

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Derek Pooley

Volume 33 No. 8

September 2010

NEW VILLAGE FACILITIES – IN SPACE & CYBERSPACE

A VILLAGE PLAN?

Daniel Scharf

There will be a meeting in the village hall at **2.00 pm on Sunday 19th September 2010** to discuss the possibility of improving the recreation and play facilities in Drayton. Some ideas have been discussed over the years but other schemes have failed to get off the ground. This meeting is to assess the level of support today from those living in Drayton for a project to make it possible for more people to enjoy more activities in the village.

This 'project' will go no further than this letter unless a large number of people can find time on a Sunday afternoon to express their opinions, and from which sufficient volunteers are found to be willing to become part of a 'steering group'.

- This project will not be run by the Parish Council (although some councillors may be involved)

- The steering group will need to have members from many different parts of the village

- Many different skills will be required, as well as enthusiasm

- The new facilities will have to fit within a plan for the wider community, possibly including housing and transport provision.

Let's see if we can get the Hall full to over-flowing to get this 'action plan' for the village off the ground.

A VILLAGE WEBSITE?

Andrew Bax

If you search the web you will very quickly discover that most of our neighbouring villages now have websites of their own, and very interesting they are too. For some time the Parish Council has been considering the feasibility of establishing one for Drayton but has hesitated because its resources are already heavily committed. Recently, however, the Drayton Community Trust, under whose auspices the Drayton Chronicle is published, offered to advance the project and to take financial responsibility for the start-up costs; and, in principle, the Parish Council has agreed to cover the running costs. With that sorted, we can now move on to considering what kind of website we want.

What it might become

For those who live in Drayton, the website could provide a useful directory of local trades and services, including bus times and refuse collection days etc. It could have links to the school website and others in the area and there could be opportunities for village organisations to have their own sections. The Parish Council has already indicated that it would like to post its meeting agenda and minutes on the website and, perhaps, use the facility for an electronic archive. To make it visually interesting it could feature photographs of the village or local events, which are changed periodically.

For those who live outside Drayton, the website could provide an overview of the village, including its history, its many societies and, of course, a map.

What it must NOT become

We already have the Drayton Chronicle which provides an outstanding service to the community. If the website simply became an electronic version it would have failed completely. However, we can reach the world through the web, and must aspire to design and manage a site which takes advantage of the medium to go beyond the restrictions of print. The website could therefore become a natural extension of the Chronicle and the two publications could become mutually supportive.

What now?

We need ideas for content and offers to help run it. In particular, we need to hear from anyone who has had experience in starting and maintaining websites who could advise, or help us get going. Please contact Andrew Bax, at andrew.bax@ntlworld.com or by phone on 531512.



Also in this issue:

- P4: The St Peter's Care Team
- P5: News of the Reservoir Inquiry
- P6: Gardening into Old Age.
- P11: The history of Remembrance Poppies.
- P12: ASB – no magic bullet.
- P13: Volunteers or Professionals.
- P13: When will DAB supplant FM?

DRAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Is in Urgent Need of New Councillors



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your Community
in Drayton
by becoming a
Parish Councillor?*

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email: pause.forthought@googlemail.com
Or Parish Clerk tel. 07909176061
email: draytonclerk@yahoo.co.uk

BOULEVARD SWING

presents an evening of
JAZZ and SWING
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On Sat. 25th Sept. 2010. 7.30 to 9.30pm

Tickets £10 (including a complimentary
glass of wine) available from:

www.Boulevardswingjazz.com

or 01235 531683 or Vickery's Hardware Store,
Drayton. Profits towards Church upkeep.



CHRONICLE INFORMATION

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

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

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

Deadline for advertisements: **17.00 on Friday, 10 September 2010**

Deadline for other contributions: **17.00 on Monday, 13 September**

Printed copies available: **Friday, 24 September 2010**

Key dates for the subsequent three Chronicles:

Issue for	Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available on:
November	18 October 2010	29 October 2010
December	15 November 2010	26 November 2010
Jan/Feb	17 January 2011	28 January 2011

NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

Contributions to and advertisements in the Chronicle are most welcome. Please be sure **always to include your name**, address and (in case clarification is necessary) telephone number. Without names we will usually not print an item at all.

However, please also note that the editor has to ensure that each Chronicle fits exactly into an even number of printed pages. The editor therefore reserves the right to place, edit, shorten or even reject contributions as required to achieve this.

A contribution or advertising request can be sent to us in one of three ways:

1. The best is by **email** to **editor@draytonchronicle.net**. Your contributions should either be embedded in your email as **plain text** or attached as a **rich-text** or **Microsoft Word** document!

Requests for advertisements should not be emailed to the editor but to **advertising@draytonchronicle.net**. Please note that they eventually need to be in Word format, 9cms wide and, for a single block advert, about 4.5cms high

Please head your email and label any attachments with a name distinctive to you, not just 'Chronicle'. Also, make sure the editor or advertising manager acknowledges your email within a few days.

2. If you cannot send your contribution by email, send us a **good quality paper version**, using fairly large, **simple** black typescript, without underlining on white paper, A4 or smaller.

