

# DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Dave Lee

Volume 32 No. 2

March 2009

## DRAYTON UNDER SNOW

A selection of photos taken after the snowfalls in early February



Henley's Lane



Steventon Road



An illustration of the depth of covering



Judy Henman with friend on the Millennium Green

## DRAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Are you interested in what YOUR Parish Council does?

Have you met your councillors?

Are you interested in becoming a councillor?

Then come along to the ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY.

7.30pm on MONDAY 6th APRIL 2009

at the CAUDWELL DAY CENTRE

Followed by the Parish Council Meeting.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Your chance to speak; your chance to vote!



# CHRONICLE INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Key dates for the subsequent three Chronicles:

Issue for	Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available on:
May	20 April 2009	1 May 2009
June	18 May 2009	29 May 2009
July	15 June 2009	26 June 2009

## NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

Contributions to and advertisements in the Chronicle are most welcome. Please be sure **always to include your name**, address and (in case clarification is necessary) telephone number. Without names we will usually not print an item at all.

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

A contribution or advertising request can be sent to us in one of three ways:

1. The best is by **email** to **editor@draytonchronicle.net**. Your contributions should either be embedded in your email as **plain text** or attached as a **rich-text** or **Microsoft Word** document!

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

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

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

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

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

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

## ADVERTISING RATES

Charge for a single Block Advert (about 9cms x 4.5cms)

---- Number of Inserts ----

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

**Double-size** adverts are charged at **twice** the above rates.

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

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

# CHRONICLE LOTTERY

Daphne Samworth, Hon Promoter

## RESULTS OF THE FEBRUARY LOTTERY

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	0879	G Hind, 43, High Street	Margaret Long
£20	1403	Mr. Lonsdale, 62, Steventon Road	Jackie Walker
£15	2589	D. Denton, 9, Lesparre Close	Steve Penny
£10	1051	S. Watkinson, 7, High Street	Mary Alexander
£10	0664	V. Parker, 46, Abingdon Road	Jenny Stevens
£10	0274	Mrs. Norman-Taylor, Primrose Cottage, Oday Hill,	Gerald Redman
£10	1032	P. Larson	Mary Alexander
£10	2317	I. Berry, 7, Eastway Park,	Teresa Burnage
£10	2647	Sylvia Nelson, 10, Midget Close, Abingdon	Austin (Wheatshaf)
£10	1518	L. Griffiths, 7, Haywards Road	Judith Dunster

The winning tickets were drawn by Staff at "The Sitting Room" from the 2231 tickets sold

## CHRONICLE NEWS

We would like to thank Laura Stops for kindly agreeing to be the area agent for Lyford Close. Gerald Redman has stoically done this along with other rounds and we thank him for his commitment. However, he is pleased to reduce his load and we are very grateful to Laura for taking this on.

We would also like to thank Vanessa Denton for taking over from Steve Penney as the agent for Lesparre Close. Many thanks to Steve for all his efforts over the last few years.

We would still be grateful if anyone from Steventon Road, south of the bypass, and Manor Close would feel able to deliver the Chronicle. Both these roads are currently being covered by other agents in addition to their own round for which we are very grateful, but it would be great to have someone from each of these areas to volunteer. It can be shared if that makes it easier.

Many thanks

Gareth Davies

Chronicle Co-ordinator - tel: 529510

## K. L. YATES BUILDERS

FOR ALL YOUR BUILDING SERVICES

Extensions and Alterations

Property Maintenance

Kitchens and Ceramic Tiling

Carpentry and Laminate Flooring



Call **RICHARD** for an estimate on

**01235 531275 or mobile 07788 738248**

## W. J. TAYLOR & SONS

FORGE GARAGE

HIGH STREET, DRAYTON

Nr. ABINGDON, OXON OX14 4JW

SUN Tuning

Car, M/C & 3-Wheeler

**M.O.T. WHILE YOU WAIT**

CAR - Service and Repairs

VINTAGE WEDDING CAR HIRE

Telephone ABINGDON 531350



# PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

## Jennifer Pooley

### Meeting held on Monday 2nd February 2009



The recently published Framework Programme outlining the possible future development of the Vale of the White Horse up until 2027 stimulated lively debate amongst an almost full complement of Councillors and our two County Councillors, Mike & Marilyn Badcock. Various conflicting opinions were expressed about the proposals but all were in agreement that there is no perfect solution to the challenges posed by this area's

growing population and its future employment, educational, leisure and retail needs, with their attendant traffic increase, road congestion and affects on climate change. However, Parish Councils are being given the opportunity to respond to the VWHDC's Framework Programme and several Councillors have attended exhibitions and workshops in order to understand the proposals more fully. The PC's Planning Committee has arranged a meeting at which it is hoped a consensus will be reached so the Council's views can be sent to the District Council. The Preferred Options Report, setting out the proposals in detail, can be seen at the Vale's libraries, Abingdon Council Offices or on the Council's website: [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

In last month's report I mentioned that **topple testing of the burial ground headstones** would take place in the near future. There is a requirement that Councils should give at least six week's warning that this is to happen so that people visiting graves shall not be surprised or distressed by finding the work in progress. **There is now a definite date set and the testing will take place during the last week of April and the first week of May.** Notices to this effect will also be displayed at the burial ground.

Aware that the Vale's future was on the agenda one interested member of the public attended the meeting, but he had also been attracted by the Chairman's plea, published in last month's Chronicle, for more people to join the Council and as a consequence he came to observe the Council in action. Sadly, at this meeting the Council had to accept the resignation of Melanie Parker who has been very active and greatly valued during her time as a Councillor. **So it is now even more urgent that others will have noted the need for more members on the Parish Council. At the next PC meeting on March 2nd, Daniel Scharf will be explaining more about becoming a Councillor and will answer questions. So please do come along to the Caudwell Day Centre on that Monday at 7:30pm.**

# WESTMINSTER LETTER

## Ed Vaizey

At the beginning of every parliamentary session a ballot is held in the House of Commons. MPs that win the ballot are given the opportunity to propose a piece of legislation of their own, known as a Private Member's Bill. These Bills are then debated on one of thirteen special Fridays that are set aside specifically for this purpose.

However, making one of these Bills an actual law is far from easy. For these Bills to get through the Westminster process, they must bear a pummelling far worse than the usual scrutiny to which Government business is subject. These Bills, for example, are not whipped, so MPs are actually free to voice their own opinion. There is no in-built Government majority to see them through. At least a hundred MPs have to back the Bill. Also, Westminster on Fridays is like a ghost town, as MPs usually go to their constituencies. Only the armed policemen and chiming of Big Ben interrupts the eerie silence. But despite all this, every session about one of these Bills does gain the support needed to make it through.

This time I'm hoping it will be the Autism Bill. On Friday the 27th February, one of the ballot winners, Cheryl Gillan MP, will bring forward a Bill originally brought forward last year by Angela Browning, when it did indeed fail. The two of them have been working non-stop with the National Autistic Society to make a useful piece of legislation and the first ever one about autism.

The bill aims to 'recognise the numbers of people with autism, to provide effective transition from child to adult services, and to ensure appropriate support and services thereafter' and I have been answering a torrent of emails from the good people of this constituency asking me to support it. The provisions for integration of child and adult services is the most important part of this bill because all the evidence tells us that autistic children need routine and familiarity, so such a substantial change of people and routine can often cause massive setbacks in the progress of a child into adulthood.

The bill also aims to strengthen information about autism cases in local areas. Though this doesn't seem like an important step it will bring the whole problem to the surface meaning governments (local and national) will know the numbers and needs of those with this condition and be forced to take action. More than 4 in 5 local councils say that such information would help them with long term planning.

