

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Derek Pooley

Volume 32 No. 8

September 2009

RESERVOIR INQUIRY

Oxfordshire County Council says it is pleased with the outcome of the Government's review of English water companies' water resources management plans - because of its consequences for the Thames Water proposal for a large reservoir near Steventon - and Drayton and Marcham. For the first time, water companies are now required to prepare and maintain water resources management plans which set out how each water company will manage its water resources to ensure a sustainable supply and demand balance over the next 25 years.

All 21 English water companies were consulted on their plans last summer. Environment Secretary Hilary Benn has now considered these draft plans, together with the consultation responses and the water companies' statements in reaction to those. Ten of the companies will now be able to finalise their plans for publication. A further eight have been asked to provide some additional information in support of their proposal before the Secretary of State reaches a decision.

On the other three plans the Secretary of State concluded that those prepared by Thames Water, South East Water and Portsmouth Water should be examined further in public. He has called for a public inquiry into Thames Water's and South East Water's plans and a public hearing on Portsmouth Water's plan. Thames Water's plan includes the proposal for a large reservoir in the triangle between Drayton, Steventon and Marcham.

POND CLEARING



Who says modern youngsters cause only trouble in our society?

The picture shows members of the DAMASCUS youth group working at clearing the weeds in Drayton School pond a few weeks ago, with their new leader, Andrew Gould (far left) and PCSO Sandra Syphas (not in the picture). It's great what good leadership and some interesting challenges can do!

SUMMER HOLIDAY

By Doggerelle

Excitedly we packed our bags with all we thought we'd need,
With 'sat nav' set we then drove off down to the coast with speed.
Spades and buckets, fishing nets, sun-beds, balls and bats,
Sun umbrellas, picnic baskets, sandals, shady hats,
Bikinis, bathing trunks and towels, sunglasses and sun-cream,
Golden sands and shining sun filled every waking dream;
All these we'd need day after day, by heat-wave we'd be blessed,
We'd lie upon the beach for hours, relax and really rest.
We'd build sand-castles, search for shells, surf-board in warm blue seas,
We'd walk the cliffs, explore new paths, eat luxury cream teas.

But sadly it did not turn out quite like we'd hoped and dreamed,
The wind it howled, the skies were grey, from heaven the raindrops streamed.
Thank goodness we had thought to bring wet weather gear we'd need,
Umbrellas, wellies, waterproofs and lots of books to read -- and read --- and read!



Also in this issue:-

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p8: Drayton Wives storm Highclere Castle

CHRONICLE INFORMATION

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

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

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

Deadline for advertisements: **17.00 on Friday, 11 Sept 2009**

Deadline for other contributions: **17.00 on Monday, 14 September**

Printed copies available: **Friday, 25 September 2009**

Key dates for the subsequent three Chronicles:

Issue for	Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available on:
November	19 October 2009	30 October 2009
December	16 November 2009	27 November 2009
Jan/Feb	11 January 2010	22 January 2010

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 AUGUST LOTTERY

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	1856	Mrs Sellars, 33 Lockway	Jenny Pooley
£20	0750	Mrs Painton, 23 Whitehorns Way	Angela Painton
£15	0251	Mr. Sattelle, Abingdon Road	Gerald Redman
£10	0062	Mr. Moyna, 73 Abingdon Rd,	Jayne Henderson
£10	2413	L. Jones, 7 Newman Lane	Jean Oliver
£10	0566	A. Goddard, 20 Bridges Close, Abingdon	Margaret Armstrong
£10	1262	G. Woolley, The Red Lion	Barbara Purbrick
£10	0451	Mrs. Brock, 39 Sutton Wick Lane	Bette Hamilton
£10	0155	Mrs Lucas, Sutton Wick Lane	Carol Arnold
£10	0261	Mr. Purcell, Abingdon Road	Gerald Redman

The winning tickets were drawn by staff and customers of the Malinda Convenience Store from the 2198 tickets sold

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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.

YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor,

In July you published a letter from Jessica Caudle in which she generously paid tribute to my years as Brown Owl of Drayton Brownies. May I use the Chronicle to thank Jess very much for her kind words and express my delight that she will continue to be involved with Drayton Brownies.

I would also like to thank all those families whose daughters have been Brownies and who have supported Pack activities over the years. There have been many since 1986 and from time to time I have great pleasure in meeting young women who tell me "you were my Brown Owl!"

It is exciting to know that as Guiding enters its Centenary year, our Brownies will continue to be part of the community in Drayton as they have for over fifty years.

I wish Ruth Hudson, Drayton's new Brownie leader, and Esther Deabill and Jess Caudle, as much fun and friendship as I have had. My enthusiasm for Guiding and affection for Drayton and its Brownie Pack will continue undiminished!

