

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Tony Holmes

Volume 32 No. 6

July 2009

GARD-ing Against Reservoir Plans

Although most will now be aware that Thames Water has decided to delay a reservoir on our doorstep for up to 5 years, and provisionally to reduce its size by one third, **the battle is not over.**

Our aim, and that of CPRE, is to have the proposed reservoir removed completely from the TW plan for the next 25 years. Whether or not we achieve this aim the work which we have done on the technical side will stand, and can be used in future battles.

It will also force the Environment Agency to investigate the alternatives we have put forward. If we fail to get the Secretary of State for the Environment to order the removal of the reservoir from the plan, then houses and land will still be blighted and a large question mark will remain. TW's reasoning for the change of plan was given as a revised assessment of water demand and the effects of the economic downturn on water consumption. We like to think that **fierce criticism of their figures** was another factor.

We have studied the revised Thames Water plan; Chris Binnie, our consultant, has provided professional advice that **the reservoir is not required**, and has shown that alternatives can be brought in as and when needed, **at far lower cost to customers and less damage to the environment.**

GARD will have met the Environment Agency by the time of this publication, and we hope for progress, although the Agency is unable to tell us what advice they have given to the Secretary of State and Defra we hope to obtain some assurances from them that our voice will be heard and heeded. Ed Vaizey MP and Iain Brown, County Councillor, will be present.

There is a statutory requirement for a new plan every 5 years, which means Thames Water will have to re-examine their plans and justify them. *Nick Thompson (Hon Chairman GARD)*

DON'T FORGET 4th Drayton Village Community Day
Sat July 4th FREE Pig Roast, football, and a Grand Drayton Dog Show; ~~~ Tea, coffee, and bar (thanks to Drayton FC)
SHOW YOU CARE - BE THERE!



Following on from the now infamous topic of the **Duck House** that featured in one MP's unfortunate part of the expenses scandal, it seems that Sutton Wick Pond is now graced with a similar, lavish construction - but **this one** is at no public cost!! (Thanks to the many people who sent us pictures! - the one used courtesy of Derek Pooley)

THAMES VALLEY FARMERS MARKETS – Fresh,
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JULY Dates

Abingdon (now 3rd FRIDAY) – 17th Didcot (2nd Sat) - 11th
Newbury (1st & 3rd Sundays) – 5th / 19th

TVFM news - ring **01235 227266** - website Tvmf.org.uk

Usually the markets run from about 8.30 am until lunchtime,
Abingdon's market is now on a Friday, in the Square, and has an excellent, growing set of stalls, several organic meat suppliers, a fishmonger & greengrocers (remember them?!), and I'm told a cake-maker who will make you forget that diet!

Millennium pond clearance – Volunteers PLEASE! Sat 18th July, 10am. Existing helpers and any new faces all very welcome! Wellingtons, rakes and other suitable tools will be helpful. Ring **Gwen Price on 531205** for more information.

Are you are interested in applying for a grant (up to £50,000) from the Southern Oxfordshire Leader group?

Do you have a project that supports one or more of the following themes?

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Projects should fit into one or more of these categories :-

- Modernisation of agricultural holdings
- Adding value to agricultural and forestry products
- Diversification into non-agricultural activities
- Support for the creation and development of micro-businesses
- Encouragement of tourism activities
- Basic services for the economy and rural population
- Village renewal and development
- Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage
- Training and information

COMING CHRONICLES

The **AUGUST Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Friday, July 31st**, from **Margaret Armstrong (531122)**, who should be contacted by Agents requiring extra copies.

The Editor will be **David Lee (202699)**. Contributions may be e-mailed (see below), or placed in the Chronicle letter box, outside Vickery's store on Drayton Green,

NO LATER than 5.15 pm on Monday, July 20th 2009.

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

STOP PRESS - ADVERTISERS should note that the deadline for ads is EARLIER, Friday July 17th, due to their preparation time.

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

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

NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ADVERTISING RATES

For Block Advert (about 1/12th page)

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

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

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

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

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

CHRONICLE LOTTERY

Daphne Samworth, Hon. Promoter

RESULTS OF THE JUNE LOTTERY

Prize	Winner	Agent
£25	Barry Winter, Gravel Lane, Drayton	Barbara Purbrick
£20	T Davies, Shire Cottage, Oday Hill	Gerald Redman
£15	Mr Rust, 135 Drayton Rd, Sutton C'tnay	Claire Soper
£10	Mrs Thomas, 37 Lyford Close, Drayton	Laura Stopps
£10	Mr. J. Keeping, 31 Crabtree Lane	Jennie Keeping
£10	Mr. Prichard, 136 Whitehorns Way	Mirja Boyd
£10	Mrs. P. Percival, 6 Whitehorns Way	Jean Hager
£10	Mr. Harper, 154 Whitehorns Way	Mirja Boyd
£10	Mrs T Collins, c/o 4 Caudwell Close	Barbara Purbrick
£10	Mrs. Shepherd, 6A Greenacres, Drayton	Keith Clough

Winning tickets, from a total of 2351 sold, were drawn by members of the Art Group - Whitehorns Way did very well (but not me)!
We do need more Agents - could YOU help?

