

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Derek Pooley

Volume 31 No. 10

November 2008

THE NEW HEADTEACHER

Coming from a village in the north of England, I know that the “jungle drums” will already have let most people know that there is a new head-teacher at Drayton school. So before it gets out that I once earned a living as a George Clooney look-a-like I thought I would fill you in on a few details.



I was born and bred in St. Helens, Merseyside, spent several years teaching training in Pembrokeshire where my specialised subject was PE, which was just my excuse to go kayaking, rock climbing and skiing while all my mates were doing geography or maths. After college I worked as a nanny in Boston, USA for 2 years before coming home and starting my first teaching job in Swindon. After 6 years there, teaching year 2 to year 6, I moved to a village school in Ramsbury, Wiltshire, where I met my wife, Polly, who came there to teach in the Reception Class. Seven years there as maths and ICT subject leaders led me to a deputy headship at Great Bedwyn School, near Marlborough where I stayed for just under 6 years.

In spite of having mountains of marking to do we did find the time to have a family. We have two daughters. Tess is 7 years old and in year 2 and Beth is 5 years old and in year 1 at our local primary school in Hungerford. Also at home is my black Labrador, Molly who is the grand old lady of the house having reached the age of 14 (98 in doggy years).

I am really looking forward to being the head teacher at Drayton. The reason I wanted the job was because there was such a lovely atmosphere when I was walking around the classes. Everyone has been fantastically welcoming and offers of help have been gratefully snapped up. Already 2 parents have created a fabulous nature table, which the children love and they are hoping to secure funding to develop the gardens. ➔

THE NEW SUNDIAL



The Drayton Millennium Green Trust has just taken another big step in refurbishing the sundial originally placed on the Green in 2000. Local companies and the DAMASCUS youth group have given the sundial a properly-oriented ‘gnomon’ - the thing that casts the shadow onto the ring of numbers to indicate the time.

For more information and pictures see page 6.

➔ FODSA are wonderful and have helped us to have a new art rea for our year 1 and 2 children and buy new storage units for years 5 and 6. I have now given them a real challenge to develop a Trim Trail around the edge of the playing fields that will have adventure playground equipment placed along it. So any help you can give to help them achieve this will be gratefully accepted. I have even offered them the use of my band “Premium Banana” to play at any event they care to organise. The parents and children have chosen new names for the classes. Reception/ year 1 are now the Robins, Year 1 and 2 are the Ravens, years 3 and 4 are Kingfishers and years 5 and 6 are Eagles (of course).

This year promises to be an exciting one. There will be some changes obviously but many of the fabulous things that have been a part of Drayton will stay. I am particularly looking forward to the staff against year 6 rounders match.

I have been fortunate enough to work in 3 fantastic schools. They were all very different from each other but they were the same in the one way that counted. They all put the children at the very heart of everything they did. I am very lucky to have taken up a post in a school that believes in doing exactly the same.

David Mayer

School Christmas Fair 29th November 12pm – 2.30pm.
Christmas stall, fun and games, raffle, festive food and lots more.

Also in this issue:

P11: more on the reservoir

p4: easier church weddings

p12: more on helicopter flights

P5: recipe for happiness

p13: more on the incinerator

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

AT ST PETER'S

Sunday 9th November



8am Holy Communion with 2 minutes silence

10am Family Service with Brownie Parade

Interactive service with a remembrance theme for all age groups

6pm REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Preacher: Revd Stanley Jones

Officiating Chaplain at RAF Benson

This service is a joint service with Drayton Baptist Church, St Peter's and the Royal British Legion

Wantage Stage Musical Company



Old Tyme Music Hall

An evening of Songs & Dances and Comedy sketches, including a Melodrama, and a Victorian X Factor!

Saturday 22nd November at 7.30pm
Sutton Courtenay Village Hall

Tkts: £10 (£8 conc) from Burgrey Stores & Madge Butchers or Tel 01235 770087 or www.WantageStageMusical.co.uk for info

CHRONICLE INFORMATION

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

Editor: **Tony Holmes, 53 Whitehorns Way (531180).**

Distributor: **Helen Brasington, 1 Cheers Farm (534045).**

Deadline for advertisements: **17.00 on Friday, 14 November 2008**

Deadline for other contributions: **17.00 on Monday, 17 November**

Printed copies available: **Friday, 28 November 2008**

Key dates for the subsequent three Chronicles:

Issue for	Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available on:
Jan/Feb	12 January 2009	23 January 2009
March	16 February 2009	27 February 2009
April	16 March 2009	27 March 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 to achieve this.

