

# DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Dave Lee

Volume 31 No. 9

October 2008

## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT Jennifer Pooley

### Meeting held on Monday 1st September 2008

Five members of the Council met this month and were joined briefly by our County Councillor Mike Badcock, and also by two members of the public who wished to discuss a controversial planning matter. The meeting had been preceded by a meeting of the Finance Committee.

Resolution of a number of matters that have been under discussion for some time is beginning to look more hopeful:-

Mr. Badcock has arranged a meeting with a representative from the Highways department to discuss the problem of vehicles using bridleways, especially Kiln Lane. He is also trying to get a speed signal installed at the entrance to Drayton on the road from Sutton Courtenay, so there would be one on each village approach road. Mr. Badcock also said that 20 mph signs are probably to be installed outside Abingdon schools although not at Drayton primary school where it is felt unnecessary; this safety measure will of course benefit all those Drayton pupils who attend Abingdon schools.

Blocked drains in Sutton Wick are still under investigation, utilities officials having recently made further inspections which hopefully will lead to positive action.

An issue that has been much discussed by the Council has been the toppling of headstones in the burial ground. In the light of a number of serious & even fatal accidents occurring in burial grounds in recent years this is something the Council is strongly urged to do to avoid damage and claims of negligence. The Council has found it difficult to obtain guidance on the matter but has at last felt in a position to accept the generous offer of toppling testing from a suitably qualified Drayton resident, Mr. Peter Cline. Notice will be given when the testing is about to happen and owners notified of any unsafe headstones, although the Council will take any temporary steps to ensure their immediate safety.

Another public safety issue is the damaged surface of the Village Hall car-park. The Council has obtained quotes for different types of repair and has decided to have the surface patched wherever there are potholes and uneven sections. At a later date, parking spaces will be clearly marked and probably an extra parking area created.

Maintenance of village property and rights of way is ongoing throughout the year and since the last Council meeting our village caretaker has stained some of the public benches and the OCC Countryside Services team have, at our request, cut back the very overgrown Gypsy Lane and adjoining bridleway.

It is several years since Drayton was approached by the Earl of Plymouth Estates and asked to make a 'land swap', enabling the Earl of Plymouth Estates to reroute roads across the village green so houses could be built at Manor Farm. That agreement has now been formally ratified although whether the houses will actually be built and the access roads altered is a matter for the future.

The Parish Council is regularly approached for donations for various causes. There are strict guidelines about how much and to whom the Council is allowed to give. There has in recent weeks been an approach from the Millennium Green Trust for a donation towards the renovation of the sundial on the Millennium Green. Councillors could not come to a satisfactory agreement so the matter has been carried forward to the next meeting when it is hoped that a full complement of Councillors will be present to consider the question.

For those who receive their October copy of the Chronicle as soon as it is available may I remind you that there is a public meeting on Monday 29th September at 7.30pm in the Caudwell Day Centre when a representative from RAF Benson will explain the reason for helicopters flying directly over Drayton.

**Prior to the next PC meeting in the Caudwell Day Centre on Monday October 6th there will be a public half hour meeting at 7.00pm when Malcolm Peters from the Environment Agency will give a briefing on the proposed reservoir.**

**The Council meeting will follow at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend to ask questions, discuss problems or just to listen.**

## POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS

You may have noticed in the last few months, Police Community Support Officers cycling and walking about the villages of Sutton Courtenay, Drayton and Appleford. They are the long awaited, full time, PCSOs posted to the three villages.

PCSO Chris Linzey and PCSO Sandra Syphas, who are part of the South Abingdon Neighbourhood Team, have been spending time getting to know the area and the residents. Chris and Sandra are keen to hear from residents and to facilitate this there will be an open Police Surgery for Drayton on the 3rd October 2008 between 6pm and 8pm in the village hall.

Residents can drop by to discuss their feelings and concerns about their neighbourhood one to one with a member of the Neighbourhood Team. If you can't wait for the surgery, you can contact them on 08458 505 505 or email:

Sandra.Syphas@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk or

Chris.Linzey@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

(In an emergency call 999).

Chris and Sandra would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the warm welcome they have received.

## DRAYTON WIT & WISDOM QUIZ

**FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2008**

*Teams of four (£5 per person)*

*Ploughman's Supper included*

**DRAYTON HALL**

Doors open 7 for 7.30pm

Tickets available from Ann Webb (531418)

Or Gwen Mitchell, 50 Abingdon Road

## MARCHAM: CHURCH & MILL

**Including historical commentary**

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October**

**Catch 9:45am bus from village green**

Walk is £5 for adults & £3 for children

including soup lunch at church room

**Registration forms available from the church  
or from Josie at The Vicarage 531374.**

**All proceeds will go to church funds**

# CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The next **Chronicle** will be the **November** issue:

Editor: **Derek Pooley, 11 Halls Close (559454).**

Distributor: **Shirley Thomas, 48 Henleys Lane (531626).**

Deadline for advertisements: **17.00 on Friday, 17 October 2008**

Deadline for other contributions: **17.00 on Monday, 20 October**

Printed copies available: **Friday, 31 October 2008**

### Key dates for the subsequent three Chronicles:

Issue for	Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available on:
December	17 November 2008	28 November 2008
Jan/Feb 2009	12 January 2009	23 January 2009
March	9 February 2009	20 February 2009

## NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

Contributions to and advertisements in 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.

