

# DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Derek Pooley

Volume 33 No. 2

March 2010

## UNSUNG HEROES

Richard Webber

On Saturday March 6th at the Guildhall in Abingdon, the Chairman of the Vale of White Horse District Council is hosting an 'Unsung Heroes of the Vale' awards lunch. This event is a unique opportunity to celebrate those who have given their time and energy to the benefit of the local community over a long period. This year Drayton has three ladies who have been recognised with an award.

**Rev Sister Josie Midwinter**, for her service to the whole village, not just for her work as Priest in Charge of St Peter's but also for her work as a School Governor, her help with the Youth Zone and many other activities. Whenever a committee is trying to get going, Josie is always there as a volunteer. I know the whole village will join me in thanking her for all the work she has done for us over the past years and wishing her a long and happy retirement.



**Sheila Cook**, for a lifetime of service



to the elderly of this village as WRVS volunteer, with Meals on Wheels and as Co-ordinator and Manager of the Caudwell Day Centre. Sheila's concern for others has helped the whole village to be a more caring and enjoyable place to live for all of us over many years.

**Ann Webb**, for her service to the Village Hall as Chairman of its Management Committee



as well as more recently Bookings Secretary. Ann has given countless hours to the role – often in the evening, at weekends and often in the dark. She has coped with customers – some friendly and some difficult – and she has managed the Hall through the ever-changing needs and demands of the 21st Century.

On behalf of all of us, many thanks to all three of you, and to all the others who give their time and energy unpaid to help sustain the Community of Drayton.

## LESPARRE 2010

Michael Bell

Drayton has been twinned with Lesparre-Médoc since 2000. Many Draytonians have enjoyed twinning events organised here and in France. Lasting friendships have been forged, not just with our friends in Lesparre but between those living in Drayton too! Would you like to join us and become part of the group going to Lesparre in 2010? We would be delighted if you did!

Arrangements are now being made for this year's visit. The most likely dates are from **Thursday 19th to Tuesday 24th August 2010**. Our French friends are looking forward to welcoming us into their homes, which is a fantastic experience, combined with interesting visits and an opportunity to sample Medocain hospitality.

Answers to a few of your questions?

### Where is Lesparre?

Lesparre is a pleasant little town with around 5,000 inhabitants located in the south west of France between Bordeaux and the Atlantic Coast, where there are many miles of sandy beaches. It is the largest town in the world-famous Médoc wine-growing region and its connections with England date back to 1154.



### What is Twinning?

Twinning links two communities in different countries. It allows people in one country to see how people in another live, work and play. Amongst other things we organise annual exchanges between the two communities.

### Who can join?

You – we welcome people of all ages, families especially!

### Do you need to speak French?

No! It obviously helps if you can speak a word or two but part of the fun is finding a way to communicate with each other – ask any of our members!

### Sounds interesting? Whom should we contact?

Michael Bell (01235 531388) - Stephen Fearnley (01235 531347) - Bob Matthews (01235 531204). We would be delighted to tell you more.

### Also in this issue:

- P4: Welcome, Witness and Worship at Easter
- P5: Does your group need extra funds?
- P10: Clarity about graveyard monuments
- P10: Speeding on the Steventon Road
- P11: CRB checks are costing jobs

## EASTER AT ST PETER'S

**Saturday 27 March:**

**Sunday 28 March:**

**Monday and Tuesday  
29 & 30 March:**

**Thursday 1 April:**

**Friday 2 April:**

**Sunday 4 April:**

10am to 12 noon, Children's Workshop to make the Easter Gardens

**PALM SUNDAY:** 8am Holy Communion with Palms

10am Dramatic Reading of the Passion Narrative

**HOLY WEEK:** 10am to 3pm Church Open

Interactive stations which will aid prayer and meditation

Morning sessions for school parties; afternoon sessions for all

**MAUNDY THURSDAY:** 9.30am Holy Communion

7.30pm Passover Celebration in the Church Room

**GOOD FRIDAY:** 10am Procession from Baptist Church to St Peter's

2pm to 3pm 'The Hour before the Cross' in church

**EASTER DAY:** 5.30am Dawn Service lighting the Pascal candle

8am Holy Communion; 10am Family Communion with Easter Egg Hunt



# CHRONICLE INFORMATION

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

Editor: **David Lee, 15 Corneville Road (202699).**

Distributor: **Shirley Thomas, 48 Henleys Lane (531626),**

Deadline for advertisements: **17.00 on Friday, 12 March 2010**

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

Printed copies available: **Friday, 26 March 2010**

### Key dates for the subsequent three Chronicles:

Issue for	Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available on:
May	19 April 2010	30 April 2010
June	17 May 2010	28 May 2010
July	14 June 2010	25 June 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 FEBRUARY LOTTERY

