

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Tony Holmes

Volume 33 No. 4

May 2010

L'Entente Cordiale

Everyone knows Drayton has been twinned with Lesparre-Médoc since the year 2000. Many residents have benefitted from 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! Like all local groups we are always pleased to hear from residents keen to become involved in our activities. Would you like to join our group and become part of the group going to Lesparre?

Arrangements are being formalised for our 2010 visit – August from Thurs 19th to Tues 24th. 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.

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. ==>>>

Where is Lesparre? It's a pleasant 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 has English connections dating back to 1154.

Who can join? You! – we welcome people of all ages. Families are especially welcome.

Do you need to speak French? No! But, it obviously helps if you can speak a word or two. Part of the fun is finding a way to communicate with each other – ask any of our members!

Sounds interesting? Who should we contact?

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

Thanks to **Colin Arnold** for his pictures of this year's Good Friday celebrations (did Geoff Caudle find that coin?!)



DAMASCUS Youth Project

YOUNG LEADERS

invite you to

The Inter-generational

DAMASCUS Quiz

7.00 – 9.00 pm Saturday MAY 15th 2010

at SUTTON COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL

Entrance £1 - under 18s free

(minimum age - school year 6)

TEAMS WILL BE FORMED ON THE NIGHT

Contact

Daniel Scharf 01235 531107

Or do turn up on the night

Refreshments (to buy) available

Almshouse vacancy (p 9) Spare Tools? (p 10)
You can go too (p 6) What's on the Board? (p 13)

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Chub Bonefish

Lure Barbel Spinner Barracuda

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COMING CHRONICLES

The **JUNE Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Friday, May 28th**, from **Margaret Armstrong (531122)**, who should be contacted by Agents requiring extra copies.

The Editor will be **Derek Pooley (559454)**. Contributions may be e-mailed (see below), or placed in the Chronicle letter box, outside Vickery's store on Drayton Green,

NO LATER than 5.15 pm on Monday, May 17th 2010.

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

STOP PRESS - ADVERTISERS should note that the deadline for ads is EARLIER, Friday May 14th, due to their preparation time.

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

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

NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. Finally, **hand-written items**. Names of people and places in **CAPITALS** please (thanks to those who do), but remember these need typing out; do you know anyone with a PC? (saves us time).

ADVERTISING RATES

For Block Advert (about 1/12th page)

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

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

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

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

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

CHRONICLE LOTTERY

Daphne Samworth, Hon. Promoter

RESULTS OF THE APRIL LOTTERY

Prize	Winner	Agent
£25	Mr. Cook, 1 Green Acres	Beryl Dawson
£20	J. White, 2 Eastway	Teresa Burnage
£15	Mrs. Hamilton, Sutton Wick Barn	Beryl Dawson
£10	Mr. Huggins, 40 Lyford Close	Laura Stopps
£10	Mr. Jones, 153 Drayton Rd, S C'tenay	Claire Soper
£10	Mrs. Pitts, 27 Lockway	Jenny Pooley
£10	Mary Ward, 31 Sutton Wick Lane	Beryl Dawson
£10	S. Clarke, 29 White horns Way	Trudi Buckner
£10	C. Shebbeare, 16 Sutton Wick Lane	Beryl Dawson
£10	D. Stimpson, c/o Mary Alexander	Mary Alexander

Winning tickets, from a total of 2295 sold, were drawn by staff at Vickery's shop. We do need more Agents - could YOU help?

THE FOLLOWING TWO MONTHS

Issue for	Copy for publication by Mondays (nb Agents Lottery Packs Fri before)	Chronicle published and available for distribution on Fridays:-
July	14 June	25 June
August	19 July	30 July

HOLIDAY COTTAGE TO LET

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ALL AROUND

Drayton 1st Brownies

Ruth Hudson

Welcome to our new Brownies and to Mrs Paula Harper who is our new Friendly Owl, named by the Brownies!

Summer term is upon us and new challenges planned for this term include:- Gardeners Badge, Friends to the Animals, Agility and Water Safety. We will also continue with Adventure 100, a challenge that we have been doing throughout the year.

We have a talk on Guide Dogs planned and we hope to sponsor an Owl this term.

On Sat 15th May we have a trip to Blenheim Palace for The Party at the Palace continuing the celebration of 100 years of Girl guiding. Finally we wish Lisa good luck for the future as she joins Sutton Courtenay Guides.

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

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 7:30 for 7:45pm. Interesting and lively conversation is guaranteed, whether you've read the book or not! The next meeting is May 19th and you are most welcome.

Our book for April was the unusually titled but fabulous 'The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society' by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows.

Our book for May is 'The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo', now a major movie, and for June, 'Wedlock' by former John Mason pupil Wendy Moore. Whether you've already read either or want to, 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.