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 a few 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 either be 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 OCTOBER LOTTERY

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	1355	Mrs Broad, 7 Steventon Rd	Judy Henman
£20	0504	Mrs Marshall, 38 Sutton Wick Lane	Beryl Dawson
£15	1109	Mr Fowler, 9 Halls Close	Mary Alexander
£10	0223	Mr. Etwell, 17 Cornville Rd	Gerald Redman
£10	0989	D. Poulton, 4 Chiers Farm	Margaret Long
£10	0428	Mr Edgington, 7 Green Acres	Beryl Dawson
£10	1848	D Chapman, Abingdon	Mirja Boyd
£10	1901	Mrs A Brummitt, 36 Whitehorns Way	Jean Hager
£10	0416	Mr. Purbrick, 6 GreenAcres	Beryl Dawson
£10	0139	Mrs G Stirling, 107 Abingdon Road	Julie Brown

The winning tickets were drawn by Staff and Customers of Malinda Convenience Store from the 2279 tickets sold

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**General Garden Maintenance
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Julian Cook. 43 Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton

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

YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor

The September production by the Drayton Players was an absolute treat and such good entertainment value at £7 a ticket. Praise must be given to all who took part in the sketch Doggies and the Black Comedy play, also to the Producer and Director for tackling two difficult and different comedies. To perform in the Black Comedy without breaking any bones was an accomplishment in itself!! At times it was completely hilarious.

On the night I attended the audience was small in number but the applause was tremendous which must have made all the hard work involved worthwhile. Roll on the next production.

Rosemary Barlow

Dear Editor

I felt that I must write to congratulate the Drayton Players on their recent production of "Doggies" and Black Comedy". It was an absolutely splendid evening's entertainment.

The two talented ladies who played the parts of two very different and eventually antagonistic dog owners manipulated their dog puppets magnificently. The second play "Black Comedy" was simply hilarious and the audience on the Friday night just rocked with laughter. I am quite sure it did us all a power of good.

Visual comedy like this is incredibly difficult to do and the skill, the timing and facial expressions of all the performers were quite amazing. The director, Felicity Jackson, achieved an outstanding production with all the actors giving of their best. Congratulations to everyone and I do hope that you were not all too exhausted from crawling about, falling over and moving furniture about in so-called darkness.

Unfortunately, I was otherwise engaged on the Saturday night or I would most certainly have bought another ticket and seen it again. Superbly done all of you and thank you for giving me the best laugh for a very long time.

Margaret Long



Tess M. Goldblatt BSc. Hons (Pod) HPC Registered MChS, SRCh

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MISSED OUT ON YOUR CHRONICLE?

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



The Red Lion



Glenn & Janet welcome you

11:30am - 11:00pm Monday to Saturday

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Dear Editor

May I, through the Drayton Chronicle, please thank everyone who supported the MACMILLIAN WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING at my house on Friday 26th September. With the donations of some very delicious home made cakes, we had a very enjoyable morning which raised a grand total of £75.10.

Thank you also to those people who made a donation but could not make the morning.

Yours sincerely

Annette Mitchell

Dear Sir

May I thank everyone who attended the Pink Pyjama Party at Drayton School on the 10th October. The event raised an amazing £520! for Breakthrough Breast Cancer, due to the generosity of those who came and supported the evening. Once again many thanks.

With regards

Claire Soper

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Priest in Charge	Revd Sister Josie Midwinter.....531374
Minister in Training	Mrs Rosie Bruce.....525284
Churchwardens	Mrs Sue Harris848361 Mrs Val Cross535183
Organist	Mr Adrian Thompson.....01865 714801
Choir Director	Mr Ian Miles

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

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 NOVEMBER

Sat	1st	10.00 am	Sale of Fair Trade Goods	Church
Sun	2nd	11.15 am	Sale of Fair Trade Goods	School Hall
Tues	4th	3.00 pm	First Tuesday Connections	Church Room





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LETTER FROM REV JOSIE MIDWINTER

Dear Friends,

There is nothing quite like a church wedding - the dress, the bells, the ancient church building, the robed choir and all the traditional trimmings. Up until recently couples have only been able to marry in their local church if:

- one of them lives in the parish
- one of them is on the church's electoral roll.

The General Synod of the Church of England decided that the existing laws were too restrictive in a mobile society, and took the initiative to change them. Synod wanted churches to be free to celebrate more weddings and support more marriages. After much discussion the recommendations were put before Parliament and these became law on 1 October 2008.

The Marriage Measure adds seven qualifications to the two above and means an engaged couple can be married, by banns, if just one of the following applies.

If one of them:

- was baptised in the parish
- was prepared for confirmation in the parish
- has at any time lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months
- has at any time habitually attended normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months

If one of their parents, at any time after they were born:

- has lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months
- has habitually attended normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months

If one of their parents or grandparents:

- was married in the parish church.

If none of 1-9 applies then they may still marry in this church if,

- they are granted a Special Licence.

All the above applies automatically to those who are single or widowed. In the case of a couple where one or both have been divorced this is still at the discretion of the vicar or priest in charge of the parish. All applications are taken seriously and discussed with the prospective couples in light of the information above.

St Peter's is a lovely venue for a wedding and we are always ready to welcome couples to the church. You might be surprised to know that a church wedding, with all the trimmings is available for a very modest fee! If you would like to enquire about getting married at St Peter's please give me a ring. A Marriage Preparation Day for all couples getting married in any of the DAMASCUS Group of churches in 2009 is being held on Saturday 24 January.

