

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Derek Pooley

Volume 32 No. 5

June 2009

MOVING ON - ON THE DAMASCUS ROAD

Goodbye from Gary!

Having worked with the DAMASCUS youth project for the past four years, I have seen change! Change that makes me smile. I remember when I first started with the project; we just had a double-decker bus that visited each village once a week for two hours. So much has happened since. We now operate in the villages on a nearly daily basis. We have worked hard to get young people using shared community spaces such as village halls etc. This has given young people ownership and they feel they have a responsibility for their community centres. We still see some graffiti here and there but this has got a lot better and I feel the young people are beginning to understand they have a responsibility to be positive members of the community.

We have built a bank of great key volunteers throughout the villages who enjoy engaging with young people – though we still need more who are prepared to take some responsibility! I have realised over the years to have a successful community project you need local volunteers who are committed to engaging and empowering young people. My thanks go out to all of them. I have met some great people who are now my friends. And thank you if you are somebody in the street who talks to young people, a simple hello means so much! It's easy to be intimidated by them but behind the hoodies they really are a nice bunch. I have had so many fantastic experiences working within the DAMASCUS villages. I have seen groups grow up and make that rocky transition to adulthood, so many reminded me of my own and it was great to empower young people to make positive choices and inform them on issues that impacted them or their peers.

Continued on page 8 ➔

Editor's Note:

Many people have contributed to the success of the DAMASCUS youth project but none more than Drayton's own Gary Hibbins. Thank you Gary, for all you have already done for youngsters in this area. We send you our very best wishes for even greater successes as training manager.

Hello from Andrew!

I'm sure that by now you have all heard about DAMASCUS and the great work it has been doing in the local villages. I have been working alongside Gary and the rest of the team for quite a while.

I am delighted that now I can get even more involved with this fantastic charity led project, in the role of community youth worker. Gary has achieved great things with young people and I feel privileged to be working with him. We also have many great volunteers who do so much. I know that without their continued effort, dedication and support the DAMASCUS project could not achieve a fraction of what it has. I am a strong believer in community spirit; I hope that with everyone in the villages working together, we can create a safe, friendly and productive community.

For those of you that do not yet know me let me give a little introduction. Although I was born in Hemel Hempstead, I have lived in Drayton since I was two years old. I have worked in Appleford and Milton, spent much time in Sutton Courtenay and Steventon and I am fortunate enough to know many people, young and not so young from all of the villages in which I am now based.

I have had a wide range of jobs, from bar work to building sites from checkouts to meter reading and too many others to mention. However through it all I have always known what I have really

wanted to do with my life and that is youth work.

Other than the work I have been doing with Damascus, I have experiences of working with young people. I have been fortunate to spend much time in India. I have worked in schools, visited poorer areas with a mobile library and also supported a rural tribal village. These stays in India, seeing how people, who (in western eyes) have so little, still exude a sense of happiness, love and community spirit has made a great impact on me. I hope that I can draw from these experiences and with all of your help bring the best out of our young people in the villages. I know we can achieve this.

Continued on page 8 ➔

Also in this issue:

p5: Could you be the Hall Secretary?

p6: Parents responsibilities!

p8: Can you help care for the Millennium Green?

p14: Unstable gravestones

p15: The Community Day is coming!

DRAYTON ART GROUP

Annual Exhibition

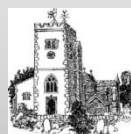
The Caudwell Day Centre
Saturday 27 June
2pm to 4pm



Cake, Plant, Book & Raffle Stalls etc.

Entry Free

Teas Available



ST PETER'S CHURCH

Pet Praise

3pm Sunday 21 June

How we British love our pets!

Please bring your dog, cat, budgie - or a photo - along to the church/churchyard.

Even if you don't have a pet, join us to celebrate the joy that pets bring to us all.



Followed by refreshments - All welcome

CHRONICLE INFORMATION

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

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

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

Deadline for advertisements: **17.00 on Friday, 12 June 2009**

Deadline for other contributions: **17.00 on Monday, 15 June**

Printed copies available: **Friday, 26 June 2009**

Key dates for the subsequent three Chronicles:

Issue for	Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available on:
August	20 July 2009	31 July 2009
September	17 August 2009	28 August 2009
October	14 September 2009	25 September 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 MAY LOTTERY

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
25	2198	Mr. Bay, 87 Drayton Road, S.C.	Claire Soper
£20	0556	A Goddard, 30 Bridges Close, Ab.	Margaret Armstrong
£15	1640	Mr. Dunston, 214 Steventon Road	Jasmine Humphrey
£10	1440	Mr Sainsbury, 41 Steventon Road	Janet Dale
£10	2149	Mrs Goodenough, 32 Lyford Close	Laura Stopps
£10	0842	Mr. Evangelisti, Church Lane	Sue Brooks
£10	1956	P. Caufield, 9 Whitehorns Way	Trudi Buckner
£10	2635	M. Watts, 1 Mott Octages	Margaret Watts
£10	1678	P. Cox, 26 Lockway	Sue Ash
£10	1405	Mrs Lonsdale, 62 Steventon Road	Jackie Walker

The winning tickets were drawn by staff of Vickery's from the 2306 tickets sold

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Julian Cook. 43 Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton

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

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NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

We warmly welcome to Drayton:

- James Field and Stephanie Butler, who have recently moved into Sutton Wick Lane from Abingdon.
- Anita Juler, who has moved into the High Street. This is a very belated welcome, since Anita is already a well established member of our village community.
- Phillip and Qian Ruan and their son Andrew, who have moved into Church Lane from Abingdon.

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.

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Systems Power Flushed
85 Milton Road, Sutton Courtenay



8134

YOUR LETTERS

Dear Sir,

My husband and myself, through the Chronicle, would like to thank Glenn and Janet Woolley and Paul and Amanda at the Red Lion for letting us play a darts match in memory of our son Anthony. We raised £180 for Drayton playgroup.

Also a big thank you to everybody who donated raffle prizes, including Vickery's, the Post Office, the paper shop and Matthews', who donated a basket of fruit. We really appreciate everybody who donated prizes and the people who played darts. Also a big thanks to Jeanette Taylor and Caroline Baker for doing the draw. A big, big thank you to one and all

Yours sincerely

Freda and Mervin Belcher

Dear Editor

The Church was a sell-out for the recent Jazz/Swing concert by Brian Thompson and his wonderful musicians. We thought it was a terrific evening.