FORTHCOMING Police 'Surgery' :-

Friday May 7th 10am to noon, Police office, High St., Sutton Courtenay. And - for more information about your local

neighbourhood team, contact 0845 8 505 505

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**Bookings :- call Gel or Austin (01235 531485)
Drayton (on the village green)**

The ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Pearl Stanbridge

The National conference is being held in the Isle of Man at the end of the month, so watch your Legion journal for updates.

The next Committee meeting will be held on Monday 17th May at 8 pm.

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

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

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Men now welcome at any time - so why not call in?

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Letters to the Editor

You may request that your name & address are not shown; however we **MUST** have those details, and phone number .

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DRAYTON W.I.

Shirley Thomas

It was very nearly a full house for our fish and chip supper which was enjoyed by all. We have to thank a certain gentleman for collecting them for us. After the business of the evening we were treated to an excellent slide show by one of our members, Gillian Pett. It was on floral mosaics in Holland. Each mosaic, some very large, mostly in private gardens, were formed from the tips of hyacinths, quite spectacular.

A few of us drove over to Chadlington to attended a talk on Elgar by Barry Collett. He gave us an insight into Elgar's life, interspersed by playing recordings of some of Elgar's lesser known but delightful works. It was a really lovely morning's outing.

Our next meeting is 'How to care for nails'. Come and see for yourself what the W.I. is all about.

ST PETER'S CHURCH

Priest in Charge	Interregnum	
Minister in training	Revd Rosie Bruce	525284
Churchwardens	Mrs Sue Harris	848361
	Mrs Val Cross	535183
Choir Director	Jo Burn	

CHURCH NOTICES

REGULAR SERVICES

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

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Monday	7.45 pm	Bellringing Practice	Bell Tower
Weds	10.30 am	Pebbles (term time only)	Church Room
Friday *	7.00 pm	Choir Practice (*Alt'ate Fridays)	Church Room

CALENDAR for MAY

Tues	4th	3.00 pm	1st Tuesday Connections	Church Room
Sat	1st	10.00 am	Sale of Fair Trade goods (until 11 am)	
Sun	2nd	11.15 am	Sale of Fair Trade goods (until 11.45 am)	
Sat	8th		Evening of Baroque & Renaissance Music	
Sat	15th		Plant Sale	
&	JULY 10th		Summer Fete @ Drayton School	

PARISH REGISTER

Baptism	March 28th	Oscar Jack Barnes
Funerals	April 15th	Charles Henry Botley
	April 16th	Frederick Fuller

YOU STAY – WE PRAY (May)

2nd to 8th :- High St., Chiers Drive, Cheers Farm, Halls Close;

9th to 22nd :- Lockway; Whitehorns Way.

23rd to 29th :- Corneville Rd; Crabtree Lane; Lesparre Close



Letter from St Peter's Church

Dear Friends,

'Interregnum'

We are the churchwardens at St Peter's Church. Each year at our Annual Parochial Church Meeting there are elections at which you can be nominated and elected for the position. At St Peter's you can serve for up to six consecutive years, (Sue is serving an extra year by permission of the Archdeacon and congregation as we are now in an interregnum following Josie's retirement).

Each year after being elected, all the churchwardens in the Diocese have to attend a ceremony at which they are sworn in (usually by the Diocesan Registrar). This year is special as we have an Episcopal Visitation by the Bishop of Reading. We have to attend a ceremony at Greyfriars Church in Reading where we will be sworn in by the Bishop as well as listening to speakers who will be talking about important topics of relevance to the Church.

The service commits you to your Church and parish. There are many duties required of you, some of which are legally binding. For example Churchwardens are officers of the Bishop and legal owners of the contents of the Church!

During an interregnum our duties increase. We have to ensure that there are clergy to take all the services (including funerals, weddings and baptisms). In the event of a priest not being available we are permitted to lead a service of Morning Prayer. We have to deal with all enquiries; chair PCC meetings; arrange the licensing service when a new priest is appointed and generally make sure everything runs smoothly.

We would be grateful for your support during this challenging period ahead and we look forward to welcoming you into church when a new minister is appointed. In the meantime if you have any concerns or queries please contact us on the numbers opposite.

Sue Harris & Val Cross



GIVE US A BREAK

Night after night, nowt else on the news
No wonder we've all got polling-month blues;
The leaders are hyped, but we've all got the lows,
The debates might be better, if they all came to blows?

They keep banging on, they all want my vote -
But it's only succeeding in getting my goat.
And the leaflets are coming, like rain on the mat
I suppose they could go in the tray of the cat.

Radio - TV - it's so hard to avoid,
But over the decades, my trust's been destroyed.
If one answered a question, that might be a start
But not with a speech, some truth, from the heart.

