



DRAYTON CHRONICLE



Issue Editor: Tony Holmes

Volume 31 No.11

December 2008

Candlelight Carol Service



Drayton Hall at 7.30pm
Sunday 7th December

A warm welcome to all.
Enjoy your favourite carols,
readings, poetry, singing

Music by Abingdon Town Band
and the Drayton Community Choir

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



St Peter's Drayton Christmas Services CAROL SERVICE

4:30pm on Sunday 14 December
Service of readings & carols including items from the
school choir

CAROL SINGING - Sat 20th Dec

6pm to 7pm in The Wheatsheaf

CHRISTMAS EVE - Wednesday 24th

4pm Crib service - Nativity Play
which all the children can join in

11:30pm - Midnight Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY - Thursday 25th

8am Holy Communion

10am Family Communion

with carols chosen by congregation



**WISHING EVERYONE,
THAT'S ALL OUR
READERS AND THE
CHRONICLE TEAM, THE
MERRIEST OF
CHRISTMASSES, AND A
HAPPY, HEALTHY AND
(IF POSSIBLE!)
PROSPEROUS NEW
YEAR!**



IN THIS CHRISTMAS EDITION :- Have you snaffled a BONUS Prize in our lottery (Wine or Biscuits)? (P2) -

Are you in one of our 'All Around' groups? - Check out all the various Christmas functions (P3, 5 & 6) -

Lots of letters this month, including on the proposed Incinerator (P7 & 8) - Richard Webber's first instalment of his Village Survey results is on P10 & 11 - And if you've any second-hand uniforms, see the School Report (P12) -

AND DO MAKE A NOTE of the Community Carwash (P14), the Church listings above, (and on P4) ,

PLUS the PUBLIC MEETING Ed Vaizey (MP) is attending with the Environmental Agency Chairman (P8) -

AND furthermore if you think you'll have some puff left for New Year's Eve, see P8 for that too !!

COMING CHRONICLES

The **Jan/Feb (combined) Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Friday, Jan 23rd**, from **Margaret Armstrong (531122)**, who should be contacted by Agents requiring extra copies.

The Editor will be **Derek Pooley (559454)**. Contributions may be e-mailed (see below), or placed in the Chronicle letter box, outside Vickery's store on Drayton Green,

NO LATER than 5.15 pm on Monday, Jan 12th 2009.

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

STOP PRESS - ADVERTISERS should note that the deadline for ads is EARLIER, Friday Jan 9th, due to their preparation time.

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

Editors clear the box from time to time before the deadline. It is a great help when items can be left in the box a few days before the closing date. Thank you.

NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

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

1. If you've Internet access, by **email** to the relevant editor (and please use a meaningful title, we get a lot called Chronicle!) :-

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

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

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

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

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

ADVERTISING RATES

For Block Advert (about 1/12th page)

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

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

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

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

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

CHRONICLE LOTTERY

Daphne Samworth, Hon. Promoter

RESULTS OF THE NOVEMBER LOTTERY

Prize	Winner	Agent
£25	Mr Pitts, 27, Lockway	Jenny Pooley
£20	Mrs A Dewar, 3, Chiers Farm	Margaret Long
£15	S. Woodley, 25, Binning Close	Ann Hutchins
£10	Mrs Clough, 15, Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
£10	J Symmonds, 5, East Way	Teresa Burnage
£10	L Rennels, Meadowside, Abingdon	Lawrence Vickery
£10	Mr Thouless, 33, High Street	Mary Alexander
£10	Mrs J Buckingham, 48, Abingdon Road	Jenny Stevens
£10	P Silver, 51, Abingdon Road	Jane Henderson
£10	Mr Foster 66, Whitehorns Way	Daphne Barrand

Winning tickets, from a total of 2363 sold, were drawn by members of the Art Group. We do need more Agents - could YOU help?

AND THIS MONTH SOME BONUS WINNERS!

	WINE Winners	Agent
	Mr Barak, 37, Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
	Mr Johnson, 10 Corneville Rd	Gerald Redman
	M Brown, 65, Abingdon Road	Jane Henderson
	Mr Chapman, 146, Whitehorns Way	Mirja Boyd
	Mrs G Akers, 4, Marcham Road	Karen Jackson
	J Foster, 10, Newman Lane,	Jean Oliver
	Mr. Downs, Woodside	Claire Soper
	Mrs Willis 105, Abingdon Road	Carol Arnold
	Mrs K Jackson, 10, Marcham Road	Karen Jackson
	Mr Hidditch, 47, Abingdon Road	Jane Henderson

	BISCUITS Winners	Agent
	Mr McSweeney-Bamford, 35 High Street	Margaret Long
	Jackie Walker, 36, Steventon Rd	Jackie Walker
	N Adams, 3, High Street	Mary Alexander
	Mira Thomas, 55, High Street	Jane Henderson
	R Berry, 28, Binning Close	Ann Hutchins
	Mrs Roberts, 14, Stevenson Road	Judy Henman
	K Davies, 6, Church Lane	Susan Brooks
	L Shepherd, 1 Newman Lane	Jean Oliver
	Mrs Sadler, 55, Whitehorns Way	Mirja Boyd
	Mrs K James, 15, Marcham Road	Karen Jackson

THE FOLLOWING THREE MONTHS

Issue for	Copy for publication and return of Agents Lottery Packs by Monday:-	Chronicle published and available for distribution on Friday:-
March	16 Feb	27 Feb
April	16 Mar	27 Mar
May	20 Apr	1 May

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

ALL AROUND

DRAYTON WIVES

Pam Lacey

We had a very good attendance at our meeting in October when Roy Dennison gave a very interesting talk on the life and colourful poetry of John Betjeman, at one time the Poet Laureate.