In fact Barbara & I just about restrained ourselves from doing a bit of jiving in the aisle, but it certainly got the old feet tapping. Oh!! and we also enjoyed the singer too, can't think of her name, but she was easy to listen to. And Brian your singing ain't that bad. I wouldn't think there will be any trouble selling tickets for the next show. Put us down for two please Brian.

Yours sincerely,

Nick & Barbara Carter.

Dear Sir,

We should like to congratulate the Millennium Green Committee on their decision to leave the grass on the Green uncut, so returning it to the lovely meadow it once was. At the same time, the careful cutting around the paths and across the centre makes walking around easy and comfortable, allowing us to enjoy the lovely grasses - thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Ruth and Stephen Fearnley.

Dear Editor

Many thanks to all the people of Drayton and friends who supported the 'jazz & swing' evening at St.Peter's on 25th April.

The concert raised £1704.00 towards church funds

Brian Thompson

Editor's Note:

There is more praise for the Jazz and Swing concert on page 9 and another, very important, letter on page 6



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.

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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



ST PETER'S CHURCH

Priest in Charge	Revd Sister Josie Midwinter.....531374
Minister in Training	Mrs Rosie Bruce.....525284
Churchwardens	Mrs Sue Harris848361 Mrs Val Cross535183
Organist	Mr Adrian Thompson.....01993 705613
Choir Director	Mr Ian Miles

REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday	8.00 am	Holy Communion (Common Worship - Traditional)	
	10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (CW), except 3rd Sunday when there is a non-Eucharistic Praise 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	7.45 pm	Choir Practice (fortnightly)	Church Room

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

Sat	6th	10.00 am	Sale of Fair Trade Goods	Church
Sun	7th	11.15 am	Sale of Fair Trade Goods	Church
Tues	2nd	3.00 pm	First Tuesday Connections	Church Room

CHURCH REGISTER

Funerals:

21st	April	Sarita Chambers
30th	April	John William Beames

Burial of Ashes:

24th	April	Hilda Chloe Jennings
13th	May	John William Beames

YOU STAY - WE PRAY: JUNE

31 May to 6 June : Drayton Road, Milton Road, New Cut Mill, Fisher Close, Marcham Road, Meads Close, Rippington Court and Stonehill. 7 to 20 June; Steventon Road, Eastway and Eastway MHP. 21 to 27 June; Church Lane, Henleys Lane, Caudwell Close and Gravel Lane

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LETTER FROM REV JOSIE MIDWINTER

A 13th Century Church with a 21st Century heart

These words appear on the web site of St Mary's church, Haddenham and when I saw them I thought they expressed very much what I feel about St Peter's church here in Drayton. In many ways we have a dual role to play in the lives of people. On occasions they want something which links with the past and expresses traditional values - at other times we need to be ready with a very up-to-date response.



The life of Jade Goody reflected this tension between tradition and modern life. On the one hand she demonstrated a very 21st century celebrity lifestyle. Yet when she was diagnosed with terminal cancer she immediately turned to traditional values. She wanted her boys to be baptised and she wanted a 'proper' wedding. In the end she wanted the comfort and security of traditional values - they helped her to make some sense out of the tragedy of her early death from cancer. The church ministers who dealt with Jade and her family were able to bring the deep rooted values of loving kindness to her 21st century lifestyle.

A 13th Century Church.....

For certain things like weddings, baptisms and funerals people usually prefer something traditional. I see before me a very modern couple who are daily dealing with wi-fii, email, jobs in the city and international travel. Yet when we discuss the content of their wedding service they will say: 'Yes we want the traditional vows, the rings, the giving away of the bride and all the trimmings.' At a funeral the comfort of familiar hymns and readings very often help people to deal with their bereavement.

..... with a 21st Century heart

But we live in a fast moving and modern world with its attendant problems and challenges. The church provides a network of caring people to meet all manner of needs. St Peter's Church Ministry Team reaches out to the community with various forms of support and help. First Tuesday Connections offers a monthly drop in for people to come for a cuppa and a chat. Wednesday Pebbles provides songs, stories and crafts for babies and toddlers with their mums/carers. Children's workshops and holiday clubs are held several times a year. Visiting at home or in hospital and home communion are undertaken by clergy and church members. We also have a healing ministry. But perhaps one of our best used resources is the ministry of prayer. People regularly drop into church for a quiet prayer and from time to time put requests on the Prayer Board - all of which are prayed for weekly and at the end of the month.

A 13th Century Church with a 21st Century heart

On Sunday 28 June it will be **St Peter's Day** and at our 10am service we will be focusing on the work of PACT (Parents and Children Together). This organisation is dedicated to helping needy and vulnerable families in our local area. It is also responsible for running the Family Centres at Sutton Courtenay, Abingdon, Berinsfield, Witney, Wantage and Didcot. As we support PACT we are assisting them to give a very 21st century level of care, drawing on the many centuries of the Christian understanding of God's love for all his people.

You are welcome to come and join us at any time, wherever you are in your life, the church has a place for you.

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 the **2nd of June** and the **7th of July**. If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.

DRAYTON HALL

The Annual General Meeting of the Hall Committee was held in the lounge at the hall on Mon 18th May. The attendance was



almost 100% for which we were very grateful, The officers for the next year will be Chair, Ann Webb; Secretary, Sheila Purvis (retiring); Treasurer Fred Stevens (Mr Stevens is treasurer in name only, for any monetary queries please contact me and I will refer you to our financial contact). We had one new member representing the W.I. taking the place of Mrs J Sinclair who is also retiring after many years of loyal attendance. Thank you Joan, we will miss your words of wisdom, and your loyalty.

A brief resume of the last meeting was discussed and members brought up to date with its contents. The annual figures were gone through with us by Mrs D Roberts, our financial adviser. She explained that expenditure was overtaking income, though in these difficult times many were in the same boat. We run the hall as prudently as possible and most users are extremely careful with the utilities and for this we thank them, we would be a lot worse off if it were not for their care. The Chairperson gave a brief report of the last year's activities and concluded with a list of Hall users and numbers of events through the year.

Mr Webber brought us up to date with the Community Day arrangements. There are still a few points to be clarified on this subject. The thorny subject of security came up and was discussed at length; we have received two very good quotes and will be investigating them further. The system we have at the moment is too costly and they are not responding to our letters for a lower quote so sadly the contracts will be terminated.

A small group of youngsters are again taking to the roof. Please be aware of where your youngsters are if you have boys around the age of 14 or so. They are causing damage to the roof and they are also putting themselves in danger. We are making inquiries into prevention of roof climbing but this will inevitably cost money, which the Hall can ill afford at the moment.

