

# DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Derek Pooley

Volume 32 No. 1

January/February 2009

## PARISH COUNCILLORS

Please support your community by becoming a Parish Councillor!

By committing just a minimum of 3 hours a month of your time you will...

- be providing an important service to the people and businesses of Drayton
- have a say in how many £1000's each year are spent around the village
- have a chance to shape the parish's response to some of the most important issues affecting Drayton, such as affordable housing, the proposed reservoir, public transport & traffic, waste disposal and the proposed incinerator in Sutton Courtney.

Each year the Parish Council spends about £30,000 in trying to keep Drayton a good place to live; giving money to the Village Hall, the Damascus youth project, employing a clerk and contracting a village caretaker, maintaining the playground and local footpaths, looking after the allotments and burial ground, the village notice boards and even the bus stops. All of the issues that the Village survey showed were important to us are part of the Parish Council's work in some way. While we only get a chance every 5 years to have a say in who is in charge in Westminster, through the Parish Council people in Drayton have a chance every month to make our own choices on issues from housing to traffic, policing to playgrounds.

Most of us have been councillors for about 6 years and we are looking for some new faces to continue with the challenges involved in managing the village in the years to come. No formal qualifications are needed, only that you are free for about three hours on the first Monday evening of each month. More time and commitment would be welcome, particularly if there's a cause that you want the Parish to do something about or spend more money on.

If you're unhappy with the way the village is run now or feel that there is untapped potential (e.g. a web site?), and would like to see some changes, get in touch with me on 531107 or with any of the other councillors or come along to a meeting to find out more. We will start our meeting on Monday 2 March (7.30pm in the Caudwell Day Centre) with a presentation and Q&A session on being a parish councillor with no obligation on anybody attending.

*Daniel Scharf, Chairman, Drayton PC*

## RON SHARPE



It was with great sadness that the Chronicle team learned that Ron Sharpe had died. He was known to many of us as our window cleaner, as part of the excellent Sharpe-family village-caretaker team, dedicated to making Drayton as nice a village as possible, but above all as the man with the cheery smile and positive attitude to life, who would always brighten up any day, no matter how gloomy it had been.

Ronald Kenneth Sharpe was born on 16 November 1946 and died suddenly on 05 January 2009, from a heart attack. Both Ron and his wife Yola were born and raised in Abingdon but they had lived in Drayton since 1974. They were married in 1968 at St Helen's Church in Abingdon and, on a cold, foggy day two weeks ago, their friends filled that church again, to remember Ron and give thanks for his life. As well as Yola, Ron leaves 2 children, Hayley and Steve, son-in-law Mark and 4 grandchildren, Jamie, Ellie, Lucas and Daisy.

**Editor's Note:** See other tributes to Ron, from his children, Hayley and Steve, on page 5, from Andrew Beacroft on page 3 and from the Parish Council, on page 13.

## MILLENNIUM MAINTENANCE

The 2008 rota for picking litter from the Millennium Green worked very well. It will continue for 2009 and I will distribute it soon. If you are no longer able to do it, or if you would like to be a warden on litter duty please let me know by calling 531205.

We had three sessions of pond maintenance in 2008 and made good progress. In order to keep it in good order we shall need to carry on in 2009. I will give the dates for this nearer the time. Thank you for your support and help.

*Gwen Price*

### Also in this issue:

- p3: Memorable phrases
- p4: Hot soup for cold days
- p7: Drayton's concerns
- p12: Drayton's hedge fund

- p3: More jazz and swing
- p6: The need for agents
- p11: Tackling burglars
- p12: Abingdon air quality
- p13: Police drain to London

HOUSING - ALLOTMENTS - LOCAL COUNCILS  
LITTER - PLAYGROUNDS - PLANNING - TRAFFIC

## DRAYTON VILLAGE NEEDS



# YOU!



New members are urgently required for

## Drayton Parish Council

See article above; ring 531107

WATER/RESERVOIR - BUSES - NOTICEBOARDS  
GRANTS - VILLAGE HALL - FOOTPATHS

### Drayton Players Present

## Murder Mystery Night

'Soap Suds'  
by Sue Morris  
with audience  
participation



At Drayton Village Hall  
Friday and Saturday  
20th and 21st February 2009  
7.30 pm

Tickets £8, to include a ploughman's supper  
Telephone 01235 200350  
Or from Vickery's Store, Drayton Green

# CHRONICLE INFORMATION

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

Editor: **David Lee, 15 Corneville Road (202699).**

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

Deadline for advertisements: **17.00 on Friday, 13 February 2009**

Deadline for other contributions: **17.00 on Monday, 16 February**

Printed copies available: **Friday, 27 February 2009**

### Key dates for the subsequent three Chronicles:

Issue for	Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available on:
April	16 March 2009	27 March 2009
May	20 April 2009	01 May 2009
June	18 May 2009	29 May 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 they 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 Monday deadline.

## 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 JANUARY LOTTERY

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	2225	Mr. Downs, Sutton Courtenay Rd	Claire Soper
£20	0561	Mr. S. Fearnley, 88 Abingdon Rd	Margaret Armstrong
£15	1304	Mr. Dalton, 5 Steventon Rd	Judy Henman
£10	2583	Mr Butters, 5 Barton Court	Margaret Watts
£10	0566	P. Hickey, 6 Meads Close	Margaret Armstrong
£10	2284	J. Greenaway, 15 East Way Park	Teresa Burnage
£10	0314	Mrs. Biddle, 11 Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
£10	1386	Mrs Owens, 80 Steventon Road	Jackie Walker
£10	1243	Glyn Woolley, Red Lion	Barbara Purbrick
£10	1567	V. Cross, 32 Binning Close	Ann Hutchins

The winning tickets were drawn by staff of the Red Lion from the 2246 tickets sold

## CLEANER HOMES

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Weekly / Fortnightly

**Lawn Mowing Service**

**Tel: 01235 553468 Mob: 07921 102100**

**General Garden Maintenance**

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*Julian Cook. 43 Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton*

## PLASTERING & COVING

**All new & refurbishment works.**

**Re-skimming Artex ceilings & walls.**



**Drylining & loft insulating.**



**Contact Darren**

**07549 032838 or 01235 538094**

# YOUR LETTERS

Dear Drayton Music Lovers

I have arranged another Jazz & Swing concert for Saturday 25th April 09 at St Peter's Church; 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm. Tickets are £8.00 (includes a complimentary glass of wine); with proceeds to Church funds.