THE FOLLOWING TWO MONTHS

Issue for	Copy for publication by Mondays (nb Agents Lottery Packs Fri before)	Chronicle published and available for distribution on Fridays:-
Sept	17 August	28 August
Oct	14 Sept	25 Sept



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ALL AROUND

Drayton TODDLERS

Julie Laws

For those of you going on your holidays soon, hope you have a good time!

In the next issue we will be able to report on the Cutteslowe Fun Day and Barnardo's Sponsored Toddle.

Please note that the Toddler Group will be closed for a few weeks during the summer holidays. The **last session** will be on Thursday 30 July and **sessions restart** on Thursday 27 August.

If you know anyone who might like to come along to our sessions, please give them our contact details. We would be really pleased to see them.

Toddlers is open every Thursday from 9.30am - 11.30am and is run on a membership basis. More information is available from Tracey on 07732 533057 and Becca on 07513 971587.

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Drayton (on the village green)**

The ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Pearl Stanbridge

The President and Chairman of the Branch will be manning the **Mini Marquee at the Church fete on Sat July 4th**, so we hope to see you there!

The next Committee meeting will be held on Monday 20th July at 8 pm.

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

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

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Drayton BOWLS Club

'Roll Up'

We start these notes with best wishes to Doreen, our chair person, who at the time of the AGM was in hospital; all members wish her a speedy recovery and hope she will soon be back bowling with us.

Norman took the chair in her absence and here is a brief summary of the meeting (over 30 members present). Treasurer Cyril Carter stated that the club was in a sound position from the financial point, but that we will have to keep an eye on things in the future as Hall fees will be rising in the years that lie ahead, but at this point felt there would be no increases in green fees, and that this would be the 5th year running with no increases, and this was down to the members who come to the bowling sessions in good numbers.

Secretary Jane thanked all green stewards, and all those who run the Sunday competitions for their hard work over the year, while things didn't go well with teams in the leagues she congratulated 'The Hammers' on finishing second in the afternoon triples league, but with everything that goes on it was a very good year for us.

President Norman also thought it was a good year, but made the point where he felt more members should take a more active role in organizing the Sunday competitions as it seemed the same people were doing the bulk of work.

The latest internal competition to be completed was 'The Ladies verses Gents' match with Gents winning but a much closer margin than in recent years, the next internal competition will be 'The Henry Bunce' handicap pairs, and this will be held on July 26th.

The summer league is just underway and we will be hoping for a good showing with the teams that have entered.

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<http://www.holidaycottages.co.uk/> for Farm and Cottage holidays specifically in **Devon, Cornwall, Somerset & Dorset** (NB one search option is cottages permitting **DOGS** - plenty do)

and <http://www.next6weeks.com/> for cottages anywhere in the UK, available just as it says, during the following 6 weeks

ST PETER'S CHURCH



Priest in Charge	Revd Sister Josie Midwinter	531374
OLM in training	Mrs Rosie Bruce	525284
Churchwardens	Mrs Sue Harris	848361
	Mrs Val Cross	535183
	(see text below)	
Organist		
Choir Director	Mr Ian Miles	

CHURCH NOTICES

REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday	8.00 am	Holy Communion (CW - Traditional).
	10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (CW) except 3rd Sunday, when a non-Eucharistic Praise Service is held.
Mon-Fri	8.15 am	Morning Prayer (CW) in Lady Chapel
Thursday	9.30 am	Holy Communion (CW) in Lady Chapel

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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

CALENDAR for JULY

Sat	4th	10.00 am	Sale of Fair Trade goods (until 11 am)
Sun	5th	11.15 am	Sale of Fair Trade goods (until 11.45 am)
Tues	7th	3.00 pm	1st Tuesday Connections Church Room
Sun	19th	10.00 am	Drama-rama service with the Brownies

PARISH REGISTER

Baptism	May 31st	Faye and Daniel Talbot
	June 14th	Chloe Diane Pavely



A MUSICAL APPEAL

Over the summer we have a rota of people to play the organ and the music group will be doing their part. It is the firm commitment of the church council to continue the high standard of music at the church and to that end **we would like to encourage anyone in Drayton to join us - if you play an instrument or the organ or if you like singing then please get in touch.** **We are keen to encourage anyone with enthusiasm and commitment** to join this long line of our musical tradition and sing to the glory of God!