The football club rep has told us that there may be more activity on the football field over the weekends next year so we are going to liaise very closely with the club so that events at the Hall don't clash too often. We have decided to place minutes of each meeting on the hall notice board so that any one interested can read them and bring up any subject they feel needs attention.

The meeting finished at about 9.30pm the next meeting was arranged for 20th July at 7.30pm in the lounge.

WANTED! We need a secretary; someone who has the interest of the Hall and its well-being at heart. The wages are very poor - only expenses and gratitude. But the rewards are great.

We also wonder if someone in the village would be interested in helping us boost the Halls income through advising, arranging or promotional work?

Please, if you are interested contact me on 01235 531418

Ann Webb

BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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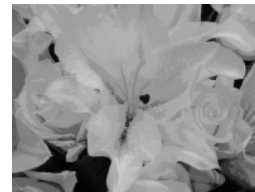
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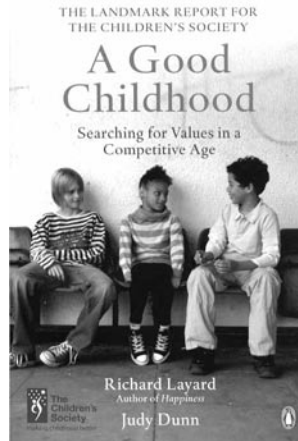
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A GOOD CHILDHOOD!

Very few will disagree that being a parent is the most important job most of us ever do; nor that it can often be a difficult one. If our children grow into adults who are capable of living effective lives, sensitive to the needs of others as well as able to strive for their own goals, capable themselves of being good parents, then we have done something of enormous value to the whole of society.

For most of us, giving our children 'A Good Childhood' (the title of an excellent little book by Richard Layard and Judy Dunn, published recently by Penguin Books for the Children's Society) will be an achievement far outweighing anything our careers or hobbies can provide. But there are sometimes problems for most parents and these can often affect people beyond the family. Thus, in his District Councillor's section on page 7 of last month's Chronicle Richard Webber wrote:



'Where are the parents?'

In Drayton, we are lucky enough to have excellent Youth services. How sad it is then, that in recent months it has become apparent that we have a small group of young teenagers who are in the habit of teasing and even bullying the elderly, and there has been at least one incident of the same group doing the same with a young Mum on her own with a very young baby. In general, these things are best not publicised and I have thought carefully before mentioning it here....The offending youngsters all have parents and it is to them I wish to appeal. Do you know where your young teenage son or daughter is at any time? How certain are you?...

Richard Webber

The Chronicle has since received a letter from Helen Milton, who thinks that Richard's somewhat agonised decision to mention the problem of difficult youngsters in the Chronicle was wrong and makes things worse. She writes:

Dear Editor

I read with interest Richard Webber's article in last month's Chronicle, with particular reference to the young people in the village and the alleged bullying and intimidation of vulnerable people. Not to mention the questioning in relation to the effective parenting of these youngsters.

I was surprised to read that Richard Webber had thought carefully before mentioning these issues in the Chronicle, as surely by informing the village 'en masse' of these accusations towards a vulnerable minority group, only serves to a) create a 'moral panic' whereby mostly unfounded perceptions of these young people are confirmed and fear of them exacerbated, b) blame the parents for ineffective parenting c) destroy all the hard work done by the young people themselves and the DAMASCUS Youth Project, in forging links in the community and d) create a 'self fulfilling

prophecy', whereby the youngsters behave in ways expected of them. Can I ask if labelling them as bullies and publishing serious allegations about them serves any purpose other than to reinforce the hostility they already attract and increase their sense of hopelessness in relation to being accepted as part of their community?

Do we really want to encourage them to blame others? No, I do not think so. We should be encouraging them to take responsibility, but they need to see us practising what we preach.

Surely by demonstrating such discrimination against them by way of accusing them publicly, is effectively saying that it's ok to harbour such resentment against minority groups. I do not think that is ok. The article published is effectively doing to them what they are accused of doing to the elderly. These youngsters are human beings searching for the right way to do it and we all have a moral and social responsibility to show them how.

As a teacher, a parent of 2 teenagers and a volunteer for the DAMASCUS youth project, I know these young people, and I can assure you that they are far from 'all bad'. Yes, sometimes they make mistakes. Don't we all? I actually feel privileged to be associated with them and I am aware that they all too frequently experience unnecessary and unfounded hostility. These individuals are facing one of the biggest challenges of their lives - how to make a successful transition into adulthood, and they need to know 'how' to do it from those with experience.

Helen Milton

We in the Chronicle team also agonise whether we should risk making village disagreements like this one worse by allowing people to air them on our pages. However, unlike the soon-to-be-replaced Speaker of the House of Commons, we almost always opt for openness, for reasons that must now be obvious to him.

But we do hope that our readers will recognise that both Richard and Helen actually want the same thing. I'm sure they will agree that giving all children the 'Good Childhood' that most get and that everyone needs and deserves should be a major strategic objective for us all, even if they differ in how best to achieve it.

Toddler groups, Pre-school Playgroups, School itself, the DAMASCUS youth project, Scouts, Guides etc. all have their role to play but parents are by far the most important factors in children's lives and how best to encourage them, cajole them and, above all, help them do their job well is something definitely worth striving for - and even arguing about.

That is politics after all; arguing about what is the best way to tackle something in our society and then doing it.

Derek Pooley

YOUTH CENTRE CHARITY

You can now apply for a grant for your youth organisation in the Parish of Drayton provided it promotes the well being of the young people in this area. Application forms are available from me by emailing karen.tinson1@ntlworld.com or by phoning 01235 531596.

The applications have to be submitted by Friday 19th June 2009 and the Annual General meeting date is to be arranged.

Karen Tinson

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CHILDREN ALL AROUND

TODDLERS

Julie Laws

Many thanks to Tracey for organising and running the Tombola stall at the Pamper Evening recently held the Village Hall. The Tombola raised £47 for Drayton Toddler Group. Many thanks as well to Elise and Leah for all their help in making the Tombola a success.

Just a final reminder that free tickets for the Fun Day at Cutteslowe Park are available from Toddlers. This is organised by the Early Years team and will be on June 25th 2009, 10am-3pm. Entry is by ticket only (children and adults) and we have a limited supply available on a first-come-first-served basis. Please let Tracey or Becca know if you wish to go. This is a great day out with lots to do. (You will need to take your own picnic and provide own transport.)

Barnardo's annual sponsored Toddle will take place at Beale Park on 16th June. Again, please ask Tracey or Becca for details if you have not had them already.

