

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Dave Lee

Volume 33 No. 3

April 2010

NORMAN STIMPSON

By Richard Webber

I first met Norman on the Village Hall stage – he was either Bubble or Squeak (I can't remember which) and I was the Giant. When I suggested to him that the Drayton Players should be more ambitious than merely producing pantomimes each year, he told me, in no uncertain terms, that he had been here long enough to know what the village wanted in the way of entertainment. I still think he was wrong on that issue, but Norman knew this village inside out and had worked tirelessly for it for many years as Chairman of the Parish Council, fund raiser and prime mover and shaker. Stimpson's, the Greengrocers in Ock St (now Domino's Pizza) was relied upon by most of Abingdon's shoppers before anyone had ever heard of Tesco's. You could get any food you wanted. The prices seemed reasonable and the personal service was second to none. How Norman found time to organise and galvanise this village the way he did, whilst running the store, still mystifies me, but without Norman, I doubt we would have a Village Hall or a Drayton Chronicle - let alone a thriving Parish Council. I last met Norman at his home by Sandford Brook in Abingdon about eighteen months ago. I had been summoned to be given a video of the fundraising events held in the 1960s and early 1970s for the proposed new Village Hall. It was obvious that he still loved this village deeply, and we all owe him an enormous debt of gratitude. On behalf of everyone, I would like to send our sympathy and affection to Daria and her family.



Norman Stimpson: 8th November 1923 – 20th February 2010

SPRING

At the time of writing, it looks as if Spring is here. The life that's beginning to show outside now is extraordinary. Plants that you were sure were dead, especially after this cold hard winter, have survived against the odds and are bringing themselves back to life. This is such an exciting time of year in the garden. The potential is amazing. What will be achieved this year? It's time to get cracking! All the planning over winter, deciding what to grow and how to change your garden can now start to be put into place.

Finally, we can see the end to the cold miserable winter. At least, in so much as plants are starting to grow again giving us the hope of a new growing year and warmth to come. The many bulbs, planted in autumn last year, are poking their green leaves up through the soil ready to give us the longed for spring display of daffodils and crocus.

Last month was clearing up time and now that's all finished we can start to plant. Onions and shallots can go outside, still protected from the pigeons. Sow your annual flowers for filling your beds with gorgeous colour for the least amount of money and the largest amount of satisfaction. Make sure they're kept warm and covered with either a clear lid, cling film or clear bag until you see the first leaves poking through. Then it's time to take the cover off and watch them grow away.

Go out into your garden and look at those perennials starting to emerge. Are they crying out for more space? Do you need to split them up and make more plants to fill gaps in other places? You can do it now. Forsythia, winter jasmine, mahonia are either finishing up or going full bloom. In fact, Spring is the time for yellow to shine. Bringing the sunshine that we all need to be cheerful. The perfect Easter colours!

The Magnolia, a signature plant of this time of year, really can be the showpieces of the garden. Most species of Magnolia produce flowers in spring, often before the leaves appear, and are usually followed by attractive cone-shaped and colourful fruits.

Seasonal highlights: Animals and birds are waking up now. Birds getting ready to lay and mammals that are soon to give birth will be on the look out for any extra food they can get - help them out if you can.

March/early April is the ideal time for pruning. Prune shrub and climbing roses, heathers and mahonias. This time of year is also perfect for planting and replanting. Pick out which perennials flowered less last season - these can be divided and separated to give them a new lease of life. Nutrients are also very important for a healthy garden so definitely don't forget to fertilise now.

(Editor's note: This item has been compiled from gardening articles provided by Anne Hendrey of Newington Nurseries & Sara Southey of Southey Garden Solutions)

DRAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Ever wondered what YOUR Parish Council does, or met YOUR councillors?
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CHRONICLE INFORMATION

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

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

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

Deadline for advertisements: **17.00 on Friday, 16 April 2010**

Deadline for other contributions: **17.00 on Monday, 19 April**

Printed copies available: **Friday, 30 April 2010**

Key dates for the subsequent three Chronicles:

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

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 advertisements 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 2 or 3 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 be either 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 deadlines.