**However, please also note** that the editor has to ensure that each Chronicle fits exactly into an even number of printed pages. The editor therefore reserves the right to place, edit, shorten or even reject contributions as required.

A contribution or advertising request 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!

Requests for advertisements should be emailed not to the editor but to **advertising@draytonchronicle.net**. Please note that advertisements eventually need to be in Word format, 9cms wide and, for a single block advert, about 4.5cms high

Please head your email and label any attachments with a name distinctive to you, not just 'Chronicle'. Also, make sure the editor or advertising manager acknowledges your email within 2 or 3 days.

2. If you cannot send your contribution by email, send us a **good quality paper version**, using fairly large, **simple** black typescript, without underlining on white paper, A4 or smaller.

3. Finally, we do accept **hand-written items**. However, in this case **please write the names of people and places in capital letters**. This does save a lot of mistakes.

Paper contributions should be either placed in the Chronicle letter box (outside Vickery's shop on Drayton Green) or posted to Vickery's at 5 The Green, Drayton, Abingdon, OX14 4JA.

After the deadlines listed at the top of this page, only urgent items will be considered for inclusion and then only if emailed or delivered directly to the **Editor's** house by the Wednesday following the deadlines.

## ADVERTISING RATES

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 advertising MUST be paid for up-front, either in cash or via a cheque made payable to 'The Drayton Chronicle' and placed in the box at or sent to Vickery's.**

If you wish to discuss your requirements please phone **Stephen Fearnley**, the Chronicle's Advertising Manager, on 531347 or email him at **advertising@draytonchronicle.net**.

# CHRONICLE LOTTERY

Daphne Samworth, Hon Promoter

## RESULTS OF THE SEPTEMBER LOTTERY

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	0894	Mrs F Turner, 51, High Street	Margaret Long
£20	1270	B. Purbrick, 4, Caudwell Close	Barbara Purbrick
£15	2219	C. Soper, 127, Drayton Rd, Sutton Courtenay	Claire Soper
£10	1545	A Hutchings, 21, Binning Close	Anne Hutchings
£10	1848	S. McKenna, 47, Whitehorns Way	Mirja Boyd
£10	0900	Mrs J Bott, 55, High Street	Margaret Long
£10	1877	Mrs P Percival, 6, Whitehorns Way	Jean Hager
£10	1990	Mrs Andrews, 58, Whitehorns Way	Daphne Barrand
£10	2342	L. Shepherd, 1, Newman Lane	Jean Oliver
£10	0928	Mrs J O'Neill, 87, High Street,	Margaret Long

The winning tickets were drawn by Drayton Television Services from the 2210 tickets sold

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# ALL AROUND

## VILLAGE VOICES

**Daniel Scharf**

(Choir - please note change of venue)

The relaunch of Village Voices took place on 7th September with a rich mix of music. Old stagers revived some of the world music practiced over the last year, but more familiar music from the 'shows', Beatles and folk traditions is being introduced. We would like to have more voices of all ages and experience, bringing any requests for the type of music you like to sing and learn. We are next meeting on 5th October between 3pm and 5pm in the Caudwell Day Centre.

You can contact me on 01235 531107

## DRAYTON WIVES

**Pam Lacey**

Our August meeting was a very enjoyable Bring and Share Lunch kindly hosted by our Chairman, Eve Sharp in her lovely garden. We all tucked in to a wonderful variety of salad fare, followed by some rather scrummy desserts. The weather could have been a little kinder to us but at least the rain stayed away. It was also lovely to see Doris Vickery after a very long stay in hospital.

Ann Hutchings kindly arranged a visit to Didcot Power Station on 3rd September which nine members and six husbands/partners found very interesting.

Dates for your diary in OCTOBER

Mon 13th COFFEE - Rosemary Barlow, 7 Whitehorns Way

Thurs 16th VISIT - Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel, Pangbourne.

Meet Drayton Hall 1.15pm

(Speak to Ann Hutchings if interested)

Mon 20th WHIST - Trudie Buckner, Caudwell D.C.

Wed 29th MEETING Roy Denison - John Betjeman

## THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Pearl Stanbridge

Our Annual Dinner will be held at The Lantern Restaurant on Friday 21st November at 7.30pm for 8pm so we hope that you are able to join us for a first class meal and enjoyable company. Please contact Pat Bucklan on 01235 831499 or myself on 01235 527602 for a booking. We look forward to seeing you there.

The next Committee meeting will be held on Monday 20th October at 8pm.

## DRAYTON TABLE TENNIS CLUB

**John Gould**

Winter approaches and Ping Pong reconvenes for a new season. We started practice on 1st September and were pleased to see that 75% of our members turned up! I'm sure the older ones like me discovered their muscles were a tad sore the next day!

Practice continues every Monday from 7.00 pm with our junior players and goes on till 10 p.m. for the senior players. It was good to see some new faces at our first session back and we hope more will try us out over the coming weeks.

We hope to provide good levels of coaching and are pleased that a couple of our better players have volunteered their services. This will be of great benefit especially to the young players.