3. Finally, we do accept **hand-written items**. However, in this case **please write the names of people and places in capital letters**. This does save a lot of mistakes.

Paper contributions should either be placed in the Chronicle letter box (outside Vickery's shop on Drayton Green) or posted to Vickery's at 5 The Green, Drayton, Abingdon, OX14 4JA.

After the deadlines listed at the top of this page, only urgent items will be considered for inclusion and then only if emailed or delivered directly to the **Editor's** house by the Wednesday following the Monday deadline.

ADVERTISING RATES

Charge for a single Block Advert (about 9cms x 4.5cms)

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

Advertiser Category:	1	3	6	12
Drayton Resident	£5.00	£14.00	£25.50	£48.00
Non-Drayton Resident	£6.00	£17.00	£31.50	£60.00

Double-size adverts are charged at **twice** the above rates.

All advertising MUST be paid for up-front, either in cash or via a cheque made payable to 'The Drayton Chronicle' and placed in the box at or sent to Vickery's.

If you wish to discuss your requirements please phone **Stephen Fearnley**, the Chronicle's Advertising Manager, on 531347 or email him at **advertising@draytonchronicle.net**.

CHRONICLE LOTTERY

Daphne Samworth, Hon Promoter

RESULTS OF THE AUGUST LOTTERY

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	0254	Mrs. Castle, Abingdon Road	Gerald Redman
£20	0345	P. Stanbridge, 29 S Wick Lane	Keith Clough
£15	0269	Mr. Eno, Oday Hill	Gerald Redman
£10	0002	Mrs. Bachrach, 21 Abingdon Rd	Jayne Henderson
£10	0219	Mr. Hudson, 21 Corneville Rd	Gerald Redman
£10	1786	Mrs. Chung, 13 Lockway	Jenny Pooley
£10	2132	V. Goodenough, 32 Lyford Close	Gerald Redman
£10	1916	C. Yates, 10 Whitehorns Way	Jean Hager
£10	1233	J. Woolley, The Red Lion	Barbara Purbrick
£10	2341	C. White, 2A Eastway	Teresa Burnage

The winning tickets were drawn by staff at the Red Lion from the 2156 tickets sold

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YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor,

May I use the Chronicle to send a message to all my friends in Drayton to say thank you for your support during the past few months preparing for my move. After 34 years of happily living in Drayton I recently made the move to pastures new (but not too far away – Didcot!) I just wanted to say I will miss you all but not too much as you'll still see me in the village frequently!

Yours sincerely,

Ann Hutchings

Dear Editor,

May I send my thanks to all the people in Drayton who bought the Fish Quiz sheets – and are now buying the Transport Quiz. More than 600 Fish Quiz sheets were sold, raising £605 for PACE. 24 completely correct replies were received, including 4 from Drayton, from Helen Brassington, Judith Dunster, Paul Mayhew-Archer and Ian Norris. Sadly neither was successful in the final draw, where ladies from Little Coxwell and Southmoor were picked as the winners.

The Transport quiz is still on the streets so do ask me for a copy.

Judy Henman

Editor's Note: Judy alone sold 430 fish quiz sheets – almost a one-person fund-raising exercise – how do you sell 430?

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

Congratulations to Jemma and Ben Tyler, of Lockway, on the birth in July of Zachariah Benjamin James

VILLAGE FACILITIES

A public meeting – all are welcome
Are you satisfied with the facilities in the village?
Have you ideas for how they could be improved?

Come and make your points at
**Drayton Village Hall on:
Sunday 19 September at 2.00pm**

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NOTICE BOARD

CONTACTING THE DRAYTON PARISH CLERK

If you need to contact David Perrow, the Drayton Parish Clerk, you can either

send an email to draytonclerk@yahoo.co.uk
or telephone 07909 176061

OXFORDSHIRE LEADER

Kate Forrest

LEADER (Liasons Entre Actions de Developement de l'Economie Rurale) is a Europe-wide initiative to encourage local rural communities to work together to strengthen their economies and communities. In English it means 'Links between actions for the development of the rural economy'.

The Southern Oxfordshire LEADER Local Action Group have successfully secured £1.89 million to help support rural communities in southern Oxfordshire. The funding, from UK Government and the EU, will be used to help revitalise and support rural businesses and communities in southern Oxfordshire between now and 2013.

Five strategic themes (or priorities) for the Southern Oxfordshire area are outlined in the programme's local development strategy:

- encouraging enterprise and business innovation
- improving tourism in rural locations and enhancing heritage and landscape
- addressing social exclusion
- skills development in rural areas
- addressing climate change is a cross cutting theme

For more information call me on 01491 823176 or email me at info@southernoxfordshireleader.org.uk



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ST PETER'S CHURCH

Priest in Charge Interregnum
Curate Revd Rosie Bruce.....525284
Churchwardens Mrs Sue Harris848361
 Mrs Val Cross535183
Choir Director Jo Burn
Organist Robert Legg

REGULAR SERVICES

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

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Wed 10.30 am Pebbles (term time only) *Church Room*
 Monday 7.45 pm Bell Ringing Practice *Bell Tower*
 Fridays 7.00 pm Choir Practice (2nd Friday) *Church Room*

CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER

Sat 4th 10.00 am Sale of Fair Trade Goods *Church*
 Sun 5th 11.15 am Sale of Fair Trade Goods *Church*
 Tues 7th 3.00 pm First Tuesday Connections *Church Room*

CHURCH REGISTER

Burial of Ashes:

16th September Olive Thomas

YOU STAY - WE PRAY: SEPTEMBER

29th Aug to 11th: Lockway; Whitehorns Way
 12th to 18th: Comeville Road; Crabtree Lane; Lesparre Close
 19th to 25th: Drayton Road; Milton Road; New Cut Mill; Fisher Close; Marcham Road; Meads close; Rippington Court; Stone Hill
 26th to 2nd October: Steventon Road; Eastway; Eastway MHP



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LETTER FROM ST PETER'S CARE TEAM

During the present interregnum at St Peter's the five groups that make up the Ministry Team have been asked to write a summary description of their group.



The Care Team was founded as part of the Parish Mission to support the Church of England in providing care to the local community with their outreach work. The team is made up of volunteers from members of St Peter's congregation. Much of the work is to offer friendship, help, support and contact to people in the village whose circumstances may have changed and perhaps are feeling lonely, isolated or housebound.

Indeed much of this work happens informally from all of us by being good friends, neighbours and work colleagues. However, specific to the Care Team is helping individuals & groups within the church and local community at specific points of need in their lives by giving emotional, spiritual & practical support by listening. This is done on an informal basis and with liaison with the priest in charge or with the church wardens during this interregnum. Indeed many people tell us how much they enjoy a visit from a 'friendly face' sharing a cup of tea and a chat.

Many of you are aware of First Tuesday Connections which is held in the Church Room on the 1st Tuesday of the month from 3-4.30pm. This has become a popular gathering for anyone but also for those who are feeling, lonely, isolated, bereaved and in need of friendly company, a cup of tea and cake! Speakers are invited from time to time at this group giving helpful advice; for example the fire service, local community support officers and other activities. Jean Hager is the one of the founders of this group and if you would like more information regarding these monthly meetings please contact her on 532558.

Wednesday Pebbles (for babies and toddlers) is run by members of the Care Team and takes place in the Church Room during term times at 10.30am on Wednesdays. It has proved to be popular gathering with activities for the youngsters, some 'singing time' followed by coffee and chat for mum/dad, grandparents or carers of the youngsters. It is a fun time and will be starting again on the 8th September; we look forward to seeing you.

Members of the Care Team meet regularly to discuss many of the supporting areas of their work, to review those who may be going through difficult times and needing support, whilst at other times celebrating good news for others. Another aspect of their work is to remember first anniversary events in people's lives such as baptism or more sadly of someone who has died. St Peter's Care Team members make special anniversary cards and send to the family. Many people have commented how supported they feel by the church when they receive the card.

The Care Team endeavour to offer support, friendship and contact with the community of faith as part of the outreach support within the village of Drayton. Indeed are we not all called to be a 'Loving Family'.

If you would like further details or information on the Care Team or if you know of someone who would like a visit then you can contact me on 531683, or any member of the team whose names appear on the notice board in Church, or one of the Churchwardens.

Shirley Thompson and the Care Team.

BAPTIST CHURCH

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

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

11.15 am Presently only one morning service per month.
A Family service on the first Sunday
6.00 pm Evening Service. Traditional format.

EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME

FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS **Jean Hager**

Are you feeling lonely, isolated or in need of some friendly company? Why not come along to our monthly tea and chat afternoons. They are held on the first Tuesday of the month in St Peter's Church Room from 3.00 pm to 4:30 pm and you are invited to drop in during these times. The teapot is always at the ready and you can be sure of a warm welcome. Our next two dates are the 7th of September and the 5th of October. If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.

LOCAL METHODIST WORSHIP

High Street, Milton
Sunday Service: 10.30 am

Local contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409



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GARD

Nick Thompson

This is the final report relating to proceedings at the Public Inquiry which ended on 18th Aug with the Closing Submissions from the main groups taking part.

I have given below a very brief summary of each submission, but at the time of submission of this copy Thames Water had not yet made their statement. This will undoubtedly contain rebuttals of almost everything others have put forward in evidence against their Water Resources Plan. The thrust of most of the objections to the Thames Water plan concerned failure to justify the proposed Upper Thames Reservoir on the basis of need, and failure properly to consider the alternatives in the event of future long term demand.

Wren Wooster made a brief and forceful statement, as an individual, stressing the adverse impact of the reservoir on the local community and the water which would be released by the closure of Didcot "A" Power Station in about 2015.

The Whitewater Vale Group (River Lodden) were concerned about abstractions from the river which meant that over 60% of the flow was sometimes treated effluent. They were keen to see reductions in abstractions. (An Environment Agency issue).

CPRE, which has been highly supportive of GARD throughout, directed their criticisms towards the environmental and landscape damage a reservoir would cause, stressing the severe limitations of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) provided by Thames Water.

The Consumer Council for Water concentrated on their concern that compulsory metering would mitigate against the poorest people and said some legislation was needed to protect this group.