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
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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 MARCH LOTTERY

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	1067	M. Beames, 28 High St	M. Alexander
£20	0875	P. Absolam, 49 High Street	Margaret Long
£15	1968	A. Durkin, 25 Whitehorns Way.	Trudi Buckner
£10	0573	B. Krason, 108 Abingdon Road	M. Armstrong
£10	2202	Mr. Cox, 93 Drayton Road, Sutton Courtenay	Claire Soper
£10	0425	C. Shebbeare, 16 Sutton Wick Lane	Beryl Dawson
£10	2241	Mr. Jones, 153 Drayton Road, Sutton Courtenay	Claire Soper
£10	2345	R. Jones, 11 Eastway	Teresa Burnage
£10	2256	Mr. Burrows, 129 Drayton Road, Sutton Courtenay	Claire Soper
£10	0624	M. Armstrong, 1 Crabtree Lane	Margaret Armstrong

The winning tickets were drawn by Staff at "The Sitting Room" from the 2179 tickets sold

CHRONICLE NEWS

Gareth Davies

We have several roads which are currently not covered by Chronicle agents and would like to ask if anyone is interested in taking on the delivery of Chronicles and selling of lottery tickets. The roads that are currently available are:

Crabtree Lane

Hilliat Fields (Nos 17 – 36)

Lyford Close – this can be split into two rounds to make it more manageable.

Binning Close

We would like to thank the following agents for their work, delivering the chronicle and selling lottery tickets. This has been much appreciated by everyone:

Jennie Keeping (Crabtree Lane)

Andrew Wastie (Hilliat Fields)

Laura Stopps (Lyford Close)

Ann Hutchins (Binning Close)

If anyone would like to chat to me about this then please call me on 529510. It would be a great achievement to have every house in Drayton receiving a Chronicle.



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NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

We extend a warm welcome to Mr. And Mrs. Mitchell who have recently moved into Whitehorns Way from Steventon Road

Jean Hager

We wish a very belated but never the less warm welcome to two families that have moved into the High Street.

Sandrine and Ben Wallis, Alexis and new baby Hugo. Also the Yue family and their four lovely children

Mary Alexander

A warm welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Rexter (Brian and Paula) who have moved into Church Lane from Culham.

Daphne Samworth

DRAYTON HALL DAMAGE

In recent weeks there have been several incidents of damage to the Hall occurring at weekends, and on Friday last (March 12th), five windows were smashed incurring a cost of £350.

These attacks seem to be after the consumption of alcohol and are pointless, distressing and costly.

Sandra Syphas, one of our Police Community Support Officers has given a brief outline of how the police are responding.

The plans of action put in place so far are as follows:

The Drayton Hall patrol has now been made a "tasking". This means that it will be included on the briefing site for all shift officers. There are three shifts per day, and a tasking must be attended - this means the area will be patrolled during each shift i.e early, day & late, also, whenever we PCSO's are on duty, we will be patrolling the area as well. (The early and late shifts will be during dark hours where possible). This means four patrols per day at least. Obviously, the PCSO's will spend most of our shift in the area during our late turns at the weekend, which is what we've been doing of late and this has resulted in several large amounts of alcohol being confiscated in recent weeks.

The crime reduction advisor will be talking to Ann Webb later this week, to discuss further preventative measures.

Our Neighbourhood Inspector - Inspector Ian Money has been made aware of the situation and is very keen to see an end to these problems.

The police would welcome any information or suggestions that would help resolve this sort of vandalism. They can be contacted on: 0845 8 505 505 (999 for emergencies).

PLANNING - ALLOTMENTS - AMENITIES LITTER - PLAYGROUNDS - TRAFFIC **DRAYTON VILLAGE NEEDS**



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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 (CW 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.

Sunday 25th April will be Rev'd Sister Josie's last service

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

15th May Plant Sale

10th July Summer Fete at Drayton School

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Wednesday 10.30 am Pebbles (Term Time only) *Church Room*

Monday 7.45 pm Bell Ringing Practice *Bell Tower*

Every Second Friday 7.00 pm Choir Practice *Church Room*

CHURCH REGISTER

Funeral at the Crematorium

26th February Edith Eleanor (Ellie) Burt

Funerals

4th March Norman Wilfred Stimpson

Internment at St Helen's, Dry Sandford

16th March Lesley Jane Cotterell

CALENDAR FOR APRIL

Sat 3rd 10.00 am-11.00 am Sale of Fair Trade goods *Church*

Sun 4th 11.15 am-11.45 am Sale of Fair Trade goods *Church*

Tue 6th 3.00 pm First Tuesday Connections *Church Room*

YOU STAY - WE PRAY, APRIL

28th March to 10th April:

Abingdon Road, Oday Hill, Binning Close
Hayward Road.

11th to 17th April:

Sutton Wick Lane, Greenacres,
Newman Lane, Conifer Drive.