One thing's for certain, I'll not vote for 'greens'
I never liked cabbage, my veg is baked beans;
To the others I'm 'floating', what can they say?
My vote is on offer, for a long holiday.



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(MORE) ALL AROUND

Drayton Pre-School Playgroup Debbie Bargas

We would like to welcome Shaun, William and Alfie who are joining us for the summer term. We hope they have lots of fun and enjoy their time with us.

Our topics for this term are mini beasts and growth. We will be following children's emergent interests from Term 4 where digging and mini beasts were popular activities. We'll also be looking at growth in terms of how the children have grown and what it entails to keep healthy; also matching mummy animals to their babies, and observing plant growth which will lead us nicely on to the mini beasts we are likely to find when digging and planting.

We will have spaces available for September 2010. 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 (536094) for a welcome pack or to 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 (eg Amazon, Next, Play.com, Ebay, Churchill Insurance, AA, and The Book People), **they give a percentage to us at no extra cost to you.** Plus many more new outlets.

Mrs Suzy Willis
MCSP SRP AACP
CHARTERED PHYSIOTHERAPIST
Old Lodge, Henleys Lane
Drayton, OX14 4HU
Tel 01235 531269
Please ring for an appointment

ST PETER'S CHURCH HOME-VISITING GROUP

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

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

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Drayton TABLE-TENNIS Club John Gould

I reported in March that the Club has reached the Final of the Bidmead Cup. As well as this success, two of our teams have reached the Final of the Handicap Shield Competition. An original entry of 29 teams has seen Drayton B & D teams win through. As the title suggests, teams are handicapped based on their players' abilities and League performances. Drayton B is in Division 1 so have overcome large points deficits. The D team, that play in Division 2, has also had to give their various opponents a points advantage. We're very proud that two Drayton teams have reached the Final, and I'll report on the results of these finals next month.

At the time of writing, Drayton A need 1 more point to ensure they are League Champions, a great effort from the team who are unbeaten with two ties to play. Our other 6 teams are doing quite well. None are in danger of relegation and the E team (Div 3) have an outside chance of the runners-up spot. I'll report on the final results next month. The end of season presentation on 15th May at BR Social Club should be a good night with several Drayton teams picking up awards. Tickets will be available through the club.

Our club championships are looming. The main event is on Sunday 16th May and is open to all our adult players plus the league-playing youngsters. The Junior tournament (18 & under) was on 19th April and the Cadets (15 & under) will be on 10th May. Again I'll report on these in the June issue.

The Didcot League Presentation Evening will also be the launch of the League's 60th year book launch. Formed in 1949 the League celebrated its 60th anniversary last year. A book celebrating the first 50 years was published in 1999 and now two long standing members have written a book to cover the last 10 years. **This will be on sale at £5.00 per copy and is available through Drayton TT Club.**

The AGM will be held on **Monday 30th May**, from 7.30pm.

Finally, I am very pleased to report that our club Coach, Matt Wicks, has taken and successfully passed his UK Level 2 coaching badge (1st4sport Level 2 Certificate in Coaching Table Tennis, L2CCTT). Matt coaches our youngsters every Monday at the school and his efforts are starting to bear fruit with many of them improving and becoming very good young players.

BAPTIST CHURCH

Church Secretary:- Mrs Jayne Henderson.....522161

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

- 11.15 am Presently only one morning service per month: this is the Family Service, and is on the first Sunday of each month.
- 6.00 pm Evening Service. A traditional form of service, frequently with guest speakers.
(Communion every second Sunday)

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

(MORE) ALL AROUND

DRAYTON WIVES Pam Lacey

At our March meeting, one of our members, Ann Gould, gave a very interesting talk, with slides, on the very early history of Abingdon and the impact the Abbey had on the town. Ann will follow this up at a later date with the more recent history.

Dates for your diary in MAY

- Monday 10th COFFEE Margaret Long, Chiers Drive
Monday 17th WHIST Pam Lacey
Weds 26th MEETING John Paine – The Amazing Amazon.

Please Note

1) The literary walking tour in Oxford will leave Blackwells Bookshop at 11.15am on Mon May 17th (approx 1 and a half hours); we have a limited number of places available, the walk is **open to non-members**, if interested, please contact Ann Hutchings (531327), cost approx £5 to £6 (depends on numbers).

and 2) Drayton Wives forthcoming visit to The Royal British Legion Poppy Factory, Richmond, Surrey, on Weds 28th July.

The coach will leave the Village Hall car park at 10.30 am and return at approximately 6.00pm. The visit will start with lunch, after which there will be a guided tour of about one and a half hours. The factory makes no charge for the tour, however, donations are appreciated.

Lunch costs £8.75 for cottage pie and a sweet, or £5.50 for soup and a sweet. The coach fare is £12.