Samuel Laws will be leaving us at half-term and going to pre-school. On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone who has made Samuel and me so welcome at Toddlers. Samuel has had a great time playing there each week and we have made some good friends through the group. We are so fortunate in Drayton to have people who are committed to giving up their time voluntarily for the benefit of others. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

We are always pleased to welcome new faces to Toddlers. 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 from Tracey (07732 533057) or Becca (07513 971587).

PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

Debbie Bargus

Our Topic for the 2nd half of the summer term is to continue with mini beasts, we will be looking in the garden for lots of bugs and insects. We will also be following life cycles, including those of frogs and butterflies. We will also look at everything to do with summer, i.e. holidays, beaches, sandcastles and sunshine (hopefully!!). Footsteps are visiting our staff to give advice on road safety. This will be passed on to the children along with other safety issues.

We return to Preschool on Monday 1st June and term finishes on Friday 17th July. We will be supporting the Banardos Toddle at Beale Park on Tues 16th June; therefore there will not be any sessions at Preschool on that day. We are planning an activity lunch/ afternoon on the last day of term, details to follow.

We are having an open day on Wednesday 3rd June, 3.30pm until 5.30pm. All welcome. There will be Preschool activities, also biscuit decorating, making pompom pets and painting. This is a great opportunity for new, current and previous children to come and have a look round Preschool. Welcome packs and registration forms will be available along with refreshments.



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⇒ Our AGM this year is being held on Wednesday 10th June at 7.30pm in the Preschool building. This is a very important meeting for Preschool as we will be looking to elect new officers to the committee. We need a Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary. These three important roles MUST be filled for Preschool to continue, we would also like general members who are also important to help with new ideas and fundraising items. All are welcome, please support us.

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

SCHOOL REPORT

Annette Mitchell

We are busy getting ready for the Summer Fete on Sat 20th June, lots of stalls to organise including a pair of stocks which Mr Mayer and Sister Josie have agreed to take a turn in to raise money! But also, unbeknown to them Year 6 will be expected to take a turn to, so come and join in the fun and spare some change with a chance to throw a sponge or 2 at our willing volunteers! Summer fete raffle tickets are now on sale at school, church, Mace and Vickery's. Any donations for the raffle, bottle and chocolate tombola, home produce stalls would be gratefully received.

A new climbing wall is being installed on 1st June. The new tunnel has been installed and is being enjoyed by the children already! The old canopy from Reception/Year 1 play area has been reused as a canopy for a buggy park shelter from the showers, much to the delight of the parents. A travelling theatre company is visiting the school shortly to present a production of Pinocchio for the children and staff. Also the whole school and staff are looking forward to a trip to the Watermill Theatre, Newbury to watch James and the Giant Peach in November.

We are still collecting the following vouchers! Tesco School Vouchers, Sainsbury's Active Kids, Nestle Book Tokens, Books For Schools from The Times, Flora Cooking For Schools. All these vouchers provide valuable resources for the school without costing the school money! Thank you for your support.

In the week commencing Monday 8th June we will be getting arty in school because we are having a whole week of art based activities. We are hoping to include sculpting, printing, making music, poetry, weaving, dance and many other things. So if you weave, print, paint, sing, rap or arrange flowers, in fact anything a group of children could do in an hour we would love to hear from you! Call the school on 531316.

Yr 1/Foundation Robins – have planted runner beans, tomatoes, beetroot, lettuce and radish. Whilst busily digging the garden the children found a lizard, after much excitement and close inspection, a new home was found near the pond.

Yr 1/2 Ravens – are looking at seaside holidays in the past. They also had a lovely day at Sutton Courtenay Environmental Centre. They took part in pond dipping and discovered creatures that live in a pond.

Yr 3/4 Kingfishers – have been studying places of worship, with a visit to St Peters Church. Another visit is planned soon to do some artwork. In D & T a major project coming up soon, making their own light house using electrical circuits.

Yr 5/6 Eagles – have been busy with SATS and have done very well.

Local youths of the village will be helping to clear out the school pond area. This project was set up by the school, Sister Josie and Claire Soper.

A polite reminder to parents not to park in the turning circle, please consider the residents, it makes it difficult for them getting in and out of their properties.

Dates for your diary:

Summer Fair: Saturday 20th June 2 – 4pm please see the advert on page 1 for more details.

Sports Day: Wednesday 8th July

LETTERS FROM DAMASCUS

Gary's letter, continued from the front page, left column:

DAMASCUS is changing too in a way that will benefit the whole community and ensure succession planning subject to continued funding. I am going to become the project's training manager. The fantastic Andrew Gould is coming on board as the new youth worker. I have known Andrew a long time and he is a top bloke who will bring so much to the project. He has been volunteering with the project for several months and it's unbelievable to see how far he has come. The young people really look up to him and I'm sure he will have a positive impact on their development.



I would like this opportunity to thank every body who has supported me throughout my time as the youth worker, especially the Management Committee of the project. They have supported me every step of the way. They have backed me when I wanted to set up various projects. Without these trusted volunteers there would be no project. They have also been there for me when I have had personal difficulties. I can honestly say I don't know what I would have done without them.

I am grateful to the young who have been great. You have made me laugh, smile, shout and not to mention cry. I will remember all of you and I hope the best for your futures. Remember destiny is choice not luck. Go and be what ever you want and don't forget who you really are.

Gary Hibbins

Training Manager, DAMASCUS Youth Project

Andrew's letter, continued from the front page, right column:



I understand that some people may have a negative view on certain areas of the community. I do not want to dwell on these. Instead I want to build on the positives, believe me there are more positives than you may realize.

I hope in due course to meet many of you – please do stop me and have a chat if you see me out and about.

E-Mail: ajgouldy@hotmail.com

Regards

Andrew Gould



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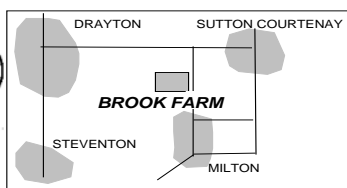


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YOUR MILLENNIUM GREEN

The Drayton Millennium Green is one of the village's assets but, like any garden, it needs regular maintenance. The grass is professionally mowed (unfortunately there has been a problem recently but this is being resolved) and, as you are probably aware, there is a rota of volunteers who pick up the litter. However there are several other tasks which would be best tackled by working parties (or other volunteers who would rather work on their own).

Over the last couple of years, a small (and unfortunately decreasing) group of willing helpers have met on an ad hoc basis to clear the pond of plant (and other) debris. Because of their hard work over the last few years, the pond is looking much better and we hope to keep it that way. At the first of this year's maintenance sessions, it was suggested that a working party could be formed to meet on a regular basis (probably 2-hours a month) for a general tidy up of the whole Green.