In the League, we have entered six teams. There are five divisions and our A team will hope to compete for the Division 1 title this season as they have a very strong line up. The B team will also play in Division 1 and hope to improve on last season's 10th place. They have recruited Glen Freeman on a 'Bosman' from Abingdon club and he'll definitely help their cause.

The C team will play in Division 2. With long standing experienced players headed by Steve Gardner, the team should be well placed. The D team in Division 3 is a mix of the E team of last season that won promotion from Division 4 and experienced players Kevin Davies & Andi Cudden. The E team is a new but experienced formation with Allan Lovelock captaining a team that is expected to do quite well

Our new recruits from last season will be in the F team in Division 5. There are nine players in all, to give everyone a chance to start League Table Tennis with a gentle introduction. The nine are a mix of juniors and adults with six players getting their first taste of league table tennis. Matt Wicks is the Captain.

We hope to see plenty more new players joining this season. Just turn up at the school from 7.00pm on any Monday.

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# ST PETER'S CHURCH

<b>Priest in Charge</b>	Revd Sister Josie Midwinter.....531374
<b>Minister in training</b>	Mrs Rosie Bruce.....525284
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Mrs Sue Harris.....848361 Mrs Val Cross.....535183
<b>Organist</b>	Mr Adrian Thompson.....01865 714801
<b>Choir Director</b>	Mr Ian Miles

## REGULAR SERVICES

**During October 10am services will be held in the school hall, all other services in the church room**

Sunday	8.00 am	Holy Communion (CW 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

Wednesday	10.30 am	Pebbles (Term Time only)	<i>Church Room</i>
Monday	7.45 pm	Bell Ringing Practice	<i>Bell Tower</i>
Every Second Friday	7.45 pm	Choir Practice	<i>Church Room</i>

## CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

Sat 4th Oct	10.00 am-11 00 am	Sale of Fair Trade goods	<i>Church Room</i>
Sun 5th Oct	11.15 am-11 45 am	Sale of Fair Trade goods	<i>School Hall</i>
Tue 7th Oct	3.00 pm	First Tuesday Connections	<i>Church Room</i>

## CHURCH REGISTER

### Baptism

24th August	Edmund James Alexander Howe
7th September	Joshua Brown Jamie and Ellie Domon

### Marriage

13th September	David Kite and Nicola Partridge
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### Funeral

16th September	John Phillip Baker
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## YOU STAY - WE PRAY, OCTOBER

28th Sept to 11th Oct	Steventon Road; Eastway; Eastway MHP
12th to 18th Oct	Church Lane; Henley's Lane; Caudwell Close; Gravel Lane.
19th Oct to 1st Nov	Abingdon Road; Oday Hill; Binning Close, Hayward Road.

## LETTER FROM REVD JOSIE MIDWINTER

Dear Friends

One of the best known saints of the Christian church is St Francis of Assisi, and indeed his story is an inspirational one. He was born in 1182 into a wealthy merchant family in Italy. He could have lived in comfort, but after a period of military service he felt disillusioned with life. One day he went to a semi-deserted church outside Assisi and began to pray. Deep in prayer before the altar he heard a compassionate voice speaking to him: 'Francis, do you not see that my house is falling into ruin? Go and repair it for me.' At first Francis took the call literally and began to spend his time rebuilding the old church, but soon he came to realise that God wanted him to build up the ruined lives of men and women. So Francis renounced his wealth and privilege and became a friar (a type of monk who travels around doing pastoral work). Francis was only forty-four when he died but in his short life he had touched the lives of countless men and women and turned them towards God's love through Jesus. Francis had a particular love for the isolated and marginalised in society. In his day people with leprosy were particularly shunned and unable to mix with ordinary people. He went out of his way to minister to them and give them a sense of worth and dignity. Francis also had a great love of nature and all of God's creation.

Francis had a great belief in spreading his faith by example, one day a student came and asked Francis to teach him how to preach. Francis said he would, and then invited the student to accompany him to the market. So he and the student went into the town and Francis took his time talking to people and sharing with him. As time went on and Francis seemed to be in no hurry to return to the monastery the student got impatient and asked Francis when the lesson was going to begin. Very simply Francis told him they had been 'preaching' the whole day in the way they interacted with the people. It was obvious that Francis' method met the needs of ordinary people because many came to hear his simple, but very spiritual wisdom. Others came to join him and also became humble friars travelling and talking about their faith. The Franciscan order still exists today and it is the one order which covers all denominations of Christians. Some men and women become full time Franciscans and others take a simpler vow and endeavour to live the rule of Francis in their daily lives.

On Saturday 11 October we will be having a Children's Workshop in the church room in order to make a banner celebrating the life of Francis. This will then be used on Sunday in our 10am Family Service. (see advert elsewhere in the Chronicle).

Eight hundred years after he lived Francis is still inspiring people today to take seriously the love that God pours out to us through his son Jesus - and then share that love with others. Why not come and join us for the workshop and/or for the service and see how he can inspire you!

*Josie Midwinter*

## EVENTS IN ABINGDON

A Diary of Events in Abingdon and area can be found at [www.abingdon.gov.uk](http://www.abingdon.gov.uk).