With best wishes

Mary Thompson

Dear Editor

The last maintenance session of the Millenium Green pond for this year will be at 10 o'clock on 26th September. I hope some Chronicle readers will join us if they are able.

If your readers want to help but in a different way, I also have cowslips and primroses to be planted and would appreciate some help with that. Around the sun dial also needs attention. The latter tasks could be done at other times if 26th September isn't suitable. Could volunteers please bring the appropriate tools to do the task. For more information call me on 531205

Gwen Price

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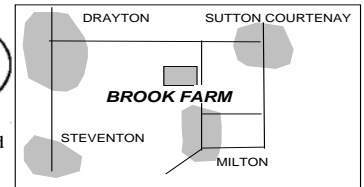
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Dear Editor

On Saturday 3rd October, Rosie Bruce, a long standing member of St Peter's congregation, will be ordained as a deacon in Christ Church Cathedral Oxford. Rosie has worked very hard to reach this stage and the church members are very proud of her achievements and we know she will serve the Drayton community very well.

As Priest in Charge I would like to invite everyone in Drayton to come to our 10am service on Sunday 4 October to welcome Rosie in her new role. My predecessor as priest in charge of Drayton, Rev Dorothy Derrick will be the preacher.

Josie Midwinter



**Rev Dorothy Derrick and Rev Josie Midwinter with
Deacon-to-be Rosie Bruce at the altar in St Peter's**

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
Choir Director Jo Burn

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.

*The Praise Service for Harvest will be on 27th September – see advert on back page

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Wed 10.30 am Pebbles (term time only) *Church Room*
 Monday 7.45 pm Bell Ringing Practice *Bell Tower*
 Fridays 7.00 pm Choir Practice *Church Room*

Choir Practise will re-commence on 11th September - please note the earlier time

CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER

Tues 1st 3.00 pm First Tuesday Connections *Church Room*
 Sat 5th 10.00 am Sale of Fair Trade Goods *Church*
 Sun 6th 11.15 am Sale of Fair Trade Goods *Church*

CHURCH REGISTER

Funeral:

31st July Hugh Joseph William Griffin

Baptisms:

2nd August Freddie Charles Hobday
 16th August Ava Florence Elizabeth Woodward
 Josh Lewis Woodley

YOU STAY - WE PRAY: SEPTEMBER

30 Aug to 5 Sept.: Church Lane, Henleys Lane, Caudwell Close, Gravel Lane; 6 to 19: Abingdon Road, Binning Close, Hayward Road; 20 to 26: Sutton Wick Lane, Greenacres, Newman Lane, Conifer Drive; 27 Sept to 3 Oct: Lockway, Whitehorns Way.

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LETTER from ST PETER'S

Dear Friends,
 I have been asked to write this month's letter, to introduce myself to you.

For those of you who do not know me, I have lived in Drayton with my husband Gary, for over twenty-five years now. I teach, full time, for the County Music Service, and visit most schools in Abingdon. I have been a member of the church here in Drayton for over twenty years. During this time I became increasingly aware that I might serve Christ and his church but was unsure of how. The slow process of finding the answer to this question began with some encouraging words from Dorothy Derrick, the previous priest-in-charge at St. Peter's Church. The finishing line will be on 3rd October 2009 when I will be made (ordained) a deacon at Christchurch in Oxford. I am taking the opportunity in writing this letter to explain what the process has been for me and how I will serve as deacon here in Drayton.

In exploring what kind of ministry I could do, I sought advice, similar to going for a careers interview. Also, I had to be tested by the bishop's advisors' panel to find out if I was suitable. Most people who are made deacons and priests seek posts within a geographical area. I have a strong sense of commitment to Drayton, a place in which I feel rooted. Because of my desire to stay here to serve as deacon, I had to have the approval of the congregation before starting any training. This training is called the Local Ministry Programme and is run as short evening or weekend courses, held either at Church House in Botley, or at Ripon College in Cuddesdon. It is designed specifically for those seeking to be ordained as local ministers. This means that I will be an ordained local person at St. Peter's Church. However, I can not be the Priest-in-Charge because I have not taken the necessary training to fulfil this post.

This training has taken me three years to complete and at times has been a labour of love. I want to thank my family, friends and neighbours for their patience with me, especially my long suffering husband.

To mark the next step in the life of the church here in Drayton, Dorothy Derrick has accepted an invitation to preach at the 10.00am service on 4th October 2009. Everyone is very welcome to come along and join us at this special time.

Rosie Bruce



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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

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. Our next two dates are 1st September and 6th October. If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.