As well as the pond, there are other obvious tasks such as tree pruning (especially the apple trees), stake adjustment, clearing undergrowth and fruit picking (?). If you use the Green, you can probably add to this list.

There are always tasks to do and we would welcome help and suggestions. Maybe some one would like to organise the working parties and/or come and help regularly or occasionally. If you are interested please contact any of the following for information: Keith Clough on 531144 (or krc@imf.co.uk), Graham Dawson on 531379, Evan Powell Jones on 535044, Gwen Price 531205.

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JAZZ IN ST PETER'S

Oxford may have the advantages of a big city, but Drayton Village excels in providing us with first class entertainment. This was never more so than the Jazz in St. Peter's Church on Sat. 25th April, performed by Brian Thompson and Boulevard Swing.



The fact that the audience came from as far afield as Yorkshire, East Anglia, the South Coast and the West Country is an endorsement of the popularity of these events. Boulevard Swing always plays a well-chosen selection of jazz and swing numbers from as early as the 1920's up to the late 80's or even 90's, appealing to all tastes.



They even managed to invite, and get, some audience participation with one of the vocal numbers, although I suspect that Pat Giles's soloist position was never under threat!

The USA's loss is Drayton's gain when we are treated to the exciting and fluent style of Chuck Lloyd's saxophone. When the musicians are clearly having fun it becomes infectious, and Clive Burton's trombone

playing is a prime example. His frequent use of 'borrowed' musical phrases and his ad libs to the other members of the Group as well as the audience always add to the enjoyment of the evening.

Brian Thompson's relaxed guitar style always provides a mellow and easy to listen to sound, whilst still being able to 'up the tempo' when required.

Roll, or should it be swing, on the next one.

Barry Sharp

Editors Note:

If you want to find out more about - and listen to - Boulevard Swing visit <http://www.boulevardswingjazz.com/>



IS TWINNING FOR YOU?

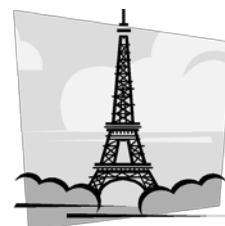
Would you like to host someone from our twin town in France?

Perhaps you are learning French at school or going to start soon?

In August, 30 people of all ages, individuals and couples with and without children, will arrive from Lesparre to stay in Drayton from **August 21st to 24th**. Some will meet their hosts for the first time - some are making their first visit. Everyone has to start somewhere. Our varied programme is taking shape and will include local events, a visit to the Cotswolds, Didcot Steam Day and a trip to London.

We would like as many people as possible to share in the fun so, if you have a spare room and would be prepared to put up one or two visitors, please contact Michael Bell (531388), Stephen Fearnley (531347) or Bob Matthews (531204). It is not necessary to speak French; none of us is fluent although some understanding helps we accept that half the fun is communicating and getting it wrong!

These visits are reciprocal, with a party from Drayton visiting Lesparre (the photo is of a sunlit Place Gambetta) in 2010. For those of you



who may be new to the village, Lesparre is a town in the heart of the Medoc wine region, close to the endless Atlantic beaches and one of the largest forests in Western Europe.

Our website is currently being updated; the internet address is:

<http://www.oxnet.org.uk/drayton-twinning>

Michael Bell

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TIPS on GARDENING

Big Beautiful Blooms

This is the time of year to make a splash with big, beautiful flowers. Peony (Paeonia) is a stylish perennial that's perfect for delivering fabulous blooms where you want them and when you want them. There's an exciting range of colours to choose from: shades of pink and strong reds predominate, plus there are white and yellow options too, with many shades in between. Flower forms are varied and interesting with singles, semi-doubles or doubles in cup-shaped, bowl-shaped or anemone-form on offer.

Peony is another of those plants that owes its popularity to the Victorians but found itself sidelined by the gardening public in the middle years of the twentieth century. Now things have changed and there is even a Peony Society dedicated to telling us all how special these plants are and what a wonderful range there is from which to make a selection.

The flowers really are breath-taking – brightly coloured and beautiful in form, they develop on the tips of stems, sometimes several to a stem. They're a fantastic addition to beds and borders, thriving in deep, fertile soil. Most cultivars are bred from Paeonia lactiflora, a very popular herbaceous species, bearing big, single white or pale pink blooms. Look out for Paeonia 'Bowl of Beauty', Paeonia 'Krinkled White', the pale or rose pink Paeonia 'Avant Garde' or Paeonia 'Globe of light', the flowers of which are soft pink with creamy white centres.

Combining with other plants in the border can help to bring out the best of the peony. For example a combination of Paeonia lactiflora 'Albert Crousse', Rosa 'Gertrude Jekyll' and Allium aflatunense will allow the colours of each to harmonise and their forms to contrast. Another interesting combination that challenges expectation is that of Paeonia lactiflora 'Auguste Dessert' and the upright yellow-flowered stems of yellow Loostrife. For the more conservative, delphiniums or lupins would make a subtler blend.

Peony is widespread in many regions of the world, but probably most treasured in China where it narrowly missed becoming the national flower in 1994. It wasn't that another flower was more popular – it just proved impossible to reach a final decision!

The European name derives from mythology when Paeon, the physician to the Gods obtained the plant from the mother of Apollo. For us however, peony is simply a wonderful addition to the early summer garden, sometimes fragrant and always visually delightful.

Anne Hendry



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The Seasonal Gardener - June

Oh my, how time flies! It seems like no time at all since I wrote the last article and here we are looking at June already! The alliums and tulips are finishing off their spring splendour and the aquilegias (grannies bonnets) are getting into their stride. As I've been walking around the village with my mad spaniels I've particularly enjoyed the many different lilacs out in full bloom with their wonderful smell. I must get one for my garden so I can pick the blooms for inside. For all those faded bulb leaves, don't tie them up or cut them off. If you can stand it let them die right back and then gently remove the leaves. This will make sure the bulb retains its strength to flower next year.

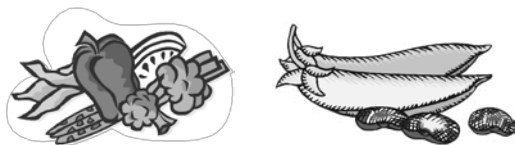
So, we wait for the full colour of summer as the winter/spring bedding plants are swapped for the summer bedding of geraniums, busy lizzies and sweet peas. Make sure you pick your sweet peas regularly and don't let them set seed. That way you'll have flowers all summer. However, if you don't have time to be planting seasonal bedding then try some permanent planting that will give you colour from June through to late summer. Plant some *Alchemilla mollis* which forms lovely mounds of soft green leaves with lime green flowers and pair it with *Geums* that send up long stemmed clusters of bright red or yellow flowers that seem to go on for ever. Both these plants will come back year after year and will do well in any kind of soil and either in sun or a bit of shade. The *Alchemilla mollis* will also give you lots of freebie plants too if you let it go to seed!