Last year I had a few complaints from villagers who said they were unable to purchase tickets. To avoid that happening again could anyone who missed out last time but would like to attend the next one, please contact me via our web site [www.Boulevardswingjazz.com](http://www.Boulevardswingjazz.com) Please leave your name, address and how many tickets required and I will deliver them to you. Tickets are available now on a first come first served basis

Thank you for your support.

*BrianThompson*

Dear Editor,

On Saturday 27th December, I found a set of keys in Lyford Close (in the car park area near 40-45). The set contains a Yale key, a gold-coloured dead-lock key, a silver torch and a red band reading TSG Garage - Slough. If one of your readers has lost these keys they should email me at [carlw2426@aol.com](mailto:carlw2426@aol.com).

Thanks,

*Carl Wadley*  
⇒

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⇒ Dear Editor

Ron Sharpe was the father of Stephen, our village caretaker. He will be gratefully missed in providing Drayton in a state of repair that we all take for granted. He was instrumental in persuading Drayton PC to adopt those unkempt areas of SWL & present them into an area of appreciation.

Regards

*Andrew Beacroft*

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank Geraldine, Austin and the customers of the Wheatsheaf who collected £45.00 for Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres. If you would like more information regarding this charity please check out their website [www.maggiescentres.org](http://www.maggiescentres.org)

Thanks again.

*Roz Wright*

Dear Editor

May I thank everyone who came on Saturday 20th December and supported the Community Car Wash, organised by Drayton Youthzone and Drayton Drop In (DDI). We are delighted to have raised a total of £120 towards repairs for the village hall, which has been presented to the Hall Committee.

Also a big well done to all the young people and helpers on the morning who came along and made the event such a success.

With best wishes

*Claire Soper (Youthzone Volunteer)*

Dear Editor

On behalf of the Friday Club members, Sylvia and Beryle would like to give their thanks to the cooks, drivers and helpers throughout the year, also to those who contributed to the Christmas dinner. It all helps to make the Friday Club a very happy event.

*Sylvia Bond*

Dear Editor

I would like to thank everyone who sent me cards, flowers and good wishes during my recent sudden illness. It was a great comfort to all of us to know what good friends we have. Hopefully I am slowly recovering now and being well looked after.

Best wishes,

*Judith Dunster and family*

Dear Editor

I must thank everyone who has supported me with phone calls, visits and prayers, before and after my husband Wally died. Thanks also to my husband's family; Fred, Margaret, Davy, Helen, Linda, Isobel and Nan in Scotland - family to whom he was a loving father, brother, husband and grandad.

Sincerely,

*Mary Burgess*

Dear People of Drayton

Thank you so much to all who contributed to my collection around the village for Pace in December. I covered about one third of the village and collected £205 for Pace. Thank you also to all who came to our sales, to the Red Lion, the Post Office and the paper shop. Together we made about £1000 this year.

Natasha is still struggling. She has a feeding tube which is also used for her drugs but we encourage her to eat normally and she is now gaining weight. She longs to walk but her legs are very painful but she never gives up and is always smiling. She says 'you go first' or 'you choose first'; she's so sweet. Nevertheless she was Margaret Thatcher in the school play covering the decades from the 1950s. The children were very animated and carols were included.

Pace instils a sense of determination and perseverance in a very happy environment. Your money goes straight to Pace and will go towards a new school so that more children like Natasha, who are queuing for a place at such a special school, can be helped, to walk, talk and do things themselves.

A happy new year to you all and love from

*Judy and Derek Henman*

# ST PETER'S CHURCH

**Priest in Charge**     Revd Sister Josie Midwinter.....531374  
**Minister in Training**   Mrs Rosie Bruce.....525284  
**Churchwardens**        Mrs Sue Harris .....848361  
                               Mrs Val Cross .....535183  
**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 FEBRUARY

Sat   31st 10.00 am   Sale of Fair Trade Goods     Church  
 Sun   1st 11.15 am   Sale of Fair Trade Goods     Church  
 Tues  3rd  3.00 pm   First Tuesday Connections   Church Room

## CHURCH REGISTER

### Wedding:

3rd   Jan     Mark Peter Broad with  
           Laura Michelle Coles

### Funerals:

9th   Dec.    Vera Lavinia Oleksiw  
 12th Dec.   Robert (Bob) Hutt

### Burial of Ashes:

7th   Jan     Margaret Stevens

## YOU STAY - WE PRAY: FEBRUARY

1st to 7th: Sutton Wick Lane; Newman Lane; Conifer Drive.  
 8th to 21st: Lockway; Whitehorns Way.  
 22nd to 28th: Corneville Road; Crabtree Lane; Lesparre Close.

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## LETTER FROM REV JOSIE MIDWINTER

Dear Friends,

Jesus was the master of the apt saying. He put into a few words things that have become so memorable that they have become part of our language to an extent that many of us have forgotten their origin. Phrases like: "go the extra mile"; "turn the other cheek"; "cast the first stone"; "walk by on the other side" and "walk on water"



In each of these sayings Jesus was making a serious point about our day to day conduct. The thousand and one things we do in our life which can make a difference to ourselves and others. There are times when we fall short of what we would expect of our selves - but, hopefully, more times when we do those innumerable acts of kindness which add up to family and community life.

'Turn the other cheek' reminds us that there are times when we need to step back from confrontation to avoid things taking a more aggressive turn. It does not mean becoming a doormat, but more knowing when to stand for right and when to stand aside from wrong.

'Cast the first stone'. This relates to the woman who was dragged before the committee of men because she had been caught in adultery. They were all ready to condemn her to death by stoning. Quietly Jesus said: 'Let he who is without sin cast the first stone...' ... and just as quietly they slunk away because they knew they also had things to hide. So often we are ready to condemn others and think we know best. Jesus is challenging us to examine our own motive and action before casting a 'stone' of accusation at others.