SOUTH & VALE CARERS **Teresa Thompson**

Do you have a few hours to spare? Would you like to meet new people? South & Vale Carers Centre are looking for Volunteer Befrienders in your area now.

If you are interested you will be offered a short interview, followed by some training to help equip you. We take great care to match befrienders with our carers and cared-for, and you will also have the support of a co-ordinator to ensure you have constant support. You only need to commit one hour a week or fortnight, more if you can spare.

As a befriender you will sit with the cared-for person so the carer can get out of the house for an hour or two. They may go and do some shopping, get their hair done or even just go for a coffee at a friend's house. Your visit might be the only time the carer is able to get out of the house.

So make a difference TODAY and call Teresa Thompson on 01235 510212 or email teresa@svcarers.org.uk

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Janet Manning

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HFT Coffee Shop

June Ethridge

The coffee shop in Potash Lane, Milton Heights, run by the charity HFT, formerly the Home Farm Trust, will close in September unless it gets more customers.

The shop is staffed by the adults with learning difficulties who are HFT residents, providing them with work as well as helping to expand their skills. HFT was set up more than 45 years ago in Gloucestershire by parents looking for opportunities for their grown-up children with learning disabilities. The main site moved to Milton Heights 28 years ago and some of the 38 residents have lived there since it opened.

Project manager Georgina Duncan wants to set up an NVQ course to run alongside the coffee shop to help the 12 residents who work there to gain a formal qualification. Miss Duncan said: 'They do all sorts of things, like preparing the fresh quiches and salads, serving customers and helping with the general preparation of other foods'.

Barbara Williams, from HFT, said: 'The cafe has been established for more than 20 years and provides work and interest for many of the residents, as well as a very useful resource for the staff and the local community. Unfortunately, because of our position, tucked away in a leafy corner of Milton Heights, people just do not know we are there and the cafe is now threatened with closure unless we can get more people using it'. She added: 'Many of the regular users are elderly people who have been coming for many years, but we are struggling to attract new customers'.

As well as all-day breakfasts and hot meals, quiches and salads at lunchtime, staff also serve take-away pizzas, cakes and other refreshments.



The Red Lion



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Come and try our delicious home made food!
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**For party bookings or enquiries phone
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The Red Lion



THINGS TO DO

DRAYTON HALL WORK OUT

Sandra Syphas

Not everyone knows that my fellow Police Community Support Officer (Chris Linzey) and I, when we are on patrol in Drayton, have unlimited use of the Caudwell Centre for our comfort/tea breaks and our police surgeries. Because of this, from time to time we like to raise a little money to donate to the centre.

Our last efforts, of running an Easter cake stall in the station, were a resounding success and I have been trying to come up with another idea to raise a bit more. Now I have arranged to hire the Drayton Hall and run an exercise workout (I am a qualified instructor) with all proceeds to go to the Caudwell Centre. I thought residents and colleagues alike may be interested to see a PCSO wearing a different 'hat'



The session will be on Saturday 26th September at 10.30am, consisting mainly of low impact aerobics combined with some lower body toning. All that's needed to participate are some loose clothing, trainers and a drink. The charge will be £2.50 for the hour and all proceeds will be donated to the Caudwell Day Centre.

All are welcome and it should be fun!

WOODEN SPOON RECIPE

Lois Rennells

No. 30 (from August 1999) - Hawaiian Chicken (serves 6)

1 lb cooked chicken meat, ¾ pt mayonnaise, 3 teaspoon curry paste, 2 tablespoons apricot jam, grated rind and juice of ½ lime, 1 fresh peach (halved, stoned and sliced), ½ fresh pineapple (skinned, cored and chopped) or 15 oz can pineapple pieces (drained), 1 banana (sliced), 8 ozs long grain rice, 2 ozs cashew nuts, a little chopped parsley, lime slices for decoration.

Blend together the mayonnaise, curry paste, jam and lime rind and juice. Check for seasoning then stir in the chicken meat. Mix in the fruit.

Cook the rice as instructed on the packet. After draining, run under a cold tap to cool and then leave to get cold.

Arrange the rice on a serving dish and sprinkle with parsley, turn the chicken mixture into the centre and garnish with lime slices and cashew nuts.

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ORNAMENTAL GRASSES

Anne Hendry

If you're looking for a plant with architectural qualities, a hint of the exotic and very low maintenance, then ornamental grasses could be your answer. Flowering grasses provide a spectacle in the garden that far outweighs their demands for care, or the initial investment. Many, including Imperata, Pennisetum and Miscanthus are said to be 'trouble free' and they can bring pleasure year after year. They're also fantastic for softening up hard landscaping, perhaps on a new-build site.

