAYTON HALL

Ann Webb

Management meeting; the meeting on march 17th was largely taken up by a discussion on the hall and its usage. The outcome was that while we try to organise all users to live with each other, sometimes we get in each others way. With any community building we all have to give and take, and consider each other. So when you enter the hall please remember that your group is not the only patron and respect other users. Think before you complain, or write notes, or gather together to send a letter to the offending group. If its something you can deal with, do it. If it involves moving something, try and put it back when you have finished or leave it in a safe place and go. Anything that is in the hall is there for us all to use. If that means something you use regularly has been moved, go look for it, and put it back where you find it. If you don't want any one to use property that your group has purchased, either keep it locked in your cupboard(if you have one) or take it away with you. A lot of these issues , if they are big enough, may require a phone call to the group concerned, but use this as a last resort. Your representative can bring your concerns to our meetings if you think there is a problem you have not been able to resolve.

The hall has also applied for an extension to its existing bar licence. This will probably make very little difference to our neighbours, we obviously do not want to upset them in any way! It would only be used at weekends and then only if requested. It is being applied for to meet a need for hirers who have booked the hall until 1am, only to see the bar close at 11pm, after which the party usually dies. This would give us legal flexibility to provide a better service. Friday night bookings are very rare at the moment.

Lastly a reminder to all users. Please do not turn on lights you don't need, and before you leave turn off heating and check ALL doors are closed,(including the fire doors).

We have some of the large tables for sale. We have acquired some smaller tables and the large yellow topped tables are to be sold. They are ideal for garden use parties, barbecues, or potting up tables. There are 3 to go £10 each buyer collects. Ring me (Ann Webb) on 01235 531418. ➡

DRAYTON TODDLERS

Julie Laws

The year is whizzing by and we are looking forward to some warmer weather to play in. Snack time is always popular with the children and now they are enjoying some other yummy healthy eating snacks. We do appreciate Joy's help in preparing this and also providing a very welcome drink for the adults.

We are all enjoying using the big hall for Toddlers, especially the children. However, it means extra work to get the hall ready in time. There is a rota list for parent/carer volunteers to open up and get the toys ready. We really need everyone to get on board and offer to open up once in a while. The more that can help share the load, the better. Please let Cass or Tracey know when you are available to help. It would take two or, ideally, three people each week to do this. Thanks in advance!!

Just a reminder of our Toddler Fundraising Disco being held on Saturday 3 May, see advert on the front page. Please advertise this amongst your family and friends; it should be a good "do".

It's been a joy to welcome new faces to the Toddler Group. The babies soon become toddlers and then....! All are welcome on Thursday mornings 9.30am-11.30am, the first session is free and we run strictly on a membership only basis. If you need any information about the Toddler Group please contact Cass on 07849 314916 or Tracey on 07732 533057.

PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUPO

Debbie Bargasu

We would like to wish the following children well as they leave us to join school full time: Mason Brant, Brad Cook, Erin Currant, Michael Fletcher, Henry Gurl, Hollie-Mae Lester, Sophie Malin, Sam Mitchell, Andrew Norkett, Kai Taboada and Lauren West.

We welcome Ben Hayward, Ruby Malpass, Tana and Josh Moore, Freddie Pitts and Jamie Regan who all join us for the summer term. We hope they will enjoy their time with us.

Our Topic for the summer term is Mini beasts, we will be looking in the garden for lots of bugs and insects. We will also be following life cycles, including those of frogs and butterflies.

This half-term ends on 23rd May but there is no session on 5th May (May Day). The next half-term starts on Monday 2nd June.

We are holding our AGM on Friday 9th May at 8pm in the Preschool building. We are very fortunate this year to keep three members of our committee. We do however need more new members; the committee usually meets around once a term to discuss any ideas or issues relating to the smooth running of Preschool. All are welcome.

This year's 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. This year's sponsored toddle is on Tuesday 17th June at Beale Park. Please ask in Preschool for more details.

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.