'Walk by on the other side' comes from the parable of the Good Samaritan. When a traveller who had been robbed lay injured by the side of the road two fellow travellers were unwilling to stop and get involved. They walked by on the other side of the road. It was the Samaritan, the outsider, the man usually left in the cold, who stopped to help. In the busy, impersonal world in which we now live people easily convince themselves that stepping in to help can lead to all sorts of trouble - surely there is someone whose job it is to help? However the point of the parable is that despite the cost we have a responsibility to stop and help wherever we can.

'Go the extra mile'. The people of Jesus' day lived in an occupied country. If an official of the Roman empire demanded that you carry his load then you were obliged to carry it for at least one mile. You can imagine the resentment this engendered. But Jesus is saying that far from being resentful when you are obliged to do something extra - do it gladly - and even more than you have been asked. You will end up more blessed than the person who demanded your help in the first place.

Often the sayings of Jesus seem to be topsy turvy to the worldly wisdom of present day society. But this is nothing new - even Jesus' followers were accused of 'turning the world upside down'. This coming year of 2009 looks like being a tough one with the credit crunch, unemployment, house repossession threatening many people. Such gloom can lead people to be inward looking and hard.

But the ministry of Jesus reminds us that life is made up of the little kindnesses, the genuine acts of forgiveness, the willingness to give more than is asked. We may not be able to do much to change the economy, but we can do a lot to encourage and support one another. We can, as Jesus did, 'walk on water'. In other words, with faith we can make the impossible possible.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

*Josie Midwinter*



# 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**

## LOCAL METHODIST WORSHIP

High Street, Milton  
Sunday Service: 10.30 am

**Local contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409**

*Margaret welcomes you to Sabina's*  
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Mondays & Tuesdays & Saturdays 9.00am to 5.00 pm  
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# NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

## DRAYTON ALMSHOUSES

**Camilla King**

A vacancy exists for one of the almshouses. If you are over 60 and have a limited income (or if you know someone who might be interested) please apply for an application form from: The Clerk to the Trustees, Drayton Parish Charities, Gothic House, Drayton; telephone 531253.

## ST PETER'S APPEAL

**Martin Blogg**

As St Peter's Treasurer I send a big thank you to everyone in Drayton who supported the church appeal last year. It raised over £4,600 and gift aid brings this to over £5,700. This money, together with £1,600 from the Jazz Concert held in the church (thanks to Brian Thompson for his organising effort), a grant from the Historic Churches Trust and two bequests has enabled us to undertake some important maintenance and improvement work on the church.

Firstly we were able to repair some stone work on a widow at the west end of the church, install a lightning conductor and apply 'Smart water' to the church roof to deter theft. In October, the main body of the church was out of use while electrical rewiring was carried out. We also took the opportunity to improve the sound system.

Every five years the church must be inspected by an architect. 2009 is the year for St Peter's church and the work that we have carried out will put us in good stead for this inspection. Important as the church is for its architectural and historical heritage, it is also a working building providing for worship and other community activities. The responsibility for maintaining and developing this gift from the past now lies with us, the people of Drayton, so again thank you for all your support.

## 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 3rd February and 3rd March 2009. If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.

## REMEMBERING DAD

**Hayley and Steve Sharpe**

Our dad, Ron Sharpe, has left us with many happy memories. He was the most wonderful husband, dad and gramps. He was always full of fun, happiness, laughter and compassion. We all loved dad and words cannot describe how we feel about him.

Mum and dad had a happy marriage. They were soul mates; they thought as one and were always involved in the village community. When we were children they were involved in Drayton playgroup and later Drayton Primary School. Dad ran the school football team and generally supported the school, from cleaning and running the swimming pool, school fetes and generally supporting the children in their education. Later he ran Abingdon Football Club.

Dad worked for many years at Didcot Power Station but eventually took voluntary redundancy. Recently he helped Steve as caretaker for Drayton village. They carried out their caretaker role with pride. Dad was also the local window cleaner and general handyman, he always liked to have a friendly chat, normally over a cup of tea, and many of the more elderly generation in Drayton can confirm this.

Dad was a surrogate parent, best friend and more to lots of people. He touched all our lives.

We will miss him terribly, but dad will live on through his family, through love of life and friendship.

We love you dad. xxx

# NOTICE BOARD

## CHRONICLE AGENTS

We would like to thank Simon Murray for agreeing to be area agent for the Chronicle in the Whitehorn's Way cul-de-sac. This road has been without an agent for some time so we are very grateful for his offer. We would also like to take this opportunity belatedly to thank Wendy Evans for all her previous efforts in the cul-de-sac.

We are now looking for a new agent in Lesparre Close and would be grateful for any offers of help. Agents deliver the Chronicle and, where possible, sell lottery tickets, the income from which provides a crucial source of funding to cover printing costs. An agent's job can be shared to make it more manageable, so please consider it and get in touch with me on 529510 if you think you could take it on for a while.

Finally, there are a few roads where agents for other roads are kindly delivering Chronicles in addition to their own round, namely Lyford Close, Steventon Road (south of the by-pass) and Manor Close. We would be very grateful if anyone in those areas would be interested in delivering the Chronicles - and selling lottery tickets if possible..

Many thanks

Gareth Davies, Chronicle co-ordinator



Gareth Davies

## SOUTH & VALE CARERS' CENTRE Chris Elliott

Have you time to spare to meet someone new and help them?

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

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

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

## HOME-START

## Hilary Mundy

'Without Home-Start's help, I wouldn't have got through what was a very tough time. Thank you so much to each and everyone of you for everything.'

Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire is a voluntary home-visiting scheme, which offers friendship, support and a practical approach to families with children under the age of five. If you think you would like to be a Home-Start volunteer offering your help to young families in your area, we would be delighted to hear from you.