## A.L.VICKERY & SON

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ST PETER'S CHURCH, DRAYTON will be closed for three weeks for the purpose of electrical re-wiring. The work will start on Monday 29 September and we hope to be back in the church by Sunday 26 October. The church will be closed on the following Sundays: 5, 12 & 19 October so we have made the following arrangements for services. The 8 am Holy Communion on Sunday and the 9:30 am Communion on Thursday will take place in the church room next to the church. The 10am Service will be in Drayton School Hall. We would be grateful if members of the community kept a good watch on the church during this time that workmen are about to make sure thieves do not try to use the opportunity to steal metal from the church roof or elsewhere.

*Revd Josie Midwinter, Priest in charge  
Sue Harris & Val Cross, Churchwardens*

# 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 7th October and 4th November. If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.

# NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

Welcome to Mrs Gill Hind who has recently moved into the High Street to be nearer her family.

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## & CONVENIENCE STORE

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01235 531359

# MORE ALL AROUND

## TODDLERS

**Julie Laws**

We send our very best wishes to all of our toddler group children who have started pre-school this term and to those who are now at "big" school. Hope you are settling in and having lots of fun!

Here are some dates for your diary:

### Thurs 27 Nov - Mum's Night Out

Time for a well deserved night out at The Red Lion. £6 per person, hot and cold buffet and fizzy drink!!! (Alcohol free alternative available).

### Sun 30 Nov - Toddler's Christmas Party

Come and have some festive fun. Father Christmas will be popping in too! He has requested that you might like to choose a gift for your child and bring it wrapped and labelled. This will help him get organised for the festivities! Cost £3 for first child and £1 per child thereafter.

Full details of the above can be obtained from Cass on 07849 314916 or Tracey on 07732 533057.

If you know anyone who might like to come along to our sessions, please give them our contact details. We would be really pleased to see them. Toddlers is open every Thursday from 9.30am-11.30am and is run on a membership basis. More information is available from Cass or Tracey on the above telephone numbers.

## CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October**

**10am to 12 noon in the church room**



The theme will be St Francis, who loved birds, animals & flowers and all things to do with nature.

**Banner making, crafts, songs & drama**  
Registration forms available from the church or from Josie at The Vicarage 531374.

## Abingdon Band welcomes all brass players

Come and join in a lively, friendly group of musicians entertaining the people of Abingdon and the surrounding area. Enjoy the social life of a Brass Band including concerts, civic functions, fetes, garden parties and European trips. Band rehearsals are Monday & Thursday. Please contact 01235 535178 for details or visit our website at [abingdonband.co.uk](http://abingdonband.co.uk)

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# YET MORE ALL AROUND

## DRAYTON WI

**Brenda Malin**

Over the summer period we have had two very happy and successful meetings. One purely social during August, and one open afternoon serving strawberry teas, when even the SUN made a rare guest appearance. Our September speaker gave a wonderful talk, complete with slides and sound effects, highlighting the curiosities of The Chilterns, a wonderful reason to shun the vagaries of our airports and dodgy airlines.

Now is the time to sharpen your wits and enter your team for our annual Wit and Wisdom quiz – Friday 14th November, 7.30 pm – for tickets contact Mrs Gwen Mitchell (46 Abingdon Road) or Ann Webb on 531418. Teams of four at £5 per head, this includes a ploughman's supper. The bar will be on hand to refresh the memory should you find that you are experiencing a senior moment, which seems to strike at even younger folk these days, I blame global warming.

### Dates for your diary in October

Saturday 4th	Autumn lunch, Bread and Soup All welcome £3 p.p. Caudwell Day Centre 12 – 2pm.
Thursday 9th	Folk and Dance Music Caudwell Day Centre, 7.30 – hometime.

## DRAYTON PLAYERS

**Jean Hager**

This is a very quiet month for news to report although much has been happening on the production front. Our autumn comedy presentation will most likely be over by the time this Chronicle reaches you, and there will be more about that in the next issue.

We are gearing up for our next production – FIDDLER ON THE ROOF – with plenty of songs and dances to keep us busy (and fit)?! during the coming months. From previous experience, I have a feeling that February 2009 will be tapping on our shoulders in no time at all!

## SCHOOL REPORT

**Naomi Broomfield**

The new school year has started well and with lots of new faces both children and teachers! The reception class welcomes: Jack, Izzy, Bella, Kian, Toby, Charlie, Jude, Liam, Ashton, Abbie, Tana, Paul, Bailey, Freya, Dion, Josh, Cayce, Paige and Ellie. In the year 3 and 4 classroom welcome to Jeremy and Radinsa and in the Year 5 and 6 classroom welcome to Vaughan, Mrs Towersey and Mr Mayer. We hope you all enjoy being part of Drayton School.

Reception and year 1 are settling in and getting to know their new class mates. They are learning to be independent i.e. putting on their own coats, and the importance of tidying up! One of the main topics this term is learning about ourselves and our bodies. They are using skeletons and using the computer to label artwork.

Year 2 are also learning about ourselves, health and growth. A key part of their learning is about staying healthy and the importance of exercise and healthy eating. They are also learning about the local area so will be out and about the village. ➔

In science Years 3 & 4 are investigating how things move and grow. Later in the term they will be looking at packaging and will be designing and making their own boxes. They are also visiting the science museum in October.