In even the smallest garden you should be able to plant specimens of several different species/varieties. The taller species and varieties also offer the promise of sensory reward from the movement and sound as breezes waft through their leaves. Shorter grasses are suitable for container planting.

Here is a flavour of the wide variety of shapes and sizes on offer. Miscanthus sinensis 'Silberfeder' (silver feather) can develop stems as long as 2.5m that remain as an attractive garden feature through winter. The leaves of Miscanthus sinensis 'Zebrinus' are shorter (reaching about 1.2m), but the creamy horizontal banding they exhibit can make them appear stippled in sunshine on cloudy days. Imperata cylindrica 'Rubra', also known as the 'Red Baron', is another spectacular grass. It's a clump-forming plant and the leaves are shorter, at about 40cm, but they turn red from the tips of the stems downwards, almost as far as the base. Pennisetum villosum (also known as feathertop) is an example of a wonderful perennial grass that produces soft, feathery heads in late summer and early autumn.

Ornamental grasses combine well with other plants. Autumn flowering plants, for example asters, helianthus or chrysanthemums, make good partners, but foliage plants can also be effective alongside more subtle grasses. For example a side-by-side blend of the foliage of Miscanthus sinensis 'Variegatus' and Elaeagnus 'Quicksilver' can be a delightful and understated combination.

Most grasses are easy to grow and will thrive in even poorer soils, though they do tend to need a full sun position. Once established they will perform year after year with the minimum of intervention and have low water requirements, making them perfect for drought-prone areas. However, if you want to do your best by them, feed in spring with a general purpose fertiliser. They're sufficiently sturdy to survive the odd ball being kicked through them, which makes them the ideal choice for a family garden.



WINTER JAZZ & SWING

Derek Pooley

If you, like me, are disappointed that Drayton Players aren't able to entertain us this autumn then perhaps, like me, you will be cheered to hear that Drayton's Brian Thompson and his 'Boulevard Swing' jazz & swing band will be performing in Drayton Hall on Saturday 05 December 2009 at 7.30 pm.

Brian and his popular band, with sax, trombone, guitar, keyboard, percussion, bass and female vocalist, always pack out St Peter's Church when they play their spring concert there, so that some Draytonians have complained they can never get tickets. This extra winter concert in the bigger village hall should give those people their chance, as well as offering more comfortable seats than the pews at St Peter's!

The bar will be open from 7.15 pm and in the interval - to help you recapture the days of your youth. **And just by coming you will be helping the difficult and/or disadvantaged of today's youth**, because all the concert profits will be given to the Abingdon Bridge young people's support centre (see below).

Tickets at £10 if booked in advance, £12 on the door - that is if any are left on the night! - can be bought from me (559454), from Brian Thompson (531683), from Laurel Symons (525758) if you are in Abingdon, or from Vickery's Hardware store on Drayton Green during shop hours.

FAMILY HISTORY

Kate Crennell

The Berkshire (remember, we used to be in Berkshire) Family History Society are busy transcribing the inscriptions and photographing the gravestones outside and other memorials inside St. Peter's church. These will be published on a CD shortly.

Meanwhile we would be interested to learn from residents of Drayton of any family trees they may have made, showing relationships between those buried in the vicinity of St. Peter's. Contact the Chairman of the Vale of White Horse branch of the Berkshire Family History Society, Sue Matthews, by email to: sue.matthews3@ntlworld.com

THE ABINGDON BRIDGE

Derek Pooley

There have been several articles in recent Chronicles about helping young people to build decent, productive lives and of the excellent work that the five villages' DAMASCUS youth project does. Sadly, despite all such efforts, a few youngsters are eventually thrown out of school, do slip into drugs and alcohol, do become pregnant too early, do end up homeless with few marketable skills and a hopeless attitude to their lives. ⇨

Fitness Classes Near Abingdon

Pay per session - Only £3.50 per class

Try it today

Circuits (all abilities)

Toning up and fat burning during a varied 45 minute class. Bring water to Steventon church hut on **Wednesdays** at 9.10am for a 9.15am start.

Mums bring their children at no extra cost.

Running (beginners)

Includes technique coaching and injury prevention exercises. Starts and finishes in Steventon. Call to book and check times.

Yoga (beginners)

45 minute class is for beginners to learn the basic yoga positions. Call to book and check times

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⇨ The Abingdon Bridge (TAB) young people's support centre offers help to such youngsters from Abingdon and the all the surrounding villages. This includes personal support, from just a friendly chat right through to a programme of one-to-one psychological counselling, as well as help with specific problems such as drug or alcohol addiction. The Bridge also aims for skills improvement, from improving basic literacy to computer training, including providing the opportunity to improve computer skills by practice, as well as giving specific help with job applications, finding housing, claiming benefits etc.