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	0325	D. Samworth, 27 S Wick Lane	Keith Clough
£20	0495	Mr. Schrever, Five Seasons, SWL	Keith Clough
£15	1798	Mrs. Talbot, 31 Lockway	Jenny Pooley
£10	0220	Mr. Hudson, 21 Corneville Road,	Gerald Redman
£10	1515	J. Dunster, 30 Binning Close	Ann Hutchings
£10	0635	V. Parker, 46 Abingdon Road	Jenny Stevens
£10	0046	Mr. Pitts, 63 Abingdon Road,	Jayne Henderson
£10	1487	M. Neal, Willows, Binning Close,	Judith Dunster
£10	1044	M. Beames, 28 High Street	Mary Alexander
£10	1432	R. Chapman, 12 Haywards Road	Judith Dunster

The winning tickets were drawn by staff and customers of the Sabina's Hairdressers from the 2297 tickets sold

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or phone – 01235-531232

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## YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor,

May I, via the Chronicle, say a big thankyou to all the splendid, caring friends & neighbours who have been so kind to me during the past awful winter.

My drive in Whitehorns Way was cleared, by a lady by the way! Any shopping, postage or village needs were quickly dealt with and the many friendly telephone calls cheered me up on dark days.

I'm so lucky! Thankyou – all of you – once again.

Yours sincerely

*Betty Armitage*

Dear Editor

Thanks to the Clarks (Paul and Irene) and also to the 70 people (young and old) who turned up, the Valentines Disco/Village Dance was a great success. The Hall Funds benefited to the tune of £400.

There seems to be an appetite for dancing and I would encourage any other village organisation to see whether they could have a go (Paul has kindly offered to help with the music) or try some other kind of event to see whether we can get 100 or so people into the Hall having a good time on a Saturday night.

*Daniel Scharf*



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**Senior Citizens Menu**

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**For more information [www.theredliondrayton.co.uk](http://www.theredliondrayton.co.uk)**

⇒ PS from Irene Clark

We hope you all enjoyed the Valentines evening & that there will be more village events in the future.

However, we would like to raise awareness that all of the wall & table decorations, prizes & toys were funded by the organisers personally to maximize the funds/profits for the village hall. Two of the table decorations, 'fibre-optic lights', were taken & we would very much appreciate them back as they are for future events. If you took them please would you arrange to return them by calling 535587 or 531107.

Thank you.

*Irene*

Dear Editor,

Congratulations to the 3 swimmers who achieved their awards mentioned in last month's Chronicle (**Editor's note:** a letter from 'The Proud Parents' on page 7).

On the same evening our 2 grandchildren also completed distances: Jonathan Tarrant 200 metres, Charlotte Tarrant 2000 metres. We are also very proud!

Thank you to the volunteers who helped that evening.

*Jenny and John Stevens, Swimming Teachers*

## NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

Congratulations to Laura and David Hughes of Lockway on the birth of their first baby. Lovely little Evie arrived on 09 January.

We offer a warm welcome to Drayton to:

Vicky and Ashley Alsworth, who have moved from Abingdon into Sutton Wick Lane, with their daughter Grace and Georgie, their dog

Sofia Bachara, who originally comes from Greece, her partner Richard Rowlands, who is Welsh, and their daughter Odyssea. They have also moved into Sutton Wick Lane but from Didcot.

Claire and Peter Grant who have moved into Steventon Road from Witney

Sadly, Peter Nicholson, who lived for many years in the old Methodist chapel in Henley's Lane, died in January. Peter was a well-known character in Drayton but he had been ill and in care for some time and his funeral took place at Abingdon Cemetery.

# 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 MARCH

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

## YOU STAY - WE PRAY: MARCH

28 Feb to 6 March Drayton Road; Milton Road; New Cut Mill; Fisher Close; Marcham Road; Meads Close; Ripington Court; Stone Hill. 7 to 21: Steventon Road; Eastway; Eastway MHP. 22 to 29 Church Lane; Henleys Lane; Caudwell Close; Gravel Lane.

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## Letter from Rev Sister Josie Midwinter:

### WELCOME

The church of St Peter is a welcoming place and we are committed to keeping the church open every day so that people can come in and have a time of quiet and prayer. We want to extend that welcome by drawing people into the drama of the Easter story with a series of interactive displays in church. These will be available on the Monday and Tuesday of Holy Week - 29 & 30 March. There will be six stations and each will have a bible reading, a meditation and some action related to that theme. In the mornings we have invited school parties to come and benefit from the displays. Then in the afternoons the church will be open for anyone to come in and explore the displays and, if they wish, spend some time in prayer. Members of the congregation will be in church if required, otherwise people are free to spend as much or as little time as they like following the theme.



### WITNESS

The day we remember Christ dying on the Cross is the best time to witness to truth of our faith. So on Good Friday we will have a procession of witness through the village. Starting at 10am at the Baptist church, moving to The Green and then through the village to St Peter's church. Once again our procession will be led by Tracey the donkey from the Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary and the music will be supplied by members of the Abingdon Brass Band. This is an ecumenical event, which means everyone is welcome to come and join us. After the procession there will be coffee/tea and hot cross buns in the church.