Letter from St Peter's Church

Dear Friends,

The musical tradition of the church goes back to the earliest days of Christian worship. In the gospel of John we read that after taking supper together Jesus and his disciples sang a hymn before going out to the Mount of Olives. No doubt what they sang was a psalm as this was very much part of the Jewish tradition.

Later, in Paul's letters, he quotes words which probably came from simple hymns. Justin, a Christian writing in the first century, tells us that followers of Jesus got up very early on the first day of the week to go up into the hills to pray and sing before doing their daily work (workers in Roman society had no day-off).

It has been psalms which have played the biggest part in Christian worship for many centuries. There are 150 psalms in the Bible and to this were added a number of Christian psalms known as canticles. Most Christians learned these off by heart as few people would have had their own books.

The Monastic movement began in the second century and these groups of monks (and later nuns) based their cycle of worship on the singing of the psalms. From this tradition developed the beautiful musical format of Gregorian chant. Many people, even those who are not Christians, find the timeless sound haunting and very spiritual. When Henry VIII closed the monasteries in the 1530s the singing tradition continued in the cathedrals. However, without the monks to sing on a daily basis, metrical chants were developed for the psalms as they were simpler to sing. These were also used in parish churches - even up to today.

In the eighteenth century, with the rise of the Industrial Revolution, people were leaving the villages and going into towns. They left behind the plain, measured singing of the psalms - finding this rather dull and unexciting.

However men like John and Charles Wesley came on the scene and preached the gospel to great effect. They brought people back into the Christian church, but they saw that the worship needed to engage the minds of the ordinary people.

Charles Wesley wrote over 500 hymns many of which we still sing today. These hymns were not accepted in the parish churches and could only be sung in home meetings or Methodist chapels. It was William Booth of the Salvation Army who promoted the singing of Christian words to popular music when he said: 'Why should the devil have all the good music!'

The parish church was slow to change but in time hymns were accepted and now we see them as part of our tradition too! In those early days the music would have been provided by any villager who could play an instrument - fiddle, pipes or drum. Many churches had a music gallery. There was one in St Peter's which (unusually) was at the front of the church.

In 1855 the church was extensively re-modelled inside and the gallery was removed and a chancel arch erected. This coincided with the introduction of organs to many parish churches including ours.

Organ music is the ideal partner to the hymns that we sing, and also psalms and canticles when used. Modern Christian songs go better with a music group, reminiscent of the gallery music used before the organ. We are fortunate here to have both. The music group plays every third Sunday and the organ on the other Sundays, the choir leading the singing with both (see column 1).

Recently we said farewell to **Adrian Thompson** who has played the organ at St Peter's for the past 8 years. **We are very grateful to Adrian for all that he has contributed to the musical life of the church.**

Josie Midwinter

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(MORE) ALL AROUND

Drayton Pre-School Playgroup Debbie Bargas

We have been looking at all things to do with holidays this term. We have been having fun packing suitcases (and unpacking them!), also managing to go outside quite a lot with the nice weather. The children very patiently line up to have sun cream applied, then collect their hats and head off into the garden. Our caterpillars have progressed nicely, they have now changed into Butterflies and are now out in the big wide world.

Our vegetables are all growing well and the strawberries are ripening as well. We look forward to trying them.

The children who will be moving on to BIG school in September have been having visits across to school. This helps to familiarise them with the layout, classrooms and teachers in preparation for the move ahead.

We held our AGM on Wednesday 10th June; we successfully elected a new committee to take Preschool through the next year, many thanks to all who attended and a big thank you to all the outgoing members and a big welcome to the new members. We hope you enjoy your time helping Preschool.

Thank you to everybody for all the Tesco's and Sainsbury's vouchers you have given us, we are currently counting them and browsing the catalogues to see what we can order. These are great ways to bring new resources into Preschool, so thanks once again.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Barnardos Toddle on 16th June, hopefully you all enjoyed yourselves as well as raising money for a good cause. Also thank you for the support of our cake sale on Friday 12th June.

We have lots of thank yous this month, including a massive one to **everyone who has donated** towards our new building fund. Having been located within the school grounds for the last 12 years, our Preschool building is now in desperate need of replacement. We are looking into applying for grants from the local council, however we also need to show that we are trying to raise some of the money ourselves. In doing this we have received a wonderful response to our letter that was circulated in the village. **We're extremely grateful** for all contributions and we thank everybody, it really will make a difference.