I believe that there are few tasks more important in our society than helping young people who are in danger of slipping into a life of futility and crime - a pain to us all and themselves in so many ways - to climb back and become decent citizens. We think TAB can be a bridge from despair to hope!

But the work costs money and TAB desperately needs more to keep its work going. You can help TAB at the same time as having a super evening of musical entertainment by coming to the Jazz and Swing concert on 05 December (see opposite). All profits will go to TAB.

The more self-sacrificing can send a donation (cheques payable to The Abingdon Bridge) to the treasurer, Mr Mike Brown at 16 Quakers Court, Abingdon, OX14 3PY



ALL AROUND

DRAYTON WIVES

Pam Lacey

Some of our members joined together for a stroll around Christ Church Meadow in Oxford. We walked along Poplar Walk in the footsteps of Lewis Carroll and Alice Liddell. We also paused to consider the effect the proposed inner city relief road would have had on the meadow.

From the meadow we made our way into the Oxford Botanic Gardens, founded in 1621, the first 'scientific' garden in England. Sir Henry Danvers gave five thousand pounds to set up the garden for 'the glorification of God and for the furtherance of learning.' Unfortunately the money all went to build the walls and there was nothing left to pay for the running of the garden (sounds familiar). Today the garden is still used for teaching and samples of some plants are used in research around the world. We just enjoyed the trees and flowers. Our afternoon ended with tea and cake.

Dates for your Diary in **SEPTEMBER:**

Mon 14th COFFEE Margaret Long, Chiers Drive
Mon 21st WHIST Helen Sainsbury, Caudwell D.C.
Wed 30th MEETING: Lynn Bellamy - Aromatherapy for Winter

WIVES AT HIGHCLERE

Eve Sharp

We boarded our coach to Highclere Castle beneath grey, threatening skies but, during our journey on the A34 beyond Newbury, the sun began to shine. On our arrival, however, most of us decided to explore the gardens before touring the castle- just in case!

Highclere Castle has been the home of the Carnarvon family for over three hundred years. It is set in a thousand acres of parkland designed by the famous 18th Century English landscape architect, Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. The gardens are divided into the Monk's Garden, a White garden and a Secret Garden and were ablaze with huge beds of penstemon, antirrhinum, lilies and spectacular hydrangea.



The castle was transformed in the 1840s by Sir Charles Barry into the Victorian castle we see today. Our guide provided us with most interesting information which brought alive the history of the castle, its inhabitants and its visitors. We saw the bedroom where the Queen sleeps when she stays at Highclere and a desk and chair which belonged to Napoleon Bonaparte. Today the Carnarvon family do not use the castle to live in (they have other homes on the estate), but it felt homely and personal, probably because of the many family photographs in every room.

The 5th Lord Carnarvon was extremely interested in ancient Egypt and her pharaohs and funded a major exploration which, in 1922 and headed by Howard Carter, discovered the intact tomb of boy pharaoh Tutankhamun. A new exhibition in the cellars at the castle recreates this discovery.

The sun disappeared after lunch and our return journey was a wet one, but our spirits were not dampened – we had enjoyed a great day and our thanks go to Ann Hutchings for arranging it

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DRAYTON'S BALANCING ACT Judy Henman

On 30 June a friend and I went to see the Old Fire Station's production, 'A Fist Full of Mondays'. It was about a Monday-night line dancing club who were rehearsing for a big weekend and was hilarious! Each actor achieved a wonderful cameo portrait of a peculiar (aren't we all) individual.

- Carol, played by Drayton's Katie Mansfield, was the most slow-learning, clumsy, line dancer imaginable, counting every step.
- Mary, played by Drayton's Angie Stevens, was wonderfully funny and precise in her line dancing.
- Tom, Drayton's Sam Mansfield (Katie's husband) acted his part beautifully and sang well, as did all the characters.

Katie and Sam live in Hilliat Fields, and we all know Angie Stevens. Katie and Angie came to Steventon line dance club to practise. Katie is an accomplished dancer but was very good at looking dreadful and getting everything twisted up in the play. Katie is a lovely girl who, although short of time (working and acting) helps me to deliver the Chronicle in Steventon Road.

I had never been to the Old Fire Station before, but will certainly go again. The acting group, 'Balancing Act' puts on shows throughout the year and also pantomimes. Find out more at info@balancingact.org.uk



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Pearl Stanbridge

Our annual dinner will be held at the Lantern Restaurant on Friday 20 November at 7.30pm for 8pm so if you are looking for a good night out with a excellent meal and good company then I advise you to ring Pat Bucklan on 831499 for a booking - we look forward to seeing you there.