Josie Midwinter

YOU STAY - WE PRAY, November

2nd to 8th; Sutton Wick Lane, Greenacres, Newman Lane, Conifer Drive. 9th to 22nd; Hilliat Fields, Lyford Close, Manor Close, The Green. 23rd to 29th; High Street, Chiers Drive, Cheers Farm, Halls Close



BAPTIST CHURCH

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

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

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

EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME

Christmas Bazaar

Drayton Small Hall
Saturday 15 November 2.00pm



LOCAL METHODIST WORSHIP

High Street, Milton
Sunday Service: 10.30 am

Local contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409

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 **4th November** and **2nd December**. If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.

ST PETER'S CHURCH HOME-VISITING GROUP

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

Please contact:- Ros Blogg (535589), Jean Hager (531558), Sally Dixon (531547) and Margaret Watts (527145).

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

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

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Wednesday Pebbles Christmas Special

10:30am to 11:30am
St Peter's Church Room

On 5, 12, 19 & 26 Nov and 3 December

Pebbles is for small children with their parent or carer. Each week the children will make decorations for the Christmas Tree which will be displayed in church over the Christmas period.

**10:30am on Wednesday 10th December
Pebbles Nativity Play in Church**

The children can dress up as shepherds or angels and they will all be included in the play. This will be followed by refreshments. Family and friends also welcome to come.



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THE ROAD TO HAPPINESS **Derek Pooley**

The British Government's scientific think tank, called 'Foresight', recently published a massive report on 'Mental Capital and Well-being - Making the Most of Ourselves in the 21st Century', based on research it had commissioned. It emphasises that an individual's 'mental capital' (their cognitive and emotional resources) and their 'mental well-being' (effectively how happy they are) crucially affect their paths through life. Both are vitally important for the healthy functioning of families, communities and society. They fundamentally affect behaviour, social cohesion, social inclusion, and our prosperity.

There is no simple formula for happiness but the mental equivalent of eating five portions of vegetables every day to remain physically healthy seems to be to make sure you do the following five things regularly:

- **Exercise**

Sports, hobbies such as gardening or dancing, or just a daily stroll will make you feel good and maintain mobility and fitness

- **Learn**

Fixing a bike, learning an instrument, cooking - the challenge and satisfaction brings fun and confidence

- **Appreciate**

Noting the beauty of everyday moments as well as the unusual and reflecting on them helps you to discover what matters to you

- **Connect**

Developing relationships with family, friends, colleagues and neighbours will enrich your life and bring you support

- **Give**

Helping friends and strangers links your happiness to a wider community and is very rewarding

Sounds pretty good advice!

THE MILLENNIUM GREEN SUNDIAL PROJECT

INSTALLING THE GNOMON and ⇨

The project to refurbish and up-grade the sundial on the Millennium Green moved further forward recently. Earlier in the year the old clock-face numerals, which had largely disintegrated under the twin assaults of weather and vandalism, were replaced with new ones carved into blocks of granite, made and set into the sun-dial wall rather than on top of it by Abingdon Stone and Marble, all thanks to a donation from the Corneville Trust.

Now we have put in place a fixed 'gnomon', i.e. the device that casts its shadow on the clock-face numerals to indicate time. The 4m long stainless steel tube was made for us by 'Specialist Welding' of Steventon and was installed in October by K.L. Yates, builders of Drayton, with the help of a team of youngsters



from the DAMSCUS youth project. The gnomon has to achieve many things. It must face true north, point to the Pole Star (which requires it to be at an angle to the horizontal equal to the latitude of Drayton), pass through the centre of the circle



of clock-face numbers at their height rather than at ground level, be corrosion resistant for low maintenance, be strong enough to cope with youngsters trying to swing on it, yet light enough to be installed without expensive lifting gear,

Fingers firmly crossed!

The installation team, in the picture opposite, were Cali, Michael, James, Christian and Connor from the DAMSCUS group (led by Gary Hibbins in the picture at the top of the



page), Richard Yates and myself. Kay Davies provided welcome refreshment and PCSO Sandra Syphas helped keep an eye on the gnomon whilst the concrete base into which it is set was still soft enough for the tube to be moved from its precise position.

Making and installing the gnomon was made possible for the MG Trust by generous donations from a few Drayton residents.

USING THE SUN-DIAL and ⇨

The gnomons of most sundials, ours included, point at the Pole Star, which means they are parallel to the earth's rotational axis. This ensures that the shadow cast by the sun at any particular time of day is always in the same direction, no matter what the season. Vertical gnomons do not achieve this and have to be moved around with the season if they are to show the correct time of day.

Also, most sundials have the clock-face numbers positioned so that the gnomon shadow indicates 12 noon when the sun is at its highest point in the sky. Such sundials give the local solar time, used everywhere in the world before fast transport and then electronic communication made it possible to synchronise clocks in different places and have a common 'national' or 'time-zone' time. Drayton solar time is about 5 minutes behind Greenwich solar time because we are nearly 100km to the west.