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SCHOOL REPORT

Naomi Broomfield

The school welcomes Brad Cook, Sam Mitchell, Lauren West and Hollie-Mae Lester who have recently started in the reception class. This term they will be looking at the growing stages of various plants, including rhubarb and chives. Years 1 and 2 are also looking at plants and are taking part in 'national grow your own potatoes' week! They have also been receiving tennis coaching and were recently able to participate in a tennis festival and competition. Years 3 and 4 are going to be studying about the local community which will include a visit to Abingdon Museum. Years 5 and 6 will be studying Ancient Greece and taking the important SATS tests. A huge thanks to Jenny Pooley who gave a wonderful and informative talk to the children on her many mountain climbs. She included some great anecdotes and photographs and really captivated the children.

The school was able to play 2 teams in the Abingdon netball tournament and gained 1st and 2nd place and both will now compete in the Vale Tournament on the 30th April. Well done to all, especially to those in year 4 who were playing for the first time and good luck with the next round. Thank you to Maggie Weir, Julie Lester and the parents able to help with transport.

Pauline Higg's Retirement:

Pauline is soon retiring as head after more than 30 years of dedication to Drayton School. As well as the events being held within the school, we are having a social evening on the 17th July at 7pm in the school hall. This will be a chance for all past pupils and parents to join us in saying thank you and farewell to Pauline. See the advert on the page 12 of this Chronicle. If you would like to make a donation for Pauline, there is a box at Vickery's, there are also slips which you can add your personal note on which will be put into a card to be presented during the evening.

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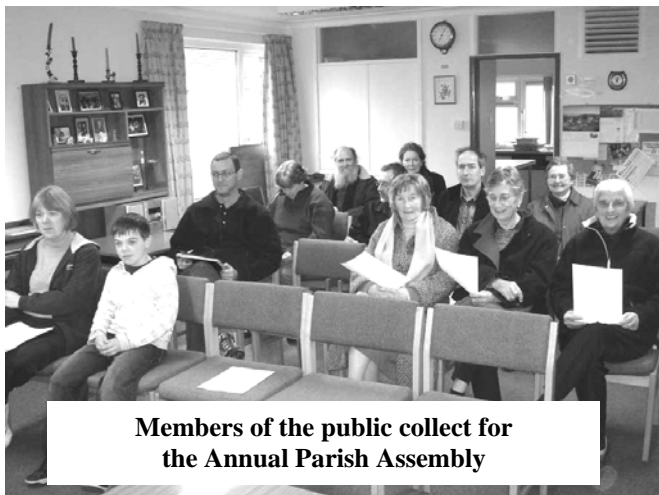
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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Jennifer Pooley

In addition to six councillors, eighteen members of the public attended the annual Parish Assembly on 7th April. The Council Chairman, Daniel Scarf, the chairmen of the various working groups, and Richard Webber, who is both our District & a Parish Councillor, reported on the past year's activities. For the most part the reports were very encouraging.



Amongst a host of other things they highlighted what has been achieved with regard to young people's activities provided by the Youth Zone, the Village of the Year award made to the DAMASCUS group, the Community Day and newly formed Community Choir, the updating of lease terms for the now fully tenanted allotments, upgrading of footpaths and resolution of certain parking difficulties. Reporting on Drayton School's past year Clare Soper told of outstanding progress made at key stage two, the special energy day and close cooperation between the school and St. Peter's church. Gary Hibbins, the Damascus youth leader, spoke about the recent morning of conversation between adults and young people in which ideas were exchanged for reaching good understanding and cooperation between age groups (see page 6). The very successful few days with visitors from Lesparre, Drayton's twinning partner, were described by Margaret Jones, with a suggestion that a group of Drayton's young people might join a future visit to Lesparre.

Not everything was as positive of course. Members of the public raised the subject of nuisance noise from the A34 and from low-flying helicopters over the village, the latter a problem that the Parish Council had attempted to resolve with the relevant air bases only quite recently; perhaps the Council needs to address both again. The problem of vandalism (most recently to the bus shelters) and graffiti is another troublesome issue. The youngest member of the audience, Toby Soper, was disappointed that 18 months after his first asking for better play facilities for older children nothing has materialised; unfortunately it isn't always possible to deliver what is requested and in this case it is because no suitable land is currently available (see page 7). The Neighbourhood Action Group (a joint police and parish endeavour) isn't always as effective as it might be because of lack of finance and manpower. Uncertainty as to whether the reservoir will be built still hangs over the local community and there isn't likely to be a definite decision on that for some time to come.