The Cotswold Canal Trust summarized the benefits and practical sense in restoring this already partially repaired heritage waterway, and then using the canal for Severn Thames water transfers. The cost would be about one quarter of the £1Bn estimated for the Abingdon reservoir.

GARD (45 pages of submission) set out the case most readers will know well.

There is no need for the reservoir before 2035, An addition to demand of 100Ml/d Sustainability Reductions included by Thames Water is unjustified. Scare tactics by Thames Water about fines resulting from the impact of the EU Water Framework Directive are unjustified and the company has failed properly to consider the alternatives to a reservoir. This is on the GARD Website.

OCC and VWH. (21 pages) The local Councils combined their evidence. They summarized their strong objections to the SAE which was inadequate and strongly biased towards the Abingdon reservoir in content, omissions and the overall presentation of charts and criteria.

The Environment Agency (82 pages) concentrated on the failure of Thames water to follow EA guidelines and said the plan was not fit for purpose or robust, with opaque judgements, and the preferred option not demonstrated to be the best.

Thames Water squirmed throughout but will no doubt bite back!(125 pages).We will now have to await the Inspectors Report due some time in the next few months.

LEISURE TIME



GARDENING INTO OLD AGE **Derek Pooley**

The Chronicle Team is delighted to send congratulations to Bill Coombes of Steventon Road (above) who reached 90 on August the 8th. Bill continues to take great delight in his garden, packed with flowers and the models he has made, and he always enters the 'Sovereign Vale Garden Competition' which covers the whole of the Vale of White Horse. In 2008 and 2009 he didn't win but was highly commended both years. So keep your fingers crossed for him this year – his garden has been inspected by the judges but he doesn't yet know the result.

Editor's Note: The black and white printing can't do justice to the riot of colour Bill creates, but it does hint that gardening can keep aged joints flexible!

HEATWAVE

by Doggerelle

The other day whilst in the town
I met by chance nice Mrs. Brown.
In bright sunshine we had a chat,
Talked of this and talked of that.
She says she hopes the sun will stay
Until her daughter's wedding day.

I later met old Charlie Barden
Whose passion is his lovely garden.
He says he'd had enough of sun,
He'll be glad when summer's done.
His beans won't swell, his lawn is brown,
He wants to see some rain come down.

A neighbour then I came upon,
A buxom soul called Mrs. John.
She says she cannot bear the heat,
It gives her awful swollen feet.
It makes her shoes feel far too tight,
She finds she cannot sleep at night.

I met a chap upon the bus
Who moaned and made an awful fuss.
The heat caused dust that made him wheeze
And allergies that made him sneeze.
Bring back the cold and damp he said
Or he'll be taking to his bed.

A child I spoke with loved the sun
When at the beach and having fun.
He liked to play indoors in rain
And then enjoyed his model train.
But best of all he liked the snow,
The cold made nose and fingers glow.

Some like it cool, some like it hot,
Some like the rain and some do not.
The best solution to my mind,
If science it could only find,
Would be for gentle rain each night
And every morning sunshine bright.

Editor's Note: Readers will deduce that 'Doggerelle' sent us this poem during the hot spell earlier in the summer!

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ART GROUP GENESIS

Cicely Willis-Dixon

Seventeen years ago Harry Bisby set up a meeting to discuss ways to increase the revenue of the Caudwell Day Centre which was suffering from a huge insurance premium increase with little income coming in at that time. Amongst the ideas proposed, Shirley Thomas and I offered to start an Art Group. This took off in April 1993 and of our current number of eighteen, seven are from the original group. Over the years we have had great success with our exhibitions and sales and with the other activities started at the same time and some very generous donations this has helped to make the Day Centre self supporting. We enjoy our Tuesday gatherings (so much so we now have a waiting list) although it has to be said it is more of a fun social afternoon than serious painting!! The picture above, taken last month, shows our group enjoying an end of term lunch. We look forward to the start of a new term on 7th September.

Note: From our left, standing are George Butler, Barbara Purbrick, Gwen Stirling, Brian Lewis, Jackie Walker, Daphne Samworth, Cicely Willis-Dixon, Margaret Long, Jean Fernihough, Shirley Thomas, Gwen Parkin, Eric Curtis and Eileen Hancock. Kneeling are Daphne Pointer, Judy Henman and Sally Dixon.

Want help researching your family tree?

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MORE LEISURE

DAMASCUS YCAT Fun Day

Derek Pooley

This year the young people of the DAMASCUS youth project organised a 'Fun Day' at Drayton Hall, as part of their YCAT (Youth & Community Acting Together) project. The weather was good and it was obvious to everyone who came that young and old (well older anyway) were working/playing together.



Youth



and
Community

Because the Fun Day was only one day before this Chronicle goes to the printers this piece is very short. More next time?

SUNDIAL FAQ

Derek Pooley

Chronicle Editors have many nightmares, like forgetting to include an important advert; somehow corrupting a contributor's text; or having enough material for just an odd number of pages! When the latter happens we have either to delete a whole page - difficult and often annoying for our contributors - or somehow create an extra page, since all Chronicles have to have exactly an even number of pages for printing. When I take the creation route, articles like this one are sometimes the consequence!