Sundials never need to be reset from year to year, or even from millennium to millennium, but they are not especially good timekeepers from week to week (compared with quartz watches from Argos), mostly because the earth travels round the sun in an elliptical rather than a circular orbit. They can be up to 16 minutes fast (at the beginning of November) and up to 15 minutes slow (in mid February). To combat this, modern time systems like Greenwich Mean Time use a clock day whose length is a mean (i.e. an average.) of solar days throughout the year, to give us the same length of day whatever the season.

And don't forget that, in summer, we use British Summer Time, an hour ahead of GMT and therefore an hour and 5 minutes ahead of Drayton Solar time!

But the sundial is not there to set our watches by. We hope it will be an interesting and intriguing feature on Drayton's beautiful Millennium Green, symbolic of the passing of time as the shadow rotates round the ring (when the sun is shining). The clock-face numerals are carved using Roman number symbols, thousands of years old and no longer used except on clocks, into blocks of granite made a billion years or more ago. In contrast, stainless steel is a material of today and the gnomon points into outer space, where perhaps mankind's long-term future lies.



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FINISHING THE PROJECT

Derek Pooley

We still have one thing left to do, install an explanatory plaque that will also say that the dial was made by the people of Drayton to mark the beginning of the 3rd millennium, turning the dial into a sort of 'time-capsule'. We might even place a small tube of documents under the plaque to explain ourselves to some archaeologist of the future.

But the MG Trust currently has no money left to do this. If you would like to help finish the project by making a financial contribution to the plaque please send a cheque payable to the Millennium Green Trust to the Trust's chairman Nick Hamilton, at Sutton Wick Barn, Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton, OX14 4HJ or call him on 559291.



The RAF is 90



The Royal Air Force was formed in 1918. Planes had been used in the First World War but were part of the army as the Royal Air Corp. By the end of the war it was recognised that the Air Force needed to have an independence to develop as a separate organisation and so the RAF came into being. We know that in the Second World War - and in subsequent conflicts - they have played a crucial role. This year we will be celebrating their 90th anniversary at the 6 pm Remembrance Day service at St Peter's on 9 November.

We are fortunate to have Rev Stanley Jones, one of the chaplains from RAF Benson, as our preacher. Please come and join in our tribute to the RAF, and especially of course to all those who have given their lives for our country.



Josie Midwinter



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Liz Pride

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The help offered by Good Neighbour Schemes may include:

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- Errands, shopping a collecting prescriptions
- Household tasks or gardening
- Letter-writing or simple form filling

A limited number of start-up grants are available to allow communities to meet the costs of setting up a scheme - buying a mobile phone, public liability cover and publicity material. For further information please contact Liz Pride on 01865 251946 or email: liz.pride@ocva.org.uk or write to Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action, The Old Court House, Floyds Row, St.Aldates, Oxford, OX1 1SS

ALL AROUND

PLAYERS 'BLACK COMEDY' Judy Henman

Derek and I had no idea what to expect from Drayton Players' recent production. I had thoughts of dastardly deeds at dead of night and pistols at dawn. Not a bit of it! It began on an evening in the life of Brindsley Miller (Jim Cottrell) and his debutante fiancée Carol Melkett (Kate Green). They had invited Carol's father, Colonel Melkett (John Shore) and the millionaire Bamberger (Richard Webber), who they hoped would buy some of Brindsley's sculptures. They had also borrowed a neighbour's (Harold Gorringe - Peter Jackson) furniture without permission.

To add to the comedy, darkness was light and light was darkness. The play began in the dark, we could only just see. Then a fuse went, whereupon the stage lights came on but now the players were in the dark. They walked around with arms outstretched trying to avoid objects and people. Their expressions, visual and verbal were hilarious. Of course Harold came back! Miss Furnival, a spinster neighbour (Oenone Grant) called in because her lights had gone out. It was so funny! The fuse was mended and then fused again. Matches were lit and gave us a half light.

Derek and I laughed all the way through and ached at the end. It's a pity more people weren't there to support the wonderful acting of the Drayton Players. Jim Cottrell fell over so many times and got entangled in wires that it was a wonder he lasted until Saturday night! Carol Melkett's expressions were excruciatingly rib-tickling - she was so funny. Oenone Grant was wonderful when she became drunk after pouring the wrong drink in the dark. John Shore was stiff and self-righteous as the pompous father; Peter Jackson was and is a great actor. Richard Webber was funny in his brief appearance lost in the dark. Auduna Oaks was good as the ethereal naughty mistress and Fred Stevens as the German electrician; all added to fun of the unfortunate events.

And DOGGIES

Thelma (Jayne Henderson) and Eleanor (Catherine Webber) were thrown together by the activities of their dogs. Differences grew and were accentuated in their behaviour and the behaviour of their dogs. They were very good at bringing to life their puppet dogs.