Dates for your Diary in December

Mon 8th CHRISTMAS COFFEE EVENING
7pm @ Caudwell DC
Mon 15th WHIST Pam Lacey Caudwell D.C.

THE WHEATSHEAF



Austin & Geraldine
welcome you: to enjoy

Traditional **Home Cooked** Food,
Fine Wines and Beers
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There are some bookings available for
Christmas Parties and Christmas Day

Take away Fish & Chips: served Mon - Sat until 8pm
Delicious Home Cooked Roast Lunch: Sun 12-5pm
Senior Citizens Lunchtime Menu Tuesday to Friday
£5.95 including sweet

Bookings:- call Gel or Austin (01235 531485)
Drayton (on the village green)
<http://www.thewheatsheafdrayton.co.uk/>

The ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Pearl Stanbridge

Wishing all members and their families a Very Happy Christmas, and a Peaceful New Year.

The next Committee meeting will be held on Monday 15th December at 8 pm.

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

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

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

*Men's hair-dressing on Mondays, 6.30 to 8.00 pm,
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WORKSHOP: 01865 864636

Drayton BOWLS Club

'Roll Up'

Winter leagues are underway and all teams have made a reasonable start, with the evening teams both in mid-table, and in the new afternoon triple league 'The Wasps' have made the best start winning both their games and are top of that league, but still a long way to go.

Internal competitions, 'The John Berry' fours Monday league looks like it's going to the wire with at least 3 teams in contention with 3 games to play, the Wednesday league also going to the last game before a winner can be found.

The result of the recent competitions were as follows, Ladies single finalists were Jean Mullins and Val Locke, and the gents finalists were Bryn Jones and Jack Mitchenson, and also going though to the finals in 'The Didcot Windows' open singles, the semi-finalists are Nick Carter, Tony Wright, John Goodacre, Cyril Carter, these will be played on finals day December 7th when seven other finals will be completed. This promises to be a great day out with over 24 members taking part in the different competitions.

Twenty-two members from the club had an enjoyable 4 days on the Isle of Wight recently, with June being the only winner in a triple competition; well done June, but a nice time was enjoyed by all, and most have rebooked for next year.

And finally :- a Best Wishes for Christmas and a happy and healthy new year to all members old and new!

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

ST PETER'S CHURCH



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

CHURCH NOTICES

REGULAR SERVICES

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

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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

CALENDAR (December & January)

Tues	2nd	3.00 pm	1st Tuesday Connections	Church Room
Sat	6th	10.00 am	Sale of Fair Trade goods (until 11 am)	
Sun	7th	11.15 am	Sale of Fair Trade goods (until 11.45 am)	
(JAN)				
Sat	3rd	10.00 am	Sale of Fair Trade goods (until 11 am)	
Sun	4th	11.15 am	Sale of Fair Trade goods (until 11.45 am)	
Tues	6th	3.00 pm	1st Tuesday Connections	Church Room

PARISH REGISTER

Burial of Ashes	Oct 28th	William Gilbert Bradfield
Funeral	Nov 6th	Walter Burgess

YOU STAY - WE PRAY

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

30 Nov – 13 Dec:- Lockway, Whitehorns Way
 14 – 20 Dec:- Corneville Rd, Crabtree Lane, Lesparre Close
 21 – 27 Dec:- Drayton Rd, Milton Rd, New Cut Mill, Fisher Close, Marcham Rd, Meads Close, Rippington Court, Stone Mill.

Letter from St Peter's Church

Dear Friends,

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS IN NEPAL

In Charles Dickens's book 'A Christmas Carol' Scrooge is very reluctant to give his clerk Bob Cratchit a day off for Christmas. In the 1850s it was not an official holiday and Christmas was not much celebrated except perhaps with a religious service. However Dickens was aware that things were beginning to change, and Christmas under the Victorians became the festival we know and love today. Now it would be unthinkable for an employer to refuse a holiday for Christmas Day. In fact we have now turned Christmas more or less into a secular festival with only a nodding acknowledgement to Christian origins of the birth of Jesus.

It is, therefore, hard to imagine a country where Christmas is not only not celebrated, but not even recognised. Until this year Nepal was such a country. The small mountain kingdom of Nepal has been mainly Hindu, and as recently as 1990 it was illegal to practice any form of Christianity. In the last 12 months great changes have taken place. Nepal has removed its ancient monarchy, had largely peaceful elections and become a federal democratic republic. Part of the process has been to give equal recognition all the country's religious groups. As a result 25 December 2008 will be a public holiday in Nepal - schools, offices and factories will all be closed - Christians will be able to go freely and peaceably to church. For the Christians of Nepal it is a time of rejoicing to gain such freedom.

Perhaps it would be good for us to pause in the midst of the hectic dash towards secular festivities and return to the basic meaning of the season. The heart of Christmas is the birth of Jesus - the Saviour of the World - **do come and celebrate** that with us at St Peter's. There are plenty of opportunities - see our adverts with the full range of Christmas services on page 1.