We finish for the summer break on Friday 17th July. The morning session is as normal, there is no lunch club or afternoon session. We will be having a mini sports day from 12 noon, all welcome to take part and feel free to bring a picnic.

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

DATES: **Mini Sports day** on Friday 17th July at 12 noon

Autumn term begins on Thursday 3rd September 2009.



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Drayton TABLE-TENNIS Club John Gould

The club AGM took place on Monday 18th May 2009 at the Red Lion, **thanks to Glenn & Janet** for the use of the room and the excellent buffet. With 21 attendees it was a lively meeting. Tony Krason our club Chair opened proceedings and ran through the successful season that we had in the Didcot League.

We appointed the Officers for the next 12 months with mainly the same people agreeing to continue their roles. One new appointment is our new Coaching Secretary, a job that Matt Wicks has taken on. Matt only joined the club in 2008 and has proven to be a great asset. He is now taking a Coaching course and will be qualified to work with our members, especially the youngsters to improve their table tennis skills.

We also agreed to rename our Singles Champion trophy the '**John Prior Cup**', in memory of John who was a valued club member for many years and whose passing will not be forgotten.

I am pleased that two Life Vice Presidents have accepted their appointments, these are Iain Stuart & Tony Walton, who gave tremendous service to the club over a number of years.

We are very pleased that following a meeting with Mr Mayer, we have now reached agreement over the club's future use of the school facilities. Having used the hall since 1984 it is great to report that the school is fully behind the club and its continued use of the premises. This will enable us to continue to provide a long term facility for table tennis in the village. It will also enable us to proceed with our plans to make capital improvements to our aging equipment once we obtain the necessary funds to do so.

The next event is the Pre-Season meeting on July 13th, again at the Red Lion with a 7.30pm start. We will select our teams for the 2009-10 League, starting in September. **Anyone wishing to play** should attend the meeting or ring 531328 for details.

The club is now closed for the summer and will restart on **Monday 7th September 2009.**

Mrs Suzy Willis

MCSP SRP AACP

CHARTERED PHYSIOTHERAPIST

Old Lodge, Henleys Lane

Drayton, OX14 4HU

Tel 01235 531269

Please ring for an appointment

ST PETER'S CHURCH HOME-VISITING GROUP

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

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

BAPTIST CHURCH

Church Secretary:- Mrs Jayne Henderson..... 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)

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

(MORE) ALL AROUND

DRAYTON WIVES Pam Lacey

At our May meeting, Diane Wilson gave a very interesting talk, accompanied by slides, on the creatures and insects found in her garden through the year.

Dates for your Diary in JULY

- Mon 13th COFFEE Ann Hutchings (21 Binning Close)
... (NB Change of venue)
- Mon 20th WHIST Trudie Buckner, Caudwell D.C.
- Wed 29th Meeting Visiting Highclere Castle & Gardens
(depart Village Hall @ 10.30am)

Drayton Twinning Society Michael Bell

On 5th June we held the latest planning meeting in readiness for our French visitors who are arriving on 20th August, 18 host families sat down to a lovely home cooked meal and a glass of wine at the Caudwell Day Centre (after the formal meeting!).

Things are progressing smoothly which is important as we are to greet 30 people from Lesparre – our largest party yet! We have some young families joining us, a few teenagers, some people we know well and some new faces visiting Drayton for the first time.

We are sure the varied programme will appeal to the group and a brief summary of our itinerary goes something like this:-

Friday; after 10 years we have decided to take them to London (they always want to visit our capital). Not only that – we are taking them to the Houses of Parliament! Then a river trip, a picnic lunch and a walk via South Bank back to Westminster.

Saturday; Some nostalgia – happily there is a Steam Day at Didcot Railway Centre so we start our day amongst the unique collection of Great Western Railway steam engines, coaches, wagons, etc; and a recreation of Brunel's broad gauge railway. After lunch we assemble at the Caudwell Day Centre for a Cream Tea and the return match for the Boule Competition!

Sunday; A relaxing day for hosts and guests to enjoy each other's company with their family.

Monday; A day in the Cotswolds to show off the English Countryside, including a visit to Hidcote Manor and (weather permitting) a group barbecue before our guests have to leave us early on Tuesday morning.

If anyone in Drayton is interested in joining us for any of these events call Michael Bell (531388) or Stephen Fearnley (531347) or Bob Matthews (531204) for more information.