The next Committee meeting will be held on Monday 21st September at 8pm.

MORE ALL AROUND

GARD

Nick Thompson

Most of those who are interested in the reservoir situation will now have heard that the Secretary of State for the Environment has decided that a Public Inquiry is to be held to examine the plans of Thames Water, with particular regard, in our area, to the proposal to build a massive reservoir. The Thames Water resources plan has been revised showing a delay of up to five years to their proposed start for a reservoir, and a reduction in size, but this leaves local land and property blighted, and the uncertainty of disruption is merely deferred. So the situation is really no further forward. A public Inquiry should resolve this.

GARD seeks the removal of the reservoir from the plan, as it cannot be justified even on Thames Water's revised demand figures once these have been corrected for several errors which boost their forecast demand. There are, in any case, if needed at reasonably short notice, far more economic and quicker to construct alternatives to the proposed reservoir. These include water reuse (from several different sewage treatment works near London) and well researched Severn-to-Thames water transfer options. These alternatives have been formally proposed by GARD but none have been properly and conscientiously analysed or fairly compared by Thames Water against their favoured project, in spite of EU legislation which demands proper and public assessments of all alternatives. To our satisfaction the Environment Agency has now agreed to examine at least some of GARD's alternative proposals more closely.

The process of a Public Inquiry is long and expensive and the Inquiry will not take place until well into next year. Thames Water has deep pockets and will employ people with smooth tongues to represent them. GARD will be discussing our best approach to the Inquiry with CPRE, and liaising with others including the Vale of White Horse District Council which has a key role to play as the statutory local government consultee in its capacity as the local Planning Authority.

Thanks to the work of our consultant, the generosity of a sponsor and support of members of the GARD Committee and others, we feel that much progress has been made to get this far. Our role has been to challenge the technical detail provided by Thames Water. Much essential work has been done to defeat an expensive, unnecessary, commercially motivated project. Unfortunately there is plenty more for us to do!

INCINERATOR CONSULTATION Robin Draper

WRG has finally submitted a third version of its application to construct a waste incinerator at Sutton Courtenay. The new public consultation on this proposal ends on 14 September.

Email your objections to mary.thompson@oxfordshire.gov.uk quoting Ref: WRG SUT/APF/616 60CM, or write to her c/o Planning Office, Oxfordshire County Council, Speedwell Street, Oxford, OX1 1NE, copied to your county councillor.

Editors Note: This item arrived very late (the Friday after the Monday deadline) and I have been able to include only the briefest summary of Mr Draper's note. For more information visit www.scai.co.uk

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BOWLS

Round up

The latest internal competition was completed recently. After a fine day's bowling, John Goodacre and June Hyde were the winners of 'The Henry Bunce' handicap pairs, beating Jan Cook and John Beale in the final. The next competition will be 'The Attwood Cup' to be held on Sunday September 6th. Also starting in September will be 'The John Berry Fours' leagues on Monday and Wednesday, running through until the end of November. The summer leagues have now been completed, with 'The Tigers' finishing in the top half of their league while 'The Leopards' failed to get out of the bottom half of theirs. The problem seemed to be that the away form of both teams let them down.

The winter leagues get underway in September and this year we are fielding one team in the evening league, with two teams in the afternoon triple league. We will be hoping we can improve things. Also coming up will be a quiz night, date yet to be arranged, so keep your eyes on the notice board. Recent quizzes have proved to be a popular night out and the response has been very good which always makes it worthwhile.

Finally, if anyone is interested in bowling, sessions are Monday and Thursday afternoons 2-5 and Wednesday evenings 7- 10. Just pop into the Hall at these times and a warm welcome awaits you. We have had some new members recently and they have settled in well and are thoroughly enjoying their bowling.

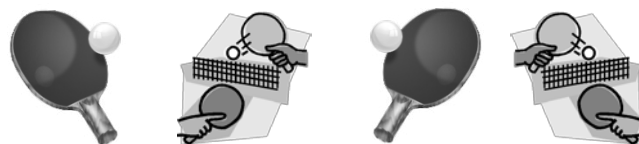


TABLE TENNIS

John Gould

First, I have to issue an apology for a mistake on my part. In the August notes I said that Geoff Hoyland passed away in 2000; I should have said 1999. It doesn't seem like 10 years since he was coaching our members to become better players and he is still very much missed by all that knew him. We have received a donation to funds from Pat Hoyland, Geoff's widow. Many thanks Pat for your generosity.