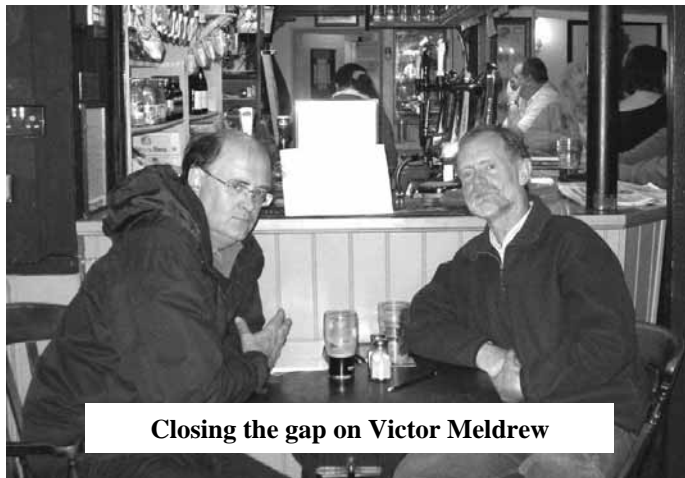
Richard Webber struck a very positive note with his comments, emphasising how well cared for the village is looking, the sense of community spirit and how many good and interesting things go on in Drayton. It is a village fortunate to have viable shops, active churches, good pubs, and clubs and societies catering for many interests. The Parish Council constantly tries to maintain and improve facilities, and where it can, rectify problems. That is not always easy because of the Council's limited powers, but it always takes seriously suggestions or difficulties that are brought to its attention and acts when possible.

Finally, once again the need for new blood for the Parish Council was emphasised by the Chairman. We are entitled to eleven Councillors but at present have only seven. More Councillors would mean more ideas, more expertise and the possibility of accomplishing so much more for the village. Next month's meeting is the AGM, and for anyone interested in the possibility of serving on the Council, a very good time to come along and find out more: **Monday 12th May 2008 at 7pm in the Caudwell Day Centre.**

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Webber

So it's official, there are only two Grumpy Old Men in Drayton. Although there were no less than six apologies received - two from wives on behalf of husbands, only two of us appeared at the Red Lion on April 1st at the inaugural meeting of the Drayton Grumpy Old Men Society. Ah well, we'll try again next year



Closing the gap on Victor Meldrew

But here's a grumpy old rant to keep you all going until then. It's a rotten old Council. I've paid my taxes all my life and, just when the government allows me a free bus pass (something my parents never dreamed of possessing - my taxes were being used on other things), the local council won't let me use it until 9.30 in the morning. Apparently they need to save some money to pay for other things and they reckon at my age I can cope with my free bus pass only operating after 9.30am, when there are fewer traffic jams, shorter queues in hospitals, emptier buses and so on. I need my bus pass, paid for with my children's taxes. I may need to travel free all around England before 9.30. Yes I deserve this privilege even if it means the government cannot then afford to raise basic pensions enough to help the really needy. It's about time someone started to think about me. Why does no-one listen to us Grumpy Old Men!?!?

Do we want a Post Office? With a larger PO in Steventon and a big one in Abingdon, it was an enormous relief that the Drayton Post Office was not listed in the last round of closures. I wonder how long we can expect to be so fortunate. Is there anything we can be doing now to reduce the chances of its closure in the future. Well, possibly. If a Post Office is well used, it will be profitable and no-one will want to close it. How many of us bank at the Post Office? How many Village organisations bank there. The Post Office offers a pretty competitive deal on a credit card at present. How many of us pay bills through the Post Office? If we do not want to take advantage of these sorts of services, we may not have a Post Office much longer. It may not matter too much to we internet users, but many of our elderly would be badly hit. Oh well, they can always use their free bus pass to get to Abingdon or Steventon.