The main theme for the term for Years 5 & 6 is the Second World War. In all subjects they will be looking at the influences of this time. **Can you help?** Do you have any interesting knowledge, experience or equipment from this time and are willing to share them with the children? This could be photographs or equipment to show the children. If you think you could help please telephone the school for more details on 531316.

Desperately seeking...a handy man

For odd jobs around the school (e.g. fixing a shelf) this would not be for a lot of time but would be invaluable to the children and teachers. It would be great if we could get a few volunteers and then it could be done on a rota. If you think you could help please give the school a ring (531316) to discuss.

Dates for your diary

Colin's last quiz night is on **17th October** starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are £7 per person and include a lovely hot meal cooked by Carol. Teams can be up to six people. This is a fabulous evening and great fun. Please give Colin a call on 531923 or Naomi on 532248 for further information or to buy tickets.

Halloween disco	<b>24th October</b> 7pm – 9pm
Christmas Fair	<b>22nd November</b> 12-2.30pm

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# EVEN MORE ALL AROUND

## BOWLS CLUB

## Roll up

We have a fair bit to get through this month, starting with the summer leagues both teams ended in mid table. 'The Tigers', after a good start lost three of their last four games and slipped down the table while 'The Leopards' were never in contention, winning half of their matches. We are now geared up for the winter leagues and this year for the first time the county are running an afternoon triple league and Drayton will have three teams participating: this could be a way forward as many of our players are getting the wrong side of 70, also the club will be entering two teams in the evening league, these will start next month, will keep you posted. Internal competitions, both Monday & Wednesday 'John Berry' leagues are under way and will run through until December and the latest Sunday tournament, 'The Attwood' cup bowls drive was won by Bryn with Barbara (Carter) the runner up. It was a great days bowling with thirty members taking part, and well organized by June and Josie. The next internal competitions will be the 'Ladies singles' and 'Gents singles' both to be played on the 19th October. Continuing the celebration of the 20th anniversary, twenty eight members had a night out at 'The Dogs' in Oxford and have to report some were smiling, and some had rather long faces after what turned out to be a very good night, the next event will be a skittles night at Radley, this will be held on September the 26th when again it looks like we will be in excess of thirty members trying their luck, and we will end the year with a quiz night & Beetle Drive on a date to be announced. All in all the events organized for the celebration have been well supported and members are to be thanked for this as it makes it all worthwhile. Talking of good news, Jean, Tony, Bryn and Doreen, won a fours competition on a recent bowling holiday at Weston-Super-Mare, beating a very good side from East Sussex in the final. The next bowls holiday will be early November, when eighteen members will be going to the Isle-of-Wight on a five day break.

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## PRE SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

**Debbie Bargas**

We would like to welcome Isabella Crook, Chloe Ellis and Cameron Revell as they have also joined us for the new term. We hope they have lots of fun and enjoy being with us.

We do still have a few sessions available, please telephone Preschool on 01235 536094 for more information or if you would like a Welcome Pack.

We have continued the theme of OURSELVES, the children have been making clay faces and paintings of themselves, which are always good.

Unfortunately, our pumpkins didn't survive, the snails in our garden were just too hungry!

If anyone has an old computer they keep tripping over and would be happy to donate to Preschool, we would be very grateful. Any sort would be great as it is for the children to play their games on.

We would like to say a big thank you to Didcot Metalwork Services (01235 834813), for supplying two men for a day, free of charge, to help finish our outside play area. The Committee, Staff and Children are very grateful for the wonderful job done. It means we can spend more time outside whatever the weather. Many thanks again.

Please remember that the deadline for applications to schools for children starting in September 2009 must be in before 14th November 2008.

There is an easy way to help our fundraising, if you order goods via the internet, you can register at [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

You choose a charity, we are on the list, then when you buy online from major companies like Argos on-line, Amazon, Next, Play.com, Churchill Insurance, AA, Woolies, Ebay, The Book People and many more. They give a percentage to us at no extra cost to you. Plus many more new outlets.

Dates: Friday 24th October – End of Term One

Monday 3rd November – Term Two starts

Friday 7th November – Tempest Photography visiting.

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# DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

## Richard Webber

'I want to ride my bicycle' *F.Mercury C 1980*

So, Britain is a nation of cyclists. It's official. Nearly half our gold medals were won in the velodrome. It's tremendous news in many ways. Not least that, without cycling, we would not have been in the top 20 countries, never mind the top four. I reckon that any of our Olympic cyclists could get from Drayton to the centre of Abingdon faster on almost any day of the year than any of us can currently do the journey in a car. Come to think of it, on most days, even *I* can get to the centre of Abingdon faster on a bicycle than in a car.