18th April to 1st May:

Hilliat Fields, Lyford Close, Manor Close,
The Green.

LETTER FROM REVD JOSIE MIDWINTER

Dear Friends

I stood in the corner of the garden by the wall. As I looked to the left I saw a lovely wild garden, with a stream bubbling through the trees and with snowdrops and aconites scattered here and there. As I looked to the right, over the wall, I saw a busy main road, with a stream of cars, the post office, a bus stop and signs of busy life.

As I listened to the left I heard the caw of rooks building their nests high in the trees, the cascading of the water over a small waterfall and the crackle of wood burning on a nearby bonfire. As I listen to the right, I heard the roar of the traffic, the hum of light aircraft flying overhead, the sound of the bus pulling away from the bus stop.

Looking and listening to the left I felt safe and secure. I was in the garden of Begbrooke Priory on a Quiet Day so in a very peaceful and loving place. I felt how good it would be to stay in such a place forever and just be comforted and protected by its tranquillity. But it is not the way things are. The busy world on the right also has its place in my life just as it does in all our lives.

St Paul when he wrote to the early Christians, he told them they should be **IN THE WORLD**, not, **OF THE WORLD**. As Christians, as followers of Jesus, we are not called to take the easy option of cutting ourselves off from the unpleasant and distracting things of life, but to engage in them and work through them. But in doing that we have to protect ourselves from the destructive values of worldly ways. Jesus in his ministry gave us a very hard path to follow - he called it the narrow way. Not narrow in the sense of being small minded and petty, but narrow in the sense of taking care where we walk so that we maintain the path of truth, and justice and peace. That really is a hard path to follow.

As I approach retirement I have quite a few dreams in my head of peaceful days doing all those things I have not had time to do before. even as I write this I can hear a hollow laugh coming from many retired people who say they are busier than ever! But there are things I will have time to do, and enjoy doing them. The peaceful garden is very attractive.

However the busy road is just over the wall, it is the responsibility of all Christians to engage with that world. At the moment I do not know what that might mean. I feel the seeds of ideas in my mind, but I do not want to rush their growth, but wait for God to show me what he wants me to do. I have very much enjoyed five years in Drayton - engaging with the church, engaging with the community and getting to know so many wonderful people. It is a privilege to be a church minister because you meet people in all circumstances of life and share with them at a deep level. It is a way of life rather than a job. But in all that activity I have sometimes felt I am not giving enough time to my relationship with God. That has to be my first priority - both in the garden and on the road.

I shall be staying locally so I know there will still be opportunities to meet people, but as I leave, I must allow St Peter's to move on in its own way. As I think of the clergy and lay people who have served St Peter's over many generations I realise it is the contributions of so many which make the life of the church the rich and warm environment it is for now and for generations to come. I will miss that warmth, but there is the promise of finding it again wherever I meet with other Christians.

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. This is the Family Service, and is on the first Sunday of each month
- 6.00 pm Evening Service. A traditional form of service frequently with guest speakers. Communion every second Sunday of the month

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 6th April and 4th May. If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.

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WOODEN SPOON RECIPE No. 34

Butternut Squash and Thyme Soup (serves 4)

(from November 2000)

1½ lb butternut squash (peeled and cut into chunks), 1 onion (finely chopped), ½ oz butter, 1 bay leaf, 1½ pints chicken or vegetable stock, salt and freshly ground black pepper, ½ tablespoon chopped fresh thyme, 4 tablespoons double cream.

Put the squash and onion into a large, heavy saucepan with the butter. Cook gently for ten minutes or until beginning to soften. Add the bay leaf, stock and a little pepper (salt will not be needed if you use stock cubes for the stock).

Bring to the boil, then simmer as slowly as possible for 25 minutes, or until the squash is soft.

Carefully liquidise the soup in a food processor or blender. Return to the rinsed-out saucepan. Stir in the thyme and cream and check the consistency. If too thin, reduce by rapidly boiling. If too thick add extra stock or water.

Taste and adjust seasoning.

Lois Rennells

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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Williams

Meeting held on Monday 1st March 2010

Inevitably, some of the issues that have the greatest potential effect on local parishes involve decisions taken at a far from local level, and in such cases, the decision-making process is almost bound to be contentious. The proposed new high-speed rail link through the Chilterns promises battles ahead for many years to come. What though of the proposed Abingdon reservoir, which, if not in quite the same cost league as the railway, is another project on a similarly massive scale? If it is ever approved, the reservoir will undoubtedly have a profound effect on Drayton, Steventon and the surrounding villages.