Village Youth Forum:

A large number of adults and an even larger number of young people between 11 and 20+ years of age engaged in civil and constructive conversation in the Hall under the guidance of the Damascus Youth Project. We are incredibly lucky to be part of the Damascus initiative, which is attracting interest nationwide as a way of trying to address the problems of the young, and the way the rest of us relate to them and perceive them. Of the many useful ideas and suggestions to come out of the Forum, one of the simplest, most obvious and probably most constructive was that all of us, young and not so young need to make maximum effort simply to smile at each other and to say hello. Not exactly rocket science - but do we all do it? ➔

WESTMINSTER LETTER

Ed Vaizey

One national issue that annoyed me recently was the decision by the National Union of Teachers, at their annual conference, to vote to ban the armed services from visiting schools. This was really politics by the back door - the union clearly feels the Iraq war was wrong (a perfectly respectable view) and has decided to take it out on the armed services.



As some of you may know, I am a member of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme. It gives MPs the chance to work with the forces close up, and needless to say I have been very impressed. I cannot imagine a better career or experience for any one, what ever their background. So I wrote to all our local schools and asked them what they thought of this idea. I am delighted to say that every single secondary school in my constituency wrote back to say that they received visits from the armed services, and would continue to do so. I am absolutely delighted!

While on the subject of young people, could I use this opportunity to praise the actions of young Carl McKenna, Drayton resident, who saved a man from a burning car. Carl was a true hero, and his actions remind us that the vast majority of young people are absolutely fantastic and a credit to our community.

Parliament remains quiet at the moment. We debated the Government's anti-terrorism legislation. I remain opposed to the proposal to allow terrorist suspects to be detained for 42 days, but we will not have a vote for this for a while. The Finance Act is being debated at the end of April, but there is no date yet for the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, which concerns a lot of people. Finally, there is a private members' bill to ban the advertising of fatty foods, which I will be opposing. We won't make people healthy by banning adverts, only by ensuring that everyone, particularly our children, have access to sporting facilities.

You can contact me on 0207 219 6350, or at the House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, or at vaizeye@parliament.uk. Alternatively, come to one of my surgeries from 5:30 pm: 9 May at Didcot, King Alfred Drive Community Centre; 23 May at Grove, Old Mill Hall, Old School Lane. My website is www.vaizey.com



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➔ Drayton Village 3rd Community Day - Saturday July 5th:

As a result of popular demand, particularly from the young of the Village, we will be holding the Community Day on the first Saturday in July again this year. The Youth of the village will play a major part in organising and preparing for the day. Please put the date in your diaries. If anyone would like to offer some help on the organising committee - please ring 534001.

DRAYTON DIARY

FOR MAY

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

Regular Events are listed opposite

Sat	3	7.30 pm	Toddlers Family Disco	
Mon	5	7.45 pm	Parish Council	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
Sun	11	all day	Bowls club event	
Thurs	15	all day	Thames Water exhibition	
			Also 2 and 3 June	
Sat	17	10.00 am	Maytime Walk and Plant Sale	<i>St Peter's</i>
Mon	19	9.15 am	Chronicle Lottery deadline	<i>Vickery's</i>
		5.15 pm	Chronicle copy deadline	<i>Vickery's box</i>
Thurs	22	7.30 pm	Drayton Youth Zone (also 26 June)	

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10.00 am to 3.30 pm

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ST PETER'S MAYTIME WALK AND PLANT SALE

Saturday 17th May from 10am



THE WALK

10 am start from church – we will walk
round a section of the parish boundary
and return to the church for soup and
rolls.



£5 for adults and £3 for children.

THE PLANT SALE

from 10am to noon at church
Bedding plants, veggie plants etc
All at very reasonable prices



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)	
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	W.I. (2nd Thursday)	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
7.30 pm	Sequence Dancing. Tel: 531701	

FRIDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School 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>

Pauline Higg's Retirement

Past pupils and parents are invited to join us in saying
thank you and farewell to Pauline on the 17th July from
7pm in the school hall.

If you would like to attend on the evening
or to be involved in the preparations
please contact Anita on 526444 or
Maggie on 526547.



Donations can be taken to Vickery's.
(Further information in school report)

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