As our friends know, Catherine and I invested in two reasonably solid hybrid bikes plus kit (ridiculous looking helmets, locks to challenge even Goldfinger, and panniers (2 per bike) to take the shopping.) Wobbling our way at first down the cycle path to Abingdon, and surviving one episode with a high kerb, (when I learnt the hard way that jumping up onto a kerb, BMX-style, is a good deal harder than it looks (I won't try that again)), we now travel confidently by bike into Abingdon at least 3 or 4 times a week and don't even notice the ridiculous helmets anymore. We draw the line at lycra, but otherwise we see ourselves as hardened, experienced bikers, able to wave at others without falling off. We are told that like swimming, it is one of the best forms of exercise at our, or any age. And last, but not least, we are saving ourselves a conservative £500 a year. We are lucky enough to live close to a large town with most of the amenities we need, and in an area where there is an increasingly attractive network of cycle paths through rivers, fields, streams and woods. When we are cycling, we are one less car to clog up the centre of Abingdon and the good news is that more money is about to be spent on developing safe cycle routes in and around Abingdon. The one sadness is that the cycle path from Drayton to Abingdon is underused at present.

At the risk of offending my most liberal friends, I wonder whether the time has come to reconsider the idea of the 'Rights of the Driver?' Driving is a luxury and a privilege that we and the environment are struggling to afford, and things are only going to get worse. Should we be considering racking up taxation even higher on extra cars, and on any but the most environmentally friendly cars. In this crowded little island, should the rights of the pedestrian and cyclist come first, particularly when it comes to designing town centres?

Several towns, in the US perhaps surprisingly, have come up with a system of bicycle banks – centrally stored and maintained bikes, hired out when required for very low fees. Similar systems for cars are used in several parts of the world. I wonder if it would work in a place like Drayton? Do we have any budding entrepreneur bicyclists?

### Twinning.

Thanks to the energy and enthusiasm of a small group of Drayton residents, our village became 'twinned' with the French town of Lesparre Medoc in 2000. Every other year, a group of 12 – 20 people of all ages from Drayton travel to Lesparre for a long weekend to be hosted and entertained by French families, and vice versa in the intervening years. This year it was Drayton's turn to go to France and we decided to join them to see what went on. In the past, I have had difficulty in persuading a French petrol pump attendant, in admittedly modest French, that I wanted him to put petrol in my car (I think he was being deliberately difficult), so it was with much trepidation that we arrived in Lesparre – having negotiated the speeding traffic around Calais (mostly with GB numberplates!)

I have seen pictures of large groups of French people eating picnic lunches at long tables, in fields, in woods, by roads anywhere they fancy. Every day we had one of these – picnics that could go on for hours – wonderful fresh food – plenty of wonderful wine – and plenty of conversation – yes, conversation. Many of the French had even less English than I have French, and

after a couple of glasses of wine, we were all exchanging gestures, jokes and laughter. The language barrier had just floated away. Some of our party were returning to Lesparre for the third and fourth time. Many of the French had been to Drayton more than once. Any reservations I might have had that Twinning was an activity for an exclusive little group of fluent French speakers was firmly laid to rest. The new mayor of Lesparre was keen to point out that Twinning has plenty to offer people of all ages and stages, businesses, families, Europhiles and Europhobes alike. At least, I think that is what he said!

**Village Survey:** Cars, bikes, buses, pavements, shops, the young, the elderly... whatever it is that gets you going, let us know by completing the Drayton Village Survey. One will drop through your letter box in the next few weeks and be collected a few days later. It takes less than 15 minutes to complete and the results will be published in a future Chronicle. Apart from giving the road in which you live, no other personal information is requested. The survey will give us a much clearer idea of how the village, as a whole, feels on certain issues, and how they would like to see the village develop in the coming decades.

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# NOTICE BOARD

## Margaret Cooper

Older Drayton residents may remember Margaret Cooper, who moved to Drayton in the 1930s with husband George, who worked briefly for MG in Abingdon but then transferred to Cowley for the rest of his working life. They lived in Steventon Road until his death in the 1990s. At that time, she moved to Newark in Nottinghamshire to live with her younger daughter, and died this August just short of her 99th birthday.

Although frail in recent years, she enjoyed reasonable health, and was an expert knitter, providing jumpers for the whole family. Her great grandchildren William and Sarah attend Drayton School

## 2008 POPPY COLLECTION IN DRAYTON

In 2007, the Poppy Collection in Drayton raised £1,701.56, including £115.30 taken at the Service of Remembrance in St.Peter's. This increase of nearly 30% continues the upward trend in Drayton collections over several years.

Due to the increasing infirmity of some Collectors and others who have moved away, we are seeking several new Collectors for well-established rounds. Most rounds have between 50 and 100 houses, and Poppy collectors are usually welcomed with a smile and a generous contribution from friends in their locality. If you could volunteer to take on a round, or perhaps share a round with someone else, we would love to hear from you.

The 2008 Royal British Legion Poppy Collection starts on Saturday 25 October, well before BST ends, giving collectors a chance to walk round in good daylight that first day. The authorised House-to-House Collection continues until Sunday 9 November (Remembrance Sunday) when there will be the usual RBL Service of Remembrance in St.Peter's at 6pm.

Sadly, with continuing fatalities and injuries in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere, the welfare services provided by the RBL remain crucial to our Armed Services. The Poppy Appeal therefore takes on greater significance every year. Please help by continuing your generous donations, and think about whether you could take on a collection round.

Please contact Peter & Diana Hasting, tel: 01235 834740.

## FOUND

On Saturday 13th Sept at the bus stop, a Ladies 'Next' umbrella. To collect, please ring 202568.