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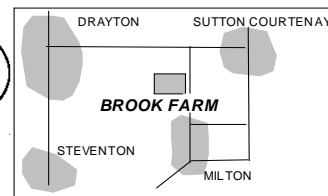
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PLAYERS REPORT

Jean Hager

Our comedy evening programme has now been completed and was well received by all our audiences. The main event of the two-parter, BLACK COMEDY, was actually more extreme than a comedy, progressing into completely farcical and hilarious situations very quickly. Lighting and timing were all important in this production and were delivered with effective expertise. All concerned are to be heartily congratulated.

The news regarding FIDDLER ON THE ROOF unfortunately is not good. Circumstances have arisen beyond the Players' control and we have had, reluctantly, to shelve this project – at least for the time being. However, there is a lot of hard work going on within the group to find an alternative entertainment for next February and I hope to have more positive news soon. This turn of events has been extremely disappointing for us all, but we are confident that a happy solution will be found.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Pearl Stanbridge

Please don't forget to "Pause and Remember" at 11 am on the 11th day of the 11th month!

The Branch Standard will be in attendance at the local Remembrance Day services, for which assembly times are:

- Milton War memorial 10.45am
- Steventon War memorial 2.15pm with a service at St Michael's and all Angels at 3pm.
- St Peter's church Drayton 5.45pm.

We look forward to seeing you at the dinner on Friday 21 November. The next meeting is the A.G.M. on Monday 17 November at 7.30pm so come along and show your support to a hard working team.

A particularly cheerful and tuneful meeting took place at our October meeting, when we were entertained by a fantastic local folk/traditional musical group called 'Pandemonium'. Much hilarity ensued as we, at first shyly, tapped with tambourines and bells to tunes we suddenly remembered the words of, and by the end of the evening leading the group with positive gusto.

A reminder that we still have tables available for our ANNUAL QUIZ –FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER. 7.30 DRAYTON HALL. Tables of four at £5.00 per person includes a ploughman's supper. If you would like to join in but haven't enough people to make up a full table contact Ann Webb on 01235-531418 or Gwen Mitchell at 50 Abingdon Road.

Diary Dates :

- **Monthly meeting**

7.30pm Thursday 13th November Caudwell Day Centre.

- **Coffee & Mince Pies**

10 am to noon Saturday 6th December Caudwell Day Centre.

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The children continue to have lots of fun playing on a Thursday morning. It's a really lovely time that they spend together and we would like to thank those who work hard to make it happen.

Please see below some dates for your diary. (Note: some of the details may have changed since the last Chronicle).

Thurs 30 October

This session will have a Halloween theme so come in fancy dress IF YOU DARE!!!! Lots of fun, games and goodies are planned – sounds fab!!

Thurs 27 Nov – Parents'/Carers' Night Out

Time for a well deserved night out at The Red Lion. Please note that there is no charge for members (thank you Committee!) and friends are welcome to join us (£5 per adult). Please reply to Cass or Tracey by 6th November.

Sun 30 Nov - Toddler's Christmas Party

Come and have some festive fun in the Village Hall from 11am-2pm. Father Christmas will be popping in at 1pm. Please bring a wrapped and labelled gift for your child. Reply slip to be returned as soon as possible. There is no charge for Toddler Group members and their siblings. Other children are welcome for a small charge of £2.50 each.

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.

PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

Debbie Bargas

During this term we will be looking at the winter festivals such as Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas, and learning what takes place, also making Christmas goodies. We will also be looking at the changing of the seasons, collecting leaves to use in pictures and for printing and making firework pictures, and making snowflakes from paper.

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.

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.

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

We will be holding our annual Christmas Raffle in the afternoon on Thursday 18th December. We would be very grateful for any donation of small prizes. Please leave in the box inside Preschool. There will be no normal session on that afternoon. There are no sessions on Friday 19th December as we will be holding the Preschool Christmas Party, more details to follow.

There is an easy way to help our fundraising. If you order goods via the internet, you can register at www.easyfundraising.org.uk and 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. Dates for your diaries:

Monday 3rd November – Term Two starts

Friday 7th November – Tempest Photography visiting.

Thursday 18th December – PM – Xmas singing and Raffle

Friday 19th December – Xmas Party 11am until 2pm



MORE ALL AROUND

TABLE TENNIS

John Gould

In my last report I stated there would be 6 Drayton teams playing in the Didcot League this season. However we were fortunate to sign Deryck Silk thus enabling, with some juggling, to enter a seventh team. John Gould and Dave Harradine have moved from the C team and Andi Cudden from the D team. All three have joined with Deryck to play in Division 3 where fortunately there was an available space. The team is called Drayton G to avoid confusion and re-badging the E & F teams that play in Divisions 4 & 5. As the team was formed one week into the season they will have to catch up having missed the first match. We have a total of 34 players registered with our various teams.

Club Chairman Tony Krason has moved from the B to the C team to give that team 4 players. This has been a good move as the C team now top Division 2 having won their three opening matches. Tony is currently Division 2's top player with a 100% record. Our A team – 2nd in Division 1 and the E team top in Division 4 are the best performers after 4 matches, but with over 20 matches each to play there is a long way to go.