Having updated us on the latest progress in last month's Chronicle, Nick Thompson, the Chairman of GARD (Group Against Reservoir Development) returned to the fray by addressing this month's PC meeting. Part of Nick's concern was precisely the fact that although a considerable amount of interest in the reservoir (and opposition to it) has been evident in Steventon, Marcham and the Hanneys, the response of Drayton residents so far seems to be largely one of indifference. The Chairman of the PC confirmed that to date only one parishioner had petitioned the Parish Council on the reservoir issue, and Mr Thompson wondered if some people in Drayton were simply unaware of the full impact that the reservoir would have on the village. Possible impacts on the Drayton side included a pipeline and a water channel; a treatment works; and recreational facilities such as canoeing, boating and fishing that would generate large amounts of additional traffic.

In fairness, it is quite possible that not all residents of Drayton regard the reservoir as an unmitigated disaster, and for some, the prospect of increased leisure and recreational facilities such as those mentioned may well seem a positive advantage. Certainly, a range of opinions was expressed in the meeting, although all were agreed that, regardless of other pros and cons, the only justification for building the reservoir in the first place would be proven need that could not be met in any other way.

Nick's article last month expressed the hope that matters may be resolved by the Public Inquiry that is to be held in June. However, the Parish Council remains sceptical, and has already written (three times) to DEFRA asking how the Inquiry can make a decision on the reservoir part of the Water Resources Management Plan in the summer of 2010 when the National Policy Statement on water resources is not due out until December 2010. So far, no reply has been received, but Daniel Scharf and Richard Webber will be attending the Inquiry meetings in other capacities, and will be monitoring proceedings for us.

Also attending the meeting were four members of the public who made representations about the makeup of Eastway and the bridle path. The County Council had repaired the road surface recently, although the edges were not adequate. It appeared that OCC Highways saw themselves as responsible for the tarmac, but not the bridle path which was repaired by Countryside Services: it is still unclear who is responsible for the surface repairs up to Steventon Road. It is understood that utility pipes may lie under the surface of the bridleway. The residents were asked to contact their County Councillor, Mr Mike Badcock, to bring pressure to bear on OCC to sort out the issue, and meanwhile, Jenny Pooley has approached Countryside Services on behalf of the Parish Council. This is a good example of how what appears on the surface (no pun intended) to be a reasonably straightforward matter, can quickly become complicated by having to deal with multiple agencies whose respective areas of responsibility are not always easy to distinguish. Suffice to say that the PC will continue to investigate.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 12th April (due to the Bank Holiday the previous week). This meeting is also the occasion of the Annual Parish Assembly, so do please come along

to the Caudwell Day Centre and meet your councillors and find out what the Parish Council does. The Assembly starts at 7pm, followed by the Parish Council meeting at the usual time of 7.30pm.

Mrs Suzy Willis
MCSP SRP AACP
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Drayton (on the village green)

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Webber

Unsung Heroes - Josie, Sheila and Ann were three of many across the Vale who were being singled out for long service to their communities. Our three heroes were rightly applauded, appreciated and certificated in front of an audience of nearly 200 at the Guildhall. We all agreed that it was a wonderful event – and (much to my relief), it was agreed that the Guildhall caterers had really come up trumps with the food and the quick, polite service. I passed this message back to the staff at the Guildhall and it was very much appreciated.

Problems - One of the frustrations of doing this job is the length of time it takes to get things done. As fast as one problem seems to be solved, three new problems have arrived. Please, when something needs to be done, could I appeal to all those who are responsible – be they Police, Primary Care Trust, Parish, District, County Councils, Highways or even Westminster – to get on with it and not use red tape as a means of delaying action.

In Drayton, we have a number of problems which have been rumbling on for far too long. There is the East Way surface – still only partially fixed. There is speeding through the village – in Abingdon Road, Steventon Road and the High Street. There is the dangerous corner at the end of High Street – a danger to pedestrians, traffic and residents. There is the problem of underage drinking. There is the issue of hedge clippings on the bicycle path to Abingdon. All these issues could have been addressed, if not solved, by now but for different Authorities blocking progress with red tape. Before I am accused of Party Politicking, my own authority is not blameless.

But, as with my golf, I try to remember the good bits – the Authority Partnerships – where one helps the other to find speedy, effective solutions - and that's what keeps me going.