We are starting a Volunteers' Preparation Course in the near future and if you would like any further information about the course or Home-Start, please contact Hilary Mundy on 01235 511152 or at [homestartso@btconnect.com](mailto:homestartso@btconnect.com)

## IN PRAISE OF ERICA

Anne Hendry

Once the decorations have been packed away for another year, it's time to get your gardening head on again. Early season planting is a great way of getting everyone in the family into the spirit of the growing year. If you can, get to work outside, otherwise spread some newspapers out on the floor and get ready to plant. Visit the nursery for containers, compost and some beautiful plants for potting-up. Children will love the idea of 'indoor gardening' and planting containers will be a fun and rewarding activity for them if the weather is against you.

*Erica*, or Heath, is the ideal choice of plant. It's an evergreen shrub, similar to Heather (*Calluna*). However, unlike Heather, many species and varieties of *Erica* will tolerate both acid and alkaline conditions, allowing them to be used in a wider variety of garden situations. And if you want to grow them in containers, you can manage the soil conditions to suit those species that must have acid soil. Check when you buy and get the right plants for your situation.

*Erica carnea* (Alpine Heath or Winter Heath) is an excellent choice for getting maximum benefit right now. Flowers may be reddish-purple, pink or white, and foliage is generally mid to dark green but can also be yellow, golden or even orange-red. Look out for *Erica carnea* 'Ann Sparkes' with its rose-pink flowers and dark golden foliage or 'December Red' with its pink to purplish flowers. The flowers of 'Springwood White' are fabulous as is its bright green foliage. 'Foxhollow' is another winner - the colder it gets, the more interesting its foliage becomes. During mild winter weather, foliage is yellow with bronze tips but as temperatures drop, it becomes orange-red.

In their native habitat, *Ericas* grow on sunny slopes bordering pine forests but they are also tolerant of deep shade. Growing them in full sun however enhances their foliage colour. They are extremely hardy, being able to grow in extremely cold and snowy conditions, their flower shoots popping up through blankets of snow. Aftercare is easy. The plants should be pruned immediately after flowering. This can be carried out by lightly trimming with a pair of shears. Simply cut back the flowered stems. This will ensure compact bushy plants.

Heaths make excellent partners for dwarf conifers, either in borders or in large containers. Alternatively, grow them with others of their own kind for a delightful display. They're easy to care for and will give years of enjoyment. Establishing evergreen shrubs and conifers is also a fantastic way of doing your bit to improve air quality. Evergreens have been proven to be effective at removing particulates so that's another reason to get planting.

Colourful, tough and even potentially beneficial to our health (Heaths are very pollution tolerant), evergreen shrubs certainly earn a rightful place in our gardens. The weather can throw anything at us but we all want to kick-off the New Year with some colour and fun. *Erica* is just the plant for this.

**Editor's Note:** Anne Hendry is from Newington Nurseries. Let us know if you would like the Chronicle to carry more articles on gardening if we can get them.



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## WINTER WARMTH

Lois Rennells

In these days of cold weather and high fuel bills, a bowl of home-made soup is very cheap and extremely satisfying, especially with a nice big chunk of crusty bread.

Some of you may have realised that the 'Wooden Spoon' recipes have been missing from the Chronicle for over a year. The reason is that life took a different turn for me in July 2007 when the Ock River decided to invade a few hundred houses in Abingdon including mine. I had so many other things to organise that typing recipes became a low priority and the room upstairs where my computer lives was so packed with items from downstairs, that I couldn't get to it. Now though, things are back to normal and having received a nudge for copy from Derek Pooley, this month's editor, I have gone back to my Wooden Spoon files and unearthed a soup recipe I still make.

### Recipe No. 26 (from November 1993)

#### Danish Cheese and Celery soup (Serves 4 – 6)

1 medium head celery (chopped fairly small), 2 medium onions (chopped), 50g (scant 2 oz) lightly salted butter, 30g (1 oz) plain flour, 1 litre (1 ¾ pints) chicken stock, 60g (2 oz) Danish blue cheese, chopped parsley.

Cook the vegetables in the butter for 10 minutes in a covered pan without browning them. Stir in the flour thoroughly, then moisten with a little of the stock and stir well before gradually adding the rest of the stock. Season with pepper. (You probably won't need any salt as both the chicken stock and the cheese are salty). Simmer for 40 minutes until the celery is really tender. Mash the cheese to a cream and whisk it gradually into the soup just before serving it. Once you start doing this, lower the heat to make sure the soup remains well below boiling point. Add chopped parsley and serve with croutons.

*You can use other blue cheeses but Danish blue is about the cheapest and also the most flavoursome. If you use a milder cheese you will probably need more than 2 ozs.*

Mrs Suzy Willis

MCSP SRP AACP

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# ALL AROUND

## TODDLERS

**Julie Laws**

Happy New Year everyone!

Toddlers has started again for the new year and we look forward to lots of good times and playing together. We send our love to Joshua Darter who has started pre-school this term. We will miss you but we know you will have lots of fun there with your new (and "old") friends.

Cass Barlow, one of our Chairpersons, has decided to stand down from the Committee this year. Thank you Cass for all your enthusiasm and work with Toddlers and we wish you all the very best. Tracy will be continuing as Chair, Michelle as Treasurer and we welcome Becky to the Committee. Thank you and good luck ladies!!

The group is currently meeting in the small hall - just in case you don't see us in the large hall and think we are not there - although the sounds of playing may carry!!

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 Tracey on 07732 533057.

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## PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

**Debbie Bargus**

We hope everybody had a great Christmas and hope the New Year has started well.

We would like to wish Isabella Crook, Kian Durkin, Toby Foster, Liam Head, Ashton Malin, Abbie Mason and Bailey Oram well as they have now left us in the afternoons to attend school all day. We would also like to wish Ella Smith well as she begins BIG school.

We would like to welcome Toby Biddle, Zane Brant, Joshua Darter, Amber Foster, Ben Hayward, Alfie Nicholls and Kajan Sivakumar who have all joined us this term, we hope they enjoy the time they spend with us.

Our topic this term is Traditional Stories and Pantomimes; we will be making and drawing lots of pictures and models. We have started by painting bean stalks and having lots of fun with the green paint!

We had quite an exciting time in the run up to Christmas, as well as the children and staff practising their singing, we also had a Christmas party and the children had the chance to get some last minute requests to Santa.