The club also wishes to thank the Drayton Youth Centre Charity for its kind grant of £250 towards the purchase of a new table. This, with other fund raising work, has given us the opportunity to replace 2 of our 4 tables and we hope to have these installed in time for the new season. The cost will be substantial so this grant is very much appreciated. It will benefit the club for many years to come and ensure that young players have good quality equipment on which to play. We are also buying two net sets to accompany the new tables. Our coach Matt Wicks will also benefit from the purchase of a 'catch net' and a supply of training balls.

All these things cost the club money so we are hoping the Sponsored Walk on 13th September will bring much needed funds. We will also raise funds for McMillan Nurses through this walk. Anyone wishing to sponsor us can do so via any club member or by ringing 01235 531328.

A reminder that the club will restart on Monday 7th September 2009! We cater for all ages from 9 to 90 and now have a qualified coach in place. New members are very welcome to come along; ring 01235-531328 for details.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Webber



As a teacher from 1969 to 2005, I am very used to being part of a system that assesses, appraises and judges. I have been subjected to it and I have subjected others to it. It's all been imposed on us by authorities hell-bent on improving standards and increasing efficiency. A large part of me aches for the time when people, who were good at their jobs, were allowed to get on with them, but I have to admit that the age of judging

each other has, on balance, achieved its aims. Whether it has made us any happier is quite another question. I have no doubt that doctors, nurses, civil servants and business people of my age all feel the same. Still, in the spirit of the times, a bit of self-assessment might now be in order. What exactly have I achieved and where have I failed in the 4 years I have been your District Councillor? Where could I have done better? How will I do better in the future?

Having blundered around for a year or two (like almost everyone else who first comes to local politics), I have finally worked out the following:

- What I am responsible for. (Score 8/10)
- What I am not responsible for, and who is. (8/10)
- What little power I have to actually do anything about anything. (1/10)
- Some of the tricks needed to increase the chances of getting something done. (5/10)
- Politics is a bit like my golf – remember the one or two good moments and try to forget the rest. (1/10)

It took me far too long to realise that if I was to achieve anything that you wished me to achieve, I needed to stop guessing (9/10), and actually find out what your wishes were (10/10)- hence, the Village survey in September last year. Ignoring the political advice of my seniors (?/10), that it was dangerous to take on what you couldn't be sure to achieve, I tried to address your priorities:

ABINGDON'S TRAFFIC

As a member of the ABITs Members' Group. I argued and am still arguing until blue in the face that opening up A34 slip roads was the main way to get cars out of Abingdon - short of unacceptably expensive bridges and bypasses getting people on to buses and bicycles was the other way. Messing around with traffic lights and pedestrian crossings is only tinkering with the problem. Great, so what have I achieved so far? Not much yet, to be honest, but as the economy improves, the chances improve, so I will keep pushing. (5/10)

TOWN CENTRE and VILLAGE VITALITY

As a member of the Abingdon Partnership Board which has just appointed a partnership manager and having attended meetings with Scottish Widows (who own the precinct), I am as certain as I can be that there is plenty of good news to come – it's all promises at the moment, but there are good reasons to be very optimistic. (7/10conditional)

LEISURE FACILITIES

Drayton's problem is space. We have to persuade, cajole, arrange for land to become available for more outdoor recreation area in the village. I had no idea, in 2005, how long this sort of thing might take. Progress has been painfully slow but there are some signs of movement. I am hopeful that in the next few months, we will make some significant progress on this issue. (6/10 conditional) ➔

➔ There have been some successes, but mostly small ones. The trouble is your priorities are big issues involving far more than the District Council. There is, however, good reason to be a little more optimistic these days. The economy may be on the turn and the authorities are working better together than they have done for many years. I am convinced that partnership working is most likely to achieve results. Get all the responsible people together in the same place working together towards the same end, for their mutual benefit! I am convinced that we will need patience and optimism to make progress. I completely reject the 'This town is dead, dying and a dump' message. It is negative, demoralising and a hindrance to progress. I prefer the 'Things can and will get better' message. It is the only reason I still play golf.



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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Jennifer Pooley

Report of the meeting on Monday 3rd August 2009



Our County Councillors, Mike and Marilyn Badcock attend most of the PC meetings and this month they came wanting to discuss traffic speed through Drayton. They sought Councillors' opinions on whether the 30 mph limit through the village is a safe and sensible limit (most Councillors feel it is) and whether the stretch of road

between Drayton and Steventon should be made a consistent 30mph all the way. It was suggested that another light-controlled crossing might be useful between Lockway and the A34 bridge and possibly a 20mph limit at the approach to the crossing near the school. Motorists have been seen ignoring the red light of the existing crossing and installing a camera on the light was also suggested. Mr & Mrs. Badcock will take these ideas to the forthcoming South Oxfordshire road review.

