

# DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Derek Pooley

Volume 32, No.11

December 2009

## DRAYTON YOUTHZONE

Drayton Youthzone provides a weekly youth group for young people living in the village; currently up to 30 young people are regularly attending and since April 2007 more than 80 have benefited from the facility. Youthzone has been supported by the Damascus Youth Project through paid youth workers who attend and help the small number of volunteers on a Monday evening.

From March 2010 the Damascus Youth Project will no longer be able to support Youthzone in this way, as their work will take on a different focus which unfortunately does not include this type of provision any more, and the group will therefore have to become completely self supportig by March 2010.

I am fully aware of the increasing need for volunteers in all walks of life, and we have been encouraged recently that some additional parents are to become involved with the group in the New Year. However if there is any one out there who might also be interested in finding out more about becoming a volunteer we would be delighted to hear from you.

We would particularly welcome anyone who might have a skill



or interest that they could occasionally share with the young people. As a fine example of what can be done in this way, Drayton Art Group ran a superbly successful project in March of this year which resulted in a fantastic piece of artwork

(shown above) which is permanently on display in the small hall.

If you want to know more about volunteering for the Youthzone please call me on 01235 531632

Claire Soper

## STARS OF REMEMBRANCE

Christmas is a joyful time, when families can come together to share the festivities. However for some it can also be a time of sadness, remembering a loved one who has died. There seems to be a gap at the table, around the fireside or in the pile of presents under the tree. There is nothing that can really fill that gap.

But if you would like to put a message remembering your loved one in the church at Christmas you are welcome to do so. At the back of the church you will find a box of gold/silver stars, write your message and put it back in the box. These star will be hung

together in the chancel arch with the large star on Saturday 19th

December when we

decorate the church (any

stars which come in later

will be added). They will

remain there until the 10am

service on 3rd January when

we will take the stars down

and offer them in prayer at the altar.



Josie Midwinter



Whether you celebrate Christmas with a nativity scene in your mind (as in the St Peter's triptych above), or with parties and Father Christmas, or do both, the Chronicle team sends you its best wishes for the holiday season and for the New Year

### Also in this issue:

- |                             |                                     |
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| p4: Blue is the Colour      | p5: The Three Peaks Challenge       |
| p6: Twinning – good or bad? | p9: Pandemonium in Drayton          |
| p11: Crime in Drayton       | p12: Goodbye to Marie               |
| p12: Tesco – good or bad?   | p13: Dealing with Illegal Downloads |

Lesparre - Médoc, France; Drayton's twin town:

see letters and articles on pages 6 & 7



# CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The next **Chronicle** will be the **Jan/Feb** issue:

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

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

Deadline for advertisements: **17.00 on Friday, 8 January 2010**

Deadline for other contributions: **17.00 on Monday, 11 January**

Printed copies available: **Friday, 22 January 2010**

## Key dates for the subsequent three Chronicles:

Issue for	Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available on:
March	15 February 2010	26 February 2010
April	15 March 2010	26 March 2010
May	19 April 2010	3 April 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 to the **editor** 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 NOVEMBER LOTTERY:

### CASH

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	0864	Mrs P Absolam, 49 High Street	Margaret Long
£20	0938	Mrs R. Blogg, 46 High Street	Margaret Long
£15	1005	Mr. Thouless, 33 High Street	Mary Alexander
£10	2688	Austin Barrett, The Wheatsheaf	Austin Barrett
£10	2027	Andrew Brooks, 66 Whitehorns Way	Daphne Barrand
£10	2222	J. Madley, Mostyn, Milton Rd, SC	Claire Soper
£10	0162	Mr. Loran, 4 Comeville Road	Gerald Redman
£10	2403	Sue Parsons, 5 Newman Lane	Jean Oliver
£10	1785	Mr. Viner, 19 Lockway, Drayton	Jenny Pooley
£10	0440	R. Webber, Orchard Barn, S.W. Lane	Beryl Dawson

### BOTTLES OF WINE

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
1st	0364	Mr. Bruce, 16A Sutton Wick Lane	Beryl Dawson
2nd	0308	Mrs. Evans, 2 Greenacres	Beryl Dawson
3rd	1000	Jill Matthews, 5 High Street	Mary Alexander
4th	1778	Mr. Mace, 15 Lock Way	Jenny Pooley
5th	1568	J. Regan, 16 Binning Close	Ann Hutchings
6th	2307	John Cross, 3 Eastway Mobile Home Park	Terea Burnage
7th	1655	Barbara Carter, 28 Lock Way	Sue Ash
8th	0050	Mr. Pitts, 63 Abingdon Road	Jayne Henderson
9th	0087	Mrs. Sheridan, 105 Abingdon Road	Julie Brown
10th	0025	Mr. Hedditch, 47 Abingdon Road	Jane Henderson

### BOXES OF BISCUITS

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
1st	0182	Mr. Tolmie, 18 Cornville Road	G. Redman
2nd	0047	Mr. Pitts, 63 Abingdon Road	Jayne Henderson
3rd	1110	Mr. Schmitt, 12 Halls Close	Mary Alexander
4th	0886	B. Choules, 69 High Street	Margaret Long
5th	2406	L. Jones, 7 Newman Lane	Jean Oliver
6th	1013	J. Ferneyhough, 25 High Street	Mary Alexander
7th	0206	Mr. Turner, 27 Cornville Road	Gerald Redman
8th	0315	R. Bruce, 4 Greenacres	Beryl Dawson
9th	0726	Mrs. R. Pacey, 16 Church Lane	Susan Brooks
10th	2149	Mr. Belcher, 42 Lyford Close,	Laura Stopps

The winning tickets were drawn by Members of the Art Group from the 2319 tickets sold

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## YOUR LETTERS

### The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2009:

Thank you Drayton for donating a grand total of £1,558.01 to this year's Poppy Appeal, through house-to-house collections (of £1,148.18), static collections (amounting to £247.21) and a Church Collection of £162.62 which includes an uplift for Gift-Aid. Some of you will note that this is almost exactly the same total as in 2008 -- an encouraging sign in this deep recession.