Since the sundial on the Millennium Green was up-graded a couple of years ago some people have asked me why it hardly ever reads the same time as their clocks and watches.

There are four contributors to the difference:

1. During the summer (from the end of March to the end of October) we move our clocks forward by one hour to what we call British Summer Time. All sundials are 'an hour behind' then.
2. British clock time is based on solar (sundial) time at Greenwich, roughly 5 minutes ahead of Drayton solar time because we are some 90 km west of Greenwich.
3. Sundials do not keep good time throughout the year. Largely because the earth goes round the sun every year in an elliptical orbit rather than in a circle, solar days are not all 24 hours long. In the autumn, they are up to 20 seconds **shorter** than 24 clock hours, so sundials gradually overtake clocks, reading some 16 minutes fast by the end of October. In contrast, in December solar days are 30 seconds **longer** than 24 clock hours and by the time we reach mid-February sundials are 14 minutes slow. These changes are entirely predictable, but few of us carry in our pockets the so-called 'Equation of Time' to allow us to make the corrections.
4. No sundial is constructed with perfect precision. Small ones mounted on a pedestal can be made precisely and can be properly positioned on a nice sunny day after the construction is finished. Large ones like ours, set in concrete on a cloudy day, are harder to get **exactly** right, with the steel-tube 'gnomon' aligned **exactly** north, at **exactly** the correct angle to the horizontal, set so that it passes through the circle of numbers **exactly** in its centre. Ours has an error of about 5 minutes, slow compared with what it should be. ⇨



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⇨ The overall result is that our sundial does occasionally agree with modern clocks (see picture) but only occasionally. You must imagine you are a medieval peasant and it's the only clock you have access to; it will tell you how much longer you have to work with your back aching and longing for a rest!

FOR GARDENERS

HARVEST TIME

Sara Southey

It's harvest time; one of my favourite times of year! That age old but very appropriate phrase 'fruits of your labour' is never more true than now. All that hard work we've put into our gardens over the last year is now paying off.

In the flower garden, we've had such a brilliant show of hollyhocks and roses this year. It's been a delight as I go around my gardens looking at such wonderful displays. I hope it's giving you as much joy as it is the passers by. Even the lack of green lawns hasn't taken the edge off the beautiful displays. One thing I have noticed is the pots. Some people are now planting for the seasons and in particular this very dry summer we've had. You can really notice the plants that have been put in the correct places as they are thriving. This year I planted pots and pots of geraniums which really don't mind the lack of water we've had in August and they are so stunning that I couldn't bear to take off all the flowers before I went away on my holidays! Let the postie enjoy them instead.

The vegetables this year are another story. Although most of us plant directly into the ground, there hasn't been enough water really for them to thrive to their full potential. So, like most people, we've had to supplement their water. I've lost track of the number of watering cans that have been trudged up and down the garden to keep them alive. However, the amazing thing about plants is their ability to do their thing no matter what. My vegetables seem to be fruiting a bit later than normal but fruiting they are. Although I have lost several sowings of lettuce and spinach as they grow too fast and bolt, setting their seed before I've had a chance to pick and eat them! But my fruit trees and bushes are full. I've not seen such a crop of apples on my trees since I planted them 4 years ago. Any one have a great recipe for scrumpy? Please let us know!


As we clear away the summer and early autumn crops, it's time to start thinking about what to put in for winter! I know, I mentioned the W word! But there is no reason why the vegetable plots can't be full of lovely winter crops. The more forward thinking of you will already be prepared for sprouts and curly kale (one of the most underrated but scrummy vegetables). Onions and garlic can be going in shortly. But with a bit of care and protection, you can grow salad crops all through winter too.

And don't forget, as it's harvest time, the produce shows will be happening. I'll be at the Sutton Courtenay show on the 4th September. Get your entries in and I hope to see you there.

Happy Gardening!



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ALL AROUND

BABY AND TODDLER GROUP **Vicky Cotterell**

Quick note to hope that all our little ones and parents/carers are enjoying the summer break and looking forward to all meeting up again on Thursday 2 September 9.30 am.

Also any new friends can contact Vicky on 07779 243290 or Cherry on 01235 202600 for more details.

Happy holidays, see you soon.

COMMUNITY POLICING **Thames Valley Police**

There is a continuing problem with a minority of young people in Drayton, including damage to the Village Hall. The neighbourhood team and Thames Valley Police take this very seriously. We responded by attending Drayton in larger numbers recently and dealing with the offenders very robustly. Several over 18's were given dispersal notices and had their alcohol taken from them. One person who objected was arrested and issued with a £80 FPN for public order offences. Several of the younger members of the group were taken home to their parents. If the law continues to be broken this will continue to be our response.

Good News Stories:

On 1st July PCSO Sandra Syphas and her colleague Laura gave a talk to Years 3 & 4 at Drayton Primary School about the importance of staying safe when out and about, particularly as the holidays are here.

They also completed the cycling proficiency course with 10 out of the 12 passing the test on the 7th July, and on the 22nd July at the Leavers' Assembly they presented them with their certificates.