Stephen and Ruth Fearnley attended the meeting on behalf of Drayton's Twinning Association. The Association has been in existence for almost ten years and is open to all Drayton residents. It welcomes new members and those who would like to join in any of its activities. This year it is Drayton's turn to give hospitality to thirty visitors from Lesparre and the PC agreed to Stephen's request for a grant towards transporting the guests to and from the airport and to the various venues arranged for their entertainment.

The Council continues to spend a great deal of time discussing the thorny issue of the Burial Ground toppling testing, and trying to work out the fairest and most efficient way of resolving the problems that the testing has thrown up. The Parish Clerk, Marie Sellwood, has put in many hours of extra time trying to contact owners of graves, and of course discovering that some are untraceable. The PC, as owner of the burial ground, has a responsibility for ensuring that it is as safe as possible. With very little official guidance on exactly how to proceed the Council is treading warily, and the task of acting as judiciously and sensitively as possible is taking a long time.

The village caretaker, Julian Cooke, whilst working around the village, has noticed that after the refuse collecting lorries have been there is sometimes rubbish left lying around the streets. The PC has contacted the VWHDC and their response is that they need specific information about locations. So if any readers notice that refuse collectors in their road are regularly leaving rubbish blowing around please contact a member of the PC so that it can be reported to the VWHDC.

The next meeting of the Parish Council, open to all as usual, will be on Monday 7th September at 7.30pm in the Caudwell Day Centre



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WESTMINSTER LETTER

Ed Vaizey

Despite the long Parliamentary recess, work has continued as usual. I am still dealing with a large volume of correspondence, and helping various constituents with their cases. Because Parliament is not sitting, there is no parliamentary business to report on but there are a few items of interest across the constituency.

First, I was delighted to learn that the Government has ordered a public enquiry into the large reservoir that Thames Water want to build between Steventon and the Hanneys. Thames Water have already reduced the size of the proposed reservoir by a third, and delayed any possible start date until after 2014. I have long called for a public enquiry, and raised the issue in the House of Commons last November. It is the best way of exploring all the alternatives, as well as the actual need for this new water supply. My understanding is that the enquiry will commence in 2010.

Second, the incinerator proposed for Sutton Courtenay is coming to a head. There are two possible sites for an incinerator - Sutton Courtenay and Ardley in the north of the County. The County Council will choose a preferred bidder in September, and that will influence the choice of site, as each bidder has a preferred site. I have argued that there are much more modern alternatives to incineration, and called for the County to look at these before pressing ahead with an incinerator.

Third, I was interested to see that the Association of Train Operating Companies published a report listing a number of stations that could be re-opened, and included Wantage/Grove in their report. I am urgently seeking a meeting to explore their thinking, to see if this could become a real possibility.

In August, in my capacity as opposition culture spokesman, I issued a report on the decline in library attendance in the last few years across the country. This earned me my first appearance on the Today programme. The interview with Jim Naughtie went very well, until his co-presenter, Evan Davis, pointed out I was wearing my T-shirt back-to-front. Memo to self - don't get dressed in the dark next time.

Next surgery dates, all at 5.30pm: September 25th - Wantage, Civic Hall; October 9th - Grove, Old Mill Hall; October 23rd - Wallingford Town Hall

As ever, I can be contacted at the House of Commons, SW1A 0AA, by phone on 020 7219 6350 and by email to vaizeye@parliament.uk



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DRAYTON DIARY

FOR SEPTEMBER

All events are at Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise
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Regular Events are listed opposite

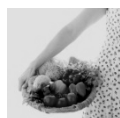
Sun	6	all day	Bowls	
Mon	7	7.30 pm	Parish Council	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
Sat	12		Sequence Dancing	
Sun	13	pm	Bowls	
Mon	14	9.15 am	Chronicle Lottery deadline	<i>Vickery's</i>
		5.15 pm	Chronicle copy deadline	<i>Vickery's box</i>
	18-19		Wedding Reception	
Mon	21	7.30 pm	Hall Committee	
Sat	26	10.30 am	Aerobics Class	
Mon	28	7.30 pm	Bowls Club Committee	

St Peter's Church Drayton on Sunday 27th September



Harvest Festival

10.30 am at St Peter's Church



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01235 540377 or anna.capel-davies@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

website www.getoxfordshireactive.org

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>
7.30 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	Friday Club (fortnightly) 202466	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
7.00 pm	Choir Practice	<i>St Peter's</i>

SUNDAYS

8.00 am	Holy Communion	<i>St Peter's</i>
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (Praise Service 3rd Sunday)	<i>St Peter's</i>
11.15 am	Family Time	<i>Baptist Church</i>
6.00 pm	Evening Worship	<i>Baptist Church</i>



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