### WORSHIP

Easter is the central festival of the Christian faith as it puts everything else into context. At Easter we celebrate the wonder of Jesus rising from the dead for the forgiveness of **all** our sins. There are a number of opportunities over the Easter weekend to enter into a time of worship, thanking God for the love that he has shown us through his son Jesus. The dawn service at 5:30am on Easter morning is perhaps the most moving. There is something very special about entering a totally dark church, lighting the Pascal candle, and then watching the dawn breaking. The whole idea of light overcoming the darkness summarizes the gospel message. The darkness of hurt and wrongdoing and brokenness is overcome by the bright light of God's love for each and everyone of us.



**FULL DETAILS OF ALL OUR EASTER SERVICES ARE LISTED ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THIS CHRONICLE.**

**PLEASE FEEL WELCOME TO COME AND WORSHIP AND WITNESS WITH US THIS EASTER-TIDE.**

*Josie*

# 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. The teapot is always at the ready and you can be sure of a warm welcome. Our next two dates are the 2nd of March and the 6th of April. If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.

## Did you lose a lady's watch in Church Lane?



Please telephone 01235 531173



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



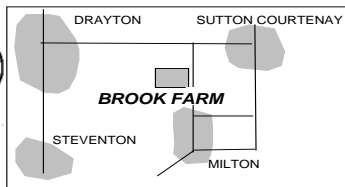
Brook Farm, Milton Road

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## NOTICE BOARD

### YOUTH CENTRE CHARITY

**Karen Tinson**

Applications are invited from any Youth Organisation in Drayton wishing to apply for financial assistance from the Drayton Youth Centre Charity. To request an application form please send an email to karen.tinson1@ntlworld.com or telephone 531596

Applications must be received by 31st March 2010. All applications will be considered at the Charity's meeting to be held in April (date to be confirmed).

### COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

**Michelle Todd**

The Oxfordshire County Council's CSF is often a valuable source of funding each year for about 30 organisations. The purpose of the grants is to increase the capacity of small voluntary groups; especially those complementing our aims and objectives: to support and promote strong communities so that people can live their lives as successfully and independently as possible and to provide effective and efficient support to the most vulnerable.

Groups can apply for amounts up to £800 and priority is often given to those with limited funds. Please contact Community Development Officer: Brian Conroy at 01993 704004 or email brian.conroy@oxfordshire.gov.uk for further information.

### FANCY A FISH & CHIP SUPPER? **Elizabeth Wright**

Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Why not join the Great British Fish and Chip Supper on Friday 21st May 2010 for Spinal Injuries Association.

You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre.

SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 7 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you will raise at least £35.00 from your supper but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA.

The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs.

For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 678 6633 xtn 229 or email fishandchips@spinal.co.uk or visit www.spinal.co.uk

### FANCY MORE JAZZ & SWING?

**Derek Pooley**

If, like me, you're a devotee of Boulevard Swing and their Jazz and Swing Concerts in Drayton then book 19.30 on Saturday 25 September 2010 in your diary. That's the date of their next concert in St Peter's.

If you are busy then or want more of Brian Thompson and his band then interesting alternatives are Saturday 01 August at 14.00 on a Salter's cruise from Donnington Bridge in Oxford and Friday 26 November at 20.00 in the Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot.

## DRAYTON HALL

Management meeting, held on Monday 18th January.



## Ann Webb

We were pleased to announce that the sum of £400.00 was collected for the soldiers safe return

party. This was an accumulation of donations from village groups and from members of the public. I think it is fair to say they were delighted, and very grateful to all who cared enough to donate. The hall expenses were paid and the rest went to them to buy some nice prizes for the raffle. The proceeds of their raffles are carried on for their next event and other causes. The soldiers present at the event were some of the men that marched through Abingdon in early December, and some that had returned from other overseas postings. Thank-you all again for your generosity and thoughtfulness, I can honestly say they were very touched.

The new kitchen window was not fitted at the time of the meeting but it is now. I hope it meets with your approval. We are gradually making some improvements and repairs to the Hall. We are striving to keep it looking as nice as possible. Our handyman has suffered a serious setback, so will be unable to do any more for the time being. We wish him a speedy recovery from us all. Bookings are slow but this is usual in January. We have quite a few coming in for later in the year, so that is positive. New Year's Eve has been booked by a village group; we are very pleased about that.

Finally, since the meeting, the Valentines disco was attended by about 80 people. I think everyone enjoyed the evening. Thanks to Daniel Scharf for his initiative in helping to set up this event and for selling many of the tickets. The music and entertainment was supplied by Mr & Mrs Clark and what a fantastic contribution they made to the evening, with games, quizzes with prizes and decorations.