We are pleased to offer our remaining seats to any **non-members** interested in coming along with Drayton Wives on this trip. Please contact Ann Hutchings (531327) to make a reservation, by **June 25th**.

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OTHER LOCAL PLACES OF WORSHIP

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High Street, Milton
Local contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409

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MILLENNIUM GREEN NEWS

Millennium Green litter rota :- We need a few more volunteers to take a turn at clearing litter from the Green. It involves doing it for one fortnight during the year.

If you are interested please ring me, and I will give you the details. Hoping to hear from you. **Gwen Price (531205)**

COFFEE MORNING

AND

BRING & BUY SALE

10 – 12 SAT 22nd MAY

CAUDWELL DAY CENTRE

Proceeds in aid of Drayton Youthzone

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Drayton Twinning Society Michael Bell

The Drayton Twinners were pleased to supply the teas and cakes at the recent Lime Close Open Garden day. They will also be at the next Lime Close Open Garden on June 6th.

Twining is not just about hosting and being hosted and anyone interested in finding out more is welcome to attend the next meeting of the Twining group – the AGM – which will be on Election Day! We shall meet at the Caudwell Day Centre on Thursday May 6th at 7.30. Some refreshments will be available.

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8:00pm – 12:00pm

50's - 60's - 70's - 80's

Rock & Pop Music

Dress to suit any of the 4 Decades (Optional)

Admission £ 7.50 per person

Under 16's £ 3.50 each (**)

** Accompanied Children Only Please
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Tickets available at local village outlets

For More Details Phone Daniel (01235 531107)
Or Paul (01235 535587)

YOUR LETTERS

Children's Society

Dear Sir, 70 Steventon Road

The recent collection for the Children's Society raised £158.50. Many thanks to everyone who contributed so generously in Binning Close, Eastway, Haywards Road, Lockway, Steventon Road and Whitehorns Way.

Yours Sincerely Doreen Bourne



Flashing Correctly

Dear Editor, (via email)

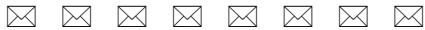
I'm pleased to report that at long last this '30' flashing beacon operates correctly.

The last failure, three months ago, was a lack of electric power!

It was installed in 2006 & has been faulty for most of the time, the last two years flashing at '35'.

I look forward to a reduction of speeders in Steventon Rd inline with Richard Webber's recent warning.

Regards Andrew Beacroft



Grateful Thanks

Dear Sir,

I'd like to thank the many people who sent cards and good wishes while I was in hospital, and remembered me in their prayers.

I often think of you all.

Yours Sincerely Doris Vickery



NB Please ALSO see the Stop Press letter, on Page 13.

Bad Dog - er, Bad Owner?

Dear Sir, 11 Halls Close

At the request of the Parish Council and as Chair of its Rights of Way & Conservation Working Group, I am writing about the increasing problem of dog fouling in certain areas of Drayton.

Residents may have noticed that the VWHDC dog warden has recently visited the village and placed reminder/warning posters in many places. However, there are still one or two areas where a significant problem of fouling persists, the Millennium Green and the junction of Gravel Lane and Gravel Lane Path being particularly bad patches.

Information received from the Vale dog warden emphasises that dog fouling is not only unpleasant but also spreads some very nasty diseases, and that not clearing up after a dog is a crime punishable by a £50 fine or prosecution.

The following VWHDC 'Advice for Dog Owners' may be useful information both to those with and those without dogs:

Advice for Dog Owners

In order to ensure that you do not fall foul of the law, simply follow these pointers:-

Never let your dog walk a great distance from you as this makes it difficult to see when they foul; Always carry a bag when walking your dog so you can clean up after it.

Encourage your dog to stay on the perimeters of fields or pitches to ensure that any remains of the fouling do not cause any harm to innocent bystanders; Do not just park up next to a public area and let your dog roam on its own. This dangerous practice could result in not only a fixed penalty for your dog's fouling - your dog could also be taken away as a stray. **A collar and ID tag are also required by law.**

Please report any dog mess that needs clearing up to the Council's Waste team on 01235 520202, identifying the exact location, e.g. on pavement outside 24 XYZ Road, Drayton.

If you see another dog owner committing this offence please keep a record of anything that can identify them and contact the Vale's Environment Wardens on 01235 520202 or email environmental.protection@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Jennifer Pooley

Part-time trainee posts

1 Youth Worker and 2 Support Youth Worker posts

LOCATION: Oxfordshire villages of Drayton, Appleford, Milton, Sutton Courtenay and Steventon (DAMASCUS)

EMPLOYER: The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project (Registered Charity 1098966)

This is an exciting opportunity to work to the milestones of our Lottery-funded Youth and Community Acting Together (YCAT) project. The overall outcome of YCAT is to empower young people living in the DAMASCUS villages so that they feel a sense of self-worth and are able to positively influence and establish direction in their own and (by extension) in their community's lives.