PRAISE AT TEN 2009

Many services at St Peter's are communion services, but we do recognise that there are people in the community who would like to come along to the church but who feel that the services are too formal or something which they do not fully understand. Therefore in 2009, on the third Sunday of each month, we are planning a series of informal services called '**Praise at Ten**'. The launch service will be '**Songs of Praise**' at 10am on **Sunday 18 January**. Very much like the TV version there will be an opportunity for people to choose a favourite hymn, say why it is important to them, and then we will all sing it. (contact me if you would like to know how to do this on 01235 531374).

Later on in the year we are planning other services like:- **African Praise, Gospel Praise and Youth Praise**. In the summer we are going to organise a pets service when you can bring along your dog, cat or other pet and we can give thanks for the love and joy that pets bring. We hope **this will be an opportunity for more people to feel welcome to join in** our wide range of activities.

Welcome to you all

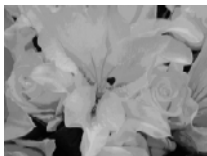
Josie Midwinter

YOU STAY - WE PRAY (continued . . .)

28 Dec - 10 Jan:-	Steventon Road; Eastway; Eastway MHP
11 - 17 Jan:-	Church Lane; Henleys Lane; Caudwell Close; Gravel Lane
18 Jan - 31 Jan:-	Abingdon Road; Oday Hill; Binning Close; Haywards Road



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(MORE) ALL AROUND

DRAYTON PLAYERS

Jean Hager

And now for something completely different! Last month I spoke of our disappointment at having to abandon our production of FIDDLER ON THE ROOF. I am very happy now to reveal that we've found an alternative and we hope it will appeal to everyone.

We shall be staging a **murder mystery** which includes an interval supper – and audience participation to work out who did what. It is a new departure for us and, at our first reading, enthusiasm was really high. The production dates will be 20th and 21st February, and all details will be found in the next Chronicle at the end of January. We have received some very gratifying and positive comments about our last choice of entertainment and feel sure this next venture will be equally as much fun for Players and audiences alike.

We look forward to seeing you at one of the performances, and don't forget to come prepared to do a little sleuthing; you will certainly need your little grey cells! In the meantime we wish everybody a blessed Christmastide and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Mrs Suzy Willis

MCSP SRP AACP

CHARTERED PHYSIOTHERAPIST

Old Lodge, Henleys Lane

Drayton, OX14 4HU

Tel 01235 531269

Please ring for an appointment

Drayton Pre-School Playgroup Debbie Bargas

During this term we have been looking at the winter festivals such as Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas. We have made Diwali pots and have been trying different Rangoli patterns. We have also continued to look at the changing of the seasons, collecting leaves to use in pictures and for printing and making snowflakes from paper. We have also been making hedgehog pictures using the childrens handprints. We had a visit from the local Firemen, who talked to the children about the dangers and safety of fireworks. The visit was loved by all including the staff!!!

We will be having our Christmas singing and raffle on Thursday 18th December at 10.30am, children will need to be at preschool for 10.15am and must be accompanied at all times. The raffle will be drawn after the singing, **we would be grateful for donations**, please place in the decorated box inside Preschool.

The annual Christmas party is being held on Fri 19th December 11am til 2pm, children can be dropped off, although there will not be any normal sessions.

We would like to thank all who donated in exchange for apples in Sutton Wick Lane, the donations are very much appreciated and we hope you enjoyed your apple pies and crumbles.

There is an easy way to help our fundraising, if you order goods via the internet, you can register at www.easyfundraising.org.uk You choose a charity, we are on the list, then when you buy online from major companies (eg Amazon, Next, Play.com, Woolies, Ebay and The Book People), **they give a percentage to us at no extra cost to you.**

Also coming up: End of Term: Last sessions on Wed 17th Dec, Christmas Singing and Raffle on Thurs 18th and Christmas Party on Fri 19th Dec. Spring Term begins on Tues 6th Jan 2009.

ST PETER'S CHURCH HOME-VISITING GROUP

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

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



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Drayton TODDLERS

Julie Laws

We will soon be saying goodbye to 2008 and hello to a brand new year. This year has flown by and we look forward to 2009 and all the fun it will bring!

At the end of October the children enjoyed some spooky Hallowe'en fun and some tasty snacktime treats. Thank you very much Joy! There were some great decorations too made by some of the older children.

By the time you are reading this the adults will have enjoyed their evening at the Red Lion and the children will have had their Christmas party. Thank you very much to the organisers.

In the new year, we will be holding a Nearly New Sale in the village hall. Watch this space for more details.

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 on 07849 314916 or Tracey on 07732 533057.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and our very best wishes for 2009.



The Red Lion



Glenn & Janet welcome you

11.30am – 11pm Monday to Saturday

12 noon – 10.30pm Sunday

Come and try our delicious home-cooked food

Enjoy dining in traditional pub surroundings or, weather permitting, in our beautiful garden, complete with covered patio & play area.

Lunches Monday – Saturday 11.30am – 2pm

Evening Meals Monday – Friday 6pm – 8pm

Senior Citizen lunchtime discount 20%

En-suite Bed & Breakfast available, call for details

We are always seeking people to join our darts, aunt sally, cribbage and pool teams, if interested, just pop-in

For party bookings or enquiries

Phone 01235 531457



The Red Lion



BAPTIST CHURCH

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

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

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

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

(MORE) ALL AROUND

DRAYTON W.I. Brenda Malin

An Amusing, if not quite what we had bargained for, talk at our last meeting on the 'Joys of Old Age'; had most of us in stitches, and not the medical kind.