Now is also the time to be getting those hanging baskets into shape. Maybe this is the year to try something different. Grow some herbs and vegetables. Plant some cherry tomatoes (tumbling toms are good) alongside some green and purple basil with some marguerites. There's lunch right there with some nice crusty bread! Just make sure you line your basket well and place a bit of compost bag with holes in to stop it drying out so quickly. Also, mix in with your compost some slow release food granules and those water retaining gel crystals (premix them with water first!) and your baskets will romp away.

I'm looking forward to the first crop of baby broad beans. Some of you may already be eating yours, however mine went in late so I'm practicing patience and watching out for the start of the summer pests with the blackfly on the bean tips! Other pests start to make themselves felt now too. Slugs and snails feeding on the young growth, cabbage white butterflies are a sure sign that caterpillars are hatching on your brassicas. Pick the pests off and dispose of in any way you see fit!

And finally, my recommendation for tree of the month? It has to be a Spanish broom. A shrub or small tree that has weeping shoots that bear pea-like yellow flowers with a perfume that is heavenly. It's not tidy but its place in the garden is earned by that explosion of flowers and incredible scent. Put it in full sun in some really poor soil with good drainage and pick its flowers for the house, car, work or your neighbour!

Sara Southey



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and on COOKING

WOODEN SPOON RECIPE

Lois Rennells

No 28 from September 1994

Risotto with apricots (serves 4)

4 spring onions, 8 ozs rice, ½ oz butter, 4 chopped dried apricots, 1 pint chicken stock, grated orange rind, 2 ozs sultanas, ½ cucumber or small courgette (finely diced), pinch curry powder, black pepper.

Soften onions in butter; add rice and chicken stock, curry powder and black pepper. Simmer for 10 minutes. Add apricots and orange rind; simmer until the rice is nearly done. Add the cucumber and sultanas. When the stock is absorbed and the rice tender, fluff up with a fork.



THE INCINERATOR DEBATE Callum Mackenzie

Having initially left out the Human Health Risk Assessment appendices from its application, The Waste Recycling Group (WRG) has also left out the Climate Change Assessment in its amended application. A strong letter has been sent to the County Council raising this and various procedural and legal issues and requesting that the WRG application be withdrawn. A reply is still awaited

At the time of writing the County Council had also not provided a written reply to the question put to them on 7 April asking that it commission a "detailed analysis of all the alternatives, including the comparative costs, the respective health risks and the environmental impacts, so the full Council can take an informed vote on which alternatives should be selected to meet Oxfordshire's waste disposal requirements".

The subject was also raised extensively by Sutton Courtenay Against the Incinerator (SCAI) on the Bill Heine show on BBC Oxford, which then included Ed Vaizey MP joining the debate.

In a follow up to a subsequent centre-fold article in the Oxford Times titled "Incinerator Debate Gets Heated" (7 May), all the MPs in the county were canvassed for their positions. Ed Vaizey stated that he had decided that incineration was a mistake. He also called on the Council to go back to the drawing board and to reconsider better technologies for dealing with waste. Tony Baldry the MP for Banbury also highlighted the risk due to the incinerators, as was mentioned in last month's update.

LOCAL ELECTION 4 JUNE:

Letters have been written to all the County Council candidates asking them to commit to insisting that the OCC carries out a full analysis of the alternatives and to fully consult the public on the options, before finalising its plans.

SCAI has suggested that before voting, villagers could usefully consider:

- Asking candidates for a clear statement of their position on the incinerator and
- What exactly they would do to oppose or support it if elected.

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ALL AROUND

BOWLS CLUB

Roll Up

Would like to start these notes by reminding all members that the Annual General Meeting will be held Wednesday the 10th of June in the main hall at 7 for 7-30, this will be the time and place to have your say as to how you might like to make changes to the way the club is run. Also anyone who may like to join us would be very welcome, there are vacancies and some new blood is needed, so call in and find out what it is all about. Bowling sessions are 2 to 5 Monday and Thursday, and 7 to 10 on Wednesday evenings.

The latest internal competition to be completed is 'The Don Alexander' trophy; 24 members took part and the teams going through to finals day will be, John Goodacre, Josie Carter, and Pat Mitchenson, who will play Tony Wright, Olive Brown, and Gillis Tate. The next internal competition will be the annual Ladies verses the Gents, and will be played on June the 14th. The summer leagues get underway the first week in June and we will be fielding two teams one in each league.

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TABLE TENNIS CLUB

John Gould

I am very pleased to announce that our main awards for the season have been presented. The senior 'Best Player' award went to Tony Krason who achieved a 91% success in his League matches for the 'C' team in Division 2 and the junior award went to Nicole Hunt who was 53% for Drayton D in Division 3. Tony was also the Division 2 top player overall.

The Alan Bachrach Trophy, awarded to our club person of the season, was presented to Matt Wicks. Matt has excelled since joining the club just over a year ago and thoroughly deserves the award. He is now training to become our Club Coach – something that will benefit all our players but especially the cadet and juniors.

The Club's Closed Championships took place on 11th May. The Cadets Tournament was the first event. This involved singles and doubles. The Doubles was won by the pairing of James Cooper & Anthony Martin. They defeated Ryan Seamark & Harry Jones-Locke in the final. The Cadet Singles Champion is Ryan Seamark. Ryan beat the other entrants in a round Robin event with James Cooper runner up.

The Junior Tournament again involved singles & doubles. Nicole Hunt & Harry Jones-Locke won the doubles. Runners up were Anthony Martin & Ryan Seamark. The Club Junior Singles Champion is Nicole Hunt. Nicole has won this for the second year running. She was delighted to beat the lads of course. Ryan Seamark was the runner up in what has been a good end of season for him.

The Senior Closed Championships held on Sunday 17th May involved Singles, Doubles & also a Singles Plate Competition for the early losers in the singles. Nicole Hunt who beat Matt Wicks in the Final won the Plate Competition. The 2009 Doubles winners were Nicole Hunt & Roy Stocker. They defeated Andi Cudden & Kevin Davies in the Final. Nicole & Roy won all their matches and so it was fitting they finished victorious.