We believe strongly in developing inclusive, vibrant and sustainable communities in which young people have opportunities to be significant contributors. An important part of this vision is recruiting youth workers who have the passion to make a positive difference to young people and their communities. If you are supportive, young-people-focused and share our commitment we would like to hear from you.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and we expect all volunteers and staff to share this commitment and undergo appropriate checks and provide references.

CONTACT: For an application pack which contains full details of the job, person specification and the specific milestones and outcomes of YCAT, please email rita.atkinson@googlemail.com or anne.whitehead@tiscali.co.uk. If you are unable to access the internet, please telephone us on 01235 848694 or 01235 848514

DEADLINE: Saturday 15th May 2010. Interview Date: Saturday 29th May 2010.

DAMASCUS Youth project is also supported locally by Champion Recruitment, Parish Councils, Parochial Church Councils and County Council.



PARISH COUNCIL (April 12th)

As well as the Parish Councillors, 21 members of the public attended the **Annual Parish Assembly meeting**, most of them involved in some way with different activities or organisations within the village. Daniel Scharf (Chairman) read his report covering matters dealt with in the past year, which included the repair (now completed) of burial ground headstones identified as unsafe by the topple testing exercise last spring; management of the allotments, and the appointment of new allotment wardens; the issue of supplementary funding for the village hall, as its income from the bar and lettings is no longer sufficient to cover day to day running and maintenance; and the Council's response to various planning issues, especially the reservoir, but also the location of new housing in the Vale, and the redevelopment of the shopping precinct in Abingdon.

Reports were also given by chairmen of each working group, our District Councillor, Richard Webber, and our County Councillors, Mike and Marilyn Badcock. Items of note included the following: from the Rights of Way and Conservation Committee, Jenny Pooley reported that OCC have now fulfilled their promise to replace the stiles on the path from Eastway to the golf course by kissing gates: as a result, access is much improved, especially for dog-owners and the less agile.

A response was also received from Mark Sumner at OCC concerning the **road surface of Eastway** – it confirmed that the County Council is responsible for maintaining this to bridleway standard, and that the recent works were intended to achieve this. A bridleway should provide a good reasonable surface for walkers and riders, but is not required to be of the same standard as a tarmac surface designed to carry vehicle traffic. If the residents wanted an upgrade of the surface, this would entail negotiations with OCC to ensure that their private rights did not conflict with public rights of way, and any works would initially have to be carried out at the residents' expense, although OCC might be able to contribute later if public benefits could be established.

For the **Finance Committee**, Robin Butler stated that the PC had satisfactorily carried out its mandatory annual risk assessment. Annual accounts had been audited and approved and copies were available at the meeting for inspection. The Council's largest expenditure is on the Clerk's salary, village upkeep and grants to the DAMASCUS project and Millennium Green. This year, there were also grants to the Drayton/Lesparre Twinning Society, and a one-off substantial payment to cover the costs of making safe the headstones in the parish burial ground. Robin has said that he intends to relinquish the post of Finance Chairman at the AGM next month, and **we therefore thank him for his hard work** over many years in this most exacting and responsible task.

It is possible that one or two Parish Councillors will stand down altogether at the next meeting, and **anyone interested in being a councillor** is encouraged to come along to the AGM to see what goes on at a PC meeting. The only qualification needed is a willingness to contribute, although, in the light of Robin's decision, if anyone does have experience of financial matters – either professionally, or as treasurer of a society or the like, they would be particularly welcome. →>>>

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Several members of the public, representing village organisations, spoke at the meeting. Nick Hamilton, for the **Millennium Green Trust**, reported that there are now about 20 regular supporters ('Friends' of the Trust) who contributed both time and money to help maintain the Green. More volunteers would of course be welcome, and help to spread the load.

Tom Oliver updated us on the work of the **Almshouses Trust**, and reminded everyone that there are still two almshouses (out of the six) currently unoccupied and available. Andrew Gould, youth worker from the **DAMASCUS Project** (accompanied by Roxy and Jane, the other team members), spoke of the work that is going on with young people in Drayton and the other four villages.

Paul Evans informed us that Drayton now runs **five regular football teams** (3 junior, 2 senior), a creditable achievement for a village of our size. However, as we only have one pitch, it will be difficult to sustain the necessary levels of usage. Paul was concerned that we risk losing good players to neighbouring teams.

This highlights a more general issue, the lack of recreational facilities in Drayton, compared to villages of similar size. The subject featured often in last year's village survey and was raised again here by Derek Pooley, speaking on behalf of the **Drayton Community Trust**. As a first step to improve matters, councillors will be meeting soon with representatives of the Football Club, hopefully to report back at the May Parish Council meeting.