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WESTMINSTER LETTER

Ed Vaizey

I recently had a chance to catch up about our County Regiment, the Rifles. I suspect not many people realise that we have a County Regiment. If we think of the local military presence, we tend to think naturally of the Royal Logistics Corp at Abingdon, or the bomb disposal experts, 11 EOD at Didcot. But the Rifles are our County Regiment, formed over many years from regiments such as the Ox and Bucks Light Infantry and the Royal Berkshires. The regimental historian, Gary Sheffield, lives locally in Wantage, and he is keen to strengthen the connection between the Rifles and local towns and villages.

The Rifles are the most successful recruiting regiment in the British Army. One in four cadets wear their cap badge (the bugle). They march at 140 paces a minute, compared to 120 for the rest of the Army. Every day for the last four years, a battalion from the Rifles has been serving in Afghanistan. They have suffered significant loss of life, and severely wounded.

The Rifles currently enjoy the freedom of Wallingford. I hope that we can do something in other towns and villages to celebrate their achievements, and recognise the strong and historic connection the regiment has with our area.

On local matters, the reservoir enquiry is drawing closer, with submissions going in in mid-March with a view to the enquiry being held in June/July. As I have always said, Thames Water's proposals need to be tested in an open forum, and I hope local people and their concerns will get a fair hearing.

My next surgeries are 19th March, Wallingford Town Hall; 9th April, Faringdon, Pump House; 23rd April, Grove, Old Mill Hall, all at 5.30pm. I can be contacted at the House of Commons, SW1A 0AA, 020 7219 6350 and vaizeye@parliament.uk

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ALL AROUND

DRAYTON 1st BROWNIES

Ruth Hudson

Welcome to Gracie, Ling, Namatanje and Molly who have made their promise and joined Drayton Brownies, also well done to Ellen, Jessica and Ella who have earned their Hostess Badge.

During March we all dressed up from around the world and sampled food from around the world, the girls wore a variety of costumes and they looked stunning. Mrs Moyne supplied us with a delicious Chicken Curry. We also had home made biscuits from an Australian recipe, confectionery and a variety of savoury snacks plus lots of other delicious goodies.

Thank you to all parents for your generosity, this was all part of our Thinking Day celebrations where we think about other parts of the World. We have also been busy with Mother's Day activities and Mothering Sunday Church Parade.

Later in March we had "Flashback 1950's", another challenge working towards our Adventure 100 Badge. For two weeks the Brownies were transported back in time to the 1950's, they had dance lessons to learn to jive, they dressed in 1950's style clothes, listened to music and sampled ice-cream sodas and popcorn. The term ended with Easter activities.

I would like to thank Mrs Paula Harper who has volunteered to join the team and help with the meetings. We look forward to welcoming Paula after our Easter break.

We start back on the 21st April and we hope everyone has a lovely Easter.

Meeting are held at Drayton Village Hall, on Wednesdays during school term from 6.15 – 7.45, meetings are open to all girls aged between 7 – 10 years old.

Further details are available from:

Ruth Hudson (Brown Owl) on 01235 205111

Esther Deabil (Tawny Owl) on 01235 528502

* A future date to look forward to is Party at the Palace being held at Blenheim Palace on 15th May.

DRAYTON WIVES

Pam Lacey

Seventy two people comprising members and guests (which also included some husbands) had a very enjoyable lunch at Drayton Park Golf Club to celebrate the 49th Birthday of Drayton Wives. This, I believe, must be the largest gathering we have ever had at our Birthday Lunch and it was really wonderful to see so many people.

Dates for your Diary in **APRIL**

Mon 12 **COFFEE** Margaret Long,
Aeolian House, Chiers Drive
(Please note change of venue)

Mon 19 **WHIST** Barbara Carter

Wed 28 **MEETING-** AGM and Tea
(Please do not be put off by the AGM as the formal proceedings are followed by a very entertaining Quiz and afternoon tea)



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Pearl Stanbridge

Thanks to all supporters of our Easter Draw, also to the ticket sellers and donors of prizes.

The next Committee meeting will be held on Monday 19th April at 8pm.

BABY AND TODDLER GROUP **Cherry Barnett**

Our congratulations to Becca Atherton and family on the arrival of baby Emily. We look forward to seeing you both back at toddler group after a well deserved break!

And a special welcome to Caroline and Noah who have joined us, having moved to Drayton recently from Milton.

We are open on Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 at Drayton Hall, Lockway. With lots of toys to play with, activities to do and, thanks to Joy, a break for juice and biscuits, tea and coffee, it's a good opportunity to make new friends and catch up with other parents.

For more information;

call Vicky 07779 243 290 or Cherry 01235 202 600

DRAYTON W.I.