So, on the 27th I shall be doing my best to be in the House to support it before I race back to Didcot for my evening surgery.

Surgeries are in Didcot on 27th February, and Wantage on 13th March - more details on my website, [www.vaizey.com](http://www.vaizey.com)

You can contact me at the House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, on 0207 219 6350 or at [vaizeye@parliament.uk](mailto:vaizeye@parliament.uk), my website, [www.vaizey.com](http://www.vaizey.com)



**Love Your Lawn**  
**Green Thumb's** series of 4 pre-scheduled annual lawn treatments will get your lawn into perfect condition.

- Pay as You Go service – no contract to sign
- Start any time of year
- Our service costs less than DIY
- Fully trained and informed staff
- Professional feeds not available at garden centres

Call for a free, no obligation, lawn analysis and quotation:

**01235 835221**



## Courtenay Computer Services

Repairs, Upgrades, Email/Internet/Broadband; New hardware or software including Anti-Virus, Firewall and Anti-Spyware; Networking, both Ethernet and wireless, Networks, Broadband.

Web Site design; One-to-one tuition: Internet, Email, Photo-enhancing, Spreadsheet, Word Processing, or simply a basic introduction to your computer... any issue that prevents you getting the best from your PC.

I can make it easy by offering tuition and guidance **IN YOUR HOME or BUSINESS** at a time to suit you.

**Martin Underwood 01235 847104 or 07748 632563**  
**[www.courtenaycomputers.co.uk](http://www.courtenaycomputers.co.uk)**

# ST PETER'S CHURCH

<b>Priest in Charge</b>	Revd Sister Josie Midwinter.....531374
<b>Minister in training</b>	Mrs Rosie Bruce.....525284
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Mrs Sue Harris.....848361
	Mrs Val Cross.....535183
<b>Organist</b>	Mr Adrian Thompson.....01993 705613
<b>Choir Director</b>	Mr Ian Miles

## REGULAR SERVICES

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

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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

## CALENDAR FOR MARCH

Sat 28th Feb	10.00 am-11 00 am	Sale of Fair Trade goods	
There will also be a coffee morning on this Saturday			<i>Church</i>
In aid of the Children's Society and Action Aid			
Sun 1st March	11.15 am-11 45 am	Sale of Fair Trade goods	<i>Church</i>
Tue 3rd March	3.00 pm	First Tuesday Connections	<i>Church Room</i>

## CHURCH REGISTER

### Burial of Ashes

2nd February Barbara Mary Lester

### Funerals

9th February Florence Louisa Turner  
17th February Raymond Bomford

## YOU STAY - WE PRAY, MARCH

1st to 7th	Drayton Road; Milton Road; New Cut Mill; Fisher Close; Marcham Road; Meads Close; Ripington Court; Stonehill
8th to 21st	Steventon Road; Eastway; Eastway MHP
22nd to 28th	Caudwell Close; Gravel Lane. Church Lane; Henley's Lane; Caudwell Close; Gravel Lane.

## HELP

### St Peter's Church is looking for an Organist and Choir Director

Do you know anyone who would be interested in this post? The person would need to play the organ for weekly 10am services (with some extra services at Christmas, Easter etc), to take choir practice and to work with an existing music group. The person would also need to be reasonably available to play at weddings and funerals.

*For fuller details of duties and fees payable please contact either Val Cross tel. 01235 535183 or Sue Harris tel. 848361.*

## LETTER FROM REVD JOSIE MIDWINTER

Dear Friends

Recently David Attenborough did a very good programme on TV examining the work of Charles Darwin, who first put forward the theory of evolution in his book 'The Origin of the Species'. He explained it in a very understandable way and also added some more recent scientific discoveries which he felt fitted in with Darwin's observations. This year marks the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth and 150 years since the book was published.

In his youth Darwin had the opportunity to go on a five year world voyage on board 'The Beagle' as a geologist. During that time he collected rocks, fossils, insect and birds. He also made nature notes and sketches. From his observations, and over a 20 year period, he formulated his theory of evolution which was published in 1859. Such a radical book was bound to cause controversy - and it did! Some church leaders condemned it as striking at the very roots of Christian belief, while others saw it as very much in tune with God's creating purpose. The Rev Charles Kingsley congratulated Darwin on his book and wrote to him: "All I have seen awes me" he then went on to explain how it had transformed his faith. Some scientists had also reached much the same conclusion whereas others, like Richard Owen, John Herschel and Louis Agassiz, rejected it on scientific rather than religious grounds.

That controversy is still with us today, but I think that much of it is based on a false premise. Trying to compare Darwin's theory of evolution with the first chapters of the Bible, which describe creation taking place in six days, is not comparing like with like. So you can never reconcile the two. The creation story in the bible is a poetic construction and the theory of evolution in Darwin's book is a scientific formula.

When Darwin wrote his book, he was trying to make sense of what he had observed in the natural world around him. He used the best methods of scientific proof that he knew to present his theory in a logical manner. However, the first chapters of the Bible have an entirely different function. The writer is not a scientist he is trying to put across his understanding that God created the world and that God loves and sustains his world. On the sixth day God creates people who are given the responsibility, under God, to care for his creation. His framework of a week of creation is a poetic one, which is there to give praise to God for all that he has done.

I do not think it is a problem to see God using the evolutionary process to change and develop his world. However 'The Survival of the Fittest' (the sub title of Darwin's book) might lead people to conclude that those with the power have the right to subjugate weaker people and nations. Whereas the message of God's creation is that we, as human beings, have the responsibility to care for others and for our environment. This is a challenge which is very much before us as we enter the 21st century. To be responsible for the weak and vulnerable, to help developing nations to achieve a reasonable standard of life and to protect our planet for future generations to use and enjoy.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Let us not end that sentence by saying:

In the end people destroyed it.

Neither the evolutionist nor Christian would want that, so we need to be united in our purpose of working for the good of all throughout our world.

*Josie Midwinter*



## MOTHERING SUNDAY

10 am Sunday 22 March in church  
An informal service with flowers for all the Mums

## CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP

10 am to 12 noon

Saturday 21 March in the church room

To prepare for Mothering Sunday (ring 531374 to book)

# BAPTIST CHURCH

Church Secretary: Mrs Jayne Henderson.....Tel. 522161

## REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

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

**EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME**

## FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS **Jean Hager**

Are you feeling lonely, isolated or in need of some friendly company? Why not come along to our monthly tea and chat afternoons. They are held on the first Tuesday of the month in St Peter's Church Room from 3.00 pm to 4:30 pm and you are invited to drop in during these times. The teapot is always at the ready and you can be sure of a warm welcome. Our next two dates are 3rd March and 7th April. If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.

## LOCAL METHODIST WORSHIP

High Street, Milton  
Sunday Service: 10.30 am

Local contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409

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

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

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



*Men's hair-dressing on Mondays, 6.30 to 8.00pm,  
when appointments aren't necessary, so why not call in?*

**Special rates for Pensioners and Free Car Parking**

## BENTON & BRYAN BUILDERS

For all types of building work  
from a reliable local company

Kitchens & Bathroom	Extensions
Carpentry	Alterations
Decorating	Roofing
Plastering	Brickwork

Tel: 01235 832513 Mobile: 07905 386150  
Email: bentonandbryan@hotmail.co.uk

# NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

Esme and Chreag Anderson and their sons, Vaughan and Hamish, are settling into their new home in Whitehorns Way and we welcome them to the village most warmly

*Jean Hager*

## MEMORIAL INSPECTIONS

Please be aware that the Parish Council has arranged for the stability of the memorials in the Parish Burial Ground to be professionally inspected during late April/early May 2009. The inspections will be carried out to current inspection guidance to ensure the safety of visitors, staff and public within the cemetery.