That meeting (also the **Council's AGM**) will be at 7.30pm on Monday 10th May in the Caudwell Day Centre. As always, all are welcome.
Richard Williams

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Classroom updates ...

Reception and year 1 **Robins** have been looking at lots of different creatures from the Gruffalo to dinosaurs and have built a giant papier-mâché dinosaur island. They have been looking out for signs of Spring, learning about planting and growing and have enjoyed a class walk to the Millennium Green.

Year 1 & 2 **Ravens** have been finding out more about toys by writing letters to older relatives. They have received some lovely replies with lots of descriptions and pictures to capture the children's imaginations about the types of toys and games from our grandparent's childhood. In science and maths they have been looking at measuring and weighing.

In our year 3 & 4 class **Kingfishers** are beginning a new topic of Vikings.

In maths, all their hard work on learning times tables seems to be paying off with many children earning school awards for these. They have been awarded Bronze, Silver, Platinum and even some Gold awards.

There was a fantastic aroma emanating from school when I went to collect children one day. Year 5 & 6 **Eagles** were having a Caribbean day, were all dressed in bermuda shorts, T-shirts, sunglasses and had spent the day in the kitchen. They had cooked up and sampled corn bread, jerk chicken and rice & peas. In response to my comment "and you call this work?" a hot looking Mr Lambert replied "Catering with 34 children – YES!" →>>



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School news ...

Before Easter there was a very successful and popular 'Chocolate hour', thanks to FODSA with lots of chocolate prizes and chocolate fountains for all to enjoy.

Over the Easter Holidays stage one of our trim trail was completed. We now have our all weather track around the field and a raised area at one end. It is looking very smart.

We are having a 'Circus Skills for Chile' day when all the children will have a chance to try circus skills in exchange for a donation which will help those affected by the recent Chilean earthquake. Will we see Mr Mayer on a unicycle I wonder?

The School Choir will be representing the school at St. Peter's Church on April 30th, singing an eco-based cantata.

There is going to be a sponsored walk organised by FODSA on Friday 21st May. School is now collecting Tesco's and Sainsbury's vouchers for Schools. If you have any of these you can hand them in to the school office. We would be most grateful as they are always useful!

The new school gardening club should, by time of going to press, be underway. **If anyone has any unwanted hand tools** that the children could make use of we would be very grateful if you could please hand them in to school, or to Sam at 78 Steventon Road. Thank you.

NB REMINDER:- Please do not park in the turning circle outside school, but please do park your car with consideration for the residents of Hilliat Fields.

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YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Some Election thoughts...

So here we go again. It's finally happening. We are in for many years of austerity – higher prices, lower wages, poorer services? It is nearly time to make our choice. Which basket of miseries will we chose?

I have no idea and even if I did, the editorial board would not let me argue it here. Yet one thing seems pretty certain, by next month we will have a new government and most of us will notice very little change. One thing I fervently hope will come out of this election is that it will not be decided on the basis of: 'Who can do what for me?'

Personally, I would like to be offered the following:-

Double my pension by doubling national insurance, Cut my income tax by 50% (by increasing everyone else's), Make my house increase in value four-fold, Promise not to build any new houses within 10 miles of Drayton, A solution to Abingdon's traffic problems, etc. As the parties vie with each other on an almost daily basis in offering little hand-outs to different sections of the community (and all parties are prone to it), I worry that we get further and further away from the issues which should decide the election.

(Ed's note:- at the time of writing, I'd be tempted to vote for anyone who would offer to stop the Army sending convoys down the A34 in the morning rush hour!). →>>>

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Asking me to vote on which policies will suit me seems to me to engender the very qualities of greed and self interest which got us all into the current mess in the first place. How dare MPs, whose own self interest has been so painfully highlighted in the last year, assume that my vote can be bought out of self interest? Self interest certainly will not ensure a sensible, fair and safe future world for my children. The evidence is that it would not even guarantee my vote next time – it would take yet more giveaways to guarantee that.

Most of the idealistic, least self-centred people I know are young and they have probably more reason to have become self-centred than any of us. Their job prospects are fewer, their debts are greater and their futures are longer. The recession has probably hit that generation harder than any other. Sometimes I wonder if the world would be a better place if we stopped worrying about giving the vote to young people and banned anyone over the age of 25 from voting!

But the serious point is that the politician or party who tries to get my vote by offering me this or that sweetie does not deserve my vote. He is insulting my intelligence. Yes I know we are in a mess. We are grown up enough to understand a message of toil, sweat and tears. We know it is going to be painful. If the plan to get us out of the mess is clear, fair and workable, then it deserves our vote.

So come on politicians, don't be shy, if you want us to vote, let's hear your plans to get us out of £160 billion worth of debt. Then we can decide who to vote for.