Shirley Thomas

It was very encouraging to see such a full house for our A.G.M.

Before proceeding with business, we had a delightful demonstration of the art of napkin folding by Marianne Hales, ably assisted by her daughter Mollie. Many members made gallant attempts of "folding along"!

Getting down to business, the serving officers were returned unanimously and we look forward to a new year, being our ninetieth, with lots of exciting ideas. Our next meeting will be a fish and chip supper at the Caudwell Day Centre.

Jazz and Swing date change

An item in last month's Chronicle mentioned that a Jazz Cruise with the Boulevard Swing band was taking place on Saturday 1st August, this should have read: Sunday 1st August.

We apologise for any confusion caused.

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GARD

Nick Thompson

This is a short update before the final sprint to the Public Inquiry. GARD has submitted its Statement of Case to the Inquiry Inspector ready for the 15 June start date. The Environment Agency case has much in common with GARD's and we are very hopeful that our arguments will swing the Inquiry outcome against any mention of the proposed reservoir in Thames Water's final plan for the next 25 years. We have recently obtained several vital documents which had been withheld until now, and most of these strengthen the case for our alternatives. We still maintain that all the evidence points to the fact that no need exists to justify the reservoir in the next 25 years, and that in the event of demand rising there are better, quicker to construct, more environmentally appropriate alternatives which we believe are also substantially cheaper.

Next month we will be making a public relations push. We would be very grateful for your support. Do visit our website www.abingdonreservoir.org.uk and back up our efforts to eliminate this unnecessary threat to the future of our villages.

BOWLS CLUB

Roll up

After a few barren years in the local leagues, we have some good news to report 'The Rollers' won the second division of the South Oxfordshire evening league and will be promoted to division one next season, and in the newly formed afternoon triple league 'The Wasps' pipped Stanford-in-Vale for the title, with Jane and June captains of the respective teams, so well done to all the players who took part.

The internal Rose Bowl triples on Monday and Wednesday leagues look to be heading for a close finish. These are due to finish in May.

There will be a quiz and Beetle drive evening on Friday the 23rd April. We have twenty names down at present but could do with a few more so come on and test your knowledge against the quizmaster, Norman. Starting time is 7 for 7-30.

And finally, the club will only be entering one team for the Wantage and district summer triple league this year due to lack of players wishing to participate.

DRAYTON PLAYERS

Jean Hager

Our two evenings of murder and mayhem went very well recently and the audiences were full of searching questions – none of which, I have to report, resulted in a correct identification of the murderer on either night.

However, the spirit of sleuthing and fun caused much merriment and we thank everyone who came along to take part in the mystery of it all. We also thank Vickery's Hardware Store for providing an extra sale point for tickets, and all those who worked so hard behind the scenes and in the kitchen.

We now have to think about an Autumn production and hope to find a suitable project: of course we still need a director. Please let us know if you would be interested to give it a try. New members are always most welcome so contact Georgia Alston on 531425 or me on 531558 if you would like further information.

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PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

Debbie Bargas

We have been learning about feelings and senses this term, and our planning is also following the children's interest in certain things, e.g. cars seem popular at the moment therefore we have been using them in many different ways. We have watched them slide down pieces of guttering, judged their speed and observed how some are faster or slower than others. We have also been making collages using car magazines.

We have also been painting with the tyres on the cars, driving them through paint and onto paper to see the tracks. This incorporates mathematical knowledge when comparing prints. We are planning a mechanics workshop outside.

We will have spaces available for September 2010. Do you have a child who is approaching 2½ yrs? 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 arrange a visit.

The collection boxes for Tesco School and Clubs and Sainsbury's Active kids 10 vouchers are now in Preschool. We appreciate all vouchers as these go to getting lovely new items for the children.

Also coming up: Open Day : Saturday 22nd May

Toddle – Tuesday 22nd June

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

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YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor

Can I draw two matters to readers' attention as current chair of the Parish Council. Firstly, I need to apologise to all allotment holders who went into Abingdon sorting office to collect their rent demand due to the wrong postage put on large envelopes. Those who have not paid the excess can just give me (122 Abingdon Road) a cheque to Drayton Parish Council - for the same rent they paid last year. It would also be helpful if you could supply an email address to draytonclerk@yahoo.com.