Our annual Quiz Evening was a **great success**. Plenty of enthusiastic competitors from Drayton and surrounding villages took part, pitting their brains against one another and generally enjoying the company. A **goodly sum was raised** for our funds and the **Raffle raised £100** for the local branch of the Parkinson Association. Many thanks to all who supported us and attended the evening and **we look forward to seeing you all next year**.

Our advertised Coffee morning on December 6th has unfortunately had to be cancelled

Anyone who is interested in the WI and would like to find out more is most welcome to join us informally, at our meeting on the **second Thursday of each month** (7.30 pm) at the Caudwell Day Centre (but see below re Dec!).

NB Dates for your diary → December 11th - Caudwell Day Centre @ 7.30 **Christmas Party**.

FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS

Are you feeling lonely, isolated or in need of some friendly company? Why not come along to our monthly tea and chat afternoons. They are held on the first Tuesday of the month in St Peter's Church Room from 3.00 pm to 4.30 pm and you are invited to drop in during these times.

The teapot is always at the ready and you can be sure of a warm welcome. Our next two dates are Dec 2nd, and Jan 6th. If you need transport or further information please give me (Jean Hager) a call on 531558.

MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

Devotees of this service will be aware of the Drayton schedule, alternate Wednesdays, but perhaps potential new readers may like to be aware of upcoming dates :- Dec 3, 17 & 31, Jan 14 & 28, stopping at Haywards Road 11:00 to 11:15am, The Cross 11:20 to 11:40 am, and Lyford Close 11:45 to 12 noon.

The library has a wide range of books, info, etc, join online via www.oxfordshire.gov.uk - and books can be borrowed for an extra week, four instead of three.

Drayton Table-Tennis John Gould

The Club was very saddened to learn of the death of our former Chairman John Prior at the age of 56. John was a much loved member of Drayton Table Tennis Club for many years. He represented the club in the Didcot League with dignity and played the game with determination but always with great sportsmanship. He always gave credit to his opponents whether winning or losing.

John was a regular at our club practice sessions, helping to supervise our junior players and supported all of our social activities. He was a driving force behind the scenes and was happily involved in the running of the Club.

John served as Vice Chairman for spell and was appointed Club Chairman in 1995. These were difficult times as our membership had dropped off quite dramatically. However John was heavily involved in reorganising the affairs that enabled the club to turn things round. In 1999 he left Drayton, having moved to Blackburn with his work. By this time the club had started to thrive again. However John kept in touch with the us and was very pleased that the club continues to provide sport for those in our village and surrounds.

In 1993 we held our inaugural Club Championships. John became our 1st Club Singles Champion. He was very pleased to have won this event, and with the later knowledge that the tournament has become an annual event. Even so John's interest was in playing the game and not winning at the cost of sportsmanship. He was ever keen to ensure that our members represented the club in the proper way and his attitude rubbed off on many of our younger players.

John Prior was a really good bloke and he will be missed by everyone who knew him at Drayton Table Tennis Club.

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Drayton Twinning Society Michael Bell

Since 2000 your Twinning group has been going strong. In August it was our turn to send a group to Lesparre for another memorable occasion. During October we organised a Countryside Walk in Letcombe Bassett which was much enjoyed by existing and several new members. Ken Giles provided an excellent running commentary (well, walking really) during the 4 mile excursion followed by a picnic in their village hall.

Forthcoming Events:- We are organising a **Cheese and Wine** evening at the Caudwell Day Centre on Friday 16th January 2009 at 7:30pm. **Newcomers are always welcome** so do consider coming along to join us and finding out more.

As we look forward to hosting a group from Lesparre in August 2009, we shall discuss ideas towards an itinerary for their 5th visit to Drayton. **Perhaps you could consider hosting?** If you are unable to make the meeting do call Michael Bell (531388) or Stephen Fearnley (531347) for more information.

YOUR LETTERS (page 8 too)

Poppy Appeal - Thanks

Dear Sir, 11 High St, Milton

The 2008 Poppy Appeal in Drayton totalled £1,563.02 for which grateful thanks to everyone who donated. In this time of extreme credit crunch, we are grateful that we are only 8% down on last year, which was a record total.

Thanks you to all the many collectors who worked so hard for this worth-while cause, and especially to the five new collectors who volunteered this year for the first time.

Thank you to everyone from the Royal British Legion, and from the any service people who are helped by the funds.

Diana and Peter Hasting

Janet Manning HOMOEOPATH

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11 Newman Lane, Drayton

DRAYTON DROP-IN / YOUTH ZONE

Dear Sir,

Everyone has responded with great enthusiasm to our combined sessions each Monday for young people at the village hall, run as part of the Damascus Youth Project.

They are :- 6.30-7.30 Drayton Youth Zone (yr 6-10) and 7.45-8.45 the DDI (Drayton Drop In 15+).

The **last session this year** will be **15th December**. We then break for Christmas and the clubs will be back in the New Year from Monday 5th January 2009.

Grateful thanks to all the Volunteers and the Damascus Youth Workers!