Richard Webber

(To discuss this or any other topic, please contact me on 01235 534001 or by email:- richard.webber77@ntlworld.com)

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GARDENING TIME

Fresh Fruit

It looks fantastic and nothing tastes as good as fruit that you have grown yourself:- fresh, in jams, bottled or in delicious pies and pastries. Fruit species are generally divided into two major groups:- top fruit (everything that grows on trees including apples, pears, plums, cherries etc) and soft fruit (eg berries, strawberries, raspberries and blackberries). Nearly all the fruit trees grown in our climate are members of the rose family. Nuts are an exception, they're not classified as fruit but a separate group.

Apples grow best in nutrient-rich, free-draining soils which must be slightly acidic. Apple trees are supplied in standard (full-size), half-standard, cordon and bush form. The cordon is ideal for a small garden and also because cordons can yield fruit as early as the third year. There are early, intermediate and late flowering varieties and the harvest times can also vary considerably. One of the best known is 'Cox's Orange Pippin' which stores extremely well. To get a good apple harvest, cross-pollination is generally needed between different apple trees that flower simultaneously. Self pollinating apple trees include 'Summerred' and 'Benoni'.

Pears are only known as cultivated crops (wild ones do not exist). They're closely related to apples, but need more warmth and root deeper. Well-drained, rich, loose soil is required. Pears can be trained very successfully. Some pear varieties have 'alternating years': in one year they will yield a far bigger crop than in another year. This applies particularly to older varieties such as 'Juttepeer'. Pears also produce the best fruit if different varieties can pollinate one another but fruit can also be produced through self-pollination. 'Conference' is a good self-pollinator as well as producing fruit that keeps well.

Plums, on the other hand, usually need a lot of space. The trees can get quite large (depending, on the rootstock onto which they are grafted). 'Victoria' is a very well-known variety with purple fruit the size of hen's eggs. This variety bears so much fruit that the branches often need to be supported to prevent them from snapping. Nearly all plums are excellent self-pollinators, so you therefore only need one tree to get fruit. One variety with a big yield is 'Czar' (ripe in August). This has nice fresh tasting purple-blue fruit which look a bit like damsons. Damsons are the well-known firm, fleshy plums which are used for mixed dried fruit, baking and jams. They are ready for harvesting in August-September. One good variety is 'Italian Damson'.

Cherries, broadly speaking, are divided into two main groups; sweet or sour (or morello). Sweet cherries can grow into large trees on nutrient-rich soil and they need cross-pollination. One tree is therefore not enough to produce fruit unless you opt for a 'duo tree' whereby branches of different varieties are grafted onto one rootstock. Sour cherries, on the other hand, are excellent self-pollinators. They do not bear fruit on the old wood but on annual shoots and must therefore be pruned vigorously (with the added benefit that the trees will remain small and compact).

Once you have been bitten by the bug for producing edible fruit you won't want to give it up!

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YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL CONTACTS :-

Parish (Clerk) (meeting see page 9);
District (VofWH) Richard Webber (534001);
& **Oxfordshire County** Mike & Marilyn Badcock (201810).

DRAYTON COMMUNITY TRUST

The Annual General Meeting of the Trust will be held at 7.30pm on Tues 15th June in the Caudwell Day Centre. The Trust exists to support the development of new village amenities and anyone interested in its work is invited to attend the meeting, or telephone me (Andrew Bax) on 01235 531512.

Drayton Millennium Green Trust

The Annual General Meeting of the Trust will be held at 8pm on Tues 15th June in the Caudwell Day Centre. The Trust is responsible for the care and maintenance of the Millennium Green and anyone interested in its work is invited to attend the meeting, or telephone me (Nick Hamilton) on 01235 559291.

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

A very warm welcome to Matthew & Sue Day, with their children Harry & Ella, who have moved into Rippington Court.

ARE YOU IN THE DARK ? If your streetlight isn't working, or wastes resources by being on in the daytime, then PLEASE report it on the County Council hotline (free) 0800 317802 - help them by giving the town, road, and if possible the number on the post, or the nearest house.

Abingdon Bowls Club will be holding 'Taster Sessions' on Friday May 21st (5 pm - 7:30 pm) and Sunday May 23rd (10 am - 12 noon); all you need are flat shoes or plimsolls. Bowls equipment will be provided free. Just simply come along and enjoy yourself. So, KEEP ACTIVE and come bowling.

The Bowls Club is situated in Albert Park. For info, please call Geoff (525464), John (529023) or June (01865 391400).

FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS

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

The teapot is always at the ready and you can be sure of a warm welcome. Our next two dates are May 1st, and June 4th. If you need transport or further information please give me (Jean Hager) a call on 531558.

DRAYTON ALMSHOUSE CHARITY

A vacancy exists for one of the Drayton Almshouses. Are you interested or do you know of anyone else over the age of 60 who might be interested?