One sad note is that someone has 'borrowed' two of Mrs Clark's table lights! These were blue fibre-optic lights and were provided for our enjoyment. Please, If you haven't already, return them to her.

After the success of this event, a brief discussion was held and the idea put forward that we could possibly celebrate the Hall's 35th birthday in May with a party on similar lines. ➔

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## GARD

## Nick Thompson.

The battle is going well and we have made good progress, but we need your membership to demonstrate local backing. Do not imagine the reservoir threat has gone away, it has merely been delayed. We aim to kill it off at the Public Inquiry in June. Unless you want recreational facilities 25 years hence, huge disruption over 10 years as the reservoir, pipelines and treatment works are built, and much more traffic throughout - all at enormous cost to water consumers - then please join GARD. We really need your support.

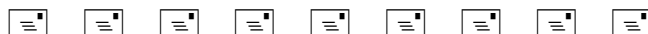
GARD originated as a local group opposed the reservoir. We realized that the local objections; traffic, noise, flood risks, nature, conservation, blight, etc would not kill the project. These are best addressed by politicians and CPRE. So GARD chose to analyse the technical arguments and expose the many flaws in Thames Water's arguments and figures. Their case is weak and it is clearly motivated by commercial gain at the expense of consumers. The reservoir is their most expensive option and GARD submitted a range of alternatives which were not properly assessed. GARD has made a major impact, and the Environment Agency has just published continuing serious reservations about the plan. GARD can show that the proposed reservoir is NOT needed.

GARD is preparing for the Public Inquiry. We have nationally respected advisors and legal representation. We will demonstrate that the cost of a reservoir for London would be indefensibly high compared with quicker, cheaper, more environmentally sustainable alternatives to meet any long term water demand. Our new website gives details. [abingdonreservoir.org.uk](http://abingdonreservoir.org.uk)

Please join NOW Annual Min Subscription £1 (We suggest 4x 2nd Class stamps per pers)

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Whole Families please. The more the better!



➔ We need to start planning now, so if anyone has any photos of this Hall or the old Hall in Church Lane, or any event in or around the Halls. Would you consider lending them to us to have them copied and returned to you. They would be used as a display or part of a quiz/questionnaire type event on the evening. We would treat them with the utmost respect and return them as quickly as possible. Contact me Ann Webb on 01235 531418 Someone will collect them and return them to you.

Thank-you

Ann

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# ALL AROUND

## BABY AND TODDLER GROUP **Vicky Cotterell**

Firstly a big welcome to all our new friends that have joined us on Thursday mornings: Olivia, Matthew and Holly, Evie and new brother Joe for Charlie. We hope you have as much fun as we do.

Secondly, we would like to point out that we have changed our name to Drayton Baby and Toddler Group, as any child however young can join – I started when my son was 2 weeks old so I could meet mums in the village and still go 2 ½ years later!

We have had a great time sticking Valentine cards, playing play-dough, colouring and playing with our friends and soon will be getting ready for our Easter activities. We even stop for a snack and mums have been enjoying a chat and a cuppa - thanks Joy.

We meet in the village hall every Thursday morning 9.30 – 11.30 and new friends are always welcome. Please phone me on 07779 243290 for more details.

## PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUPE **Debbie Bargasu**

We would like to welcome Will, Evie F and Evie G as they join us after half term. We hope they have a great time at Preschool.

Our topic for this term is Senses. We will be making and using smelly paint, cooking to also create lots of great smells, filling empty drinks bottles with various items to create sensory items (all donations of clean, clear drinks bottles gratefully received) and having lots of textured items for touch. Our home corner will be turned into an Opticians.

We are pleased to announce that we have a new Supervisor, Nadine Howard who will be joining us on 1st March 2010. Nadine has a great range of experience in childcare and we are looking forward to welcoming her to Preschool. Many thanks to everyone who has helped to cover sessions since Christmas, often going the extra mile to ensure that Preschool could open.

Do you have a child who is approaching 2 1/2yrs? We are happy to put younger children onto our waiting list. Please do keep supporting us; the children have great fun and are always learning new things. Please contact Preschool on 01235 536094 for a welcome pack or to visit.

We will once again be collecting the Sainsbury's Active Kids 2010 vouchers. They will be available between 17th February and 8th June. These are a great way for us to obtain new equipment and toys which the children love. Tesco for Schools and Clubs also starts on 1st March. The collection boxes will be just inside the door at Preschool and all vouchers are gratefully received.

Whilst we are still fundraising towards a new Preschool building, during February half term we have been giving the old building a bit of a spruce up to make the children's experience more enjoyable. We have been very lucky to receive many donations and much help towards this. We would like to say a massive thanks to Paul and John Biddle, Mark Humphreys and Jim Humphreys for painting the inside of Preschool with paint kindly donated by Brewers; also to Mark Orlando for his help with the electrics, lighting and heating. Further support was received from Aasvogel and Contact Electrical. We have also had the floor re-laid with a special clean-easy flooring. ➔

➔ Many thanks to Hazel for her hard work securing this. Not forgetting the Staff and Parents who have helped to clear the building prior to the work and after to return it back to Preschool.