PCSOs Lisa and Laura went to the Drayton School Summer Fete on the 10th July which was a great success.

taken from www.thamesvalley.police.uk

BOWLS CLUB

Roll Up

The Walley Wiegthman Triples was the latest internal competition to be played, and going through to the final will be Fred Long, Carol Smith and Jane Pimm who will play Val Locke, June Hyde and Anna Bartlett on finals day which will be 5th December. The next internal competition will be a bowls drive for "The Attwood Cup". This will take place on September the 5th. The 'John Berry Fours' internal league will start at the end of August, taking place on Monday's and Wednesday's and running through till December

The summer league has ended with the club only fielding one team; it was disappointing to finish in mid table. We say this quite regularly but we seem unable to pick up points away from home, having won all our home games which gave us the mid table position.

In the winter league we were unable to field a team for the evening league, but will be entering two teams for the afternoon triple league and this will get underway in October. We will be looking to achieve what 'The Wasps' did last year and that was winning the league; this year 'The Wasps' and 'The Hammers' will be contesting for the title.

YOUTH ZONE

Naomi Broomfield

We hope you have all had a fabulous holiday and hope to see you at the next youth zone session on Monday September 13th at 6.30pm till 8pm. Hopefully the good weather will be with us and we can play some games outside but if not then we will have the usual table tennis, pool etc inside. On the 13th we are also planning to make Pizza's - these are usually delicious and popular! Other planned activities are on 20th Sept Bingo and on 27th Sept a Quiz night - both with prizes!

Please come along and join us - it would be lovely to see you. We are still desperate for volunteers so if you can offer as little as one night per month please get in contact with me on 532248.

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MORE ALL AROUND

W.I.

Shirley Thomas

After one of the longest dry spells of the summer, we were all very disappointed that rain stopped our August walk around the gardens of three of our members. However, we rose above it and had a very enjoyable social evening with a delicious bring and share supper. We are starting to plan our big ninetieth birthday and would be delighted to hear from any ex W.I. member who would like to join in the celebration on December 4th, please let us know on 01235 524429. We also have our Wit and Wisdom quiz to look forward to in November. Do book a table and enjoy a really fun evening. Our next meeting is a talk by Martin Woodgett telling us all about The Cutty Sark.

DRAYTON WIVES

Ann Hutchings

On a lovely sunny morning 41 Wives and friends set off for the Royal British Legion Poppy Factory at Richmond. A good journey meant we arrived an hour early so we had time to spend by the river and find a cup of coffee in various establishments before meeting again to have lunch in the staff restaurant before a talk on the history of poppy making and then proceeded on a tour of the factory. We were able to talk to the staff about the work they were doing which proved very interesting.

The first poppies sold for remembrance were produced in 1921 in France at a factory employing widows of the Great War. A total of £1600 was raised.

In 1922 a factory was started in this country by Major George Howson MC employing 5 men which rose to 50 in a few months. Twelve million poppies were made that year and £2450 was raised. →

→ The first poppy wreaths were made in 1926, now 100,000 are made each year and in addition another 3000 wreaths are made for royalty and regimental purposes. I do not think it had occurred to any of us that one man spends all year making royal wreaths and corsages. We watched him making wreaths of the poppies not only for Remembrance Day but to be laid on royal visits abroad. Most of the royal wreaths take 4 to 5 days to make, except The Prince of Wales which, because of the feathers, takes 2½ weeks.

Major Howson also started the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey in 1928 with ex-Servicemen from the factory and this is still made by factory staff.

The workforce at the factory is now 40 and they are predominantly disabled ex-servicemen or their dependants. In addition 60 home workers assemble poppies in their own homes. Most of these are house bound by sickness or disability.

It was a very enjoyable and thought provoking day.

Dates for the diary

Monday 13th – COFFEE: Barbara, Pat, Kathy, Mavis

Monday 20th – WHIST: Helen Sainsbury

Tuesday 21st – VISIT to Thames Valley Police Museum, Sulhamstead

Wednesday 29th – MEETING: Sandra Syphas PCSO, Drayton

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Pearl Stanbridge

Our annual dinner will be held at the Fox Inn on Friday 19 November, at 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm. Ring Pat Bucklan on 831499 for a booking and we look forward to seeing you there.

The next Committee meeting will be held on Monday 20 September at 8.00 pm.

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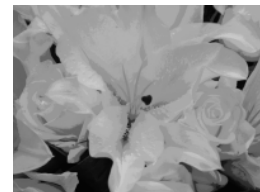
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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Williams

Report of meeting held on Monday 2nd August 2010.



Due to recent resignations and summer holidays, the Parish Council was again somewhat short-handed, with five Councillors attending this month's meeting, together with Mike Badcock, our County Councillor. There were however 14 members of the public present, plus Liz Hayden (Shared Community Safety Manager, covering the Vale and South Oxfordshire) and Roger Foster, Jim Abraham and PC Keith Morton from

Thames Valley Police.