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LISTINGS

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED :- in July & August, for foreign language students, excellent rates, Katie (210290).

CATS - Not the musical, but a fund-raiser for Cats Protection:- May 15th, 8pm, Old Mill Hall, Grove (£10). 'Totally CLIFF & The ShadTones' a Cliff Richard tribute band, tickets from Bretts Chemists, Grove, the Downland Museum, Wantage, or email to maz_mail1@yahoo.co.uk

& CATS again, a recommendation for an excellent new Cattery, in Grove, should your pet(s) need to stay in a 'hotel' for a while. Modern, clean pens, and sympathetic owners, who can also cater for other small pets while you're away. See their website www.thegrovecattery.co.uk, or call 767980.

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Usually the markets run from about 8.30 am until lunchtime, Newbury market is on Sundays (the first one is the largest); it and Abingdon usually has a fishmonger & greengrocers (remember them?!), and excellent stalls for cakes, pies, and various organic meats.

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If by any chance your Area Agent is unable to deliver your Chronicle you can collect a copy from Vickery's shop in the week after normal delivery. Lawrence very kindly keeps a few for us.

STOP PRESS Letter - Charles Botley

Dear Friends, via email

We wish to thank those of you who sent cards and letters to Pearl and family upon the death of Charles on 6th April. Also for the donations to the British Heart Foundation. Another thank you to Revd Sister Josie Midwinter for all her help and support through a difficult and sad time.

Charlie is now at peace, but greatly missed. Pearl and Charlie lived in Drayton for 53 years, and they married 68 years ago.

If any of Pearl's dear friends wish to visit her, she will be pleased to see you.
Pauline Taylor

DRAYTON DIARIES

DIARY FOR MAY

All events held in Drayton Hall unless otherwise stated

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

NB You may now check Hall bookings online :-

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Tues	1	3.00pm	'First Tuesday' (p13)	Church Room
Thurs	6		ELECTION DAY	
Thurs	6	7.30pm	Twinning AGM (p6)	Caudwell DC
Sat	8		Music Evening (p4)	St Peter's
Mon	10	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting (p9)	Caudwell DC
Fri	14		Chronicle Adverts DEADLINE (p2)	
Mon	17	5.15pm	CHRONICLE DEADLINE	Vickery's
Sat	22	10.00am	Playgroup OPEN DAY	School
Sat	22	10.00am	YouthZone Bring/Buy (p6)	Caudwell DC
Sat	22	8.00pm	Hall Anniversary PARTY! (p7)	
Mon	30	7.30pm	Table Tennis AGM (p5)	

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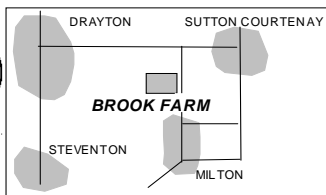
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REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

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 pm	Youth Zone (to 7.30 except Bank Hols)	
7.00 pm	Scouts (Boys/ girls, 8-10 yrs, Tel. 512834)	Steventon Hall
7.00 pm	Table Tennis (Junior coaching - 90 mins)	School
7.15 pm	Drayton Wives Whist (3rd Monday)	Caudwell DC
7.30 pm	Parish Council (1st Monday)	Caudwell DC
7.45 pm	Bell-ringing (for 1½ hours)	St Peter's
7.45 pm	Drayton Drop-In (to 8.45, except Bank Hols)	
8.00 pm	Table Tennis (Senior practice + playing 2 hrs)	School
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	Junior Table Tennis, Age 9+ (for 1 hour)	School
7.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
7.30 pm	Bingo Session	Caudwell Day Centre
7.30 pm	Table Tennis - League	School

THURSDAYS

9.00 am	Foot Clinic (1st Thurs)	Caudwell Day Centre
9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	School Ground Bldg
	followed by lunch club and afternoon session	
9.30 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's Lady Chapel
9.30 am	Parent & Toddler Group	
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
7.30 pm	Women's Institute Meeting (2nd Thurs)	Caudwell DC
7.30 pm	Sequence Dancing. Tel: 531701	
7.30 pm	Table Tennis - League	School

FRIDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	Sch'l Ground Bldg
11.00 am	The Friday Club (fortnightly) 202466	Caudwell Day Centre
7.00 pm	Whist Drive (ACHLoFriends)	Caudwell Day Centre
7.00pm	Choir Practice (alt Fridays - page 4)	St Peter's

SUNDAYS

8.00 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (Family Service 2nd Sunday)	St Peter's
11.15 am	Family Time (1st Sun)	Baptist Church
6.00 pm	Evening Service	Baptist Church

Want help researching your family tree?

Don't have the time, resources or expertise?

Perhaps I can help. Contact me:-

Maureen Hudson

Know your Kith n Kin

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