Twinning is for everyone - we are volunteers, residents of Drayton and the surrounding area with the aim of promoting friendships. Members are not paid for their efforts; they have guests from your twin town to stay in their homes at their own cost, in the knowledge that they will be hosted in the homes of people from Lesparre in return. Any travel costs or other expenses on visits to twin towns are paid for by members individually.

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DRAYTON W.I. Shirley Thomas

The last meeting we had an interesting talk by Dr Geoff Hyde on silk weaving at Whitchurch Silk Mill, where they do some very prestigious work such as making silk gowns for the judiciary, silks for the Royal Ballet, and replacement banners for Winchester Cathedral. We saw a series of slides on the workings of the mill, including a weaver's bench dating to the 1920s.

Some of the members will have had a day out in Cardiff on June 17th, and we have arranged a STRAWBERRY TEA for July 11th (Sat) 2.30 to 4pm in the Caudwell Day Centre - ALL WELCOME.

Anyone who is interested in the WI and would like to find out more is most welcome to join us informally, at our meeting on the **second Thursday of each month** at the Caudwell Day Centre (7.30 pm). Our next meeting is on July 9th when David Marsh is taking us on safari!



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YOUR LETTERS

Thanks for everything Brown Owl xxx

Dear Sir, via e-mail

Mary Thompson, Brown Owl of 1st Drayton Brownies for more than the past 20 years will say "Whatever we do, whatever we say we are brownies tonight and everyday - brownies dismissed" for the last time in July 2009 as it's time for her to hang up her woggle and retire.

I just want to say a huge, HUGE, thank you to Mary as a volunteer for all her hard work and commitment to guiding over this time, and for the care and friendship she has shown to many Drayton girls over the past 20 years, every Wednesday evening.

Mary was my brown owl in 1987 and she has quietly gone about her guiding in Drayton all this time, in a village that she has never lived, but always served the local community.

Her love and passion for guiding and inspiration to young girls goes far beyond arts and craft in the village hall. She has many traditional values but believes in community, over the past years the girls have recently raised money for a new bin in the Lockway playpark, adopted animals at a wildlife park and raised funds for Sarhar, a young girl in India, to attend school. I hope any ex-brownies reading this would remember their time at Drayton brownies as a fun and exciting time, as I do, and that it would be lovely to see brownies continue in her absence.

Jessica Caudle

Janet Manning

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Plants

Gardening Information

Refreshments



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Good Wishes - Thanks

Dear Sir, via email

I would like to thank everyone who has sent good wishes to Doreen after her recent illness, we are both overwhelmed by the kindness shown by all.

Thanks again Bryn Jones



Elizabethan Alms Box

St Peter's church has a very fine example of an early charity box, although it is no longer used for donations, it stands in the aisle near the door to the church room. A few years ago we took the precaution of padlocking and chaining it to a pillar. Sometime during the first week in June the padlocks were cut open and the chain released. However it was not stolen or damaged in any way. The police have been informed, but the whole incident seems to be a bit of a mystery. Did someone attempt to steal it and get disturbed? If you were around the church in that period **did you see anyone acting suspiciously?**

It is the commitment of the churchwardens and church council to keep the church open and we are grateful to people who use the church and churchyard for keeping an eye out to safeguard the church.

Josie Midwinter

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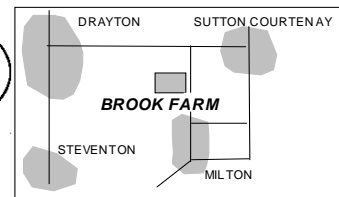
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GARDENING TIME

Hardy Hibiscus (by Newington Nurseries see p10)

If July brings out the human sun worshippers, it's also the time to see and enjoy the plants that are happiest when the rays are beating down. Hibiscus syriacus is one such shrub that performs best with sunshine and heat. If you've got a sunny place in your garden with neutral or slightly acidic soil, then Hibiscus syriacus could be the plant to deliver bags of colour and fun, and what flowers they are! 'Diana' bears big, white flowers, up to 12cm across. 'Woodbridge' blooms are a rich pink, with beautiful dark centres up to 10cm in diameter and the flowers of 'Oiseau Bleu' are a gorgeous bright blue. 'Red Heart' is another lovely plant : flowers with delicate white petals and rich, dark red centres.

A medium to large deciduous shrub, Hibiscus syriacus can reach a height of up to 3m and a width of about 2m, perfect for shrub or mixed borders and great for combining with asters, agapanthus, and penstemons. The purple foliage of berberis or smoke bush is also an attractive accompaniment to the various pastel shades of Hibiscus flowers. Once fully established, larger Hibiscus varieties can be draped with late flowering climbers which can help to maximise the plant value you can derive from small spaces.