Many thanks to everyone who helped with the Children's Christmas party and donated to the Raffle and thanks to Denise Annells and Sam Greenall for manning our stall at the school Christmas fair, also thanks to everyone that helped.

We also had a regular Ofsted inspection in December, the visit went very well. The full report is available on the Ofsted website. [www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports).



⇒ We do have sessions available at Preschool at present, if you would like a welcome book or to have a look around, please contact us on 01235 536094. Also if you have a child approaching two years old, we would be happy to place them on our waiting list until they can join us at 2 1/2 years.

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

## SCHOOL REPORT

**Annette Mitchell**

The school had a busy time leading up to Christmas with an Ofsted visit, "Robin Hood" and "It's A Party" productions.

Our new fencing is nearly complete and it not only keeps the children safe but it looks good as well. Further work outside including a new canopy area for the Foundation unit and decoration inside will continue on until summer.

Robin class (foundation) welcomes Ella Smith to school. The topic this term will be cars; parents will be dropping in to talk about specialist cars to the children. The children will be building a garage in the outside play area and will be looking for items to put in the garage.

Raven class (year 1 & 2) topic in history will be Florence Nightingale and in Science, pushes, pulls, forces and movements, with the children designing a car in DT lessons. They will also be taking part in a classical music workshop with a visit to the Jacqueline du Pré Music Building in Oxford for a concert.

Kingfisher Class (year 3 & 4) will be making moving monsters with opening mouths for DT and learning about the Tudors in humanities and studying Tudor artwork.

Eagle class (year 5/6) will be on their travels to Yenworthy on 2nd Feb and we look forward to hearing about their stay on their return on the 6th Feb. For most of the term their topic will be water and all that links to water in geography, technology and science.

We also wish Mrs Towersey well as she starts her maternity leave in Feb and welcome Mr Lambert as supply cover until July.

Finally a date for your diary, the school will be holding a talent show on Friday 13th Feb, the last day of term.

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# MORE ALL AROUND

## DRAYTON ART GROUP

**Eric Curtis**

The Drayton Art Group had their seasonal dinner at the Drayton Wheatsheaf in a most convivial mood on Tuesday 6th January. Thanks must go to the landlord and staff for the excellent meal provided with good service and civility.

Discussion took place regarding the overall organiser of our next art show and it was suggested that teams of two should take responsibility for the various sections of the show. We propose to paint another "combined" picture in which each artist paints just a section of the subject, similar to the first one we did which is now hanging in the church, also the two on display in the Caudwell Day Centre. This, of course, will depend on us finding a suitable subject. We thank all those who take an interest in our activities and look forward to seeing them again at our next show.

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

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## BOWLS CLUB

### Roll up

All teams playing in the winter leagues have done quite well but if any are to be in contention at the end of the season all will have to improve their way form. Best placed at the half way stage in the evening league are 'The Rollers' in third place and, in the afternoon league, 'The Wasps' are in second place. Finals day was again a very successful day with 28 members participating, with no fewer than 8 finals being contested.

To summarise the year's events the following were the winners of all competitions held throughout the year: In the 'Friendly Fours' inter-club competition held between Drayton, Wootton, and Wallingford the winners were a Drayton team of Jean Mullins, Tony Mullins, Cyril Carter, Olive Brown. 'Didcot Windows' open singles; John Goodacre. 'Derek Messenger' Ladies singles; Val Locke. 'Jean Mullins' gents singles; Jack Michenson. The 'Attwood' cup; Bryn Jones. 'Don Alexander' single & pairs; John Goodacre, Kay Attwood, Elen Winter. 'Henry Bunce' handicap pairs; Carol Smith, Iris Torrens. 'Wally Weightman' 2 wood triples; John Goodacre, Doreen Jones, Carol Smith. 'Beryl James' 3 wood triples Lyndon Locke, Eileen Long, Josie Carter. 'Rose bowl' Triple league; Tony Wright, Eileen Long, Cris Smith. 'John Berry' fours league; Tony Mullins, Freda Bray, Jane Pimm, Carol Smith.

To summarise the year which was the 20th anniversary of the club, it has been a very successful year with many functions held and all were well attended, also we have gained some new members and all have settled in well and are very active in all that we try to achieve. There are still a few vacancies if any one is interested; bowling days are Monday, Thursday 2 till 5 and Wed 7 till 10. All you have to do is call in at any of those times and a warm welcome awaits you.

Finally we had a record attendance of 65 members and guests for the 'Annual Presentation' dinner dance held at the Drayton golf club on the 16th January. Well done to all those who have made this such a great year.

## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

**Pearl Stanbridge**

At the recent AGM all officers were returned unopposed. A delegate and the secretary attended the annual County Conference at Maidenhead on Saturday 17th January. There was no committee meeting in January as we hosted the Vale of White Horse group meeting on Monday 19th. The next committee meeting will be held on Monday 16th February at 8 PM

## W. I.

**Brenda Malin**

Our lady members enjoyed the traditional January 'meal out' at The Pack Horse, Steventon Hill, each lady splendidly attired in purple, each wearing a red hat!

Our next meeting will be held at the Caudwell Day Centre on Thursday February 12th at 7.30pm. Wendy Sinclair will give a talk on Canal Boats.

Further dates for diary: Thursday March 12th, Monthly meeting- Conservation and Common Sense; Saturday March 14th, Spring Coffee Morning 10am -12 noon, home-made cakes and book stall.

## DRAYTON WIVES

**Pam Lacey**

Many members attended our November meeting to listen to the talk given by Christine Whild on 'The History of Christmas'. She spoke at some length on the origins of mistletoe, holly, mince pies, Christmas pudding and the many other things which we associate with Christmas.

On the evening of the 8th December we had our annual Christmas coffee evening at the Caudwell Day Centre accompanied by sherry, mince pies and shortbread. We had a very entertaining game guessing the names of carols by drawing items in the names or associated with them. The evening was rounded off by the singing of some favourite carols and the exchange of Christmas gifts.