For further information please contact the Parish Clerk on 01235 200042

*Marie Sellwood  
Clerk to the Parish Council.*

# THE WHEATSHEAF



**Austin & Geraldine**  
welcome you: to enjoy

Traditional **Home Cooked** Food,

Fine Wines and Beers

In Friendly Comfortable Surroundings.

**Take away Fish & Chips:**

served Mon - Sat until 8pm

**Delicious Home Cooked Roast Lunch:**

Sunday 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)**

## **"The Computer Lady"**

Internet, email/Outlook, broadband, security,  
virus/spyware/adware removal, wired and  
wireless networking, training, PC basics

*All types of computer problems and  
maintenance covered*

**Call Tracey Talbot on 07811 550233**

**email: thecomputerlady@tiscali.co.uk**

# Hexagon Web Works

Stylish websites that WORK

First impressions count.

What do people see when they search for your business on the web?

Contact Sarah for an informal chat:

01235 834556 ~ [www.hexagonwebworks.com](http://www.hexagonwebworks.com) ~ 'Greenfields', 42 Castle St, Steventon, OX13 6SR

# YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor

On a very cold and frosty Saturday morning in January I went to carry out my litter picking rota on the Millennium Green. Armed with two bags I expected the usual sweet wrappers, drinks cans and soggy tissues!

However, there had obviously been quite some party! I collected seven bags of lager and cider tins, wine bottles, Alco pop bottles, food wrappers and other more private items such as a sanitary towel, condom and blood soaked tissues.

Before I go any further, I would like to point out that I am the mum of teenagers and realise that they need space and time with their friends, but as a concerned parent, I would be very worried for the following reasons:

1. Who is selling these young people such large amounts of booze?
2. I would guess that one of the party had cut themselves quite badly
3. On a freezing cold night would you want your child to be walking home in the dark after having a drink?
4. As a parent would you want your teenager spending your or his or her own hard earned money on alcohol?

The argument will be that there are no waste bins provided, I don't think that would solve the issue as empty bags were left, and secondly that they have nowhere in the village to go. Surely one home could occasionally provide the meeting place where they can get together; I know I would rather do this than worry.

Please, I can think of much better ways to spend my time on a precious day off than clearing up the mess left by others!

*Name and address supplied*

Dear Editor,

The PACE Centre is a charity for children with physical disabilities such as cerebral palsy. Currently about one in every 400 children in the UK is affected by cerebral palsy.

Derek and Judy Henman of Drayton are keen supporters of PACE and their granddaughter Natasha Carder has attended for seven years. Many people in the Drayton area have kindly supported PACE through events and collections. All the children and staff send their thanks. PACE's work is dependent on fundraising. Some children are lucky enough to be funded by their local authority, whilst others, including all the youngest children at Parent and Child services (6 months to 2 yrs) are not so lucky. Sadly, families of disabled children are one of the most impoverished groups in society. The average income of families of disabled children is nearly a quarter below the UK mean... and yet it costs up to three times that total to bring up a disabled child.

Without charities like PACE, hundreds of children face a future without the essential life skills they need to be happy, confident and productive members of society. Children with cerebral palsy are most often intellectually bright individuals trapped in bodies that simply don't work. Knowing what you want your body to do but not having the control to move and coordinate movement is, as you can imagine, very frustrating. This is what PACE provides children through its intensive 'education for life' programmes. Every day children like Natasha are challenged and motivated to learn how to control their bodies, mostly simply put, this is a bit like 'brain training'. Science cannot yet repair damage in the brain, but the brain has the capacity to relearn. Therapies offer a wide range of learning experiences from academic, to social, emotional, communication and motor skills (a learned skill that involves voluntary movement to complete a task- such as walking).

Natasha, who celebrates her 10th birthday this year, is a pretty little girl with a lovely smile who happens to have cerebral palsy. She has low tone throughout her body, which means that she finds it very hard to keep a stable position. Her right arm and hand are very weak, and she finds it difficult to carry out activities with

either hand. Natasha also has difficulty in processing the information that she receives through her senses and body.

Despite all this, Natasha has learnt so much and if you were lucky enough to meet her, you would be struck by her wicked sense of humour. Most recently, Natasha has been more motivated to take steps and actually asks to walk during her motor programmes. She is also joining in more with group activities and is moving on with her early Maths skills. Slowly but surely she is learning the skills she will need to take her into adulthood.

Thank you again for the help everyone has given Judy and Derek Henman. If you would like to visit PACE and see first hand how PACE works please come to one of our regular open days. For details, call Simon on 01296 392923 or email [simon.ekless@thepacecentre.org](mailto:simon.ekless@thepacecentre.org)

For now, listen to parents talk about PACE and visit our video library at [www.thepacecentre.org](http://www.thepacecentre.org)

*Simon L'epine Ekless*

*Fundraising and Marketing Manager - PACE*

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank family and friends for their cards of sympathy and donations for The British Heart Foundation totalling £243.17 in memory of my brother Bob Hutt.

I would also like to thank Revd. Sister Josie Midwinter and Jack Jarvis for a lovely service.

*Gladys Haines and Family*

Dear Editor

Ron Sharpe

We would like to express our thanks to family, friends and neighbours for their overwhelming support, cards and letters of sympathy at this very difficult time of our lives.

The great kindness people have shown has been overwhelming, but knowing that so many of you have been touched by our sad loss has been unbelievable.

Ron, the best husband, father and Gramps you could wish for, was liked and respected by so many and will be sadly missed by all.

To date (19th Feb) - donations received in aid of the Silver Star Society, JR Maternity Hospital has reached £654.68

Thank you all

*Yola, Steve, Hayley, Mark, Jamie, Ellie, Lucas and Daisy*



## **N. HAYCROFT PLUMBING** **A complete Plumbing Service**

Taps, Tanks, Ball Valves, Leaks,  
Stopcocks, Burst Pipes, Pumps, Cylinders,  
Immersion, Radiators, Basins, Sinks.  
Installation of Washing Machines, Dishwashers,  
Showers & Bathrooms  
*Over 30 years experience*

**All work fully guaranteed and fully insured**

**Tel : 01235 814739**



## **Abingdon College & District** **Film Society** **2008/2009 Season**

**22 weekly screenings - comedy - drama**  
**some old, many new - talks - special events**

free brochure: Ab 522163 or [info@abfilms.org.uk](mailto:info@abfilms.org.uk)

**2005-6 winners "best programme of films"**  
**(British Federation of Film Societies awards)**  
**[www.abfilms.org.uk](http://www.abfilms.org.uk) Reg. Charity 292723**

Dear Editor,

In the last issue, you asked for comments about gardening articles in The Chronicle. Just to say I enjoyed reading the one in the Jan/Feb issue and it would be nice if they were included from time to time. Harry Bisby used to do one years ago, under a pseudonym I think, and I always enjoyed those.

*Lois Rennells*

Dear Editor,

The Batemans Trust, which supports and funds an orphanage in South India, was invited to leave a collection box in Drayton Post Office and Store early last year. I wish to report to all those who have generously filled it up four times, that the total collected has now reached £146, which is a really wonderful boost to the charity. The trustees are hugely grateful and all the money will go to the work in Chennai (which used to be called Madras). Special thanks of course to the Post Office and Store team who provide such a splendid service for Drayton.

*Nick Thompson, Hon Administrator*

Dear Editor,

Sunday 22nd March is World Water Day and I am organising the collection of pennies at Drayton School. The pennies will be used by Water Aid for buckets of clean water in countries where water supplies are contaminated.

Anyone who would like to join in can bring their pennies to Drayton School, or contact me, Annie Soper on 01235 531632.