The Didcot League is hoping to introduce a 6th Division during this season. This will accommodate up to 6 teams and will enable new players who may join the various clubs during the season to start playing league matches. They would play home and away games over the last 10 weeks of the season. Therefore if new players join Drayton we will hope to enter a team in the division. We are always very happy to see new adult players come along. We have several 'beginners' at the club so don't feel embarrassed if you've never played or possibly haven't played since school! We only charge £1.00 per session and these run from 8.00 pm until 10.00 p.m.

Also we hope that our younger players will be able to play in a Development League that will commence in the New Year. This is a Didcot League initiative that will run with teams of two players. It is probable that this will be run at Drayton School. So any children 9 & upwards that would like to get involved should start by attending our Monday evening Junior table tennis sessions. They run from 7.00p.m. until 8.30 p.m. every Monday. Cost £1 each week. The sessions have become very popular but we can still make room for more keen young players.

It is very pleasing to report that our club is currently thriving. This is not least because we have so many willing adult volunteers within our membership plus the parents of the youngsters who support their children. We won't rest on our laurels and will try to keep the standard high. Children have a lot of options within sport these days so it's good that table tennis is enjoyed by quite a few of them in Drayton.

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BOWLS CLUB

Roll Up

The skittles evening at Radley was another very good night out, 36 members and friends were in attendance and the top three players on the night were Jim Bray, Avril Holmes and Gale Hughes. Thanks must go to all the ladies who put on a great buffet meal for the evening, bringing the curtain down on our 20 years anniversary program. Thanks go to all for the way the events were organized and supported; the next event in line with celebrations will be the presentation dinner dance this year, to be held at Drayton Golf Club on January 16th.

The winter league has not really got under way yet with teams in the evening league having played only one game, and the new afternoon triples league gets started week commencing the 21st October so there should be some info on these to report in the December Chronicle, including Ladies Singles & Gents singles finalists, who will be going through to finals day on December the 7th the final competition this year will be 'The Didcot Windows' open singles this will be held on November the 16th.

DRAYTON WIVES

Pam Lacey

We had a very large attendance at our September meeting when Dr Geoff Hide gave a very interesting talk about the Whitchurch Silk Mill in Hampshire which had been in the ownership of his family for many years. He explained in some detail the various processes involved in weaving the silks and brought along a large selection of the various types of silk material showing the colours and patterns that can be produced. Most of the silk is produced to order for individuals and institutions. The Mill is open to the general public and can be visited throughout the year.

Twelve or so members spent a very enjoyable sunny afternoon visiting the Falklands Memorial Chapel situated in the grounds of Pangbourne College. The Chapel, which is very modern in design, is very impressive especially the magnificent stained glass window with the Cross depicting the Islands surrounded by the sea. The College Chaplain spoke about the history of the College and its connection to building the Chapel in the College grounds.

Dates for your Diary in NOVEMBER:

Mon 10th COFFEE - Rosemary Barlow, 7 Whitehorns Way

Mon 17th WHIST - Barbara Carter, Cardwell D.C

Wed 26th MEETING - Christine Whild - The History of Christmas

Please make a note in your diary that the Christmas Coffee Evening will be held in the Caudwell D.C. at 7.00pm on Mon. 8th Dec.

THAMES WATER UPDATE

Sarah Sharpe

The public consultation on our Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) has now closed. It generated a high level of interest, with over 300 responses received, many of those from residents in Oxfordshire. All comments have been sent to the Department of Food and Rural Affairs (Defra); thank you to those of you who responded.

We will publish a Statement of Response to all representations made during the consultation in line with Defra timescales. This will show how your feedback will be taken into account in preparation of the final Plan. The Statement of Response will be made available to all those who participated in the consultation. The Statement, together with the comments submitted, will be considered by the Secretary of State for Defra. He will decide whether to call for an inquiry or hearing on the draft Plan, or whether to issue directions requiring changes to be made to the draft Plan before final publication.

In the meantime, we had previously launched the Stage 2 consultation on the proposed reservoir in January 2007. This focused on the views of local people regarding landscape, conservation, recreation and design proposals. While the need for the reservoir is still being considered as part of the statutory WRMP, we want to respond to the outstanding issues relating to design, conservation and recreation. We are therefore taking the opportunity to publish the Stage 2 report now so you can see how your comments have directly influenced the design, conservation and recreation aspects of the scheme. There has already been some delay to publishing this report because of the WRMP process and it is important to emphasise that Stage 2 work does not override the draft Plan process in any way.

The Report on Stage 2 Involvement will be available to view on the Thames Water website from 5 November – www.thameswater.co.uk/utmrtd. If you do not have access to the internet you can request a paper copy by calling our freephone number 0800 107 8001

GARD

Nick Thompson

Things are quiet until 5 Nov when Thames Water provide their responses to the 1000 representations sent in as part of the consultation process. Until we see the answers from Thames Water we can only try and ensure that the momentum of opposition is maintained. We have met Caroline Lucas MEP (Green) and she has promised support. The Oxfordshire County Council is commissioning work on effluent re-use, and we are in close touch with the Environment Agency in spite of changes in key personnel.