Dates for your Diary in January/February

- Wed 28th Jan. Zovig Nahoulakian - Handbag Making  
Margaret Watts - Arranging and Care of Flowers
- Mon 9th Feb. COFFEE - Irma Strelczuk, Manor Farm Barn, The Green
- Mon 16th WHIST - David Hale - Caudwell Day Centre
- Wed 25th BIRTHDAY LUNCH - Drayton Golf Club  
12.00 noon for 12.30pm

Any members still wishing to join the lunch please contact Ann Hutchings

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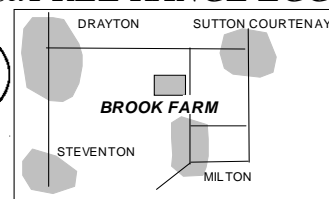
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## BLOODSHED

### DRAYTON PLAYERS

Jean Hager

Plans are forging ahead for our one-act murder mystery plays 'Soap Suds', which will be staged in a few weeks time. It takes place on the set of a daytime TV Soap where all sorts of tensions lie just beneath the surface, culminating in the demise of one of the cast and leading to the involvement of all the audience in detecting **whodunnit!**

Performances will be on Friday 20th & Saturday 21st of February, starting at 7:30 pm, and tickets (£8) are available from our box office on 01235 200350, or from Vickery's store on the village green. For wheelchair and any other special needs contact Sue Stevens on the number given above.

There will be an interval ploughman's supper so, to accommodate catering requirements, all seats must be pre-booked. As they will be unnumbered make sure you arrive in good time to choose your table. The bar will be available during the evening. This is a real family show, with a lot of audience participation in the second half, so junior and senior sleuths will find following the clues challenging - and great fun. We look forward to seeing you at the Hall for great evening's entertainment

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# BURGLARIES

## VALE COMMUNITY SAFETY

Tracey Steel

A new campaign aimed at reducing burglaries is being launched in the Vale and South Oxfordshire. The campaign, being organised by the Vale of White Horse District Council together with Crimestoppers, Thames Valley Police and South Oxfordshire District Council, will target those who may know a burglar or suspect someone of dealing in stolen goods. Posters will be distributed appealing for people to contact Crimestoppers if they know of, or have any information about:

- Anyone who calls at people's homes posing as a council or utility worker
- Anyone who sells cheap goods either in pubs or at car boot sales
- Anyone who they suspect is a burglar.

Cllr Richard Webber, Executive Member for Community Safety at the Vale, said: "Cheap goods being sold in a pub or at a car boot sale may be tempting, however if they seem too good to be true then they probably are. Stolen goods often have the image of being a victimless crime but this couldn't be further from the truth. It is a crime that impacts badly on the lives of the victims whether they are a resident or a business, so it is very important that the public report anyone they suspect of carrying out such crimes."

Chief Inspector Andy Boyd, of Thames Valley Police, said: "We will not tolerate burglars in the area and have brought in extra resources to tackle burglaries. It is also essential that we crack down on handlers of stolen goods. We are keen to catch these criminals and stop burglary in the area." Handling stolen goods is a criminal offence and can result in up to 14 years imprisonment.

If you suspect someone of being involved in burglaries or handling stolen goods, please report them. If you don't want to speak to police or give your name, call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

### Community Safety Contacts:

Liz Hayden, Community Safety Manager - 01235 540309 or [liz.hayden@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:liz.hayden@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

Karen Brown, Projects Officer - 01235 520202 ext 485 or [karen.brown@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:karen.brown@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

Richard Baker, Anti-Social behaviour Officer - 01235 554783 or [richard.baker@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:richard.baker@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)



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# and BUSES

## DRAYTON'S BUSES

Daniel Scharf

I thought that it might be useful to summarise the position of bus services in Drayton for those who are unclear. I assume that you all have an up to date Oxford Bus timetable but it may be helpful to emphasise some peculiarities in the service as a whole.



35A: this Oxford Bus commercial service was reduced last year from half-hourly to hourly running. Reference to the timetable is essential as, for large parts of the day, the service does not keep to particular times before or after the hour. Real time information is available at the "oxontime" web site. Next year Drayton might benefit from an experimental real time information trial on The Green bus stops

The subsidised 44 no longer comes through the village in morning or afternoon, although those wanting to go to Boars Hill or Botley could catch it in Abingdon.. However, the number of Stagecoach services might surprise you as there is a distinct lack of timetables? These are all commercial services. 34 (Mon-Fri) Oxford (06.55), Abingdon (07.17), Drayton (07.25) to Harwell Campus (does NOT serve Didcot). 34 (Mon-Fri) Drayton 16.04 to Abingdon and Oxford. 34 (Mon-Sats) Drayton 17.04 to Abingdon and Oxford. N32 (Sats only - i.e. Sunday morning) - Oxford (23.50), Abingdon (00.17), Drayton (00.24) to Didcot. N32 (Fri night/ Sat Night Only) - Oxford (02.25), Abingdon (02.47), Drayton (02.54) to Didcot

It is Oxford Bus policy to accept a 35A Drayton to Oxford ticket on any of the express services, to or from Oxford although, unfortunately, some of the drivers feel the need to contact HQ to confirm that to be the case. The 18.30pm 35 Oxford Bus is the last service to continue past Abingdon to Drayton and Didcot. Thames Travel, running on the hour (20.00, 21.00 and 22.00) will accept the 35A return ticket. Thames Travel has been told to wait the arrival of the 35 in Stratton Way. The Thames Travel 32C bus to Drayton can also be caught at the War Memorial stop in The Square. Similarly, Thames Travel will accept Oxford Bus return tickets on its evening service from Didcot.

It is not possible to buy a single ticket to Drayton from Oxford after 18.30 so this will cost an extra £1.80 on Thames Travel 32C.

The Key Card for any fixed period will also be accepted by Thames Travel if the user has a letter from Oxford Bus stating the day of activation. However, Thames Travel will not accept a Key Card that is for any five days as they do not know whether it has been used on the day in question. This means that it would not be sensible to use a Key Card (£23 for 5 days = £4.60 per day) for a simple return journey to Oxford (£4.50 rtn). This pricing system does not seem to be designed to encourage use of this smart and timesaving technology.