July is when most of them come out to salute the sun, and on into early autumn, but do make sure you keep this shrub well watered through the growing season. Syriacus varieties are mainly frost-hardy but ask when you buy if the variety you have chosen needs any special attention in cold weather.

Hibiscus syriacus is not a demanding plant to maintain, making it an ideal choice for people with a busy lifestyle or newcomers to gardening. Tip-prune in late winter and early spring to maintain a healthy framework of branches in the shape that you want.

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The Seasonal Gardener (by Sara Southey see p2)

On my gardening and dog-walking travels I see a lot of front gardens, and they can say so much about the people who live there.

My Parish is running the 'Best Front Garden' competition again this year and I have sympathy with the judge. How can you choose with such a diverse playing field to choose from? I'm sure it won't be my garden that wins! However, every year I put more time and effort into what I do have and that brings me joy when I come home, and I think that's the point. We may all like to look at other peoples' front gardens, but it's our own that can directly affect how we feel.

So have a good look at your own front garden. Does it make you smile? What else could you do? If you don't want high maintenance then use the hard landscaping to express yourself. Good builders are open to a new idea for drives, boundary fencing and hardstanding.

Incorporate some weather resistant architectural planting into your idea to help stop water run-off. There are many plants that need little or no care and do brilliantly all year round, eg phormiums and grasses, bamboos as well as pyracanthas. Use unfilled unusual pots and urns to add interest. For those with no front garden, there are plants that with water and food will do brilliantly in pots or hanging baskets.

You can grow climbers up your walls, maybe mixing them up for colour throughout the year. A pyracantha trained flat against your wall for white spring flowers and red/orange winter berries and then through it plant a beautiful clematis, try *Clematis tangutica* for mid to late summer bell-shaped yellow flowers giving way to gorgeous fluffy seed heads. The climbing roses are so lovely at this time of year and follow on from the wisterias beautifully. And the smell is wonderful.

So let's see if we can make this year the best 'Best Front Garden' year. Whatever little you can do in your front garden I can guarantee it will lift your spirits when you come home and everyone else's when they walk past. And we will all be winners!

Wooden Spoon Recipe No. 29 (from June 1999) by LOIS RENNELS Raspberry Dessert (quick and easy)

1 tablespoon orange juice, ¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon, ¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg, 284 ml pot double cream, 2 x 125 gram pots plain yoghurt, 1 lb (450 g) frozen raspberries (defrosted), 4 oz (115 g) plain chocolate mini flakes (lightly crushed), 4 mint sprigs to decorate.

In a bowl mix together orange juice, ground cinnamon and nutmeg. Set aside. Whip cream in a bowl until stiff peaks form. Stir in the yoghurt and orange juice mixture. Put ¾ of the raspberries in a food processor or blender and process until smooth. Using a spoon, press purée through a fine nylon sieve into a bowl and discard seeds. Put half the cream mixture into a glass bowl or individual dishes. Pour half the raspberry purée over the mixture and gently swirl through the two mixtures to create a marbled effect. Sprinkle over half the chocolate flakes. Top with the remaining cream mixture, raspberry purée and chocolate flakes. Put the remaining whole raspberries on top. Decorate with mint sprigs. N.B. You could use strawberries, drained, canned gooseberries or rhubarb instead of the raspberries.

PARISH COUNCIL (June 1st)

A large part of this month's meeting was taken up with discussion about the way forward now that the burial ground toppling testing has been completed. The testing was done in order to comply with advice from the Ministry of Justice and with insurance demands. In the unlikely event of an accident the Health and Safety executive might decide to investigate whether the Parish Council has been negligent in its care of the burial ground.

Councillors realise that this is a very sensitive issue and that some may be surprised and even upset to discover that the grave for which they are responsible has been designated as unsafe. Not only that, but there may be some puzzlement as to what should be done to rectify any problems.

After very lengthy discussion it was decided that the Chairman, Daniel Scharf, should ask advice from the local stone-mason about possible costs and remedial action and that the clerk should seek quotes from three monumental masons. Meanwhile a carefully worded letter should be sent to all those who are contactable, giving some guidance for future possible action.

This has been a difficult matter for the Parish Council to deal with as so little guidance has been available and, knowing that some other authorities have, by their insensitive handling of the situation, caused considerable upset to parishioners, Drayton PC is trying to ensure that the matter is dealt with as carefully as possible. →>>>

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Other than the above, business was fairly routine; matters discussed were many and various. The caretaker, Julian Cook, has removed a dead tree in the burial ground and another in Sutton Wick, and he is now responsible not only for keeping the village notice boards in good structural order, but also for maintaining them in tidy fashion. Now is an opportunity to request that if anybody is putting a notice on any of the boards and finds outdated notices, please feel free to remove and bin them rather than just pinning yet another notice on top.