As the above-mentioned four visitors were all present to discuss the ongoing problem of anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the village by some young people, it should be mentioned at the outset that a much more positive side to the activities of young people in Drayton was also in evidence at the meeting. Rita Atkinson introduced Darren, Grace, Carl, Henry and Jack, five young members of the DAMASCUS Youth Project, who each spoke about their part in organising the forthcoming Damascus Fun Day, due to take place on Sat 21st August, at the Recreation Ground. This impressive event was billed in last month's Chronicle as being an 'action-packed afternoon' for the whole family, including live music, tug of war, a football tournament, bouncy castle and refreshments. A particularly interesting feature was the 'Young People's Wonderwall of Achievement', in which Drayton's youngsters are invited to display examples of their achievements, in art, sport, hobbies, or whatever. Although by the time this issue of the Chronicle is delivered, the Fun Day will have come and gone, hopefully it will have been a great success, reflecting the hard work that the young members of the committee have undoubtedly put in. It was explained that the idea arose when the young people realised that a Community Day was not planned for this year, so they decided to organise their own, showing commendable initiative.

In the light of such enterprise, it may seem churlish to harp on about anti-social behaviour, but it is a depressing fact that a very small number of young people in Drayton, not necessarily all from the village, continue to engage in littering, petty vandalism, and on occasion, downright dangerous and spiteful vandalism (as happened recently at the BMX track) that causes wholly disproportionate trouble and expense to put right. Much of the meeting was taken up with explanation by our visitors from TVP as to what the police and various partnership agencies are doing at the moment and can do in the future; and there ensued a lengthy debate as to whether deterrence and detection of ASB are the best way forward, or whether greater investment in youth services would be more productive. As ever, there are no easy answers, and certainly no 'magic bullet', although the solution probably lies in some combination of all of these approaches. Rita Atkinson commented that DAMASCUS had concentrated all its July manpower on Drayton, and that what was needed was more contact between the young people and the Drayton community in general. Richard Webber suggested that an additional youth worker, dedicated to Drayton, might be hired by the PC to work as liaison between the community and the young people. This idea met with a mixed response, but Richard emphasised that no criticism of the work that DAMASCUS is already doing was intended; on the contrary, recognising the value of the work that is being done, this could be a way for the Parish Council to help out, and support the existing project workforce.

Daniel Scharf reported that the long-established need for additional recreational facilities in Drayton was being pursued again, and that following a meeting with Roger Davis from OPFA

(Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association), he had been advised that the Parish Council should seek community support for a comprehensive plan which, rather than looking at funding for a single extra football pitch, would aim to improve recreational facilities over a wider range, e.g. a Shared Use Games Area, all weather strip and pavilion for cricket, extra play equipment. In order for a plan of this scope to be progressed, it will be necessary first to demonstrate that it has support from the widest possible cross-section of the community. Secondly, sufficient numbers of the community need to attend the initial meeting to establish their interest and form a viable steering group. This will be held in the Village Hall at 2.00 pm on Sunday 19th September.

All are welcome to attend the above meeting, as of course they are to attend the next Parish Council meeting, which will be on Monday 6th September 2010, at 7.30pm, in the Caudwell Day Centre, Gravel Lane, Drayton.

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THE BIG SOCIETY

Richard Webber



Ever eager to climb on board with any new idea, if only to decide if the idea has any merit, I have been wrestling with this one over the past few weeks. Power to the people, give locals more say over what affects them, get rid of over-prescriptive government telling us what to do and monitoring how we do it, fewer quangos or health and safety constraints; it all sounds good election-winning stuff.

Of course there are problems. Ask locals if they would like more housing, the answer will generally be either a firm 'no' or a 'yes, but not here'. Asking for local volunteers to take over many of the roles currently carried out by paid public servants may well empower the locals, but it does not go down well when highly paid politicians preach volunteerism to those who have been volunteering for years and who are unpaid. A point well made in a recent letter to the Abingdon Herald from another Drayton resident.

It seems to me society falls into three categories:

1. There are those who don't, won't or, for good reasons, can't volunteer. One could waste a lot of time appealing to this group.

2. There are those who would or could be persuaded to volunteer, but who come home from a long, hard day's work tired and at present give their remaining energy to their families. Pressing them into volunteering, might do more harm to family life than good for local society.

3. There is a third group, who already volunteer for many things. I could draw up a list of at least 30 such people in this village. I am quite sure there are many, many more who give their time for the good of local community life but completely out of sight. School Governors, Parish Councillors, Society Secretaries and Treasurers, those who work with the young, and those who work with the old are all wonderful people and, in many cases, it's the same people who surface. Form a new community group and it's the same old faces and same young faces who show up. People like them have been volunteering for ever. None of us, and particularly politicians, should be chastising such people into giving even more.

So what's the solution? Is the Big Society just another nice idea, dreamed up by an incoming reformist government, ultimately doomed to failure because it does not take into account simple reality? The more I get sucked into the business of politics, the more I realise that you can do very little without money. It may sound strange but I do not believe that volunteerism can work until some money is pumped into the idea.

In this village, we already have a paid Village Caretaker, paid Police Support Officers and paid Youth workers. It doesn't mean that volunteers are excluded. On the contrary, with paid professional backing, it is often easier to get volunteers – litter pickers, youth zone organisers and Parish Councillors – if only because less is required of the volunteers and they have professional backing. Let's face it, being a Parish Councillor, a School Governor or looking after other people's children is hard work and too often un-thanked anyway. Asking them to continue to volunteer whilst giving them no resources to do anything just drives them away.