Also coming up: Toddle – date and details to follow

## SCHOOL

**Ana Gurl**

### Classroom updates ...

Our reception and year 1 **Robins** are continuing with their topic 'all creatures great and small' and have created their own jungle outside the classroom. They have also been learning about Chinese New Year, doing a dragon dance and making and eating stir fry.

Year 1 & 2 **Ravens** now have a toy museum in their classroom with a very interesting collection of toys from days gone by. The children are having a go at making their own finger puppets and hand puppets, some might even try using the sewing techniques they have been learning. In science they have been learning about electricity and how batteries are used in toys.

Year 3 & 4 **Kingfishers** are continuing to learn about Africa and have now built their very own African hut complete with thatched roof. They will be able to use this to play in or maybe for a bit of quiet reading. In RE they have been learning about religion, family and the community and have had an interesting visit from Sister Josie who told them all about life as a vicar. They are also working hard on learning their times tables.

Year 5 & 6 **Eagles** are learning about pirates this term and although they have a hammock in the classroom they have no time to sleep. As well as looking at pirate diaries and various pirate characters they have written letters to many Caribbean embassies and have had some fantastic responses. They have received posters, maps, sweets and even a personalised reply to one of the students who just happened to have the same surname as a Jamaican embassy official!

### School news ...

Drayton school is taking part in the "Flora Cooking Equipment for Schools" promotion. You can collect tokens from special packs of Flora and follow the instructions to register tokens on-line. Alternatively you can hand tokens in to school. Please help if you can – we have made good use of cooking equipment from this scheme in the past and every token helps!

Finally, thank you to everyone who remembered not to park in the turning circle. Please keep up the good work! We have been informed that the Police will continue to carry out periodic spot checks.

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## MORE ALL AROUND

### DRAYTON 1st BROWNIES

**Ruth Hudson**

Welcome back to all our Brownies. Thank you all for supporting our Christmas Fayre at the end of last term. We made a fantastic £202 which we have put back into Brownie funds enabling us to do more exiting challenges.

During January and February the girls have been busy learning drama and dancing. Chris Elliot came along and held a drama session with the girls, Chris taught drama for many years at St Mary's School, Wantage.

Kelly Hudson from the Abingdon Dance School has been teaching the girls various dance routines including the cha-cha-cha, Hip Hop, Street and a very lively routine to the music from Hairspray. The girls have had to learn all the routines, make a programme, arrange and compère a small show. Kelly Hudson proudly presented each girl with a well earned Entertainers Badge.

The end of February we had Thinking Day activities which included decorating World Thinking Day biscuits, dressing up from around the world and sampling foods from around the world. This year the girls received a special 2010 Thinking Day badge being the Centenary year.

March will see the Brownies working towards getting their Adventure 100 badge, each girl has to achieve a total of 100 points to get this very special award. We started Adventure 100 in September and hope to complete this in June.

The theme for March is Flashback 1950's style, plus Easter activities including an Easter egg hunt, decorating eggs and card making.

14th March - Mothers Day Parade 10am St Peters Church, Drayton.

Welcome to our new Brownies and also to Helen Hudson (Girl Guide) who with Millie Wright and Betsy Caudle help with the activities and games.

We wish Jess Caudle good luck with her new venture in Oxford and thank her for all the help and support that she has given the Brownie pack.

Esther and I would love to hear from anyone who could spare a few hours a week and help with the meetings. 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 (Brown Owl) on 01235 205111 or Esther Deabil (Tawny Owl) on 01235 528502

Look out for the Royal Mail Stamps; Girl Guiding UK centenary 1910 – 2010!

### DRAYTON WIVES

**Pam Lacey**

We had a very entertaining afternoon at our meeting in January when John Hunt (Organ Grinder) brought along two hand operated organs which he had made and demonstrated. These small organs operate in a similar manner to the larger organs found on fair ground carousels. On 2nd February some of our members had an enjoyable evening at the Wallingford Corn Exchange.

#### Dates for your Diary in MARCH:

Mon 8 COFFEE - Betty, Ellen & Helen, Caudwell D.C.

Mon 15 WHIST - Janet Thomas

Wed 31 TALK - Anne Gould - History of Abingdon (Part 1)

Wed. 17 March at 1.30pm at the Cornerstone, Didcot

Two Blokes and a Piano present Flanders & Swann Recaptured.

Any members wishing to go please contact Ann Hutchings

### ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

**Pearl Stanbridge**

'PLEASE HELP US TO HELP THEM' by supporting our annual Easter Draw – tickets on sale at the normal outlets. The next Committee Meeting will be held on Easter Draw night, Monday 15 March, at 7.30pm.