One spectacular result is that one of the Drayton house-to-house collectors, Mirja Boyd, raised over £230 on her round. This is the first time that any collector in the whole area has broken the £200-barrier, and we offer our congratulations and thanks for well and truly smashing a long-standing record! This is a tremendous effort of very hard work and long hours, calling on people sometimes several times if they are out.

If anyone would consider becoming a collector for next year, it's never too late to volunteer. Just get in touch with us at any time and we will be extremely glad of your help.

Thank you all of Drayton for your support of this very worthwhile cause. As everyone will be aware from newspapers, radio and TV, the need for RBL funds is actually increasing at present, which is a very sad reminder, but we are grateful to you all for continued support.

*Peter & Diana Hasting*

**Editor's Note - for Letters-Column enthusiasts:** Many of the letters received this month were about twinning, whether it is valuable or not. These are on page 6, next to Michael Bell's report on 10 years of twinning on page 7. One other letter, from Claire Soper about the Drayton Youthzone, is on the front page.

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



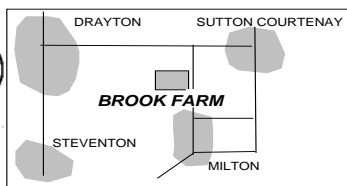
Brook Farm, Milton Road

#### OPENING HOURS

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### DRAYTON HALL

**Ann Webb**



Here we go again, where does time go? The management committee met on Monday 16th November. The agenda was dealt

with quite quickly, the notable items discussed included the kitchen ceiling and sky light which have been cleaned and painted, thanks to the kind donation of a large tub of white emulsion from a village resident. Also, the outside guttering has been overhauled ready for the winter. Our finances for once looked a little healthier, but we still have to increase our prices to keep up with ever increasing costs. The first cost we have had to consider is the replacement of the kitchen window, it is becoming unsafe as its breaking away from the wall. It will be replaced with a double glazed unit very soon. Members present were asked to pass on to their organisations to check all lights and the heating is off before they leave the building, and not to obstruct any fire extinguisher or fire exit, during usage or when clearing away. Christmas is almost upon us and the hall will be decorated in time for the planned events.

Almost the last item I would like to bring to your notice is the fact that Dalton Barracks have booked the hall for a welcome home party in January for the returning troops and their families. Several organisations have expressed a wish to do something for them as a mark of gratitude for what they are doing on behalf of our country. After a long chat with the organiser of this event she suggested that if some or all of their party expenses e.g. hire of the hall, and hire of any extra equipment they will need to cater for quite a large event, could be covered that would be fantastic. Those who attended the W.I. quiz night know that we raised a considerable sum towards this, but if any other organisation or individual would like to donate anything towards this event either named or anonymously we would be glad to accept. Any donation however small can be sent to me at 1 Milton Road, Drayton, Abingdon, OX14 4EZ. or put through the hall letterbox in the kitchen door. If you give a cheque make it payable to the Drayton Hall, and we would like it before the 10th December, to give us time to hand it to them so they know what they still have to raise. We don't have to agree with the war but it's a way of saying thank-you for all the things they are called on to do in any situation at home or abroad.

As mentioned above we have agreed to put up the hire fees, not a lot, but I hope you understand why. Briefly I will only give prices for residents, prices per hour: large hall £11.00 small hall no change, Lounge £8.00. Entire building function rate 9am -5pm £90.00 Friday or Sat night £140.00 Weddings 1pm- 6pm £140.00 6pm-12am £160.00 12pm-12am £220.00; Children's parties under 14s £50.00 for large hall, this section includes sales, bazaars and other afternoon functions. No change for small hall (£40.00) We hope this will not be too much to bear but costs go up. These prices will be applicable from January 1st 2010.

**Please use your hall or risk losing it!**

# ST PETER'S CHURCH

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

## 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

## 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

### Confirmation:

8th November Georgina Arnold  
 Louise Fowler  
 Tom Fowler  
 Barbara Purbrick

## YOU STAY - WE PRAY: DECEMBER

29 Nov to 12 Dec: Lockway; Whitehorns Way. 13 to 19: Cornville Road; Crabtree Lane; Lesparre Close. 20 to 26: Drayton Road; Milton Road; New Cut Mill; Fisher Close; Marcham Road; Meads Close; Rippington Court. 27 to 2 January: Steventon Road; Eastway; Eastway MHP

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## LETTER from ST PETER'S

*Blue is the colour, football is the game  
 We're all together and winning is our aim  
 So cheer us on through the sun and rain ...*

**BLUE IS THE COLOUR ... FOOTBALL IS THE GAME ...** Thus runs the opening line of the anthem of a well known football club.

Football is a universal game. From a world cup match with thousands of spectators to a few kids kicking a ball around on a bit of waste ground in India - it is all football. I well remember the boys in Uganda kicking a ball made out of cut up bicycle tyres, playing in bare feet because they had no boots, feeling they were as much part of the great game as Man United!

**BLUE IS THE COLOUR .. CLIMATE IS THE GAME ...** But in December BLUE will be the colour of a very different game. We have heard so many warnings about the dangers of climate change and the impact of our carbon footprint that we are inclined to shrug it off and think it won't effect us. We have the equivalent of the well equipped stadium - our life-style is protected from a lot of the effects of climate change. It is the young lads in India & Uganda (and other such countries) who are paying the price. They are the one's left with an uneven playing field.

**BLUE IS THE COLOUR ... THE MARCH IS THE AIM ...** On Saturday 5 December there will be a rally in London (also one in Glasgow) to show solidarity with those worst affected by climate change. Everyone is asked to dress in blue and stand in a large circle round the House of Parliament. Many football games feature a Mexican Wave, during this march we will do THE WAVE with blue coloured hands (or blue gloves) as a sign of unity with numerous people around the world who are suffering as a result of adverse climate change.

**SEAL THE DEAL:** All this is to draw attention to a world conference being held in Copenhagen to discuss and ratify previous promises made by world Governments. It is very easy for leaders to say they are going to do this or that, but they really do need to 'seal the deal' by actually doing it.