If you would like any further information, or **would like to volunteer**, please contact **Melanie Parker** on 07799 850974.



Letters to the Editor

You may request that your name & address are not shown; however we **MUST** have those details, and phone number in case any text needs verification. NB Please also note that, although we welcome submissions on a variety of topics, the Editor reserves the right to shorten, clarify or reject any letter or supplied text.

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PACE Sale - Thanks

Dear Sir, 20 Steventon Road

We should like, through the Chronicle, to thank the people who supported the Pace sale in the Caudwell Day Centre on Saturday 15th November. We made £312 for Pace, and Natasha made an appearance in her wheel chair. She was full of fun and laughter as usual.

We were sorry not to see families; there were many children's toys and games.

Thank you to all the helpers – Denise, Jill, Dean, Ryan and Anna, Ann, Rosemary and Frances. You all worked so hard!

Yours sincerely,

Derek and Judy Henman

Gnomon the Range – well, The Green!

Dear Sir, 1 Crabtree Lane

I would like, through the Chronicle, to thank Derek Pooley and his team of helpers for installing the Gnomon (the stationary arm that projects the shadow on to the sundial) and for giving us an interesting object of conversation as we take a stroll through the Millennium Green. As Derek says, the project is not yet finished.

It needs a plaque explaining why it was built and a capsule containing information about the villagers, so all contributions will be gratefully accepted by the Millennium Green Trust Chairman, Nick Hamilton, at Sutton Wick Barn, Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton.

Yours,

Frank Armstrong



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YOUR LETTERS (continued)

Grateful Thanks

Dear Sir, 8 Haywards Road

On Thursday 23rd October, my grandson Lewis Bowers had a nasty accident at the bike track just past the A34 fly-over. He was badly concussed, did not know where he was or what had happened to him, he had 2 teeth broken and was badly bleeding from cuts all over his mouth and face.

Two young lads found him in this state, and were extremely sensible, they ran to the first bungalow opposite to get Lewis some help. A lovely lady by the name of Jan Penny went over to the bike park and took him home. He was cohesive enough to be able to tell her his home phone number. Lewis was badly shook up, and was transferred to the John Radcliffe, where he spent the night under observation. Thankfully, he is well now (apart from needing a bit of dental work in the near future, to build his teeth up).

We would like to thank Jan for her wonderful kindness on the day, and after the event. We would also very much like to trace the 2 lads who were extremely sensible on the day of the accident. They left the scene without leaving their names. We only know that they are from Drayton, but do not go to Drayton Primary school. One of the lads had ginger/blond coloured hair.

We would very much like to thank the lads personally, so if they could be traced, we would love them to ring us on Ab. 523674. I am sure their families would be very pleased to hear how extremely sensibly they acted when they found Lewis. They should be very proud of their actions.

From Lewis, & very grateful Grandparents Gill and John Bowers

Drayton Youth Zone & Drayton Drop In

part of the Damascus Youth Project

Combined sessions will run from now until 15th December

6.30-7.30 Drayton Youth Zone (yr 6-10)

7.45-8.45 the DDI (Drayton Drop In 15+)

we then break for Christmas and the clubs will be back in the New Year from Monday 5th January 2009.

Any queries please contact Melanie on 07799 850974.

Ed Vaizey, our MP

invites YOU to a meeting with Chris Smith, new Chairman of the Environmental Agency

**At 7 pm on 5th December (Friday)
at Drayton Village Hall.**

There will be the opportunity to discuss the **reservoir, flooding and farming issues** (approx half an hour on each topic)

MISSED OUT ON YOUR CHRONICLE?

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

The Wheatsheaf New Year's Eve Dinner Dance

8 'til late @ Drayton Village Hall

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(£5 of which will be donated to St Peter's Church)

Table of 10 for the price of 9

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Please call in and purchase sooner rather than later to avoid disappointment.....

Call Geraldine on 01235 531485



OPEN LETTER TO THE RESIDENTS OF DRAYTON - PROPOSED INCINERATOR AT SUTTON COURTENAY

Dear Sir, The Pump House, SC
Oxfordshire County Council are currently considering a proposal to build a very large incinerator close to Didcot Power Station, to burn 300,000 tons of waste a year!

A campaign has been launched to oppose planning permission for such an incinerator. The VofWH District Council has agreed and raised 12 objections with the County Council.

NB :- No independent study is being made into the health issues involved, nor any study planned on the cumulative impact of adding a large incinerator to the Power Station and landfill site.

Incineration can cause air pollution over a 12+ miles radius.

There are less damaging alternatives and County Councillors have been denied the opportunity to debate the options.

It is crucially important that all local residents understand the risks involved with incinerators. We urge you therefore to look at the web site www.scai.co.uk and read the mass of other information. We all owe it to our children to be much better informed about the potential impact on the local community over the next 25 years! If you agree then please sign the on-line petition, (just follow the website links on the front page).

Please do also consider writing a letter of objection to your County Councillor and MP before January, as these can be very influential! Remember Asbestos was also once considered to be safe! We look forward to your support.

Yours faithfully,

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PARISH COUNCIL (Nov 3rd)

With seven of the eight Councillors present, plus Mr. and Mrs. Badcock (our County Councillors), this month's meeting had the fullest attendance for some time. However, there were no members of the public there.