### W.I.

**Shirley Thomas**

In spite of the weather the January dinner we held was well attended and enjoyed by all.

At this month's meeting we were transported into the world of "hurdy-gurdy" and street organs! We were entertained by Mr John Hunt from Harwell, flamboyantly attired for the occasion, complete with monkeys (stuffed) and his two most beautifully decorated street organs which he had made. He showed great enthusiasm in demonstrating the workings of and playing a variety of tunes on both machines. He interspersed the music with lots of light hearted poetry and jokes, a great variety show and a fun evening.

Our next meeting will be our A.G.M. and we would be very happy to welcome any newcomers. There will also be a short demonstration on the folding of napkins.

Our meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month, starting at 7.30pm in the Caudwell Day Centre

### DRAYTON READING GROUP

**Steve Clarke**

Enjoy a good read? If so, then why not share it with others in the village?

Drayton Reading Group meets every third Wednesday. Interesting and lively conversation is guaranteed, whether you've read the book or not! Our book for March is 'Salmon Fishing in the Yemen' by Paul Torday. If you've already read it or want to read it why not come along and share your thoughts with us?

Meetings are held around the village so call Steve on 01235 533714 to find out where the next meeting is..... just like a murder mystery!

### CHRONICLE ERRORS/PUZZLES

**Derek Pooley**

Those of us who read newspapers regularly and carefully know that they often contain mistakes. I fear the Chronicle is no exception! Some mistakes are trivial but some can cause pain and we especially regret those.

Some, inadvertently, are amusing puzzles for our readers, if potentially irritating to the 'victims', like last month's picture of a woman crossing the then snowy wasteland of Drayton's Millennium Green. The picture was labelled 'Jenny Pooley', one of our Parish Councillors, but was actually Bette Pembridge, one of our local doctors. Our apologies to both Bette and Jenny, though I know both were just as amused as some of our readers who know one or both of them were puzzled.



Like professional editors and journalists we Chronicle amateurs excuse ourselves by saying that we always have to work quickly to meet the printer's deadline, with material coming to us from many sources in many formats, all of which has to be fitted exactly into an even number of pages.

It's always a jigsaw puzzle and not always an easy one!

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## BOWLS CLUB

## Roll up members

Sixty three members and guests had a very enjoyable night at the golf club to celebrate the 20th annual dinner dance and presentation night on February the 11th. Both teams in the leagues are well placed, with 3 games to go, to lift the titles. 'The Rollers' lead the evening league by 4 points and 'The Wasps' lead the afternoon triples league by 6 points, so it's all to play for.

The first of the internal competitions was held on 7th February; 'The Henry Bunce handicap pairs. After a fine day's bowling with plenty of close games, Nick Carter and Gillis Tate, Bryn Jones and Avril Holmes will contest the final on finals day which this year will be on December the 5th. The next internal competition will be a handicap one but with a difference; this should be more of a fun day, and will be held on the 21st March.

## TABLE TENNIS CLUB

## John Gould

The Club has reached the Final of the Bidmead Cup. A competition that we have done well in recent years sees Drayton again winning through. The final will not take place until April and our opponents are not yet known. The team of Matt Davies, Ryan Seamark & Matt Wicks have done very well under the stewardship of captain David Hudson.

The mid point of the Ping Pong League season has passed with our 7 teams having mixed fortunes. The 'A' Team are 5 points clear at the top of Division 1 and although the pursuing pack has a game or two in hand the team is in pole position and only have to win their remaining 6 matches to become Champions. The B team are at the other end of the division but as long as they don't finish bottom will not be relegated. In Division 2 the C & D teams are both in the top half although neither look likely promotion candidates.

The most exiting times are for the E team in division 3. They are vying for second spot with Sutton C with the crunch meeting between them taking place on 11th March. The team of Shaun & Ben Collins, Kevin Davies and Nicole Hunt are in good form but need to keep the wins coming if they are to achieve success.

The F team in Division 4 are happily ensconced in mid table. A settled team of two experienced players in Allan Lovelock & Derek Nichols with two fairly new players in Stewart Jones & Matt Wicks. The G team in division 5 are near the bottom but the team, a mix of juniors and new adult players, are getting improved results as the season progresses.

We also have 4 teams winning through to the last 16 of the annual Cup competition namely the Handicap Shield. Our B,C, D & F teams are all hoping to progress when the next round takes place in the first week of March.

The Club Closed Championships are set for Sunday 16th May. These will signal the end of our season and we hope that several of our sides will have had successful seasons.

## DRAYTON PLAYERS

## Editor's Stop Press

**Question:** Why am I changing this page on Sunday, when the Chronicle file is completely ready to send to the printers?