*Annie Soper (Aged 11)*

Dear Editor,

My sister Angela and myself would like to thank all our dear friends and neighbours for the cards we received on the death of mum

Thank you for the floral tributes and the large number of you who attended her funeral.

We also thank those who offered help while we looked after mum at home, we certainly appreciated these offers.

*Gwen Mitchell*



## DAMASCUS GROUP ECUMENICAL LENT LECTURES

### SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

exploring the physical and spiritual journey of faith

8pm St Peter's church Drayton

Lecture 30-40 minutes - Questions 10-15 minutes

Followed by refreshments

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| 4 March  | Graham Sparkes - Baptist The Holy Land                          |
| 11 March | Helen White - Methodist<br>Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela |
| 18 March | Chris Stott - Anglican<br>Under the stars in the Sinai Desert   |
| 25 March | Richard Budgen - Catholic My Road to Rome                       |

### **DAMASCUS GROUP SERVICE**

10 am Sunday 29 March  
Sung Eucharist with healing ministry  
at St Peter's Drayton

Speaker: Barbara Marlow

Pilgrimage to Lourdes led by the Archbishop of Canterbury

# MACE STORE

Mon-Sat 5am-8pm Sun 6am-7pm

FOR ALL YOUR PAPERS  
AND MAGAZINES,  
GROCERIES, FROZEN FOODS,  
CARDS, OFF LICENCE and  
SAVOURY SNACKS.

LINK CASH MACHINE AVAILABLE

**LOTTERY TICKETS**

**BREAD BAKED DAILY**

ORDERS TAKEN FOR FRESH BREAD

MOST MAJOR CREDIT CARDS TAKEN

TEL: 01235 554813

FAX No: 01235 531217



## Come and Enjoy Thai New Year Traditional Thai Dancers

Thai Food Disco Bar

**Saturday 21st March 2009**

7.30pm to midnight

Tickets only £15  
(includes Thai buffet)

Children under 12 half price

**Drayton Village Hall**

Tickets 01865 326732

Numbers limited - tickets not  
available at the door

## Janet Manning HOMOEOPATH

B.A. Dip.Ed. M.A. Lic LCCH. RSHom  
Safe, gentle healing, suitable for all ages  
Daytime, Evening appointments and Home visits

**01235 527603**

11 Newman Lane, Drayton

## M S Lally Gas Boiler Service

01235 848592

0796 7015 065

Servicing and Repairs  
Systems Installed  
Boiler changes

Systems Power Flushed

85 Milton Road, Sutton Courtenay



8134

Mrs Suzy Willis

MCSP SRP AACP

**CHARTERED PHYSIOTHERAPIST**

Old Lodge, Henleys Lane

Drayton, OX14 4HU

Tel 01235 531269

*Please ring for an appointment*

## WOODEN SPOON RECIPE

### Kent Lent Pie (Pudding Pie)

I can't trace ever having cooked this for the 'Wooden Spoon' Club, but I thought it an appropriate time of year to include it. Kent is my home county, and as surely as we had mince pies at Christmas, we would have Lent Pie (several times) during Lent.

6 oz shortcrust pastry, 1 oz ground rice, ½ pint milk, grated rind of a lemon, 1 oz butter, 1 oz caster sugar, 2 eggs (beaten), 2 oz sultanas or currants, ¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg.

Set oven to 200C/Mark 6. Roll out pastry and use it to line a greased 7" flan tin or pie plate. Cut a disc of greaseproof paper and put on the pastry and weigh it down preferably with ceramic baking beans. If you don't have any, you can use dried peas or beans or dry pasta tubes. Bake the pastry case for 10 - 15 minutes.

Mix the ground rice with a little of the cold milk. Heat the rest of the milk in a saucepan, with the lemon rind, over a low heat.

Add the butter, sugar and rice mixture to the hot milk and stir until it thickens and a few bubbles appear on the top. Make sure the butter and sugar have melted, add the nutmeg and mix in well.

Cool slightly and then add the egg and mix thoroughly to blend. Pour the mixture into the pastry case and scatter the dried fruit on the surface.

Bake at 170 to 180C/Mark 3 to 4 for 20 to 25 minutes until golden and set.

Ground rice is the sort of ingredient that supermarkets like to hide in unlikely places, however in Waitrose, Abingdon, it is by the savoury rice.

Lois Rennells

## ALL AROUND

### THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Pearl Stanbridge

Please "HELP US TO HELP THEM" by supporting our annual Easter Draw, all proceeds donated to Combat Stress. Tickets are on sale at the normal outlets.

The next Committee meeting will be held on Monday 16th March at 8pm.

### DRAYTON W.I.

Shirley Thomas

In spite of a cold evening we had a very good turn out to enjoy a talk and slide show by Wendy Sinclair on Canal Boats, featuring the painting of flowers used to decorate and enhance their beauty. Wendy also demonstrated how to paint the flowers, making it look so "easy".

March 12th is our A.G.M., followed with a talk by John Walmer of Friars Court on Conservation and Common Sense.

On March 14th between 10.00 and 12.00noon in the Caudwell Day Centre, we are having a Coffee Morning with homemade cakes. We will also have a sales table of cakes and books.

Although the W.I. has a very serious side, currently campaigning for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the lighter side is the fun and friendship we have together. We meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in the Day Centre, why don't you come and see what we are up to?

### PRE SCHOOL PLAYGROUP.

Debbie Bergus

We would like to welcome Oliver Booker and Jack Atherton as they join us after half term. We hope they have a great time at Preschool.

Our topic for this term is Dinosaurs. We will be doing lots of building and painting of lots of the different dinosaurs. Look out for the models! We will also be looking at how the garden is growing, especially our maze of daffodils, to see how it develops.

We do have sessions available for children aged 2½ to 5yrs. We are also happy to put younger children onto our waiting list. Please do keep supporting us, the children have great fun and are always learning new things. Please contact Preschool on 01235 536094 for a welcome pack or to visit.

We will once again be collecting the Sainsbury's Active Kids 09 vouchers. These are a great way for us to obtain new equipment and toys which the children love. The collection box is just inside the door at Preschool and all vouchers are gratefully received.

We are holding a Table Top Sale in conjunction with Drayton Toddlers on Sunday 15th March, 10am til 12 Noon. It is at Steventon Village Hall and tables are £10. Please contact preschool on 01235 536094 for further details.

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

Also coming up: Toddle – date and details to follow

HAVE YOU TRIED OUR **FREE RANGE EGGS?**



Brook Farm, Milton Road

**OPENING HOURS**  
Mon to Sat - 9.00am to 1.00pm Except Friday 9.00am to 6.00pm

**FREE RANGE EGGS, & POTATOES (if available)**  
Our own lamb available May to December



**Smart Doggie**  
**Professional Dog Grooming Service**

- Bathing & Grooming
- Clipping
- Trimming
- Hand Stripping
- Nail & Ear Care



Mere Dyke Road  
Telephone: 01235 831420  
Mobile: 07709 276273

**Tess M. Goldblatt BSc. Hons (Pod)**  
HPC Registered MChS, SRCh  
**PODIATRIST/CHIROPODIST**

Specialising in all types of foot care  
Home visiting practice  
Evenings/Weekends/Emergencies

- Corns
- Callouses
- In-growing toe nails
- All general foot problems

Over 14 years experience working in the NHS  
TEL: 01235 526505 MOBILE: 07976974115

**POST OFFICE** **Drayton Post Office**  
Mon - Fri 9 - 5.30 Sat 9 - 12.30  
**& CONVENIENCE STORE**  
Open All Week 8 am - 10 pm  
9, The Green, Drayton, OX14 4JA  
01235 531359



## MORE ALL AROUND

### DRAYTON TABLE TENNIS CLUB **John Gould**

The Club will be holding a Quiz Night on Friday 27th March at the School. These have been popular in the past and we are looking to welcome teams of four persons (max). Those interested should ring Abingdon 531328 or 205111 for details and to enter.