People may not be aware that, at present, our Parish Council is the only local authority that is not capped. Of our total annual rates bill, each household pays between £30 and £40 per year to the parish Council. If you lived a mile and a half down the road in Abingdon, you would be paying more than twice that amount. (This is because Abingdon Town Council has to maintain many ancient buildings and facilities. These facilities are also enjoyed by the people of Drayton, but we do not pay for them).

Through our Parish Council we have the power to raise quite large sums of money, should we chose to. ➔

WESTMINSTER COLUMN

Ed Vaizey



A number of you have asked where my monthly column is – I'm very flattered to be remembered. Because my time is slightly more pressured, I hope you will accept in future a general part covering my work as a minister, followed by my activities near you in the constituency. Please let me know how you like this arrangement.

In my last general column I forgot to put in the most controversial aspect of my job as a minister – digital radio switchover. My recent speech on this generated a huge amount of correspondence, such that my Department missed all its response targets for the month. As usual the papers mis-reported it, so let me set out what I actually said. Europe is moving towards digital radio, so I have put in place plans to make it easier for people to listen on digital radio - this means increasing coverage and lowering the prices of digital radios. But most people still listen to FM, so we have not set a date for the switchover to digital and will do so only when most people are listening to digital, and when digital coverage is as good as FM. Some people think this could be as soon as 2015 but I have made it clear we won't go ahead unless the listening public are with us. There you have it - please feel free to get in touch on any specific concerns you have.

In terms of a surreal experience, I got to announce the winner of the UK City of Culture (the first such award) on a roof top in Liverpool, live on the One Show (a lot of people seem to have seen it). I then flew to visit the winning city, which is Derry/Londonderry, a beautiful but of course troubled place on the western shore of Northern Ireland. I have never been involved in a media scrum before, but there were lots of cameras and reporters. Nor have I ever enjoyed, if that is the right word, armed protection. I hope the city is able to make the most of this new and unique opportunity.

Locally, I remain as busy as ever. Near Drayton, I have been to Oxford Instruments to celebrate their Queen's Award for Industry; visited Didcot Power Station, which incidentally may close as early as 2013; visited the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory and the Diamond Synchrotron; had a meeting with Didcot First; been to a school concert in Wantage and opened Wallingford Rugfest. Housing development is continuing to cause concern, with many people disappointed by the quality of the proposals put forward for both Wallingford and Grove. Sadly developers do not in my view put in enough work to make their proposals special or exciting and I will be seeking meetings with them to hear more about what their plans are.

I can be contacted at vaizeye@parliament.uk; at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA; on 020 7219 6350



➔ Such money could pay for (for example) another youth worker, a visitor for the elderly, extra help to keep the village tidy etc. etc. Such people would, of course be answerable to the people of Drayton through the Parish Council. I suspect many more people would be much more interested in the activities of the Parish Council, if they felt it had more power over their lives. If the locals do not like what the Parish Council is doing, they can vote them out of office and vote in a new lot.

This is the Big Society at work – locals taking local control – but with one important added element – cash. Big ideas are all very well, but I wonder if the politicians, and we, need to put our money where our mouths are.

Remember, you can always contact me by email to richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or by phoning 534001.

DRAYTON DIARY

FOR SEPTEMBER

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

Regular Events are listed opposite

Sat	3	Private Party	
Mon	6	7.30 pm Parish Council	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
Sat	11	7.00 pm Sequence Dancing	
Sun	12	Private Children's Party	
Mon	13	9.15 am Chronicle Lottery deadline	<i>Vickery's</i>
		5.15 pm Chronicle copy deadline	<i>Vickery's box</i>
Sun	19	Village Facilities Meeting	
Mon	20	Hall Management Committee	

AUCTION OF PROMISES

Saturday 16th October 2010

6.30 for 7.00 pm at Drayton School

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REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

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MONDAYS

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

TUESDAYS

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

WEDNESDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
11.00 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 15 min)	<i>Haywards Rd</i>
11.20 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	<i>The Cross</i>
11.45 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 15 min)	<i>Lyford Close</i>
2.00 pm	Whist - now each week	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
2.00 pm	Drayton Wives (last Wednesday)	
2.15 pm	Badminton	
6.15 pm	Brownies	
6.15 pm	Cubs (Boys / girls, 8-9 yrs, Tel. 512834)	<i>Steventon Hall</i>
7.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
7.30 pm	League Table Tennis	<i>School</i>
7.30 pm	Bingo Session	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>

THURSDAYS

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

FRIDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
11.00 am	Friday Club (fortnightly) 202466	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
7.00 pm	Choir Practice	<i>St Peter's</i>

SUNDAYS

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

THE CHANNEL 4 TIME TEAM NEAR US!

Sutton Courtenay Local History Society presents;
A LOCAL ANGLO-SAXON ROYAL VILLA

In a talk by Helena Hamerow
Professor of Archaeology at Oxford University

On Thursday 30th September 2010

at 7.30 pm

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, SUTTON COURTENAY

All welcome

Members £2 - Non members £3

Printed by DataPrint,
11a West Way, Botley, Oxford.