**Answer:** I just had to congratulate all of the Players on their latest, marvellously-entertaining, Murder Mystery Nights. ➔

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➔ Georgia Alston was a delightful Dr Ffrith and the Henderson family showed the awesome range of their acting talent; Lydia's young woman with 'issues' was hilarious.

The packed audience was again set the task of identifying the murderer and, once again, failed abysmally to do so. But no one minded. We just counted ourselves lucky to have such wonderful entertainment on our doorstep.

Mrs Suzy Willis

MCSP SRP AACP

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# PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Williams

## Meeting held on Mon 1st February 2010



Progress was reported on several issues which, in one way or another, involve transport. Thames Valley Police recently stated in their 'Outer Abingdon' neighbourhood report that traffic speeding through local villages has been high on the list of local concerns, and has therefore been identified as a priority for further investigation. As part of this, TVP carried out a traffic survey over three days (January 21st – 23rd) on the Steventon Road in Drayton, just south

of the A34 bridge and within the 30 mph zone. The figures indicate that about 8 out of 10 drivers were exceeding the posted speed limit, with about 5 out of 10 travelling above the enforcement threshold level (in this case, 35 mph). Approximately 15% of drivers were logged at speeds in excess of 41 mph. The police comment that these figures appear to be on the high side, and have therefore arranged for the road to be assessed for potential mobile speed camera enforcement. There are no guarantees as to the outcome of the assessment, but the survey data will certainly be used to inform any decisions made.

Oxfordshire County Council has sent us plans for proposed improvements to bus stops in Drayton and Steventon along the X2 and 35 bus routes. These include the upgrade of bus information at each stop, the relocation or replacement of existing bus stop poles, and the provision of bus stop clearway markings on the carriageway to discourage vehicles from parking indiscriminately on, or in close proximity to, the stop. The overall aim of the project is to facilitate bus access for all bus users, and the plans do appear to offer more waiting room and greater safety, especially at some stops along the Steventon Road, where conditions are at present very inadequate. A note of caution is necessary as these are still only proposals, but the Public Transport Development Team have indicated that the work should commence later this year and continue into 2011.

A subject of relevance to both the above items is the number of potholes that seem to have sprung up everywhere as a result of frost damage following last month's cold snap. Repair of these is the responsibility of the Highways Dept of the County Council, and not the Parish Council, but it is pleasing to note that alert parishioners have been on the case and reported some of the more serious cases of damage. Several of the larger potholes in and around the village have already been mended, although obviously patience is in order here as the task is huge and resources limited. The Thames Valley Police neighbourhood team have also reminded us that, as an alternative to contacting the relevant authority direct, it is also possible to report local problems such as potholes, but also graffiti, fly tipping, broken street lights etc, to the website [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com).

Mention was made last month of the information sheet regarding fees and charges for the Parish burial ground. This is sent to all local stonemasons, and a copy is also posted in the porch of St. Peter's Church. A lack of clarity in the wording of this suggested that it would be possible for relatives to have more than one monument erected on a grave. This was never the case, but the document has been revised to indicate more clearly that the right to place a monument on a grave is limited to the provision of a single headstone or tablet. It would be wrong to think of this stipulation as a restriction, as it evidently meets the needs of the great majority of relatives, but the PC feel that it is the best way to preserve the simplicity and dignity appropriate to a parish burial ground. ➔

# DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Webber

## Progress on Speeding

After nearly three years of trying to get something done about the speed of traffic on the Steventon Road (beyond the A34 bridge), I am delighted to report definite progress. Thanks to the Parish Council, we paid for an independent survey using a Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership Black Box survey. This counts the number of vehicles over two days and an average speed per vehicle. (Don't worry, no individual vehicles are picked out!). The survey has established what many of us have thought for some time, that the average speed is in excess of 37mph and 15% of vehicles are doing more than 42mph. People who have to back out onto that road find it increasingly dangerous. Armed with this hard evidence that there is indeed a problem, the police will be using speed cameras there on many occasions in the coming months. I am told that the majority of speeding cases in Oxfordshire involve drivers speeding in their own towns and villages. I'd love to be able to show that that is also untrue for Drayton. Please drive carefully!



## Community Day 2010

We have a provisional date for Community Day 2010 of Saturday July 3rd. The Parish Council will certainly wish the event to go ahead and will lend its support. The problem is we need some people to take over the organisation of the day. It has been suggested that the event needs a change of format to maintain community enthusiasm – perhaps some music (local performers) on the Community Green – bring your own picnic – treasure hunt for the young etc. If anyone would like to join me in forming an organising committee, please let me know (01235 534001 or [richard.webber77@ntlworld.com](mailto:richard.webber77@ntlworld.com)) as we do need to get moving.

**Editor's Note:** Richard's report seems shorter than usual because I have moved the first part, on Drayton's 'Unsung Heroes', to the front page.