Cllr Richard Webber's recent survey showed the gap between the interest in bus services and their actual use. Although Oxfordshire is the only county in the country that can show an increase in bus use, we (as a village community) cannot complain too much if we do not support buses and add to the congestion that delays their services on Drayton Road and through the Ock Street roundabouts (the reason given for the reduction in service last year). Simply, claiming that you would use a more frequent or reliable service might not bring this about.

If anybody has any comments about bus services, whether they find it confusing, whether it is acceptable for what is branded a 'high frequency' Premium Route, whether this encourages the use of the Key Card, whether it was sensible to have to change buses and companies in Abingdon etc write to Cllr Hudspeth at County Hall New Road Oxford.

I would also like to hear of your experiences and expectations. One of the jobs that a new parish councillor could undertake would be as our Public Transport Representative who works with OCC on these issues.

# DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Webber

## Village Survey - follow up.



The responses to all the questions in the survey are being presented to the relevant authorities – be they Westminster, The Highways Dept., OCC, VWHDC, Abingdon Town Council, or Drayton PC - asking for their reactions. Any received will be published in future Chronicles.

In this issue, as promised, I will attempt to sum up the comments made by the 500 people who completed the Survey Forms.

These comments were not asked for in the survey and, as far as possible, not prompted by the questions.

Three issues were commented on by 50+ people. These were:

- Bus Services.

More than 100 people said that they would use the bus services if a) they were more frequent (particularly at the beginning of the day), b) more reliable (i.e. not held up in traffic) and b) cheaper than a car. It seems that the people of Drayton would like a higher percentage of public money to be spent on frequent, efficient, affordable and environmentally friendly bus services than is being spent at present.

- Road and Pavement Condition.

Some of our roads and many of our pavements are in a deplorable state. Some pavements have not been repaired since they were laid more than 20 years ago. With the proportion of elderly people in our village, this is becoming a major source of concern.

- A34 Noise.

Those who live in the southern and western sides of the village have put up with this problem for years. The problem is getting worse and even those living to the East and North of the village centre are affected. Most of the noise is generated by a half mile stretch of the A34 immediately north of the Drayton/Steventon bridge.

All the above require expensive solutions, but given the proposed expansion of Didcot, the possible reservoir, the increasing development of Milton Park, Harwell etc, we must ensure that solutions are built into the authorities plans.

Of the other issues mentioned, three cropped up frequently requiring less costly solutions. These were:

- Tree cutting, hedge-trimming and weed control.

Some of this is Council work, but many of the concerns could be answered by owners of trees, hedges and weeds being a little more vigilant in controlling them – particularly where they border the public highway.

- Parking

With almost as many cars as people, parking is bound to be one of the most common causes of neighbour dispute in our village. As far as the law is concerned, no-one has a legal 'right' to park their car on the highway, even if there are no yellow lines. However, no-one will move you on unless they can prove that you are causing an obstruction. In other words, authorities are reluctant to get involved in parking disputes and expect us to solve them for ourselves. The authorities will take action against drivers who park where people cannot see to cross the road, or block entrances and exits or pavements.

- Dog Fouling

VWHDC has two Environmental Wardens who cover the whole Vale. They are responsible for preventing everything from serious fly-tipping to dropping cigarette butts in public places. They have the power to fine the owners of dogs who foul public areas. We can save them that duty if we dog-lovers clear up our own pet's poop, so that they can pursue the people who dump mattresses, sofas and cars in our lanes and lay-bys.

In the last issue, I summarised the responses to the various questions asked. Drayton's top issue was without doubt *Abingdon's* traffic problems. Clearly, these affect the whole area, causing inconvenience and frustration to thousands of people and, of course, damage to human and environmental health. As most of the other major findings in the survey centred around cars, roads and the vitality of our village and our nearest neighbouring town, now seems the time to raise the issue of air quality.

## Air Quality

In an effort to understand the issues that most seem to concern the people of Drayton, I have got myself involved with the ABITS (Abingdon Integrated Transport Scheme) working group - trying to find ways of easing Abingdon's traffic problem, and the Abingdon Partnership – the group trying to address the issue of Abingdon Town centre vitality. I have also been working with the Vale's officers on an Air Quality Action Plan for Abingdon town centre.

Nitrogen dioxide levels have been measured to be in excess of European desired levels for the past few years. These are targets that we signed up to, along with our European partners. It was hoped that the ABITS scheme would fix the problem. Although it has helped, the figures remain above the recommended limit and show signs of increasing. It may seem like one more nail in the coffin of Abingdon's problems, but it may not be.

We want more people in Abingdon to keep it alive. More people mean more traffic and more pollution. Is the choice between traffic gridlocked in poisonous fumes and a desert of no shops, no cars and no people? It is entirely possible that the Air Quality Action Plan, in putting air quality above all else can act as a framework for all other initiatives in the town. A calm, clean, safe town centre with things to see and do, is one people will want to visit. The solutions to air quality problems have implications for everyone, from central government to each of us as individuals. Some of the solutions will be very expensive (bridges/by-passes etc) some very cheap (more use of bicycles, more thoughtful use of cars etc).

In Drayton, we cannot have it all ways. We have 1500+ cars. Yet we have a well-built, reasonably-safe bicycle route into our nearest town which needs our support. Complaining about Abingdon's traffic whilst we all contribute to it surely puts us on fairly rocky moral ground.

If you would like to contribute to the debate on the Air Quality Action Plan for Abingdon town centre, please go to the VWHDC website and click on 'Air Your Views'.

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# PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Jennifer Pooley



## Report of the Parish Council meetings on December 1st 2008 and January 5th 2009

The December meeting followed the Council's finance committee meeting the week before. Each autumn the Council sets the budget for the following year and the decision is made about how much precept to ask for. It was decided to request a fairly generous precept from the VWHDC so the

Council would have in reserve the money that will be needed to assist with repairs and improvements to the village hall and its car-park in the near future.

One of the pressing needs for the village hall is the replacement of two double doors in the small hall that have been damaged in the past and are now rotting. Anne Webb, chair of the hall committee, attended the meeting to explain the need and to ask for a grant towards that work. The Council agreed to make a donation on condition that more than one quote was obtained for the work.