In response to a request from the OCC the Council considered whether it would be sensible to switch off some lights in the village between midnight and 5.30am, a gesture towards cutting the county's carbon emissions. However, it was decided that this would not be a sensible saving in a village the size of Drayton (already not brightly lit) and might only make accidents and night crime more of a problem.

Daniel Scharf, who is not only the PC chairman but also the public transport liaison representative, reported that the X2 bus service, replacing the 35, now comes through Drayton. It stops en route to Abingdon and then continues express to Oxford while the 35 now just goes from Abingdon via Kennington to Oxford. Daniel has also recently completed the detailed form describing all aspects of Drayton so that the village can enter this year's Calor Gas 'Village of the Year' competition.

Yet again the problem of litter was discussed and letters have been sent to the VWHDC about litter left lying around after weekly refuse collections and also to the management of the municipal tip, complaining about the quantity of rubbish that blows from the site and collects in nearby woodland.

Finally, the clerk is corresponding with the OCC's Environment department in an effort to make the exit from Rooks' Nest path onto the B4016 safer; with no safety barrier or handrail it currently slopes down onto the busy road at a point where visibility is poor and traffic often coming at speed. This is regarded as low priority by the County Council, and whether the PC's request for improvements will ultimately be successful remains to be seen.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on **Monday 6th July 2009** at 7.30pm in the Caudwell Day Centre and **all are welcome to attend.**

Jenny Pooley

Drayton School

Annette Mitchell

We have had a busy but successful Art week. Plenty of different art based activities for the children to enjoy or participate in.

Year 5/6, Eagles had a visit from a poet who taught them how to write poetry and some were read out in assembly. They also reproduced the famous painting between them of 'Wham' by Roy Lichtenstein, each child had a section of the painting to reproduce in paint on A3 paper and then all the pieces were joined together, and the finished result looks fabulous and is so large it could only be hung in the school hall!

Professional percussionists taught individual groups how to make music from various objects around the house, i.e. dustpan and brush, plastic bottles, saucepans and graters. As well as learning how to street dance from a professional street dancer.

Leo Rayner brought his drum kit into school and gave a performance in assembly and Mark Bosley demonstrated guitar playing. Brian Eastoe brought in his wood carvings to school and gave a talk on the art of wood carving.

Paper making was an art demonstrated by volunteers from John Mason School, the end results were then made into little books.

Parents came in to show the children how to crochet, cross stitch, dance and do photography. →>>



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→> In between all of these special visits the children were also learning to batik, tap and Irish dancing, ribbon dancing, soap sculpting, making kites, producing pastel pictures, making a modroc tree and clay fish, printing, playing instruments and learning a new school song written by Mr Lambert.

We would like to thank all the parent volunteers that gave up their time to help with all the activities and to the parents and visitors who demonstrated their skills.

Well done to the group leaders who did a fantastic job keeping their groups together and making sure they were at the right activity at the right time.

Another polite reminder to parents not to park in the turning circle, for a second time, an ambulance could not get to a property and the patient had to walk! Please consider the residents; it makes it difficult for them getting in and out of their properties.

Dates for your diary: Sports Day Wednesday 8th July (or 9th July - if rain) Leavers Disco Friday 17th July

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YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL CONTACTS :-

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

ED VAIZEY - Your Local MP

There are a number of campaigns running at the moment.

At the beginning of June, a number of MPs held a debate in Parliament re HBOS, the high street bank. A number of our constituents have been badly hit financially, and they have blamed the behaviour of the HBOS Reading branch. I was representing Justin Riggs, a farmer in the Vale, and Justin and his family came to London to hear the debate in person. We've already had one compensation offer, and I hope to get further after the debate.

MPs use debates like this to put pressure on organisations to do the right thing. I have also found myself heading a group of MPs campaigning for compensation for thousands of investors who lost money by buying a savings product backed by Lehmans. Although it was guaranteed, when Lehmans went bust, they lost all their savings including my constituent. I am hoping to get a debate on this too, and I also continue to represent pensioners who lost money in Equitable Life, as well as from the Icelandic banks. A lot of people have been very badly treated.