Mr. and Mrs. Badcock reported that they have requested that double yellow lines shall be painted on both sides of the stretch of road between the Caldecott and Ock Street roundabouts. When the new housing development on the former garage site is completed they fear that inadequate parking space there may lead to drivers parking on the B4017, obstructing traffic flow along that very busy stretch of road. Whilst this is not directly connected with Drayton it will doubtless be of interest to Drayton road users. Time will tell whether the request is granted. Mr. Badcock also said that he has been in touch with the County Officer at Drayton Depot in an attempt to prohibit vehicles driving and parking along Kiln Lane which is a bridleway; again he awaits the outcome.

Melanie Parker, Chair of the Council's Leisure and General Purposes Committee, agreed to draw up draft guidelines for the allotment holders' newly formed small committee. The allotment users have asked for their own notice board so that information and gardening ideas can be shared, so this may be one of the first things the committee achieves.

Other work to be undertaken in the near future will be the planting of more beech saplings in order to improve the boundary hedge between the allotments and the burial ground. It is also hoped that graffiti currently adorning the village hall outer wall will be removed.

→>>>

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Residents will have noticed the orange protest notices widely displayed by Sutton Courtenay's incinerator protest group. So far Drayton PC has not become involved although the Council's chairman, Daniel Scharf, and I went to the VWHDC's recent planning meeting where the incinerator was on the agenda. The committee pointed out that they had not been shown crucial pieces of evidence and until their receipt, they withheld approval of WRG's planning application. Oxfordshire CC is the final arbiter, and the Vale planners can only submit their opinions for consideration. At our November meeting Parish Councillors decided to invite a representative from the Environment Agency to come and explain more about the proposed incinerator.

At the same planning meeting, representations were made by a Sutton Wick resident and by a PC Planning Committee member, objecting to the retrospective planning permission sought for two newly built houses at 35 Sutton Wick Lane, which in several ways flouted the original planning permission, resulting in a building felt by many to be inappropriate for its surroundings. Sadly, the protests were not upheld and retrospective permission was granted.

Following much controversy and a long and heated argument it was decided that the Parish Council should make a **generous contribution to the Millennium Green Trust** in order that the refurbishment of the sundial could be completed.

The next meeting will be on **Monday 1st December at 7.30pm in the Caudwell Day Centre** and as always everyone is welcome to attend.
Jenny Pooley

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YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

VILLAGE SURVEY RESULTS

As promised, here are the results of the Village Survey conducted in August and September. With responses still coming in, the response rate is a little over 50%. I am told that this is unusually high for this kind of survey. Well done, Drayton!

There is far too much information in the responses to summarise it all in one edition of the Chronicle, so I propose to present the results to the formal questions asked in this issue, and further present the suggestions and added points raised in the Jan/Feb issue. Some of the points raised will be discussed at the next Parish Council Meeting on 1st December.

General

There are 935 homes in Drayton. This is about 100 more than two years ago.

The survey suggest that there are around 2325 people living in the village (2.46 per household). The average age is 46. Only 20% of our population is under 18, 48% is over 50, There are an estimated 1430 Cars in Drayton, 180 motorbikes and 1400 bicycles.

Results and ranking of responses to questions

<u>Question</u>	<u>Mean rating on 1-10 scale</u>
Do we enjoy living in Drayton ?	8.28
How much does Abingdon's traffic worry us ?	8.18
Do we need more for the young to do ?	7.35
Does the Speed of traffic in Drayton worry us?	7.16
Do we use recycling centre ?	7.11
Does the SC/Appleford incinerator worry us ?	6.38
Would the Reservoir worry us ?	6.26
Do we need more affordable housing ?	6.15
Do we need sports facilities ?	6.13
Do we use other shops than PO ?	6.09
Does the Volume of traffic in Drayton worry us?	6.08
How much would 10% more housing worry us ?	5.50
How much do we use Post Office?	5.12
<hr/>	
How much do we use the bus service?	2.95
How much do we participate in village clubs/societies?	2.08
How much do we use the Village Hall?	1.76
How much do we use the playground?	1.20
How much do we use the Recreation ground?	0.95

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Do we enjoy living in Drayton?

In spite of cars, reservoirs, incinerators, planning issues and even looming economic hard times, the answer to this question is a very firm YES.

Interestingly, the rating increases from 8.26 to 8.70 in homes with one or more 70+ year olds. Perhaps every home needs one, or maybe the concept of 'Grumpy' old men and women is a myth!

How much does Abingdon's traffic worry us?

Apparently far more than any of Drayton's own traffic issues. This message will be made very clear at the next meeting of the Abingdon Integrated Transport Advisory Group. The issue is one for the whole area, not just Abingdon.

The rating of 8.18 falls to 7.42 in households with 0 cars, and rises to 8.67 in households with 2+ cars and to 8.71 in households with 3+ cars. It seems that the more cars we own, the more worried we are about traffic in general! Do we need to look at ourselves?

Drayton's Traffic issues

There is no significant difference in the rankings between households with 1 car, 2+ cars and no cars. There is general agreement that speed is a greater issue than volume of traffic. As for buses, 2.95 may not seem a high ranking, but it means that about 800 people in the village use or would like to use buses. The written comments strongly support this.

(continued onto page 11 →>>>)

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YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

VILLAGE SURVEY RESULTS (2)

Housing and Planning

Planning issues, without doubt, produce more discord in this village than any other single issue. I am no planning expert, but, for what it is worth, I have learnt the following in the past two years:-

Planning Law is based on the presumption that a man may do with his property, what he likes, unless there is good reason that he should not be allowed to.