December is a good month in which to make this demonstration. God created the world and when he created it he said that all things were good. He then gave the people he created to be the stewards of that world. As a human race we have fallen very far short of that goal God set for us. As Christian we know that failure is because we have turned our back on God's goodness and preferred to go our own way. **HOWEVER** the good news of Christmas is that God has not turned his back on us - he sent his son Jesus to show us that his love is not negotiable, it is always there. It is not a fluffy, airy-fairy kind of love. It is an accepting love, because God never rejects us. But it is also a demanding love, requiring us to fulfil our responsibilities and one of those responsibilities is to care for our planet and guard it for future generations.

Perhaps we should re-write the anthem ...

*Blue is the colour, climate is the game  
 We're all together and sharing is our aim  
 So cheer us on through the sun and rain  
 Cos' we want the weather to help us all the same*



Josie Midwinter

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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 December and 5th January. If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.

## EVENT AID **Teresa Thompson**

Could you do something amazing in 2010?

It was a warm weekend in May, the weather was kind as 40 people climbed into the minibuses. These were 40 people, some who had never met before, who were about to take on a very challenging task. Yes they were about to attempt to climb the 3 highest mountains in the UK. That's one in Wales, then one in England and finally one in Scotland. They only had 24 hours to complete this feat but amazingly, through hard work, teamwork and determination they all JUST did it. This was a team of people raising money for their favourite charity. So far this team alone have raised nearly £30,000.

The 3 Peaks challenge is one of the hardest but most rewarding challenge events you can take part in and during 2009, over 100 people took part in the challenge to support local Oxfordshire charities. Teams came from Helen & Douglas House, Sobell House Hospice, Age Concern, Special Effect and Rosy to name a few.

If you would like to get a team together or maybe do it on your own and join in with another team, then please get in contact. Maybe get a group of friends together, your family or mates from work.

You will be fully supported with training walks, guides, insurance and full support from the Event Aid team. If the 3 Peaks is not for you, maybe running a marathon in Rome? Maybe a Karting endurance event? maybe one of the many challenge walks we organise for local Oxfordshire charities may be your thing! Whatever you do in 2010, do something amazing for your local community and join in a challenge event. Contact [Teresa@eventaid.org](mailto:Teresa@eventaid.org) or see our website [www.eventaid.org](http://www.eventaid.org)

Thank you so much.

## GARD PUBLIC MEETING **Nick Thompson**

There will be a PUBLIC MEETING on Tuesday 1st December 2009 at 7.30pm at Drayton Village Hall to update all those who are interested in the progress in fighting the Thames Water reservoir proposals. Please come. The new GARD website will be launched at this meeting.

The meeting will be preceded at 6.45 pm by the GARD AGM and members already will have been notified of this.

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## TO TWIN - OR

**Editor's Note:** Last month, Alan Bourne criticised the Parish Council for giving a grant to the Drayton/Lesparre Twinning Society. This has resulted in a letter from the Parish Council (below), an article from the Twinning Society (opposite page) as well as two letters from villagers who are not involved themselves, one supporting Alan Bourne and one in favour of twinning.

I have also collected a few facts (on page 10) about the British Twinning movement. So please do not write to the Chronicle with more letters **simply expressing your opinion**; we already know that the village has people of both persuasions and we do not have the effort or the expertise to run a referendum which might determine the balance of opinion in the village.

### Letter from the Chairman of the Parish Council:

Dear Editor

As a host to a French family I declared an interest and left the room when the grant request from the twinning organisation was discussed, so I can shed no light on the decision to approve the grant application (incidentally £1290 and not £1700 as alleged).

However, I would like to make some comments on some of the issues raised by Alan Bourne's letter in the November Chronicle.

1. It is one job of the Parish Council to assist with the financing of local organisations. As Westminster says on its DEFRA website *'The Government believes that parish and town councils, as the tier of government that is closest to local communities, have a central role to play in leading their communities and improving local quality of life. At the heart of local governance, they provide local leadership while working in partnership with others to improve the quality and range of services available to their community.'* In this spirit Drayton PC does give (or has given) financial support to the Drayton Village Hall, the Millennium Green, the DAMASCUS youth project, it has spent money on printing welcome leaflets for newcomers to the village - and much else besides

2. Whilst Alan did not want to take part in the 'twinning', all Drayton residents must know of the twinning with Lesparre. This visit and all other such events are run by those who choose to volunteer their time and money. This might be a form of 'self selection' but no villager was or is excluded. I am sure that all existing and potential village societies would welcome more enthusiastic members and volunteers.

3. As far as I know Alan made no attempt to discuss this matter with any parish councillor or with the Council itself before putting 'pen to paper'. I have written here before that more →

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Drayton (on the village green)**

## NOT TO TWIN?

### Other Letters on Twinning:

Dear Editor,

Alan Bourne has highlighted the utter waste of money being twinned with anything.

Drayton has not benefited one farthing!

Those individuals who dreamt being twinned with Lesparre must have been spare.

I'm sure the Village Hall would have been a more deserving cause of support.

*Disgruntled of Sutton Wick (Andrew Beacroft)*

Dear Editor

What a shame Alan Bourne felt it necessary to express such negativity in the Chronicle last month. I am not a member of the twinning society and at this point in time I am not planning to join. However that is my choice and it is also, I assume, Mr Bourne's.

There are many active organisations contributing positively to our community and we all have the choice to be involved or, in fact, to start up our own if there is a need. I am proud to be a part of a village which has so many things going on to bring people together and I am sorry that there seems to be a trend to criticise when people apply for funding so that they can offer exciting events or supply equipment etc. I hope in the future that the Chronicle will continue to be able to fill its pages with positive reports of great times.

*Kay Davies*



→ good and less harm could be achieved over a cup of tea or pint of beer than expressing concerns (and getting facts wrong) in the village newspaper.

4. There have been previous occasions when the pages of the Chronicle have been used to criticise others in the village performing some public function. It seems to me that attempts to pillory those giving up their time in these ways can only deter people from what Alan describes as the 'witlessly boring' jobs that can be part of both representative democracy and village life.