As they say in a lot of sports 'it's a game of two halves'. The Didcot League's season is no different and we have now entered the second half. This has seen the start of the Handicap Tournament whereby our teams can play teams from all other divisions. The teams are divided into mini leagues of four teams. The top two then progress to the knockout stages. Five of our seven teams have entered. So far the 'C' team have won their opening two ties and are doing the best of our five entries. There is a long way to go so I'll report later in the season.

In the League, the A team are in second place in Division 1. They still have to play the leaders – BR Crown home and away so the title will depend on those two ties. The B team are happily in mid table. In division 2 the C team are one of four teams trying to finish in the top two. Currently third, they should have a very interesting time for the rest of the season. The D & G teams in Division 3 are both doing well. The D team are mid table with the G team in second place and looking certain to be promoted. The E team in Division 4 are 4th and will probably consolidate their mid table position. The F team in division 5 are coping well in what for many is their first season of league ping pong. Stewart Jones is having a particularly good season.

The Club have reached the Final of the Bidmead Cup. We are past winners of this handicap tournament several times. We will play Abingdon club in April for the Cup. The team of Matthew Davies, Nicole Hunt & Matt Wicks beat BR Didcot by nine points to reach the final. Non playing Captain David Hudson is quietly confident.

A new Development League has started at Abingdon Leisure Centre. Our team of Blair Coles, Ryan Gimigliano & Ryan Seamark have started well and are getting good experience of competitive table tennis. They continue to enjoy our Monday Night sessions at the school. Any other youngsters wanting to play table tennis will be welcome to attend. Parents please just bring them along from 7.00 pm.

### TODDLERS

**Julie Laws**

Congratulations to Karen and Mark Sharman on the birth of their son, Arthur George on 23rd January, a little brother for Alfie and Harry. Lots of love to you all.

Toddlers will be holding a nearly new sale with Drayton Pre-School at **Steventon Village Hall** on Sunday March 15th, 10am-12 noon. There will be refreshments on sale and a small admission fee will be charged. If you would like to book a table please speak to Tracey on the number below.

The children have been enjoying some fabulous new toys recently - thank you very much Tracey, Becca and Michelle. The older boys are really enjoying the new baby toys!!!!

It has been lovely to welcome new babies and toddlers to our Group at the start of this New Year and we would love to see more. If you or anyone you know may be interested please contact Tracey on 07732 2533057. Toddlers is held on Thursday mornings 9.30am-11.30am at Drayton Village Hall and is run on a membership basis.

### DRAYTON WIVES.

**Pam Lacey**

We had a splendid attendance at our January meeting when Zovig Nahoulakian came along and gave us a very interesting talk on handbag making using off-cuts of leather in various lovely colours. Zovig designed these from her own patterns. She brought with her a selection of handbags which were available for purchase together with a variety of flower brooches and purses, also some examples of her latest venture, leather cushions.

This was followed by a talk on the arranging and care of flowers by our Treasurer, Margaret Watts. Margaret then showed us how to make a lovely arrangement using an assortment of flowers and foliage. The afternoon was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Dates for your diary in **March:**

Mon 9th COFFEE – Trudi Buckner, 52 Whitehorns Way

Mon 16th WHIST – Doreen Eato

Wed 25th MEETING – Paul Mayhew Archer – Comedy Scriptwriting for Television.

### DRAYTON PLAYERS.

**Jean Hager**

By the time that this issue of the Chronicle is delivered, our murder-mystery evenings will have been completed. We have had great fun putting this show together and we hope our audiences enjoyed the experience also. There will be more about this production next month.

Our other pressing news is a reminder for all members about our AGM. This will take place in the Caudwell Day centre on Thursday 26th March at 7.30 pm. We ask ALL members to attend this very important meeting and, at the same time, invite anyone interested in joining the group to come along also. Whatever your interest, on stage, back stage, lighting, electrics, scenery, costume, sound, directing to name just a few of the areas covered in this lively and friendly society, you will be most warmly welcomed. If you would like some information before the AGM you can contact GEORGIA ALSTON on 531425, or me, on 531558. Do come along and try us out!



## The Red Lion



*Glenn & Janet welcome you*

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

12:00 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 undercover patio dining area, and children's play area.

Serving lunch Monday - Saturday 11.30am - 2.00pm

And evening meals Monday - Friday 6pm - 8pm

Senior Citizen lunchtime discount 20%

En-suite Bed & Breakfast Rooms available, call for details

We are always looking for people to join our darts teams, aunt sally teams, cribbage teams and pool team so if you are interested just pop in and see us.

*For party bookings or enquiries phone*

01235 531457



## The Red Lion



### Tranquil Beauty

Professional Beauty Therapy

in a Relaxing Environment

**Sara Warwick VTCT**

**07966 844409**

**\*Now doing Bio Sculpture Gel Nails\***

Facials - Massage - Manicures - Pedicures

Waxing - Eye Treatments - Body Treatments

Gift Vouchers Available

# NOTICE BOARD

## DRAYTON COMMUNITY DAY 2009

Would anyone like to get involved with this year's Community Day? I joined in with the organising committee last year for the first time and as a result have made a group of lovely new friends and know a lot more about what is going on in Drayton. The idea is for people to only do what they are able so that no-one need feel excluded if they don't have a huge amount of time. It really is a great way to meet people and I would like to encourage all age groups to come forward, particularly the young people who I imagine will have many great ideas on how to make the day good fun.

Please get in touch with me on 529510 if you would like to volunteer or just to find out more about it before you decide.

*Kay Davies*

## ABINGDON DIARY

A new calendar has been launched to help promote the wide range of events, activities and entertainment going on in Abingdon. The calendar is online at [www.abingdon diary.co.uk](http://www.abingdon diary.co.uk), via other local websites and soon in printed versions available around the town.

Its aim is to promote Abingdon in the early months of 2009 and encourage local people and visitors to come into the town during what is traditionally a quieter time of year.

The calendar includes theatre productions, music performances, one-off events in the Market Place, exhibitions at the Museum, promotional events run by town businesses, sports and leisure activities, plus major calendar highlights like Abingdon Arts Festival and Fairtrade Fortnight.

It is hoped that community groups and businesses will add extra activities and events to the calendar, either as one-offs or to tie in with another in the diary. Community groups or businesses that plan to put on an event are invited to get in touch so that it can be added to the calendar.

Work on the calendar brings together local volunteers, councillors, council officers, and businesspeople. It ties in with the work of the 'Choose Abingdon' partnership, which links Abingdon Town Council, Vale of White Horse District Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Abingdon-on-Thames Chamber of Commerce, individual businesses and community members to focus on the vitality of the town.

Town Council Leader, Lesley Legge, says: "Even in what you might think is a quieter time of year, there is a great deal going on in Abingdon. The calendar is a real community-wide effort and highlights the great range of events, activities and entertainment we have. We hope that many more people will come and see and take part in what's on. This will boost the community and volunteer groups running events and our town's commercial, retail and hospitality businesses in these challenging economic times."

There's more at [www.abingdon diary.co.uk](http://www.abingdon diary.co.uk) and [www.abingdon.gov.uk](http://www.abingdon.gov.uk). Anyone wanting to add their event to the calendar can email [abingdon diary@otcn.co.uk](mailto:abingdon diary@otcn.co.uk), write to Abingdon Diary at The Information Centre, Old Abbey House, Abbey Close, Abingdon. OX14 3JD or drop in there and let us know.