The law allows people to build to the very edge of their property unless there is good reason why they should not.

Most serious disputes arise when properties are developed by people who have no intention of living in the altered property themselves or who move very shortly after alterations have been made.

The District Council is charged with ensuring that property planning law has been adhered to.

Too often developers are employed who are not members of the 'Considerate Developers Association' and who prefer to engage in 'verbals' with neighbours.

It would make my life much easier if all those involved in future developments in the village have absorbed the 5 points above.

A sizeable majority of people in this village would welcome more affordable housing as a means of getting more young families into the village.

Recreational facilities and the young

The overwhelming majority of people (of all ages) in the village would like there to be far more facilities for the young.

Other village facilities

The Recycling Centre is extremely well used.

Village Hall is badly underused.

A very small minority are members of any of Drayton's Clubs and societies.

Recreation Ground (otherwise known as the Football Ground) is used by less than one person in ten in the village. Is this because they think of it as The Football Ground?

Although there was no formal question on the Millennium Green, there were many comments which will be summarised in the next issue.

Given the regrettably small number of under 10s in the village, the Playground is well used. →>>

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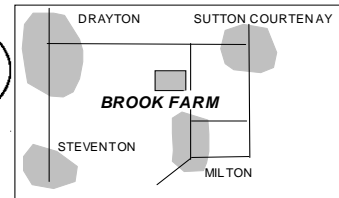
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Reservoirs and Incinerators

The village is divided about 4/1 against the reservoir. I would like to remind everyone that my position is that the process for making the decision is hopelessly flawed, and hence, so far, at least, it is impossible to decide one way or the other.

Many are against the incinerator, but **an even larger number were not aware that it was a possibility**. This looks like a serious failure in public information dissemination.

Shops and Post Office

A small majority of families use the Post Office at some time, but a large majority of households with 1 or more 70+ year olds use it. Given our proximity to large shopping centres, a welcome majority use the village shops.

What happens now?

With hard facts and figures, we are much more likely to be listened to. Open letters will be sent to the various relevant authorities early in the New Year, listing the points raised above. Any replies received will be published in subsequent Chronicles.

Best wishes for a Very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Richard Webber (534001 richard.webber77@ntlworld.com)

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Drayton School

Naomi Broomfield

The classes have been named now which is lovely; the theme is **birds** as chosen by the children and teachers. A new logo is also being designed.

Robin Class (Reception) are discovering about light sources and have done some fantastic firework artwork which is on display in their class room.

Raven Class (year 1 & 2) are looking at the theme 'where the wild things are' which has included making monster vegetable jellies! They are looking at electricity and will be making circuits to light up Rudolph's nose. Both Raven and Robin are preparing for their nativity play "It's a Party".

Kingfisher Class (years 3 & 4) are investigating weather around the world and have lots of art projects lined up. Eagle Class (years 5 & 6) are still enjoying their work on World War 2 and are due to visit the interactive museum 'Steam' in the next few weeks. Year 6 children are singing their hearts out ready for the Abingdon School Christmas Carol Service. Both Kingfisher and Eagle are busy preparing for their play which is "Robin Hood the Pantomime".

Thank you to the parents who braved the weather for the school clear up; we did a fantastic job!!

We recently had our first **second hand uniform** sale which went well and will now hopefully become a regular sale. **Thank you to Liz and Annette** for all the washing, sorting and selling. **If you have any good clean uniforms** (including brownie, cubs, gym, ballet etc) please bring into the school or ask Sam Gibbard or me for further information.

Play dates:- "**It's a Party**" performances on Monday 15th at 1.45pm and Tuesday 16th at 5pm. "**Robin Hood**" performances on Wednesday 10th at 6pm and Thursday 11th at 6pm.

Tickets available from the school office.

Christmas Dinner Thursday 18th December

School finishes on Friday 19th December and **returns** on Tuesday 6th Jan

Hope you all have a fantastic Christmas and New Year.



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YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL CONTACTS :-

Parish (Clerk)	Marie Sellwood (200042);
District (VofWH)	Richard Webber (534001);
& Oxfordshire County	Mike & Marilyn Badcock (201810).

ED VAIZEY - Your Local MP

I held a debate on the reservoir in Parliament a couple of weeks ago. MPs can apply for short debates to raise issues that are important to their constituency. I have only held one before, on the threat of the closure of mental health services in Oxfordshire. Getting an adjournment debate is always pot luck, you have to apply to the Speaker and a ballot is held. I had applied for six weeks before my ship came in, and it coincided with the evening I was meant to appear on the BBC's Question Time - so Question Time was sunk by the reservoir!

The threat of a large reservoir south of Abingdon has been hovering over us for almost two decades, but now it seems more likely than ever. Thames Water says it is needed to supply water to the growing population in the south east, as well as to cope with climate change. It seems hard to believe but we live in one of the most water-stressed area of the planet.

There used to be two well-worn arguments against the reservoir - that Thames Water should fix its leaking pipes, and people should use water meters. **These issues are now being dealt with.** So we are concentrating on two other arguments - first, whether Thames Water's predictions for water use are right - they predict 165 litres per person per day, whereas the Government suggest 130 litres per person, a significant difference. Also, are there alternative sources of water, such as effluent reuse, used by other water companies?