Secondly, we are entering the last year of the current Council when many councillors will have served nearly 8 years or more. The Council includes men and women. Ages range from 30s to 60s (but could include younger and older). Some have full time jobs, some part time or retired. Some are married, others single. Some have young children some with 'empty nests'. Some have substantial caring commitments. Some have lived in the village all their lives, others are newcomers. Many are members of other organisations. Some have had a break from being parish councillors and started again. Out of about 2300 Drayton residents there will be only very few who do not fall within the description of what it takes to be a parish councillor. We only need one in 200 people to join the PC at any time and we not only have room for new members now but, come next year, there are likely to be more opportunities to serve. The annual village meeting on 12 April at the Caudwell Day Centre (see advert) is the best time to see what being a councillor involves.

Hope to see you there.

Daniel Scharf

Dear Editor,

On the night of Friday 12th March 2010, several windows were smashed in the village hall, and guttering and drainpipes were damaged.

NOT A POLICEMAN IN SIGHT

Saturday 13th March 2010, between the hours of 2.30pm and 4pm, somebody entered one of the rear gardens of Steventon Road to retrieve a football.

Within ten minutes a policeman was on site looking to apprehend the individual for trespass !!!!!

Something not right there, don't you agree?

Paul Evans

Dear Editor

As a long term resident of Sutton Wick Lane I shall be grateful if you will pass on the following gentle and neighbourly reminder to ALL new and established residents of the Lane. Of late I have noticed a tendency for morning motorists negotiating the Lane to "put their foot down" a little too vigorously as they hurry off to work. The Lane is a particularly special place with dogs, their walkers, farm animals and fowl meandering around at all times of the day but especially early morning. Please be thoughtful of others when you leave your driveway and adjust your speed to suit the special requirements within the Lane. We are so lucky to have such a peaceful rural place to live – let's keep it that way. Thank you.

*A well meaning resident of Sutton Wick Lane
(name and address supplied)*

Dear Editor,

As you are probably aware, Rev. Josie Midwinter will be retiring in April and her last service with us will be on April 25th. We have already started the process of finding a new priest.

In order to do this we have to produce a parish vision outlining at least five topics which are important for us to achieve in the next five years. We also have to compile a person profile listing the skills and qualities we would like in our new priest.

The churchwardens and PCC would value any ideas or contributions from the community of Drayton. What would you like to see happen at St Peter's? What sort of person should we have? All responses to the PCC or churchwardens will be treated in the strictest confidence.

*Sue Harris (Tel: 01235 848361)
and Val Cross (Tel: 01235 535183)
Churchwardens*

Dear Editor,

Thank you to Drayton Players for providing such an entertaining and social evening with their latest production of The Murder Mystery Nights. As well as the audience being treated to a spooky play we were also fed with a tasty bumper ploughmans supper. The second half of the evening was a really social time with so many tables giving their views on "who done it". Many people left still thinking that it must have been the Butler!

We are so lucky to have The Drayton Players here in the village and all who were there on the two nights appreciated the enormous amount of hard work they put into everything they did. We are now looking forward to the next production with great anticipation.

Rosemary Barlow

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Dear Editor,

Can your readers help? An appeal for memories from students of Oxford Polytechnic and the College of Technology

While 'The Poly' and the older College of Technology no longer exist in Oxford, their value to Oxfordshire is still clear. Students of both institutions have gone on to live and work here, benefiting local businesses and communities with their knowledge and expertise.

Oxford Brookes is rightfully proud of its roots in the Polytechnic and the College of Technology, and the achievements of former students of all our past institutions have reinforced the university's reputation for producing skilled and well-rounded graduates.

In 2015 Brookes celebrates its 150 year anniversary. We believe the celebrations should include and involve all alumni, whether you studied at the College of Technology, Oxford Polytechnic, Dorset House, Lady Spencer-Churchill, Westminster, Oxford City Technical School or the university itself.

To achieve this, we are appealing for memories from all former students of all our past institutions. By sharing your anecdotes and photos with the Alumni Office you can help to illustrate the shared history of the entire Oxford Brookes community, and make 2015 an unforgettable celebration for everyone.

We are especially keen to hear from alumni with personal memories of John Henry Brookes for a biography celebrating the life of the university's spiritual founder.

Please email your memories and photos to alumni@brookes.ac.uk. We can also answer any questions you have about strengthening your relationship with Oxford Brookes, from updating you with news and events to helping you enjoy the many benefits available to all our alumni.

*Ben Richardson, Alumni Communications Officer,
Oxford Brookes University, tel: 01865 484852
www.brookes.ac.uk/alumni*

Dear Editor,

Paul, Michael and I would like to express our gratitude for the many messages, letters and cards we received upon the death of Norman on 20th February. We would also like to thank the Reverend Sister Josie Midwinter for the funeral arrangements. We were overwhelmed.