5. Also, an impression should not have been created that members of the public attending meetings of the Parish Council are 'not allowed to speak'. It is true that the 'right' to speak applies to a session at the beginning of each meeting, but I have never been at a meeting where the chairman has prevented contributions also being made at other times.

6. Nor should there be any question that there is any Party political agenda in the running of the parish council. The Lib Dems are clearly not in power in all the councils behind all the signs of twinning seen at the entrance to thousands of towns and villages around the country. Twinning started a long time before there were any Lib Dems or a 'European Agenda'.

Obviously Alan is quite entitled to his opinion about the use to which his Council Tax is being put. My purpose in writing to the Chronicle is both to prevent misunderstanding of the way in which the Parish Council works, and as a supporter of more rather than less community activity in the village.

Yours sincerely

*Daniel Scharf*



# TEN YEARS OF TWINNING

Michael Bell

Lesparre-Médoc is in South West France in the region known as the Gironde, or Aquitaine - which recalls a long British connection beginning with Eleanor of Aquitaine. She brought it under the English crown in 1152 where it happily stayed for 300 years, avoiding French taxes and selling us a lot of wine.

In 1999 a few Drayton residents were invited, by the Maire of Lesparre, to discuss the opportunity to twin. In the UK we hired a room, placed an article in the Drayton Chronicle and people came to find out more. We presented the idea to our Parish Council. Both meetings were very positive and that autumn the first group came to Drayton. During their stay they met Parish Councillors and VWHDC representatives and went home to commend the idea and plan for a formal signing in Lesparre during August 2000.

Those volunteers attending that signing were overwhelmed with Médocaine hospitality and came home wondering how we could match the occasion in 2001. The Twinning group organised various fund raising events with the help of the Church and Residents. Our Barn Dances, Musical Evening (with Drayton Musicians) were very well supported. This meant that at our own signing ceremony we were able to provide an excellent cooked lunch - with Medocain wine - to over 100 residents and invited guests. The village was well supported then by Banner Homes, the developers of Lesparre Close, who provided various things to our community in celebration.

In 2002 Drayton families discovered more about the area around Lesparre. The Medoc has a temperate climate with an average of 2300 hours of sunshine each year; the area boasts a wealth of beautiful chateaux. Lafite-Rothschild and Mouton-Rothschild are just minutes away, as are numerous other very fine Chateaux and smaller vineyards. Beautiful freshwater lakes and all the attractions of the Atlantic Coast are nearby. The drive to the coast takes you through the largest pine forest in Western Europe. Leisure Facilities include cycling, golfing, horse riding, sailing, swimming, sail boarding, walking, plus many other outdoor pursuits.

In 2003 we wanted to include the young people of Drayton and with the support of the School a friendly football competition was organised in the morning and we supported the Church Fete in the afternoon. Lesparre has an International Tournament for young footballers that have been running for over 25 years. Alan Alston helped with the football at Drayton School; we raised the funds to provide all the children and their parents with lunch at the village hall and a trip to Laser Quest that evening. The following day we took them to Warwick Castle which suited all age groups and included a reminder of "interesting" historical events between our two nations!

In 2004 one of the main events was to spend a day at the "Foire aux Vins", Lesparre's annual wine fair. To a wine lover the D2 is simply heaven with one great name quickly following another. The Maison du Vin in Pauillac sells more than 50,000 bottles a year - all at chateau prices. Besides the trade stands there was other entertainment throughout the day with interesting folklore events culminating in dancing to live music all outside in the warm August sunshine. We also visited a market on the coast cruised the Gironde, studied the life of those living in the marshes and had a barbecue at a chateau on the edge of the Gironde

Drayton 2005 provided the opportunity to introduce English wines; one of our trips was to the Vineyard at Hendred! The young people enjoyed the Maize Maze at Millets and 10-Pin Bowling. Although we had use of the Lesparre coach throughout the weekend, we took a Salter's Steamer to Oxford and visited The Oxford Story. On Sunday we risked a visit to Blenheim Palace - with the benefit of a French translator our guests were fascinated by this opportunity.

Bastille Day in 2006 was particularly memorable - who could forget that our hosts played the British National Anthem on their

National Day during the formal ceremony at the "Monument aux Morts" in the main square to honour those who died in both World Wars. I guess that doesn't often happen in France! During this weekend we took the boat across the Estuary to visit "la citadelle de Blaye" a fort constructed by Vauban. We also enjoyed our first visit to Bordeaux. There are few more elegant cities than this, unspoilt and historic,

We provided Drayton with beautiful weather for the visit in 2007! Ideal for Oxford Castle, the Botanical Gardens, a brilliant day in Bath to enjoy the Roman Baths and an open top bus tour. The weather was perfect for our promenade over Wittenham Clumps for a glorious picnic at Days Lock where we introduced Pooh Sticks to our guests. One group continued the walk to visit Dorchester and the Abbey. This weekend dispelled all rumours of it always raining in the UK!

2008 our group arrived in Lesparre in private cars, a camper van and by air as more Draytonians decided to stay on beyond the twinning formalities. We spent a day at Le Verdon for various sea faring ceremonies, the beach and eventually a magnificent Firework display at the mouth of the Gironde. We spent a most enjoyable day in Saint-Emilion. Even those that had visited before had never visited the Monolithic Church and the vast caverns below the town.

This summer it was our turn to host and readers will recall the recent report of our visit to the Houses of Parliament, Didcot Railway Centre, the Caudwell Centre where we served English Cream Teas during the Boule Competition before our coach trip through Cotswolds, Chipping Campden and Hidcote Manor, culminating in Fun & Games on our own Millennium Green.

Twinning links two communities in different countries and aims to promote social contact and cultural links between them. In other words, it allows people in one country to see how people in another live, work and play. Of course it helps if you can speak some French, but part of the fun is learning to find a common language to communicate in - ask any of our members!

In the past 10 years over 50 people have been actively involved in some way or another, many more have attended functions both social and formal and others have kindly hosted students whilst they lived and worked in the area.