PCSOs

Derek Pooley

I met Sandra Syphas (in the photo) and Chris Linzey at their surgery on 03 October. They are the Police Community Support Officers assigned to 'look after' Appleford, Drayton and Sutton Courtenay. When in Drayton they are notionally based in the Caudwell day Centre, but for most of the time they will be walking or cycling around the village, acting as 'eyes and ears' for the force in the village.



Although employed by Thames Valley Police and not by a local council, compared with mainstream police officers their powers are quite limited. They do not have the power of arrest for example, though they can detain people for 30 minutes, during which time they can ask a mainstream officer to come and make an arrest if needed. They are empowered to confiscate drugs and alcohol and can issue £80 penalty notices for disorderly behaviour. They can operate SIDs (speed indication devices) and send letters of warning to speeding motorists, but cannot issue summary penalties for speeding as can Drayton's special constable, Craig Dewar.

Before becoming a PCSO Sandra was an estate agent in Witney.

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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Jennifer Pooley

Report of the Parish Council meeting on Monday 6th October 2008

Helicopter flights:

In response to concerns about helicopter flights over Drayton, voiced by a few residents, the Parish Council had invited Fl. Lt. David Powell from RAF Benson to address a public meeting on 29 September. The meeting was advertised in the Chronicle but only five members of the public turned up, along with four Councillors, suggesting that it does not worry too many residents. Mr. Powell explained that Pumas and Merlins (see picture), also police and air ambulance helicopters fly from Benson, along with a few light aircraft (Oxford University squadron etc.). There are constraints about where flying may take place e.g. not over the Harwell Business Park, not over the gallops to the south, nor over Brize Norton territory. Crews are constantly reminded to fly above 500 feet and as far as possible away from built up areas, but in order to gain sufficient experience this isn't always possible, making it almost inevitable that Drayton will sometimes be in the flight path. Mr. Powell emphasised that crews are training to operate in extremely dangerous situations where the ability to fly sometimes as low as 50 - 100 feet is necessary and it is essential that they maintain their skills by constant practice. He tactfully suggested that the extreme danger faced by crews fighting in Iraq perhaps puts into perspective the occasional noisy helicopter over Drayton.



The Reservoir:

Prior to this month's council meeting Malcolm Peters from the Environment Agency addressed the Council and a small number of residents who were interested to hear the EA's response to Thames Water's proposed reservoir. Mr Peters said that the EA has a responsibility to guarantee provision of an adequate water supply and has worked with TW for many years to ensure that TW has considered all possibilities. In fact the EA is not satisfied that that is so and feels that TW should revise its Water Resource Management Plan (WRMP) to align it more closely with Government guidelines on metering, leakage control and re-usage. The EA also thinks that more water could be extracted from reservoirs in the London area but is not in favour of the expensive and energy-intensive transfer of water from other areas. TW will report to DEFRA in the near future, after which the EA will probably be asked to comment. There may subsequently be a public enquiry/hearing or possibly the Secretary of State will just give TW the go-ahead. ➔

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➔ Allotments:

Provision of allotments is a PC duty and since the last meeting allotment holders have had a successful get-together to discuss various matters of concern to holders. As a result the formation of an 'Allotment Association' was proposed and to that end a small committee was formed in the hope that initiatives for new ideas and events would be taken. One matter resolved was that there should be no right of succession over tenancy of allotments, and if there is a waiting list all those wishing to acquire an allotment must wait their turn.

Grant application:

The Chairman had asked Derek Pooley to explain the proposed refurbishment of the Millennium Green sundial, including the design & construction of a permanent gnomon (i.e. the shadow casting device) and an explanatory plaque. This was done in order that the PC should make an informed decision as to whether a grant should be made towards the project. The Chairman was concerned about matters of safety & requested that a safety check be made on the gnomon, so for that reason & because of the absence of several Council members, yet again a decision over a grant was deferred.

Playground:

The children's playground is regularly inspected by ROSPA and the recent inspection was satisfactory. The equipment and surrounding area was found to be in good condition apart from minor things which have already been rectified by our caretaker.

Finally:

Mention has been made before that topple testing will take place in the burial ground in the near future. Prior to that happening a notice will be posted at the burial ground so that the public will be aware of what is happening.

The next PC meeting is on Monday 3rd November 2008 at 7.30pm in the Caudwell Day Centre, open to all.



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DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Webber

The Drayton Village Survey:

A full analysis of some of the issues and results raised by the village survey will be published in the next chronicle. So many replies have already been received, (well done Drayton!), that logging the responses is proving to be a major task. As a taster for what is to come, here are a few general conclusions which can already be drawn:



- There are 945 homes in Drayton. (An increase of nearly 100 over two years ago)
- There are almost as many cars as people.
- There are more bicycles than cars.
- The top issue, in terms of strength of feeling, is probably Bus Services.
- The state of Abingdon's traffic is more of a concern than Drayton's traffic.
- Few people object to the Village growing in numbers.
- Most people who comment on extra housing, would like to see a substantial increase in the amount of affordable housing.
- Most people are unaware of the possibility of an incinerator near Sutton Courtenay/Appleford.