Our 2009 singles Champion is Matthew Davies. Matthew won through a gruelling league format to his father Kevin in the quarter-final. He then played David Hudson in the semi-final and overcame his points handicap to win in three straight games. In the final he met Andi Cudden who had in turn beat Ryan Seamark & Roy Stocker in the quarter and semi final. The Final was a close affair with Andi's attacking game being well matched by Matthew's all round ability. The deciding game was probably the first that was won 12-10 by Matthew. He then won the second 11-9. Andi recovered to win the 3rd well at 11-3 but Matthew triumphed to win the 4th game 11-7 and so took the trophy. It his 3rd win overall having been Champion last year and also in 2000.

Andi Cudden deserves a special mention having reached the singles and doubles finals, playing 16 matches in all only to lose at the final hurdles. He played 50 games of table tennis in those 16 matches. In a normal league game he would play 3 singles and one doubles match so he probably felt a bit tired the following day!



All competitors (photo above) enjoyed the Championships and they should all be congratulated for their efforts.

MORE ALL AROUND

DRAYTON ART GROUP

Eric Curtis

Our exhibition and sale will take place at 2p.m. till 4p.m. on June 27th in the Caudwell Day Centre in Gravel Lane. While at the exhibition please take time to admire our latest combined effort, our fourth! It is a copy of a medieval calendar and hangs on the wall near the entrance to the Day Centre and is attracting a great deal of interest. We now have a full compliment of members as three new entrants have joined us. Our next term is looking most interesting with its varied subjects and mediums which we shall happily attack each Tuesday afternoon. We look forward to greeting you at the show.

DRAYTON PLAYERS

Jean Hager

Last month I gave some details of our entry in the drama festival taking place at the Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon from 31st May to 6th June. I can now say that our one act play is scheduled for Friday, 5th June, along with two short plays by Abingdon Drama Club's youth section and Henley Players. If you would like tickets (£5) the number to contact is 01865 736913, or by personal application to The Bookstore, The Precinct, Abingdon. Your support would be most welcome and you would find the experience very interesting and enjoyable.

With regard to our end-of-September production we are currently considering three possibilities and are close to making a final choice, so do continue to watch this space!

DRAYTON WIVES

Pam Lacey

Many members attended in April for our AGM. Eve Sharp agreed to take the Chair again, supported for another year by the present Treasurer, Secretary and Committee.

After the formal business members read their favourite poems, some having been composed by members or their families. The poems were very varied from the more serious to the extremely funny and were enjoyed by all. This was then followed with tea and a lovely selection of cakes.

Dates for your Diary in JUNE

Mon 8th	COFFEE	Pam Lacey, 15 Whitehorns Way
Mon 15th	WHIST	Connie Harrington, Caudwell D.C.
Wed 24th	MEETING	Tony Legge, Town Crier

And for later on:

Trip to Highclere Castle 10.30am Wed 29th July

Our Bring & Share Lunch will be on 26th August at the home of Mary Alexander, 3A High Street

Yet more All Around ➔



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Old Lodge, Henleys Lane
Drayton, OX14 4HU
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ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Pearl Stanbridge

Everyone, including non members, is invited to join us for a Family Fun Day in the grounds of the Lantern Restaurant on Saturday 27 June commencing at 2pm to celebrate National Armed Forces Day, so do come along and show your support.

The Branch wishes it be known that we have supported the Gallant Gurkhas and their families over many years and will continue to do so. The next Committee meeting will be held on Monday 15 June at 8pm.



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REPRESENTING DRAYTON

At May 2009

PARISH COUNCILLORS:

- Daniel Scharf (Chairman),
122 Abingdon Road, OX14 4HT 531107
- Heather Morrison (Vice Chairman)
Willow House, Willow Lane, Milton, OX14 4EG 820163
- Robin Butler, 57 High Street, OX14 4JW 531212
- Julian Cook, 43 Sutton Wick Lane, OX14 4HH 553468
- Gill Hind, 41 High Street, OX14 4GW 523926
- Isabel Morris, 59 Abingdon Road, OX14 4HW 533574
- Jenny Pooley, 11 Halls Close, OX14 4LU 559454
- Richard Webber,
Orchard Barn, Sutton Wick Lane, OX14 4HJ 534001
- Richard Williams, 11 Newman Lane, OX14 4LP 528974
- Andrew Wright, 4 Binning Close, OX14 4LN 535674

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR:

- Richard Webber,
Orchard Barn, Sutton Wick Lane, OX14 4HJ 534001

COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

- Mike & Marilyn Badcock,
7 Maberley Close, Abingdon, OX14 5PZ 201810

MEMBER of PARLIAMENT:

- Ed Vaizey, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA
Phone: 020 7219 6350
Email: vaizeye@parliament.uk

PARISH CLERK:

- Marie Sellwood, 86 Farm Road, Abingdon, OX14 5PZ
Phone: 200042
Email: mariesellwood@hotmail.co.uk

VILLAGE CARETAKER:

- Julian Cook, 43 Sutton Wick Lane, OX14 4HH
Home phone: 553468
Mobile: 07921 102100

ALLOTMENTS:

- Linda Butler, 57 High Street 531212

CAUDWELL DAY CENTRE:

- Sheila Cook, 1 Gravel Lane 531619

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Jennifer Pooley

Report of the meeting on Monday May 4th 2009



This month's meeting was the Council's AGM. Daniel Scharf, Heather Morrison and Robin Butler were re-elected as Chair, vice Chair and Treasurer respectively and the four new councillors were formally co-opted onto the Council. As well as having a finance committee the Council has a planning committee which is consulted by the VWHDC on every planning application within the parish, and also two working

groups: the Leisure and General Purposes and the Rights of Way and Conservation groups. The former looks after the play areas, the burial ground, common land, the allotments and general amenities, while the latter ensures that the footpaths and bridleways are adequately maintained and trees and hedges are healthy and in good shape. With the increase in the number of Councillors each of the groups now has more active members and the workload can be better distributed.

The most important matter dealt with at the meeting was the result of the recent Independent Memorial Inspection (topple testing) of monuments in the burial ground. This was professionally carried out at the beginning of May and unfortunately some of the headstones were found to be potentially unsafe and in need of work to make them secure. **The Council would appreciate it if anyone who is responsible for the care of a grave in the burial ground could visit it as soon as possible.** If found to be unsatisfactorily set it may have a yellow sticker on the headstone, or in one case a tie around and another laid flat. In such cases please contact the Parish Clerk, Mrs. Marie Sellwood, on 01235 200042 for advice on how to proceed. Marie has details of all the burial plots and of the findings of the Independent Memorial Inspector. Meanwhile, should you be in the area of the graves please be aware that some have been designated as somewhat unstable.