*Hester Hand*

## IAN CONSTANTINE GARDENING SERVICES

- Garden Design
- Soft & Hard landscaping; Turfing,
- Pruning, Fencing, Paving, Patios & Ponds etc.
- General garden maintenance & clearing

Professionally qualified

32 Church Lane, Drayton, OX14 4JS

Tel: 01235 202 600 Mobile: 07947803016

## DEDDINGTON WRITING COMPETITION

### A new challenge for local writers.

The 5th Writing Competition run in conjunction with the Deddington Festival is open to all and offers a cash prize for the winner and runner-up in both the story and poetry sections. Additionally all whose work is shortlisted will receive a critique from the judge to help them towards more writing. The theme for the competition is 'Journey'.

A parallel competition is offered for those at school and is divided into two sections – Secondary for those aged 16 and under, and Junior for those aged 11 and under. Entries may be for poetry or story on the theme of 'The Secret'. These will also attract a first prize and modest prizes for runners-up together with a certificate and judges comments for all whose work is on the short list.

The closing date for all entries is 30th April 2009. Full details, available in late January, can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to *DWG Competition, 26 The Daedings, Deddington, Banbury OX15 0RT* or by going to [www.deddingtonfestival.org.uk](http://www.deddingtonfestival.org.uk)

## CANCER RESEARCH UK RELAY FOR LIFE

A small group of volunteers are seeking to establish a first *Relay For Life* event in Abingdon in the summer of 2009. This promises to be a very different experience for most people, including established cancer research supporters. And before you run away at the thought of vigorous exercise, it's a fun event suitable for all ages and abilities and no running is necessary (unless you want to). The event is held over a 24 hour period on a weekend. It draws on the community in Abingdon and South Oxfordshire. It combines lots of fun activities from face painting to singing and dancing (and you can participate or just watch) with the more serious side of remembering those that have been touched by cancer, celebrating the survivors, and most of all, being positive about the successes that future research is certain to bring. It's a group event meant for family and friends who between them carry out the *Relay*. Let's be honest, this is about raising funds for charity, but there's never been a more fun filled or rewarding way to get involved. If you want to know more, or how to get involved, you can call Paul on 07757713314 or email: [abingdon.relay@btinternet.com](mailto:abingdon.relay@btinternet.com). There is also information on the web: <http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/relay/>. We would love to hear from you.



## FREEMANS FLOWERS



BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS FOR ANY OCCASION

LOCAL & NATIONAL DELIVERIES

137 BRASENOSE ROAD DIDCOT  
OXON OX11 7BP

TEL: 01235 814479

[freemansflowers@btconnect.com](mailto:freemansflowers@btconnect.com)

[www.freemansflowers.org.uk](http://www.freemansflowers.org.uk)

# NOTICE BOARD CONTINUED

## MANAGEMENT OF ST PETERS CHURCH EAST AND WEST CHURCHYARDS

The parochial church council (P.C.C.) intend to manage both churchyards in such a way to as to encourage a wide range of flora and fauna to inhabit the area. This does not mean letting the churchyards becoming a jungle, but rather keeping the vast majority of the space kept as it is now. A small area of approximately 12 square metres, probably in the West churchyard, being managed as a meadow.

The provision of a wide range of nest boxes and other habitats will be introduced, along with hopefully more seating dotted around to enable the members of the public to sit and enjoy the peace and tranquillity that we hope will be a major part of this scheme.

It is also hoped to introduce some native plants that are becoming less common. None of this will happen until after a survey has been undertaken to establish what we have now, and a period of consultation with any interested parties. Please tell the P.C.C. what you feel about this proposal, as it is vitally important to have as much input as possible so that the scheme can be adapted to achieve its goals without causing any undue distress to those who visit the churchyards at present.

To express your opinion please contact the P.C.C.

*c/o Colin Arnold, 95 Abingdon Road  
Drayton, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4HL*

*Telephone 01235 531923, e-mail colinh.arnold@virgin.net*

## INCINERATOR PROPOSAL

This is an update on the campaign, by Sutton Courtenay Against the Incinerator (SCAI), challenging the proposal to build an incinerator near Sutton Courtenay.

The latest note of import is that a fresh 3 week Public Consultation by Oxfordshire County Council is to start shortly. This has proved necessary due to omissions in the Waste Recycling Group (WRG)'s application, including the Human Health Risk

We all therefore still have an opportunity to object by writing to the Planning Officer, [mary.thompson@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:mary.thompson@oxfordshire.gov.uk), quoting WRG SUT/APF/616 60CM. Please also send a hard copy to: Mary Thompson, Planning Department, Oxfordshire County Council, Speedwell House, Oxford OX1 1NE.

Key areas of concern to raise can be found at [www.scai.co.uk](http://www.scai.co.uk).

The Public Consultation is also an opportunity for all local Parish Councils to review their position and raise objections. The Vale DC has raised 12 substantive objections to the proposal to build one in Sutton Courtenay, in the north of the County. 20 parish councils have raised objections to the alternative proposal to build an incinerator in Ardley and Cherwell District Council has even threatened to take Oxfordshire County Council to the High Court, if that proposal goes ahead.

**Economic Risks:** Having highlighted the health risks last month, on 10th February, a demonstration was held outside County Hall prior to the Council debate on the Budget. Sutton Courtenay Against the Incinerator (SCAI) and Sutton Courtenay Parish Council then made statements to the full council on the economic risks of incineration and of a 25 year contract. These highlighted that other local authorities were investing in alternative technologies, which were cheaper and less hazardous to health and the environment than incineration.

The SCAI statement included the following quotes from Cllr Keith Ferrin, Kent County Council's cabinet member for environmental and waste services, about the bad Waste deal negotiated with WRG. "If I could get out of the long-term contract I have inherited I would do that". "The people who thought they were being very clever and economical with people's money ten years ago have produced a situation where the reverse is true, as KCC is now committed to a contract we can't get out of

what seemed a very wise decision a very long time ago is a very stupid one today."

**Public Meetings:** SCAI addressed a well attended Public Meeting in Long Wittenham on 3rd February. This led to the formation of Wittenham Against the Incinerator. This group is now heavily involved in opposing the proposal. A further public meeting is being held in Dorchester on 27th Feb and SCAI is looking to help any other local communities in running similar public meetings. If you would like one in your community please ring 01235 848082.

**Petition Gathering:** SCAI's online petition has reached 2790. With hard copy signatures we now have a total of over 7,300 signatures, but need many more.

Have you signed the on line petition at [www.scai.co.uk](http://www.scai.co.uk)?

*Callum Mackenzie, tel. 01235 848082*

## GARD REPORT

Last month we were expecting Thames Water to produce their revised plan promised for 4th February after a three month postponement. Now it has been deferred again until 27th February because, we are told, TW directors considered that insufficient regard had been given to the economic downturn.

Apart from further research there is therefore little new for GARD to report except for the constraint which has now been placed upon the Environment Agency with regard to commenting publicly on the Thames Water revised plan when the next draft finally emerges.

A statement from the Environment Agency announced that they cannot make any public comment on, quote "*our (EA's) thoughts on any proposed modification to the draft plan OR how well Thames Water have addressed our (EA,s) or any other peoples concerns*"

As it appears that there are few in Defra who are technically competent to assess the full quality and accuracy of Thames Water's revised data and responses to our questions the Environment Agency's professional impartial assessment is essential. The public should be informed of the facts on which the Minister will be making his decision.

It appears that nobody, apart from Defra and the Minister is allowed to know all these facts relating to the quality of Thames Water's revised draft, or to ensure that our questions and alternatives are properly addressed and any inaccuracies in the revised plan pointed out - unless Ofwat steps in. I have no doubt that all who commented as part of the consultation will be concerned. We will study the Thames Water response carefully and intend to continue to make our voice heard.

*Nick Thompson, Hon Chairman GARD*

## FIRST DRAYTON BROWNIES –HELP!

Can you help us? We need a new Brown Owl next term!