The Sutton Courtenay Incinerator.

As a result of EU directives, we need to drastically reduce the amount of waste going to landfill over the next 10 years. These directives were agreed by all member countries (UK included) some time ago. To encourage all countries to achieve the reduction targets, it was agreed that hefty fines would be imposed on those that fail. Oxfordshire must therefore reduce landfill waste dramatically. An incinerator is seen by many experts as being the best way of doing this. They say that incinerator technology has improved greatly in recent years, with the result that environmental impact has been much reduced.

At this stage, I would want to see a condition put on its building demanding that the proposed site is given a thorough environmental checkover before commencement (the air in that area is already thick with dust). I would also much prefer that those who have already decided that they do not want it did not fly-post around Drayton!

WESTMINSTER LETTER

Ed Vaizey

I have had a busy start to the new parliamentary term. Despite the credit crunch there have been a number of debates on issues that fall within my portfolio. The very first session in Parliament was culture questions, and I raised the issue of world heritage sites. We have 27 in this country, and amazingly 7 are threatened with blacklisting by the international cultural organisation, UNESCO, including Westminster itself. Westminster and the Tower of London are at risk from a series of tall buildings that are planned for London, which would wreck London's historic skyline. I am pushing the Government to refuse these applications and have a proper policy to protect world heritage sites.



We also debated the digital switchover recently. This is a huge scheme to convert all our television to digital, so that by 2012 you will have to have a digital television set or a freeview box to watch telly. The scheme won't be coming to our part of the world for a while, but it is important to get it right as it is already underway.

Finally we had a debate on the BBC licence fee. Every so often, an MP suggests it should be abolished, and this provides an opportunity to debate the whole BBC and have fun at its expense. As far as I am concerned, we need the BBC now more than ever, and provided the licence fee is kept at affordable levels, and the BBC does not over-extend its remit, there is no reason why the BBC cannot continue in its present form.

Affordable is a word that is important these days. We are in the middle of the credit crunch, and a looming recession. I have already had constituents contact me concerning their savings in Icelandic banks, and am doing all I can to help. Our part of the world has a concentration of small hi-tech businesses, and I hope that their specialist nature means that they will be able to see through the recession as well as possible.

I am always available to speak to or meet with constituents facing difficulties. As usual I can be contacted by phone on 020 7219 6350; or by email to vaizeye@parliament.uk; or by post to House of Commons London SW1A 0AA. You can see me personally at my surgeries on Fridays at 5.30pm, at the Faringdon Corn Exchange on 7 November and Didcot, King Alfred Drive Community Centre on 21 November.

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DRAYTON DIARY

FOR NOVEMBER

All events are at Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise
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Regular Events are listed opposite

Sat	2		Private party	
Mon	3	7.30 pm	Parish Council	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
Tues	4		Karate (also subsequent Tuesdays)	
Fri	14	7.30 pm	W.I. quiz night	
Sat	15	2.00 pm	Baptist Chapel Christmas Bazaar	
Sun	16	all day	Bowls	
Mon	17	9.15 am	Chronicle Lottery deadline	<i>Vickery's</i>
		5.15 pm	Chronicle copy deadline	<i>Vickery's box</i>
		7.30 pm	Hall Management Committee	
Sun	30	11.00 am	Toddlers' Christmas Party	

DRAYTON VILLAGE SURVEY

IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN IN!

The more responses we have, currently an excellent 409 households out of 945, the better for getting done what the Village wants.

Vickery's have a box to receive completed surveys and plenty of spare forms for those who have mislaid them.

Closing date for entries is 8th December.

Ed Vaizey, our MP

invites you to a meeting with Chris Smith, new Chairman of the Environment Agency, at **7.00 pm on 5 December at Drayton Village Hall.**

There will be the opportunity to discuss the reservoir, flooding, and farming issues.

PACE CHRISTMAS SALE

Saturday 15 November at 2.00pm

Caudwell Day Centre



New Clothes, Books,
Toys, Games, Gifts, Puzzles etc.



Fantastic Tombola Tea and Biscuits

Candlelight Carol Service

**Drayton Hall at 7.30pm
Sunday 7th December**

Music by Abingdon Town Band,
Drayton Community Choir and
the Wallingford Hand-bell Ringers
also readings and other items
Come and Join us!



Free admission *Mince pies, tea and coffee*
Collection for Action for Children

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	Junior Table Tennis (until 8.30 pm)	<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>
8.00 pm	Senior Table Tennis	<i>School</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>
7.15 pm	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	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
7.15 pm	League Table Tennis	<i>School</i>
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)	
7.15 pm	League Table Tennis	<i>School</i>
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>

CRAFT FAIR

MORE THAN 30 STALLS



**STEVENTON VILLAGE HALL
SUNDAY 16th NOVEMBER
10.30 to 16.30
REFRESHMENTS**

Proceeds to support Marlin Nursery School in The Gambia

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