The meeting was also attended by Linda Butler who oversees the letting of the allotments. The Parish Council has a statutory duty to provide allotments, for which at present there is great demand. There is now a waiting list and Linda and the Council are seeking to make sure that all allotments are well used and the waiting time for those on the list is kept to a minimum, also that there is good liaison between allotment holders and the Council.

Councillors often attend meetings which deal with specific matters affecting Drayton residents. In December Daniel Scharf, the PC chairman, went to one concerning bus services, and he has contributed an article in this Chronicle. Daniel also went to a meeting with our MP, Ed Vaizey, and GARD to discuss the reservoir. He asked that DEFRA, who will make the final decision on whether the reservoir should be built, should be asked for a 'hearing' rather than public 'enquiry', as this would give a fairer say to all concerned. Since then Ed Vaizey has responded positively to Daniel's request and will press for a hearing. Also in December I attended a meeting to which the Environment Agency invited councillors from each parish affected by the proposed incinerator at Sutton Courtenay in order to explain the EA's role in the matter. For further general information about the EA's role see their website: [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

Mention has been made in previous reports of the responsibility the Parish Council has to ensure safety of headstones in the burial ground. For various reasons it has taken the PC some time to decide how to set about this but finally a qualified contractor has been asked to quote for the work of 'topple testing'. It is hoped that the work will be started within the next month or so but before that happens **advance advisory notices will be posted at the burial ground.**

Residents who use the allotments or walk in the burial ground may have noticed that the surrounding beech hedge is sparse and in need of new planting. Councillor Robin Butler has volunteered to obtain 100 saplings and ensure that they are planted before the growing season, so thanks are due to him. ⇨

# WESTMINSTER LETTER

Ed Vaizey

I had a useful up-date with the chief constable of Thames Valley Police, Sara Thornton, on the issues that our local Police face. Let me begin by saying that we live in one of the safest areas of the country, with a very low crime rate. While there are always problems, such as occasional hot-spots of anti-social behaviour and the occasional wrongful arrest, I have few complaints and a lot of praise for the hard work our officers do.



The biggest problem we face is our proximity to London. Because of London weighting, police officers in London get paid £4500 more than police officers in Oxfordshire. And if you live in Oxfordshire but work in London, you get free travel. So it is not surprising that many officers who train and get experience here end up working in London. Across the Thames Valley, we lost 79 officers to the Met in 2008, and we have the second highest proportion of young officers in the country. Thames Valley MPs are now going to lobby the Government to reduce the differential in pay between London and the Thames Valley, as well as asking for a protocol to be put in place to limit the number of officers that can be poached.

Overall, Thames Valley Police is still understaffed. On a like-for-like basis, comparing us to similar counties, we are down some 436 police officers, 100 community support officers and 350 specials. I am delighted that the force is planning to recruit more specials, and we should be up to 400 by the end of the year. Population growth is also a factor. While all new development is on hold because of the credit crunch, housing expansion puts a huge strain on resources. Because of the way the funding formula works, we are unlikely to get the necessary increase in police numbers to match housing growth. Bizarrely, because of the huge geographic spread of Thames Valley, our policing resources are affected by the growth of towns like Milton Keynes. I am trying to get the Government to change the formula.

My next surgeries are: 13 February in Grove; and 27 February in Didcot, all at 530pm.



⇨ **Readers will see elsewhere in this Chronicle a plea for more Parish councillors.** This really is an urgent request as the council has been working for several years with fewer councillors than its permitted number of eleven. Much more in a much shorter time could be accomplished for Drayton if there was a full complement. Inevitably councillors sometimes have to miss meetings and at the December and January meetings there were respectively seven and four councillors present. Enthusiastic people with ideas and the energy to help implement them are needed. Could you be one of them?

Finally, I have to end this report on a very sad note. Drayton has been served for several years by our extremely efficient family team of caretakers, Steve, Ron and Yola Sharpe. Some readers will already know that on Monday 5th January Ron tragically died very suddenly. He will be greatly missed, not only for all the work he has done for Drayton but also for his friendly, positive personality. The Parish Council extends to all his family our deep sympathy and many thanks for Ron's contribution to village life. Ron was meticulous about litter picking, so for the time being please could residents take it upon themselves to bin any litter they find lying around the village.

**The next meeting will be on 2nd February 2009 at 7.30pm in the Caudwell Day Centre. A major topic for discussion will be the VWHDC's core strategy for development in the Vale up until 2027, so if you are interested in the future of this area please come along to listen to the discussion and see for yourself how the Council operates.**

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# DRAYTON DIARY

## FOR FEBRUARY

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

**Regular Events are listed opposite**

Mon	2	7.30 pm	Parish Council	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
Sat	7		Private party	
Sun	8		Bowls	
Sat	14		Private party	
<b>Mon</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9.15 am</b>	<b>Chronicle Lottery deadline</b>	<i>Vickery's</i>
		<b>5.15 pm</b>	<b>Chronicle copy deadline</b>	<i>Vickery's box</i>
Tues	17	all day	Blood Donors Clinic	
Fri	20	7.30 pm	Drayton Players -	
Sat	21	7.30 pm	- Murder Mystery Night	



## Christingle Service at St Peter's Church

10 am on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February

A service for all the family

**Christingles will be given out at the service  
and the collection to the Children's Society**

If you are interested in helping make the Christingles on Saturday  
31st January, please ring Rev Josie Midwinter on 531374

## STEVENTON FRIENDLY ASSOCIATION

Present a

### SPRING DANCE

Saturday 7th March 2009

Steventon Village Hall 8pm - Midnight  
Dancing to

**"THE UNBELIEVABLES"**

Tickets: £10.00 Including Supper

Contact Shirley Green on 01235 831589  
or another Committee member



## Beetle Drive

2pm on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February  
in the Caudwell Day Centre.

Beetle is a game which is easy to play by  
all ages and produces lots of fun. First prize and  
booby prize. Raffle. Refreshments included.

**Tickets £3 for adults and £1 for children.**  
**In aid of St Peter's church**

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any ADVERTISEMENT, nor for any EFFECTS ARISING  
WHATSOEVER from the publication.

## 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>

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