Do you enjoy working with children? Were you once a Brownie or a Guide? Do you enjoy craft, games, fun, and outdoor activities? Are the values of Guiding of home, family and community, and helping other people, of importance to you? Do you have a couple of hours a week to spare?

If the answer to any of these is yes, perhaps you would like to consider volunteering to help us as a Leader or helper?

There have been Brownies and Guides in Drayton for over 50 years and generations of girls and young women have been members of this worldwide movement.

Girls who are Brownies make friends from different schools and villages; learn skills they don't learn at school; go on adventures such as camps and trips; gain confidence; enjoy teamwork and develop individually.

I have run the Pack for some years now and I will be retiring as Brown Owl in July, at the end of term. I would like to find a new leader as soon as possible so that we have plenty of time to change over. It is a great way to be involved in the community here!

Do contact me on 01235 823077, or email [nickandmaryt@hotmail.com](mailto:nickandmaryt@hotmail.com)

*Mary Thompson, Brownie Guider*

## MONEY MONEY MONEY

With the recession or depression (can you help me out here, Mr Brown!), now seemingly in full swing, have you ever wondered where your Council Tax goes?

Did you know that a relatively small amount is paid to the Parish Council. The Parish Council's annual budget is small in comparison to many villages, and it sets aside some money each year for village groups, clubs and organisations to apply for donations.

There are, of course, rules regarding how the Parish Council spends its money. Section 137 of the 1972 Local Government Act allows for money to be spent by a Council, "Where no other statutory powers exist". Are you still with me? This is the power vested in the Parish Council to award money to activities which provide direct benefit to the village or villagers. The Money set aside can be no more than a set figure per elector in the Parish. This year this figure is a huge £6.15 pence per elector.

For those who have not fallen asleep, here is the interesting bit! If you run a group, club, or organisation within the village, and you have a project or event this year which will benefit the village, please contact the Parish Clerk, Mrs. Marie Sellwood on 01235 200042, or email mariesellwood@hotmail.co.uk for an application form and details of the donation request policy.

If you are interested in the workings of the Parish Council, or would like to get involved in the finances, please come along to the next Parish Council Meeting on the 2nd March 2009 at the Caudwell Day Centre at 7.30pm.

Robin Butler

### A.L.VICKERY & SON

5, THE GREEN, DRAYTON, OX14 4JA

01235 531497

COOKSHOP – HOUSEWARES – DIY

ELECTRICAL TOOLS – GARDENING

LOCKSMITHS – KEYS CUT WHILE YOU WAIT

**OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY, 9 to 5.30**

**CREDIT CARDS TAKEN**

Park your car outside the Store

**NOW STOCKING HOOVER BAGS AND PRE-PACKED COAL**

### PLASTERING & COVING

**All new & refurbishment works.  
Re-skimming Artex ceilings & walls.  
Drylining & loft insulating.**



Contact Darren

07549 032838 or 01235 538094



**Tonks Brothers Funeral Directors**

**Benjamin Tonks**

158 Ock Street  
Abingdon  
Oxon  
OX14 5DT

Tel: 01235-539444  
Fax: 01235-537150  
Email: tonksbrothers@aol.com

## GARDEN TOPICS

### Winter colour

Right now there is a little magic occurring in the garden. A small and very special group of shrubs flower in late winter just as the days are lengthening and spring is approaching. Of course these are a delight, bringing colour and excitement to beds and borders. What comes as an unexpected pleasure is the scent that some of these produce, especially if situated in sheltered corners of the garden where the scent can accumulate and intensify in the moist, heavy air of winter days.

*Mahonia x media* is the perfect candidate if flowers and scent are what you want. Also known as Lily of the Valley Bush, *Mahonia media* is the ideal choice for a shaded or partially shaded position. One way to maximise the benefit of this plant is to grow it at the back of borders so that when the plants in front die back, the flowers and foliage of the *Mahonia* are clear to see.

*Mahonia x media* 'Winter sun' is a beautiful upright shrub that produces holly-like leaves and dense clusters of highly fragrant scented yellow flowers along its stems from late autumn to mid-winter. The fruits of *Mahonia* deserve a mention as they are edible either raw or cooked. Some people swear by them as an accompaniment to breakfast cereals such as muesli or porridge, so after all the fun of flowers in winter you can enjoy fruit in spring.

Another beautiful shrub that produces strongly scented flowers during the dark months of winter is *Corylopsis pauciflora* (Winter Hazel). It is a tough shrub bearing masses of butter-yellow flowers. This is a shrub that has year-round interest; abundant flowers you can rely on, plenty of winter structure and attractive leaves in the growing season (bright green at maturity, bronzing when young).

Both shrubs are tolerant of a range of normally encountered garden soils; they are trouble free and easy to look after. *Mahonia* needs a light trim after flowering to maintain shape. *Corylopsis* benefits from a thin-out pruning in late winter to remove untidy shoots. *Mahonia x media* is a much bigger shrub, achieving a height and spread of around 5m and 4m respectively in comparison with 1.5m and 2.5m or thereabouts for *Corylopsis pauciflora*.

Both these shrubs will make a contribution to intercepting harmful particulates in the air that circulate around your house and garden. Placing several of these between your home and a road, for example, will improve the local air quality as well as provide you with a wonderful display of flowers – just another example of the broader benefits that plants bring to our lives.

Anne Hendry, Newington Nurseries

(Editor's Note: This article was dated February but since there isn't a separate February issue, it is included here – as well as the March article on Page 13)

### NEWINGTON NURSERIES

Specialists in the unusual

**Breathe new life into your garden!**



GARDEN DESIGN & LANDSCAPING by CHELSEA GOLD MEDALISTS

Show gardens to wander through

Fabulous semi-mature & mature plants for sale  
Fantastic display of orchids & houseplants throughout the year  
Unusual garden artefacts and stoneware available  
'Coffee-on-the-go'

'A haven for plant lovers' on the A329, Newington, Nr Stadhampton, OX10 7AW  
Tel 01865 400533 - www.newington-nurseries.co.uk - Closed on Mondays except Bank Holidays

### ST PETER'S CHURCH HOME-VISITING GROUP

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

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

## GARDEN TOPICS

### Shrubs for Screening

Do you need to screen an unsightly building or other structure such as a wall or fence? Would you like more privacy in your garden? Or do you just want a natural and living fence? Broad leaf evergreens can provide the answer. They can be used to great effect in concealing an eyesore from view or creating private areas in a garden that is overlooked.

Some evergreen shrubs can offer the perfect solution particularly if you don't want to end up with a screen that will shade either your, or your neighbour's garden or grow to immense proportions. They will also provide year-round interest - colour, flowers and berries - as well as giving sanctuary to wildlife. Natural screens are fairly maintenance-free so will save you time and money.

*Photinia x fraseri* 'Red Robin' is one such example. This easy and highly attractive shrub is good as either an informal or formal hedge growing quite quickly and reaching the desired height within three to five years. Its maximum height is around 4 to 5 metres but regular clipping (only a couple of times a year) will keep the height in check if you want a screen of just 3 metres or so. In fact, light pruning just two or three times annually will encourage production of the beautiful red shoots which provide much needed colour during dreary winter months. Clusters of tiny white flowers will appear during the spring and these are followed by small red, maturing to black, berries. *Photinia x fraseri* 'Red Robin' suits most soils and tolerates sun or light shade. It enjoys a little shelter from the wind so planting against an unattractive building or other structure that you would like to hide is ideal.