On another front, I am working with other Oxfordshire MPs to get the local Health Trust to change its rules on IVF assisted pregnancy. At the moment, only women aged 35-38 can get the treatment, although national guidelines recommend from the age of 23. As a father of two young children, I know how important children are. In fact my first (successful) case as a candidate was helping a young couple in Grove adopt a baby. I very much hope we can persuade the Trust to change its guidelines to help more childless couples in Oxfordshire.

I recently visited the St John Ambulance in Kidlington to undertake a first aid course. I am campaigning with Beth Chesney Evans, who lost her son in a motor bike accident, **to get first aid made compulsory in schools**. I learned a lot, it is very straightforward stuff but it does need to be taught, and it could save lots of lives in future.

If you need to get in touch with me, telephone 020 7219 6350, write to me at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA, or you can e-mail me on vaizeye@parliament.uk; The Website is www.vaizey.com with up to date news and surgery details (there is no need to book an appointment - times are from 5.30 pm to 7pm unless stated). Next surgeries are:- **July 10th** - Faringdon, Corn Exchange; **July 24th** - Wallingford, Town Hall

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

We warmly welcome Andy and Nicolette Brook and their one year old daughter, Olivia, who have moved into Sutton Wick Lane. Although they were previously living in Reading, Andy grew up in Drayton.

Also to the Crossland Family - Zita, Jonathan, Seth and Teresa who have moved to 91, Abingdon Road, Drayton. They have come from Eynsham and previously the Isle of Wight.

A very warm welcome to Charlotte and Matthew Pearce and their three children, Lily, Ella and Joshua who have moved into Church Lane from Southmoor.

A warm welcome back to Drayton to Mrs Pauline Absalom, who has moved into the High Street from Wales, but who was a former resident and a Chronicle Volunteer in years gone by.

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Support, Help, Information, Families, Together (SHIFT) for parents and carers of children with special needs. Meetings on Tuesday 30th June 1:30 - 3 pm and Thurs 9th July 9 - 10:30. Contact Ian Moore at deputy386@dunmore.oxon.sch.uk

Italian Market, Abingdon - if this issue has hit your doormat promptly, it's 26th - 28th June! (those gorgeous ice-creams . . .)

Annabelinda (couture dressmaker) 1971 - 2009 exhibition at The Oxford Museum, Woodstock until 12th July

And DON'T FORGET Late-Night Recycling on Thurs to 8.

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FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS

Are you feeling lonely, isolated or in need of some friendly company? Why not come along to our monthly tea and chat afternoons. They are held on the first Tuesday of the month in St Peter's Church Room from 3.00 pm to 4:30 pm and you are invited to drop in during these times.

The teapot is always at the ready and you can be sure of a warm welcome. Our next two dates are July 7th, and Aug 4th. If you need transport or further information please give me (Jean Hager) a call on 531558.

OTHER LOCAL PLACES OF WORSHIP

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

DRAYTON DIARIES

DIARY FOR JULY

All events held in Drayton Hall unless otherwise stated

To book Drayton Hall ring 531418 To call the Hall ring 528686

NB You may now check Hall bookings online :-

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

Sat	4	Community Day	Hall
Mon	6 7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting (p9)	
Fri	17	Chronicle Adverts DEADLINE (p2)	
Sat	18 10.00am	Millennium Pond clearance (page 1)	
Mon	20 5.15pm	CHRONICLE DEADLINE	Vickery's

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The Red Lion



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
6.30 pm	Youth Zone (to 7.30 except Bank Hols)	
7.00 pm	Scouts (Boys / girls, 8-10 yrs, Tel. 512834)	Steventon Hall
7.15 pm	Drayton Wives Whist (3rd Monday)	Caudwell DC
7.30 pm	Table Tennis, practice	School
7.30 pm	Parish Council (1st Monday)	Caudwell DC
7.45 pm	Bell-ringing (for 1½ hours)	St Peter's
7.45 pm	Drayton Drop-In (to 8.45, except Bank Hols)	
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
7.30 pm	Senior 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	Junior Table Tennis, Age 9+ (for 1 hour)	School
7.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
7.30 pm	Bingo Session	Caudwell Day Centre
7.30 pm	Table Tennis - League	School

THURSDAYS

9.00 am	Foot Clinic (1st Thurs)	Caudwell Day Centre
9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	School Ground Bldg
	followed by lunch club and afternoon session	
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)	
7.30 pm	Women's Institute Meeting (2nd Thurs)	Caudwell DC
7.30 pm	Sequence Dancing. Tel: 531701	

FRIDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	Sch'l Ground Bldg
11.00 am	The Friday Club (fortnightly) 202466	Caudwell Day Centre
7.45pm	Choir Practice (alt Fridays - page 4)	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 Sun)	Baptist Church

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