Many lasting friendships have been and are being forged not just with friends in Lesparre but between those living in Drayton!

If you would like to know more, join in our pre Christmas Supper on Tuesday 15th December or join the party visiting Lesparre in 2010 just call Michael Bell (531388) Stephen Fearnley (531347) or Bob Matthews (531204)



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## The Red Lion



# ALL AROUND

## DRAYTON TODDLERS

Ana Gurl

A big welcome to all new members who have recently joined us. Drayton Toddlers meet in the village hall on Thursday mornings 9.30 – 11.30. We have lots of fun playing together, we have crafts and activities and even stop for a snack and a cuppa for the mums. New members are always welcome. Phone Vicky on 07779 243290 for more info.

We have recently made firework pictures, we've had lovely photographs taken by the Tempest photographer and have had a great time playing in a huge inflatable undersea adventure tunnel.

The toddlers are now looking forward to Christmas with a Christmas theme to our arts and craft activities. The mums will be having a well deserved night out on 3rd December and the children will be celebrating with a Christmas party on 10th December. This will be at the slightly later time of 10 – 12 and will be our last session of the year.

## PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

Debbie Bargas

During this term we have been looking at the winter festivals such as Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas, and learning what takes place. We have made Diwali pots and have been trying different Rangoli patterns. We have also continued to look at the changing of the seasons, collecting leaves to use in pictures and for printing and making snowflakes from paper. We have also been making hedgehog pictures using the children's handprints.

We will be having our Christmas singing and raffle on Thursday 17th December, please arrive with your child at 9.30am. Children must be accompanied at all times. The raffle will be drawn after the singing. We would be grateful for donations, please place in the decorated box inside Preschool.

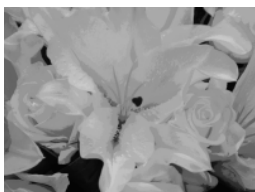
The annual Christmas party is being held on Friday 18th December 11am til 2pm. Children can be dropped off, although there will not be any normal sessions.

We would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and happy new year.

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



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## DRAYTON SCHOOL

Ana Gurl

### Classroom updates ...

**Robins** (Reception and Year 1) have been looking at light and are now thinking about Christmas with the Nativity play to prepare for and Christmas cakes to make. Also Robins will be very sad to say goodbye to Miss Stenzhorn who will be leaving at Christmas.

**Ravens** (Years 1 & 2) have been junk modelling and have built and painted their own design of castles. They have also enjoyed reading poetry and writing their own poems. The children are making good progress towards learning songs for this year's 'Tinsel and tea towels' nativity.

**Kingfishers** (Years 3 & 4) have been looking at play scripts and successfully writing their own plays using VCOP (vocabulary, connectives, openers and punctuation for those of you who don't know – I didn't!). The children have also been outside doing maths games using fractions.

**Eagles** (Years 5 & 6) are now the proud owners of a giant dragon in their classroom and very impressive it looks too. In what space they have left they are preparing for festive season and working towards their Christmas production of 'Uncle Crumble's Mad Machine'. Year 6 children will be taking part in the carol service at St Helens's church on Friday 4th Dec and also have an IMPS visit planned to Abingdon hospital to learn about first aid. Sadly Mrs Towersey is leaving at Christmas but Mr Lambert has agreed to teach Eagles full time from January.

### School news ...

The whole school community is going to the Watermill Theatre to see a production of James and the Giant Peach.

The children will also be having a go at 'big writing' using pens and working in a special atmosphere with candles and classical music. Let's see what masterpieces they create!

The school now has an Eco council as well as the school council which children throughout the school are involved in. A new gardening club will be looking at improving the school surroundings and hopefully growing some of their own produce in raised beds.

Mary Malin's leaving party is at school on Thurs 10th Dec at 7pm. Please ring 202417 if you would like to join her

The Christmas Fair is on **Sunday 13th December 12pm – 2.30pm**. Please note the new date and see the advert for more details.

Finally, the school is looking for a new lunchtime supervisory assistant to work 12pm – 1pm five days per week from January. Please contact the school office if you are interested.



➔ Also coming up: End of Term: Last sessions on Wed 16th Dec, Christmas Singing and Raffle on Thurs 17th and Christmas Party on Fri 18th Dec. Spring Term begins on Tues 5th Jan 2010.

Debbie Bargas



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## MORE ALL AROUND

### DRAYTON 1ST BROWNIES

Ruth Hudson

As part of their Fire Badge in November, Brownies had a visit from Mr Kerry of Abingdon Fire Station. All the Brownies were asked to design and make a poster about the dangers of Fire. The winner was Caroline and she was presented with a trophy. Well done Caroline!

Sister Josie has also been joining our meetings and has been working with the Brownies on Advent. Snowy Owl has been busy making USA style name plaques, placemats and diaries with a group of very excited girls who are going on a Pack holiday to Hill End.

Preparations for our **Christmas Fayre** are going well. The Brownies have made bookmarks, Christmas Favours, Sweets and Crafts. We are having a Cake sale, Raffle and Xmas hampers. Everyone is welcome to come on **Wednesday Dec 2nd 7.15pm - 8pm in Drayton Village Hall.**

Meetings are held at Drayton Village hall every Wednesday in term Time 6.15pm – 7.45pm. This is open to girls aged 7 – 10 years old, anyone wishing further information please contact Ruth Hudson on 01235 205111. Term starts again on Jan 14th 2010 with a theme 'Strictly Brownies Dancing!'

Finally a Merry Christmas to everyone from 1st Drayton Brownies!

### BOWLS CLUB

Roll up

Sixteen members from the bowls club went on a recent bowling break to the Isle of White and picked up 8 trophies between them. This was a fine performance, but in the end we had to settle for runners up spot in the mixed fours, and the fours. In the mixed Josie and Cyril Carter, June Hyde, and Avril Holmes lost a very close game, and in the fours Tony Wright, Olive Brown, Jane and David Pimm, did very well to get to the final of this competition, well done all of you.