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For party bookings or enquiries phone

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## The Red Lion



## GARD REPORT

The GARD comments in response to the Thames Water consultation were largely in line with the replies from the County Council, the Vale and CPRE. We were pleased that the Environment Agency was equally critical of many of Thames Water's arguments, omissions and data. Thames Water will now have to respond in November and we hope that in the meantime Defra looks critically at the proposals and that Parliament decides a public Inquiry is needed. We would expect Thames Water to mount a media effort to allay the public suspicion and distrust they have generated, and we hope that there will be balanced coverage if that occurs! GARD is still convinced and can demonstrate that a reservoir is not needed and there are many more suitable alternatives in the event of increased demand after 2029.

Thames Water have not planned any significant waste water reuse despite the fact that some 2,000 million litres a day of treated waste water from London is discharged into the saline Thames estuary to waste. Further treatment could make this water useable for domestic supplies, and this is over six times the planned output of the Abingdon reservoir proposal.

It is also becoming increasingly clear that there was a deliberate decision to exclude any consideration of a previously well thought out scheme to boost the flow in the Thames when needed by transfer of Severn water via a new but much smaller reservoir at Longdon Marsh as was planned by the old Water Resources Board in the 1970s before privatisation. This would be less than half the cost and far more sustainable, as the Severn has ample surplus flow. This reflects on the motives, integrity and judgement of those concerned.

An Abingdon reservoir is not the answer and GARD favours increased reuse which can be brought into play as required and moderately quickly and economically.

*N H Thompson*

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# NOTICE BOARD CONTINUED

## OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

'Breakthrough for Breast Cancer' is a national charity which raises money for research into the cause, prevention and treatment of this disease which effects 1 in 12 women at some point in their lives. The charity is aiming to raise at least £25 Million a year for the next 3 years

In order to help raise vital funds I am organising a Pink Pyjama Party on Friday 10th October at Drayton School from 7-9pm

Anyone interested in getting involved can contact me Claire Soper on :01235 531632

**DONATIONS FOR A PINK RAFFLE AND TOMBOLA WOULD BE WELCOME!**

If you would like to join in the fun on the night just come along in your pyjamas or something PINK!

All ages, sexes welcome £1 entry, enjoy some PINK FOOD and DRINK as well and let's see what Drayton can do!!!

Look forward to seeing you there.

## HAVE YOU TIME TO SPARE TO MEET SOMEONE NEW AND HELP THEM?

Our scheme to train and place volunteers is gathering speed, and we already have a terrific team in the field. But here at the South & Vale Carers Centre in Didcot we would like to recruit more: would you be interested in helping out someone caring for a relative in their own home? You would be introduced to a household where the carer and the cared-for person are living, and asked to stay in the home while the carer took some time off: perhaps an hour a month, perhaps an afternoon a week.

This would all start off with an interview for you, and references sought, and then a short training course to equip you for any situation and send you free from anxiety into your future as a volunteer! We will take care in matching volunteers and cared-for people, and you would have constant support by phone when you need it as well as ongoing face-to-face meetings with colleagues and with Chris Elliott, the co-ordinator of the scheme.

Chris is waiting to hear from anyone interested and has much more information to give. Please email her at the Carers Centre on [chris@svcarers.org.uk](mailto:chris@svcarers.org.uk), or phone her there on 01235 510212. She will be delighted that you called!

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## OCTABUS DIAL-A-RIDE SERVICE

Octabus is a dial-a-ride service for disabled and mobility-impaired people operating in Vale and West Oxfordshire on Mondays to Fridays between 9am and 5pm. It provides a door-to-door service for people who are unable to use, or who find it difficult to use conventional public transport.

To use the service you have to be a scheme member, which costs just a one-off membership fee of £5. Fares are charged, but concessionary bus passes are accepted, so for most, if not all, Octabus users the journey will be free.

To book the Octabus service telephone 01865 876176 up to seven days before your journey. Octabus can be used for any sort of journey except for hospital appointments or journeys to County Council-run Social Centres.

Information about Octabus is available from the telephone number above, or from libraries, or from County Council or District Council offices.



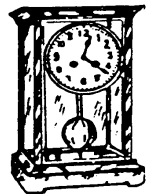
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## **ALL SOULS TIDE at ST PETER'S CHURCH COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED**

**3pm Service at St Peter's on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

There will be an opportunity to remember our loved ones by name and by lighting a candle.

*Please add names to the list at the back of church*  
**The service will be followed by refreshments**

# NOTICE BOARD CONTINUED

## Village Hall Management Meeting Sept 15th

There were only six members present at the meeting, so only discussions could take place as we did not have enough members to vote on any important issues. Good wishes were sent to Sheila Purvis for a speedy recovery, and thanks to Joan Sinclair for stepping in at short notice.

Our new treasurer, Mrs Debbie Roberts, was introduced to the members present.

From last months minutes there were a few updates. Members were told that a letter of thanks had been sent to Paul and Amanda for their work and bar improvements made during their time as bar staff, and issues raised by them were being discussed and acted upon where relevant.

The August 2nd wedding noise complaint, The Vale letter, was to be acknowledged, and as it was unlikely to occur again, in that format anyway, the matter will rest there.