The crux of my argument, though, is that **we need a public enquiry**. All the arguments need to be tested in an open tribunal, so people know whether or not the right decision has been made. The Government wants to make the decision behind closed doors, using its new Planning Infrastructure Committee, and whatever one's views on the reservoir, that is not acceptable.

If you need to get in touch with me, telephone 020 7219 6350, write to me at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA, or you can e-mail me on vaizeye@parliament.uk; website www.vaizey.com has up to date news and surgery details: -

There is no need to book an appointment (times are from 5.30 pm to 7pm unless stated). Upcoming surgeries :- Grove, Old Mill Hall (Dec 12th) and **PUBLIC MEETING - DRAYTON Dec 5th - see ad on page 8.**

OTHER LOCAL PLACES OF WORSHIP

Methodist Chapel Sunday Service: 10.30 am
High Street, Milton
Local contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409

CHRISTMAS STARS OF REMEMBRANCE

Christmas is seen as a happy and joyful time when families can come together to share the festivities. However for some it can be a time of sadness remembering a loved one who has died. There seems to be a permanent gap at the table, round the fireside or in the pile of presents under the tree. There is nothing that can really fill that gap.

But if you would like to put a **message for your loved one** on the Christmas tree in the church you are welcome to do so.

At the back of the church you will find a **box of gold stars**, write your message and hang it on the tree. The tree will be in church from Sun Dec 21st to Sun Jan 4th, when at the 10am service we will take the stars down and offer them in prayer.

LISTINGS

Christmas Celebration Concerts :- Trinity (Dec 5th) and St Helens (6th) Churches - 7.30 pm featuring Abingdon Operatic Society and Town Band - tickets £7 from Newbury Building Society or the Abingdon Town Council Office.

FLEA MARKET Steventon Hall - Sun Dec 7th 10 to 4.

AND **DO YOU KNOW ANYONE** with a recently acquired Golden Labrador? 'Muffin' (4 mths old bitch) was stolen from Appleton in October. There's a **£1,000 reward** for info, call 01865 864320.

Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock (Garden Gallery) has the **Oxfordshire Craft Guild Christmas Exhibition** until 4th January - that special Christmas gift from a local craftsman . . .

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NB You may now check Hall bookings online :-

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

Mon	1	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting (p9)	<i>Caudwell DC</i>
Tues	2	3.00pm	First Tuesday	<i>Church Room</i>
Fri	5	7.00pm	PUBLIC MEETING (see p8 ad)	
Sat	6		Private Party	
Sun	7		Bowls Finals (all day)	<i>Large Hall</i>
	7	7.30pm	CAROL SERVICE	
Mon	8	7.00pm	Coffee Evening (Wives)	<i>Caudwell DC</i>
Thur	11	7.30pm	WI Christmas Party	<i>Caudwell DC</i>
Fri	12		Private Booking	
Sat	13		Private Booking	
Sun	14		Private Booking	
Sat	20		Community Carwash!	
Wed	31	8.00pm	New Year's Eve Dinner Dance (p8)	
JAN				
Mon	5	6.30pm	DDI & Youth Zone Restarts	
Tues	6	3.00pm	First Tuesday	<i>Church Room</i>
Mon	12	5.15pm	CHRONICLE DEADLINE	<i>Vickery's</i>
Fri	16	7.30pm	Twining Party (p6)	<i>Caudwell DC</i>



St Peter's Drayton 'Songs of Praise' 10am on Sunday 18 January

A service of hymns and songs which have been chosen by organisations and people in the village. Each person will say a few words about their choice. An opportunity for people to choose their favourite hymn to be sung in the service; pick up form from the church if you would like your choice included

HALL MANAGEMENT

The Hall committee met on Nov 17th. The members were told that the car park had been patched, and further work would take place next year. We have had 2 broken internal door glasses, both accidental but unfortunately very expensive repairs.

Our treasurer went through the financial statement with us, she explained that we need to think to the future and invest our capital now, this was agreed, and options would be investigated. The bad news was also given that the fees are to go up on Jan 1st, this is the first increase for a while, but it was inevitable I'm afraid.

We had a report from Gary Hibbens on the progress of the Drop-In club, and the younger set, Youth Zone. Using the hall has improved the young peoples' care of the building, they look after it for us, when we are not there. We are still getting a few minor breakages but on the whole things are a good deal better, for which we thank them. The young people are having a car wash session on 20th Dec to help towards the replacement of the door glass, please support them all you can.

The big event of the recent past was the removal of a considerable amount of lead from the rear of the roof. Luckily they didn't get it all, we did recover some, but unusable I'm afraid.

We are sending a message out to all users, saying that they must be more aware of Hall expenses; turn off all unused lights, turn off heating, especially before you leave. The lights and the heating have been left on several times lately and our bill has increased the same as domestic fuel. The thorny issue of storage has arisen again, we simply must rethink the hall's storage, all the users seem to be getting more and more possessions in the storage area.

The hall Christmas decorations will be put up on Friday 28th November so that the toddler group will have a festive Hall for their party. Finally - if you are a hall regular please get your bookings for next year in A.S.A.P. especially any extra events you are planning. Thank you - and a **Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year** to all our patrons. *Ann Webb*

THE REGULAR EVENTS LIST IS BACK NEXT MONTH !

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