The last internal competition was held on the 8th November, the Didcot Windows' open singles. Going through to the semi-finals will be Jean and Tony Mullins, Tony Wright, an John Goodacre. This will be played on 6th December when 8 other finals will be completed; this is always a great day for the club and we wish all those participating good luck. To all those who didn't make it, we hope you come and support those who have, there will be a raffle on the day with a Christmas flavour to it, whether you come on the day or not we hope you all support the raffle.

The winter leagues are under way and 'The Wasps' have made the best start in the afternoon triple league, but it's early days yet.

### DRAYTON PLAYERS

Jean Hager

We are working hard to resolve our directorial and other problems, hoping to find a solution in the near future. Some leads are being investigated at present, but we would still like to hear from anyone interested in joining the group, especially if directing particularly appeals to them. Contact Fred Stevens (200350) or me (531558) for a chat.

In the meantime, we wish everyone a joyful Christmas, and good health and happiness in the coming New Year.

*Margaret welcomes you to* **Sabina's**  
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### DRAYTON W.I.

Brenda Malin

Our November meeting, was a fascinating talk by Ken Betteridge on Madeira, the Island, not the bottle. I must admit there was a dearth of pictures of sunny skies, more like pictures from a T.V. 'Endurance Program', containing hair-raising treks along precipitous paths clinging to the side of mountains. The scenery however was breathtaking, showing another side of this amazing island.

Our annual Quiz, held on Friday the 13th November, was a great success as usual. Many thanks to all who gave their help so unstintingly and to all the teams who took part. The evening's raffle raised £100 and the proceeds are being donated towards the party being held for the families and the soldiers of the Royal Logistic Corps, Dalton Barracks who are returning from Afghanistan in the New Year. The party is to be held in Drayton Village Hall and we wish them a wonderful time.

Our next meeting on 10th December is our Christmas party. We will be entertained by PANDEMONIUM; the group, not a description of the evening. All members are reminded they may bring a friend to join the party, and please bring a plate of party food to share with others.

To any members who will be unable to join us at the party, we wish them a very Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing them in the New Year.

### DRAYTON WIVES

Pam Lacey

Ken Wells from the Thames Valley Police Museum at Sulhamstead gave a very interesting and at times hilarious talk on the history of the Police Force, his own career in the Police and how the Police Museum came to be set up and the exhibits it contains. He also illustrated his talk with various items of uniform ably modelled by Irma one of our members. A very enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

Some of our members tried the cells for size at Oxford Castle in October. The Castle has been a prison since 1071 until 1996. Its history made us glad to be amongst friends. We climbed to the top of St George's Tower to view Oxford, a stunning sight. The information boards helped us to identify towers and spires. We then descended to the underground crypt, reputed to be haunted. After visiting the cells, used until the 1990s, we entered the Hotel to see the transformation, three old cells made into one nicely decorated Double ensuite room but it was easy to visualise it as it had been after our visit to the old cells. We ended the afternoon with the usual tea and cakes in Oxford.

#### Dates for your Diary in DECEMBER:

Mon 7th Christmas Tea: 2.00pm to 4.00pm Caudwell D.C.  
Christine Whild - Christmas Classics  
Plus Members' Christmas Poems

Mon 14th WHIST Janet White, Caudwell D.C.

### ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Pearl Stanbridge.

We wish all members and their families are very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. The next committee meeting will be held on Monday, 21 December at 8 PM.

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## YET MORE ON TWINNING

Derek Pooley

The UK Local Government Association maintains a data base of twinning links with other countries. It records over 2500 links, involving some 1400 British communities, from large towns to small villages in all regions of the country. Most communities here are linked with just one overseas town or village but some link with several; Coventry has 26 links, Sherborne has 21. The LGA notes that, although twinning requires the endorsement of the local council, it is often led by a community-based association

By far the largest number of links (over 1000) are with France; they are our nearest neighbours after all and two of Abingdon's five twin towns are in France. France is followed by Germany with 500 and the USA with 140, but links are spread across 90 countries worldwide, from Canada to Kazakhstan, the Falkland Islands to the Faroes, Turkey to Tonga.



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## CHRISTMAS GARDEN CHORES Sara Southey

Wow! Is anyone else waiting for that hard frost to finish off the annuals that have been flowering all summer? I can't seem to bring myself to tear out plants that are still giving a good show! It certainly delays the autumn/winter clear up that's for sure!

As we go into December and January, there is less and less incentive to go out into the garden to do bits and pieces. So my thoughts turn to jobs that can be done inside in the warmth of the house or the relative shelter of a greenhouse or shed! It's a great time to give your covered growing spaces a good clear up and a clean. It also includes any conservatories or even windowsills where house plants may be growing.

Start with washing all the pots out and stacking them in order for easy use come spring. Also a good wash down of all the windows to increase the amount of light getting in is essential. There's little enough at this time of year, we need all we can get! Wash all surfaces down and rinse well too. This will hopefully eliminate any pests or diseases that have accumulated over summer. Don't forget the floor either. It's amazing (if a bit horrible) the amount of stuff that mounts up underneath staging tables and storage shelves! Once this is done, look to your tools! They may have had hard usage over the summer and autumn and probably need some TLC by now. Clean them off and sharpen any blades. More damage is done to plants by blunt dirty tools, I think, than any thing else! Give any joints a good oiling and store in a dry place. Make sure all your machinery is given a once over too. Lawn mowers, strimmers, hedge cutters etc all benefit from a good clean up too.

Now you have the area nice and spruced up it's time to examine your pot plants. Pick over your plants and remove any dead or diseased leaves and stems, remove spent flowers and give any dusty leaves a good wipe with a damp cloth. This will help them make better use of the low light levels. Make sure, also, that you gently examine the root ball. Most pot plants grow out of the available space without us noticing. If when you ease the plant away from its pot, you see lots of white roots and not a lot of compost then it's time to re-pot it into the next size up. It's also important, over the winter months, not to over-water your pot plants. It's their dormant season where they don't grow so much, if at all. They therefore need less water and food.