The extra porch area gained after the new doors were fitted has been decorated by Fred Stevens, the entrance hall, now has to be resurfaced and this area will be greatly improved. The Parish council are to fill in the car park holes and hopefully will give the whole area a makeover. This will improve and extend the parking area, which gets very crowded on some nights.

The treasurer gave her first report. She started by paying a wonderful tribute to Kevin Farrell on his amazing book keeping skills, the best she had seen for a long time. She also commented that after all income and expenditure was booked, the start and end balances were identical. That is a remarkable coincidence, but shows we need to make some money or we will stand still!! We would like ,at this point, to advertise that Austin and Geraldine Barratt from the Wheatsheaf, are now managing the Bar for us, this also means that we can offer catering with your bookings. Any event will be considered and quotes given by them personally. It will be to their high standards, as served in the Wheatsheaf Public House.

A volunteer is still needed to test the fire alarm system once a month. It takes about an hour and needs someone fairly tall, if you can help, please ring 01235 531418. A few improvements were discussed, and estimates will be obtained for the work being considered. The main area for consideration was bringing light back to the small hall.

This room is now mainly used by young people for several clubs etc. and we hope they will continue to help us by respecting the Hall and looking after what we have. The incidents of damage have gone down dramatically and for that, we thank them and their helpers for their vigilance when they are using the play area, during the week.

Brownies brought the issue of security for parked cycles to our attention, this will be a costly exercise so we will approach the Parish Council for help and advice. Users will be asked to be more vigilant when leaving the building, to check they have turned ALL lights off and locked up their belongings. Lights that are not being used should be turned OFF, this will help to control our ever rising fuel bills. Which will inevitably reflect in the hiring fees.

Ann Webb

## LETTERBOX BURGLARY- WEST BERKSHIRE

Police are reminding residents of security measures that they should follow to prevent them from becoming a victim of a letterbox burglary.

Around one in five burglaries in West Berkshire involves 'hooking' items which can be reached through the letterbox or by using the letterbox to gain entry to a property.

There have been sixteen over-night letterbox burglaries in the past few weeks across West Berkshire, some of which have resulted in burglaries where the car keys have been stolen from the property and the car has been taken off the drive, known as 'vamoose' burglaries.

Between 5.30am and 6.20am on Monday (8/9), burglars gained entry to a house in Cairngorm Road, Thatcham. The victims woke to find their front door wide open, and that thieves had stolen a handbag including credit cards, cash and car keys.

Overnight on the same day thieves entered a property in Longleat Drive, Tilehurst. The victims woke to find their cupboards and draws downstairs open and a handbag, mobile phone, credit cards, cash, keys and a digital camera taken. They had also taken the victim's car off the drive.

These are opportunist burglaries which can be prevented by householders taking the appropriate measures.

Romy Freiburghaus, the West Berkshire Crime Reduction Advisor said: "Around, 50 per cent of burglaries could be prevented by residents double locking their front doors.

"Occupants either leave keys, wallets, purses or handbags and mobile phones close enough to the front door enabling criminals to fish through the letterbox. Likewise, if the door isn't deadlocked (in other words it can be opened from the inside by just pressing down on the handle), the burglars put an implement through the letterbox to press the handle, and the door opens."

Following some simple steps can reduce your chances of becoming a victim of burglary:

1. Double lock your front door with a key.
2. Never leave your keys;
  - in locks
  - on a window ledge
  - on the kitchen table
  - on a hook behind the door
3. Keep your keys safe and away from the front door, but easily accessible in case of a fire, and make sure your keys are always in the same place at night-time.



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# DRAYTON DIARY

## FOR OCTOBER

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

website address [www.draytonvh.org.uk](http://www.draytonvh.org.uk)

**Regular Events are listed opposite**

Fri	3rd	6.00 – 8.00 pm	Police Surgery	
Sat	4th	10.00 – 11.00 am	Fair Trade Sale	Church Room
Sun	5th		Private booking	
Sun	5th	11.15 – 11.45 am	Fair Trade Sale	School Hall
Mon	6th	7.00 pm	Parish Council/Reservoir Briefing	Caudwell DC
Sat	11th		Sequence Dance	
Sun	12th		Toddler Group Clothing Sale	
Tue	14th		Blood Donors	
Wed	15th		Lifeline screening	
Mon	20th	5.00 pm	Chronicle copy deadline	Vickery's box
Sat	25th	10.00 am – 1.00 pm	RSPCA Micro chipping.	

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## REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

### MONDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	School Ground Bldg
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
5.45 pm	Beavers (Boys / girls, 6-8 yrs, Tel. 512834)	Steventon Hall
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 Tuesday)	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

### WEDNESDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	School Ground Bldg
11.00 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	Haywards Rd
11.20 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	The Green Car Pk
2.00 pm	Whist – now each week	Caudwell Day Centre
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 Hall
7.00 pm	Junior Table Tennis, Age 9+ (for 1 hour)	School
7.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
7.30 pm	Bingo Session	Caudwell Day Centre
7.30 pm	League Table Tennis	School

### THURSDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	School Ground Bldg
	followed by lunch club and afternoon session	
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	
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

*Margaret welcomes you to* **Sabina's**  
*for your next hair appointment*

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