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➔ There are also practical considerations, in that the PC remains responsible for the upkeep of graves long after immediate relatives may have ceased to maintain them, and in these days of tople testing and possible future health and safety requirements, as yet unforeseen, this could also represent a substantial financial commitment.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 1st March 2010 at 7.30pm in the Caudwell Day Centre, as always open to all.

# WESTMINSTER LETTER

Ed Vaizey



It's relatively quiet in Parliament at the moment. The Government has a relatively light legislative programme. I am responsible for the Digital Economy Bill, which is the Bill which would introduce sanctions against people who illegally download music or films, but it is still in the House of Lords. We expect it to come to the Commons in March, but there is a lot of doubt about whether there will be time to pass it in time for the election.

One piece of legislation that we did pass

very quickly was the Video Recordings Bill. This was a unique piece of legislation, for fairly unique reasons. It was actually passed in 1984, and outlawed what were then known as 'video nasties', i.e. pornographic or extremely violent videos. Technically, this was a restriction on trade, and so it had to be notified to the European Commission under something called the Technical Standards Directive. Unfortunately successive Governments failed to notify the European Commission so the Act was technically unenforceable. This mistake was only discovered last year, and in the intervening period many people have exploited the loophole. So when Parliament returned, we repealed the Act and then enacted it in a day, or more accurately three hours. Extraordinary! I like to think it was a fine piece of euro-sceptic legislation that held out over the increasing tide of euro legislation for a creditable 25 years!

The other issue exercising politicians is whether, on election day, votes should be counted over night, or the next day. Some people have started a campaign called "Save General Election Night". Our own local council has decided to count the votes the next morning. The local paper rang me up and expected me to be outraged. In fact, I could not be more relaxed. With such a squeeze on public finances, why on earth should local taxpayers be expected to fork out the additional expense of counting votes overnight? The votes for county and district elections are counted the next day and no one seems to mind. At the 2005 election, the result in Wantage did not come through until 6am - so council officers were kept up all night, and then presumably took the day off the next day (or more accurately that day) anyway. Much better to have them count the votes on a Friday when they are wide awake, and the candidates have had a good night's sleep.

Locally, I continue to be worried about local services. Thankfully, the cuts to the youth services budget have not been severe as expected, and the Sweatbox in Wantage is fine. But we have lost our local services point, and the civic hall's hours have been reduced. As I said at our Future of Wantage meeting, we need real leadership to get Wantage and Grove moving again. I am also disappointed that, with the 2500 houses in Grove now back on the agenda, it has been decided to site another 1,500 houses in Wantage. I continue to campaign for the railway station, and I have set up meetings with Network Rail to take the project forward.

In Parliament, I called a debate on the pernicious effects of the Criminal Records Bureau, and how it is affecting my constituents. The CRB takes so long to carry out checks that often people lose the jobs which they have been offered. Also, too many people are subject to multiple CRB checks which is time consuming and expensive.

As usual, the debate and all my other parliamentary work can be read on [www.vaizey.com](http://www.vaizey.com). Next surgeries are on 19 March at Wallingford, Town Hall; and 9 April at Faringdon, Pump House, both at 530pm.

I can be contacted on [vaizeye@parliament.uk](mailto:vaizeye@parliament.uk); 020 7219 6350 or House of Commons, SW1A 0AA

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# DRAYTON DIARY

## FOR MARCH

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

**Regular Events are listed opposite**

Mon	1	7.30 pm	Parish Council	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
Mon	15	9.15 am	Chronicle Lottery deadline	<i>Vickery's</i>
		5.15 pm	Chronicle copy deadline	<i>Vickery's box</i>
		7.30 pm	Hall Committee	
Sun	21	all day	Bowls	
Fri	26		Oxford Drama Group AGM	
Sat	27		Sequence Dancing Club	

## FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

### BIG BREW COFFEE MORNING AT ST PETER'S

**10am to 12noon Sat 6th March**

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## MOTHERING SUNDAY

10 am Sunday 14th March in church

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## 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	Youth Zone (except Bank Holidays)	
7.00 pm	Scouts (Boys / girls, 8-10 yrs, Tel. 512834)	<i>Steventon Hall</i>
7.00 pm	Junior Table Tennis (until 8.30 pm)	<i>School</i>
7.15 pm	Drayton Wives Whist (3rd Monday)	<i>Caudwell DC</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 and Social 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>
7.30 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)	
7.30 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)	
7.30 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>

## Children's Arts & Crafts Sale

Massive sale of heavily discounted children's arts & crafts materials and creative activity kits. Ideal for pre-school ages upwards.

Stock up on those rainy day and holiday activities.

Discounts for bulk buying.

Come and browse our selection @ 33 Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton:

Thursday 18th March: 11.30am-6pm

Friday 19th March: 10am - 4pm

Saturday 20th: 10am-2pm

For more information contact Faye on 07792054582 or

fanderton@hotmail.co.uk

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