You should by now be thoroughly pleased with yourself and nice and warm from the work you've done. So treat yourself to a cup of tea and a browse through the seed & plant catalogues that cascade through your door at this time of year! My tip would be to order early to get a good choice of varieties and delay the receiving of plug plants for as long as possible as you will have to look after tender bedding until after the risk of frost has past and it's much easier to get the plant companies to do that for you!

Jobs for outside (once the tea and cake has gone!) can either be simple, like feeding the wildlife and making sure there's fresh unfrozen water or harder work like digging over your beds and vegetable plots. Just remember when digging, if the mud sticks to your boots then it's too wet to walk on let alone dig. You can damage the soil structure by walking on overly wet ground. Just wait for one of those sunny frosty winter days. Much better for the soil and much nicer for you!

Happy Christmas and Happy Gardening!

# NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Chris Linzey

If you want to read news of crime and policing in our area you can visit <http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/>. Then, enter your post-code in the 'Your local area' section on the right. Here are some examples of what you will currently find:

## Crime:

We have had several opportunist thefts lately, where items have been left unattended for only a short time. Remember if its valuable DO NOT leave it where it is easily accessible by other people.

Also we had a theft of a piece of hired equipment. These are always attractive items for theft and so if you hire any equipment, and have finished with it, secure it in a locked premise (i.e. garage) or return to hire company.

There was an incident in Drayton where young people were water bombed from a vehicle. It appears that this vehicle has carried out a similar offence in Didcot. Local officers have taken over the investigation.

At the beginning of the month a sheep was shot dead in a field close to Sutton Courtenay at the Waste Management Site. The WRG have asked that everyone should be aware that they will not give permission for shooting on their land.

Finally a note of warning, when buying items on phone or internet ensure that it is from a reputable site and you DO NOT send money without some sort of guarantee that the goods exist. If it seems too good to be true then it usually isn't.

We would urge anybody with any information regarding any crimes to call us in total confidence on 0845 8 505 505 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## Crime Rates:

**Editors Note:** The website Chris gives contains a link to a site where the rates of recorded crime for much of England and Wales are listed. Some of the data is given in the table:

Policing Area	Crimes per year per 1000 people
Thames Valley	7
Oxfordshire	6
Vale of White Horse	4
Drayton, SC and Appleford	3
<i>For comparison</i>	
Metropolitan London	10
West Midlands metropolitan area	8
Oxford City	10
Some other inner cities	15

## Anti-social behaviour:

The young people have continued to be well behaved and have not been involved with committing anti-social behaviour. There have been several reports of ASB by the older teenagers in Drayton. The neighbourhood team are continuing to work with the young people in this area and are pleased with their response to date so keep it up. The Neighbourhood Team will continue with their regular patrols in the area.

## Drayton:

The DAMASCUS youth group organised a coffee morning, on the 30th October, for the residents of the village. It was particularly good to listen to some of the more elderly residents telling stories of Drayton past and present. This event was the idea of the youths themselves and was very successful. Nothing but positive comments were made. It is hoped that this will become a regular chance for people of all ages to get together and socialise.

For more information about your local neighbourhood team, visit [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk) or contact 0845 8 505 505.



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# DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Webber



## Tesco - Hero or Monster?

Tesco is one of Britain's great success stories. It has made increased profits year after year. It has taught all its competitors the value of listening to its customers and responding to their needs. It is becoming an increasingly significant player on the world stage. Tesco is an example of British management at its best and we should be proud of it.

Tesco has killed off the small retailer. They have killed off many town centres. They are so dominant on the high street, that, like all monopolies, they can behave as they wish. Tesco is a threat to healthy competition.

I suspect that most communities would be fairly split on the desirability of the impact Tesco has had, and is having on life in this country and worldwide. Whether hero or monster, it is right that the issue is publicly discussed of whether Tesco should be encouraged and applauded, or condemned and controlled. Tesco is a big boy, quite capable of fighting its own cause. No harm is likely to be caused by arguing the issue in public. Tesco is in a strong, robust condition.

## Community Life:

The same, however, cannot be said of our community life. It is under threat from all directions - lack of finance, lack of interest and low on morale. The condition of our communities is, at best, fragile. We are short of Parish Councillors, School Governors, Youth Zone helpers, volunteers for all kinds of activity. Almost all our clubs and societies need more members. There are empty seats at almost every committee table. We can criticise Tesco and be fairly sure we will not cause much hurt or harm. However, in a small community such as ours, public criticism of community people, their actions and motives, can cause hurt and harm out of all proportion to any good such criticism may do.

I have just got back from another visit to Abingdon town centre. It was thriving. I had to queue for 5 minutes to get a cup of coffee and the queue from the newsagent was out into the street. Yes, I am sure there is a long way to go, but you have to wonder whether half the battle with Abingdon is in the minds of its people. If you think the town is dead and dying, you make it more likely to be so. If you think it is a wonderful medieval market town on the way to recovery, you help it to get there. It's the same with our much smaller community. If we become obsessed with what may be wrong, things just get worse. 1 volunteer is worth 6 critical letters. Please, join me in trying to be positive - or, better still, volunteering for something!

# PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Jennifer Pooley

## Report of the meeting on 02 November 2009

Parish Council meetings regularly have to deal with many routine matters. So for example we hear of the work that Julian Cook, the village caretaker, does to maintain footpaths, grassed areas, the playground, trees and much else besides. We deal with grant applications from many sources. The Council's policy is that it responds to requests from charitable organisations who can show that they potentially benefit a number of Drayton residents; and of course the Council donates considerable sums to the Damascus Youth Project, the Millennium Green, Village Hall, Drayton Twinning and the Community Day and, from time to time, many other village activities. The Council is responsible for ensuring that all field paths, bridleways and stiles are in reasonable condition and to that end liaises with local land-owners and the Environment department of the Oxfordshire County Council. So this month two matters were brought to our attention, one that a much used footpath has been ploughed without being re-instated and the other that hawthorn hedge cuttings strewn along the B4017 cycle path had caused a number of cyclists to have punctures.