Norman and I enjoyed nearly fifty years in Drayton and he loved every minute of it.

We came in the late fifties when the village was filling up with young families. There were so many children that a new school had to be built in Hilliat Fields. We all had such fun in the sixties and forged many a lasting friendship.

Daria Stimpson

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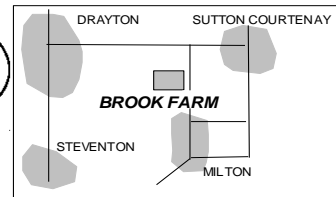
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DRAYTON DIARY

FOR APRIL

All events are at Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise
(To book Drayton Hall call Ann Webb on 531418)
website address www.draytonvh.org.uk

Regular Events are listed opposite

Sat	3rd	Private booking		
Sat	3rd	10.00 – 11.00 am	Fair Trade Sale	Church
Sun	4th	11.15 – 11.45 am	Fair Trade Sale	Church
Mon	12th	7.00 pm	Parish Assembly followed by Council Meeting	Caudwell DC
Fri	16th	Private booking		
Sat	17th	Wedding Reception		
Mon	19th	5.00 pm	Chronicle copy deadline	Vickery's box
Sat	24th	Murder Mystery Event – Wantage Players		

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REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

MONDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	School Ground Bldg
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
5.45 pm	Beavers (Boys / girls, 6-8 yrs, Tel. 512834)	Steventon Hall
6.30 – 8.00 pm	Youthzone (Except Bank Holidays)	
7.00 pm	Scouts (Boys / girls, 8-10 yrs, Tel. 512834)	Steventon Hall
7.00 – 8.30pm	Junior Table Tennis Coaching	School
7.45 – 8.45 pm	Drayton Drop In (Except Bank Holidays)	
7.15 pm	Drayton Wives Whist (3rd Monday)	Caudwell DC
8.00 – 10.00pm	Senior Table Tennis Practice	
	& Social Table Tennis	School
7.30 pm	Parish Council (1st Monday)	Caudwell DC
7.45 pm	Bell-ringing (for 1½ hours)	St Peter's
8.30 pm	Badminton (Private Group)	

TUESDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	School Ground Bldg
1.45 pm	Drayton Art Group (until 4 pm)	Caudwell Day Centre
3.00 pm	First Tuesday Connections (1st Tuesday)	Church Room
3.00 pm	Junior Netball (for 1 hour)	School
6.00 pm	Ladies' Netball (for 1 hour)	School
7.30 pm	League Table Tennis	School

WEDNESDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	School Ground Bldg
11.00 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	Haywards Rd
11.20 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	The Green Car Pk
2.00 pm	Whist – now each week	Caudwell Day Centre
2.00 pm	Drayton Wives (Last Wednesday in the month)	
2.15 pm	Badminton	
6.15 pm	Brownies	
6.15 pm	Cubs (Boys / girls, 8-9 yrs, Tel. 512834)	Steventon Hall
7.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
7.30 pm	Bingo Session	Caudwell Day Centre
7.30 pm	League Table Tennis	School

THURSDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	School Ground Bldg
	followed by lunch club and afternoon session	
9.00 am	Foot Clinic (First Thursday in Month)	Caudwell DC
9.30 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's Lady Chapel
9.30 am	Parent & Toddler Group	
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
7.30 pm	League Table Tennis	School
7.30 pm	Women's Institute Meeting (2nd Thursday)	
7.30 pm	Sequence Dancing. Tel: 531701	

FRIDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	School Ground Bldg
11.00 am	The Friday Club (fortnightly) 202466	Caudwell Day Centre
7.45pm	Choir Practice (fortnightly)	St Peter's

SUNDAYS

8.00 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (Praise Service 3rd Sunday)	St Peter's
11.15 am	Family Time (1st Sunday)	Baptist Church
6.00 pm	Evening Worship	Baptist Church

MISSED OUT ON YOUR CHRONICLE?

If by any chance your Area Agent is unable to deliver your Chronicle one month you can collect a copy from Vickery's shop in the week after normal delivery time. Lawrence has very kindly agreed to keep a small stock for us each month.

DISCLAIMER: This Journal is published in good faith and great care is taken in its compilation. The organisers of the DRAYTON CHRONICLE, and its Agents, therefore accept no responsibility for OPINIONS EXPRESSED, nor for the validity of any ADVERTISEMENT, nor for any EFFECTS ARISING WHATSOEVER from the publication.

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