There are just two other items of interest to mention. Daniel Scharf, who liases on behalf of the Council with public transport companies, reported that it is hoped that during the summer some of the village bus stops will have displays installed to show currently-expected arrival times of buses. Since the last meeting three Councillors represented the Council at an open evening at Culham laboratory which proved to be very interesting; they learned amongst other things that two fusion reactors are in operation and continue to carry out about ten experiments daily.

For readers' information a list of all the current Parish Councillors and their contact phone numbers is printed opposite. However, these are also on view on the Parish Council's notice board in the bus stop on the village green.

The next Council meeting will be on Monday 1st June 2009 at 7.30pm in the Caudwell Day Centre. Everyone is welcome.

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DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Webber



A Times article on the demise of the South Bank Show, in which Lord Melvin Bragg explained that, after 40 odd years, the programme was unable to continue for lack of financial support, prompted me to say something about the state of the Arts in this country. One of my responsibilities at VWHDC is for the Arts and their development in this district. Arts funding has throughout my life been a precarious

business. In bad financial times, the funding has all but dried up. In this country, theatre, music, dance and opera all struggle for survival – not just toffee-nosed Grand Opera and Shakespeare – but all Art forms from Pop music and West End Shows to Baroque Chamber Music. Running Arts activities is a balancing act between the shrinking sources of sponsorship and ticket prices on the one hand, and keeping the costs down by reducing the real pay of the majority of performers on the other. Of course, there are some people who earn enormous sums of money, but they are definitely the exceptions.

So, in these hard times, are the Arts important enough for us to be worrying about them? Well, obviously I think so. I worry about the balance of the cultural input our young are receiving. How many of them never see a play, or are encouraged at least to understand why Beethoven's and Shakespeare's works have survived the centuries? I worry about what future generations will make of the culture to which our early 21st century young are exposed. And I sit back in amazement that many other countries still seem to think of Britain as the world's cultural capital. I must be getting old.

Elections June 4th

Please don't worry, this is not going to be a political rant but, like everyone else, I am angry, disappointed and depressed at what is going on at Westminster over the parliamentary expenses fiasco. What depresses me most is the potential effect on turnout at elections – particularly local elections. As I have said before, whatever our political differences, I have seen absolutely no sign of anything underhand in expense claiming from any local councillor of any Party. It would be a tragedy if the understandable disillusionment with Westminster were to make local elections even less representative than they already are. Many people of past generations have fought and died for our right to vote. Please, if you believe in democracy, get out on June 4th and vote, vote for someone, vote for anyone, but vote.

Community Day

Saturday July 4th is the day. Cancel that expensive holiday you couldn't afford! Bring your family, friends, dogs (and poop bags) to our 4th Community Day. It is free entry, free pig roast, football and an expanded Grand Drayton Dog Show with many prizes. Tea, Coffee and Bar (courtesy of Drayton FC) and, of course a chance to meet representatives of many of the activities that the village has to offer. Please show you care – be there!

WESTMINSTER LETTER

Ed Vaizey



At the time of writing, the controversy over the Gurkhas is still very much in mind. It is the first time in living memory that the Government has lost to an opposition motion (in fairness, a Lib Dem one, not a Conservative one), and only the second time that this Government has lost a vote (the other one being 42 days detention without trial). The reason I am bringing it up is not to score points. Of the many national issues that my constituents write to me about, I received most in the shortest space of time on this issue. Dozens of people e-mailed and wrote to me, in the space of just 24 hours. In fact, it was also the first political issue my mum has ever lobbied me on!

The British sense of fair play triumphed on this issue. I am sure there are all sorts of reasons why you could argue that Gurkhas should not have the automatic right to stay in the UK. There is also the cost to consider. But at the end of the day, the Great British Public decided that, if people were prepared to fight and die for our country, then those same people should have the right to stay here. My wife's great grandfather served with the Gurkhas, so I also had a (tenuous) family connection, and I was proud to vote for the motion saying the Gurkhas should stay here. Elsewhere in Parliament, we have put forward a motion to freeze the television licence fee. This may seem like small beer (only £3 a year) but in our view it is a start in stopping the relentless rise in charges and costs of everything in the public sector. Because of the recession, the BBC now has more money than ITV, Channel 4 and Five put together, and I am sure it can make savings. I know that, like me, most of my constituents are fans of the BBC, though I get a few letters a year complaining about the heavy handed letters from TV licensing.

A few days ago, I put together a fascinating day at Didcot Power station, with many small companies engaged in climate change and energy work. There was a building company that could halve emissions from our homes using organic building material; a company that manufactures high-temperature thermometers that cut fuel costs; and quite a few others. In the end, we talked more about money than energy. We contrasted the situation in the US, where hi-tech companies have much better access to financing than in the UK - a real problem which explains why we often lag behind in this area. We have the ideas, but not the investment climate to see them through.



My contact details are on page 14 and my next surgeries are on June 12th at Didcot, King Alfred Drive Community Centre and on June 26th at Wantage, Civic Hall, both at 5.30pm

Editor's Note: We received this piece from Mr Vaizey more than two weeks ago, before the expenses furore really broke. No doubt he will say something about that next time.

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DRAYTON DIARY

FOR JUNE

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

Regular Events are listed opposite

Mon	1	7.30 pm	Parish Council	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
Thur	4	all day	Local Government and European Parliament Elections	
Sun	7		Private party	
Tues	9	all day	Blood Donors Clinic	
		7.30 pm	Drayton Players meeting	
Sun	14	all day	Bowls	
Mon	15	9.15 am	Chronicle Lottery deadline	<i>Vickery's</i>
		5.15 pm	Chronicle copy deadline	<i>Vickery's box</i>

DRAYTON VILLAGE FETE



SATURDAY 20th JUNE
2.00 - 4.00 PM
AT DRAYTON SCHOOL



With Radio Heart FM Angels!

Crowning of the Summer Queen
Karate & School Gym Display
School Choir & Music



Lots & Lots of Stalls

Inflatable Slide & Hopper Racing

Trampoline, Beat the Goalie, Bouncy Castle

BBQ Grand Raffle

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and St Peter's Church**

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07789 552821

wastieworld@googlemail.com

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>
6.30 pm	Damascus Youth Zone (except Bank Holidays)	
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	Drayton Drop In (except Bank Holidays)	
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>
11.00 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 15 min)	<i>Haywards Rd</i>
11.20 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	<i>The Cross</i>
11.45 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 15 min)	<i>Lyford Close</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>

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	
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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