Rita Atkinson, a founding trustee of the Damascus Youth Project, attended the meeting and gave an interesting account of the work and its future. The project has yet again successfully obtained lottery funding, £179,000 over a five year period. This is conditional on matched funding and very carefully planned targets that have to be attained each year. This of course has involved a huge amount of thought and planning by the Damascus trustees which will mean that they are no longer be able to spend time as the project's organising committee. They will be looking for volunteers to set up individual organising committees in each of the five villages and more volunteers to work with the young people. Rita emphasised that the project aims to help young people to feel part of their community, to interact positively with older members of the community and to grow into mature and responsible adults.

A sad matter of note is that the PC's clerk, Marie Sellwood, has resigned from her post. She has been the clerk for five years and has done a superb job with great conscientiousness and meticulous attention to detail. She will be greatly missed and very hard to replace. The post has been advertised, the response has been good, and interviews for a new clerk will take place shortly.

**The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 7th December 2009 at 7.30pm in the Caudwell Day Centre. Please come along if you have any questions or comments, or would just like to hear what takes place.**



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# WESTMINSTER LETTER

Ed Vaizey



Parliament has just been re-opened by the Queen. This is always a glorious occasion, where Britain puts on its finest show of pageantry, with the Queen arriving in a golden coach escorted by the Horse Guards. My favourite trivial pursuit question (it is not actually a trivial pursuit question, but it should be) is which MP has attended the State Opening both on horseback and on foot. The answer is Hugh Robertson, who escorted the Queen when he was a Major in the Household Cavalry

and who is now an MP. My other favourite anecdote is the moment when Black Rod (effectively the chief executive of the House of Lords) entered the Commons to summon MPs to hear the Queen's speech (which is given in the Lords). Dressed in full eighteenth century regalia, he drew himself up to his full height. Before he could say anything, Dennis Skinner shouted out "I'll bet he drinks Carling Black Label!"

Anyway, enough frivolity. The Queen's speech is serious business, as it sets out the Government's programme for the following year. As this is the last session of Parliament before a general election, time is tight. Whereas the Government would normally have a whole year, it now only has until the end of April at the latest, so many Bills will not become law. As this is an election year, there are a number of eye-catching policies, such as a Bill to curb bankers' bonuses. As this is a non-political column, I will refrain from commenting in detail. One Bill that is very relevant to me, as it covers my brief, is the Digital Economy Bill. This contains controversial measures to crack down on illegal downloading. For those of you who are not internet savvy, this means downloading music or film from the internet without paying for it, breaking copyright law. The Government is proposing that persistent offenders would have their internet connection suspended, to try and control this phenomenon. I have a lot of sympathy for the Government's point of view, as piracy, as it is known, costs our very important music and film industries hundreds of millions of pounds a year.

It remains for me to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year. I hope you feel that I have served you reasonably well in the last 12 months, and no doubt you will let me know if I have not! As usual I can be contacted at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA, 020 7219 6350, vaizeye@parliament.uk.

## Drayton Recycling Centre

### Christmas and New Year opening hours:

Until 23 December	08.00 to 17.00
Christmas Eve	08.00 to 15.00
Christmas Day	closed
Boxing Day	closed
Sunday 27 December to Wednesday 30 December	08.00 to 17.00
New Year's Eve	08.00 to 15.00
New Year's Day	closed
Saturday 02 January and thereafter	08.00 to 17.00



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# DRAYTON DIARY

## FOR DECEMBER

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

Regular Events are not listed this month but were in November

Tues	1	7.30 pm	GARD public meeting	
Sat	5	7.30 pm	Jazz and Swing Concert	
Sun	6	7.30 pm	Candlelight Carol Service	
Mon	7	7.30 pm	Parish Council	Caudwell Day Centre
Tues	15	7.30 pm	Twinning 'Bring and Share Supper'	Caudwell Day Centre
Sat	19	pm	Sequence Dance Christmas Party	
And in JANUARY:				
Mon	11	9.15 am	Chronicle Lottery deadline	Vickery's
		5.15 pm	Chronicle copy deadline	Vickery's box

## Candlelight Carol Service



Drayton Hall at 7.30pm  
Sunday 6th December

Music by Abingdon Town Band  
And Wallingford Hand Bell Ringers  
Mince pies, tea and coffee  
Come and join us!

Free admission    Collection for Action for Children



DRAYTON C P SCHOOL

## CHRISTMAS FAIR

Sunday 13th Dec 12pm - 2.30pm  
Father Xmas will be in his Grotto!  
Turkey Rolls & Mulled Wine,  
Raffle, Bottle & Chocolate Tombolas  
Toy & Sweet Stalls  
Secret Wrapping Room  
Lucky Dip,  
Craft Area & more



## JAZZ & SWING CONCERT



In Drayton Hall at 7.45 pm  
on Saturday 5th December  
Bar open from 7.15 pm



Music by **BOULEVARD SWING**

Tickets from Vickery's or from Derek Pooley 559454  
£10 in advance; £12 on the door  
Profits to the Abingdon Bridge Young People's Centre



## Christmas at St Peter's Church

Carol Service: 4 pm Sunday 20th December  
Crib Service: 4 pm Thursday 24th December  
Midnight Communion: 11:30 pm on Christmas Eve  
Family Communion: 10 am on Christmas Morning  
Christingle Service: 10 am on Sunday 17th January  
All are welcome to any of these services



## Children's Workshop

10am to 12 noon in St Peter's Church  
Saturday 19th December



Crafts, games, songs and stories  
all preparing for Christmas



For children aged 5 to 11  
Registration forms available from the Church  
and the Vicarage.

## CHRISTMAS FAIR

Sat. 12th Dec 2009, 11am-3pm

ABINGDON GUILDHALL (Royse Room)  
Free admission - entrance from Bridge Street

A wonderful chance to find something special for Christmas:  
exclusive gifts (jewellery, felt-work,  
silks, original artwork and more),  
handmade Christmas cakes and puddings, special preserves  
and sweetmeats for the Christmas table.

Tea/coffee available -  
take time out while you decide what to buy.

Christmas cards will be on sale - in support of



  
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