Another excellent screening plant is *Elaeagnus x ebbingei*. This lovely evergreen plant is tolerant of exposed and windy areas. It is a tough shrub, will quickly grow to its maximum height of around 3 to 4 metres and can be planted to create either a boundary hedge or a screen against an unsightly object. The foliage is a glossy, deep green colour but if you want a plant that provides an overall lighter effect, then try *E. x ebbingei* 'Limelight'. It is as fast growing as the species but the green foliage is splashed with bright yellow and green. Both shrubs produce gorgeous white, highly fragrant, trumpet-shaped flowers in autumn and these are followed by edible berries. You can enjoy the wonderful aroma of the flowers if the shrub is planted against a wall or fence that you have to walk past on a regular basis.

Or why not think of using *Viburnum tinus*? This plant is fairly fast growing, reaching its maximum height of around 3 metres within three to five years. *Viburnum tinus* is highly valued for its many clusters of white flowers produced in late autumn and lasting throughout the winter months. Come the spring, the flowers will have turned into metallic-blue berries. *Viburnum tinus* makes a good informal hedge or screen and tolerates most soils as well as deep shade although light shade or sun are the ideal growing conditions. *Viburnum tinus* 'Eve Price' is similar to the species but has a slightly smaller habit, smaller glossy green leaves and produces very pale pink flower buds which open to small white blooms.

So you can very easily hide unattractive 'blots on the landscape' by planting some broad leaf evergreens. If you like, you can plant the above shrubs in groups of three or five to ensure that you have flowers and berries for the best part of the year. Plant care is easy, light clipping to maintain shape is all that is required during spring and summer. Water well during the first year of planting, apply some organic feed and the plants will romp away, giving you both privacy and a beautiful outlook in no time at all.

Anne Hendry  
Newington Nurseries

(Editor's Note: This is the March article, February article on Page 12)

## Hazel Lee

### Painter & Decorator Interior & Exterior

Free quotes

07866 509683

[hazel.lee78@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hazel.lee78@hotmail.co.uk)

## Just Grass

### Weekly / Fortnightly Lawn Mowing Service

Tel: 01235 553468 Mob: 07921 102100

### General Garden Maintenance Hedge Cutting - Tree Work

Julian Cook. 43 Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton

## First Aid

At Work Training  
FROM LEARNING TO TREATMENT

Health & Safety  
Executive Approved

10% off  
your first  
booking!

For quality training at competitive rates, locally at Milton Park, Abingdon contact us now on...Tel: 01235 832791 quoting reference D10

## Whiteleaf Training Limited

FIRST AID - CARE - PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT - EMERGENCY PLANNING



185 Milton Park, Abingdon Oxfordshire OX14 4SR

W: [www.whiteleaftraining.com](http://www.whiteleaftraining.com) E: [whiteleaftraining@btinternet.com](mailto:whiteleaftraining@btinternet.com)

## Learn to Drive with your Local Instructor

Fast friendly patient tuition

Door to door home or work

Evening and weekend appointments available

Discount on pre-paid block booking

PHILIP PULLEN 07733 360230

Franchised instructor for Safeway UK  
The Motoring School

## L. J. MULLINS

### PAINTING & DECORATING

- \* Interior & Exterior, one room to whole house
- \* Local, reliable, professional, friendly service
- \* Competitive prices



Contact Lee for your no obligation quotation

Van/Mob: 07815 288909

Office: 01235 554032

Email: [lee.mullins01@virgin.net](mailto:lee.mullins01@virgin.net)

# DRAYTON DIARY

## FOR MARCH

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

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

**Regular Events are listed opposite**

Sun	1st	11.15 – 11.45 am	Fair Trade Sale	Church
Mon	2nd	7.30 pm	Parish Council meeting	Caudwell DC
Sun	8th		Private meeting	All day
Sat	14th		Sequence Dance	
Sun	15th		Bowls	All Day
Mon	16th		Hall Management Meeting	7:30 pm
Mon	16th	5.00 pm	Chronicle copy deadline	Vickery's box
Sat	21st		Thai New Year Supper & Dancing	
Fri	27th		Private Meeting.	

## CLEANER HOMES

*A clean home makes a happy home*



Whether you require a daily, weekly or fortnightly clean Cleaner Homes can help.

Key holding services available, uniformed staff, Mother and daughter run business, full public liability insurance and genuine references.

Special rates for Pensioners.

**39 Kennet Road, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 3ST.**  
**Tel: 07864 579831 or 01235 537902**

## Home Helpers Care Ltd

25 The Nursery Sutton Courtenay Oxon OX14 4UA  
Tel: 01235 848822 Fax 01235 848688  
(Established since 1993)

**Providing Services in the South & Vale to:**

Private Customers / Direct Payment Customers / Social Services  
Funded Customers / Independent Living Customers.  
Comprehensive Range of Care Services Including Palliative Care  
Day & Night Sitters: Meals: At home laundry  
Shopping / Collecting Pensions / Paying Bills / Light Domestic Tasks  
Call the team for further information 01235 848822

## MISSED OUT ON YOUR CHRONICLE?

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

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

## REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

### MONDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	School Ground Bldg
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
5.45 pm	Beavers (Boys / girls, 6-8 yrs, Tel. 512834)	Steventon Hall
7.00 pm	Scouts (Boys / girls, 8-10 yrs, Tel. 512834)	Steventon Hall
7.15 pm	Drayton Wives Whist (3rd Monday)	Caudwell DC
7.00 – 8.30pm	Junior Table Tennis	School
8.00pm	Senior Table Tennis	School
7.45 pm	Parish Council (1st Monday)	Caudwell DC
7.45 pm	Bell-ringing (for 1½ hours)	St Peter's
8.30 pm	Badminton (Private Group)	

### TUESDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	School Ground Bldg
1.45 pm	Drayton Art Group (until 4 pm)	Caudwell Day Centre
3.00 pm	First Tuesday Connections (1st Tuesday)	Church Room
3.00 pm	Junior Netball (for 1 hour)	School
6.00 pm	Ladies' Netball (for 1 hour)	School
7.15 pm	League Table Tennis	School

### WEDNESDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	School Ground Bldg
11.00 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	Haywards Rd
11.20 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	The Green Car Pk
2.00 pm	Whist – now each week	Caudwell Day Centre
2.00 pm	Drayton Wives (Last Wednesday in the month)	
2.15 pm	Badminton	
6.15 pm	Brownies	
6.15 pm	Cubs (Boys / girls, 8-9 yrs, Tel. 512834)	Steventon Hall
7.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
7.30 pm	Bingo Session	Caudwell Day Centre
7.15 pm	League Table Tennis	School

### THURSDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	School Ground Bldg
	followed by lunch club and afternoon session	
9.00 am	Foot Clinic (First Thursday in Month)	Caudwell Day Centre
9.30 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's Lady Chapel
9.30 am	Parent & Toddler Group	
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
7.15 pm	League Table Tennis	School
7.30 pm	Women's Institute Meeting (2nd Thursday)	
7.30 pm	Sequence Dancing. Tel: 531701	

### FRIDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	School Ground Bldg
11.00 am	The Friday Club (fortnightly) 202466	Caudwell Day Centre
7.45pm	Choir Practice (fortnightly)	St Peter's

### SUNDAYS

8.00 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (Family Service 2nd Sunday)	St Peter's
11.15 am	Family Time (1st Sunday)	Baptist Church
6.00 pm	Evening Worship	Baptist Church

## PROFESSIONAL GARDEN SERVICES

Stephen R Matthews  
133 Kynaston Road Didcot  
Oxfordshire OX11 8HB

Tel: 01235 813 598 Mobile: 07796 532356

All aspects of work undertaken, including:

- garden clearance and restoration
- fruit tree, shrub and rose pruning
- hedgecutting
- rockeries, turfing, trellis and fencing.



Printed by Dataprint, 11a West Way, Botley, Oxford.