

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Derek Pooley

Volume 33, No.11

December 2010

THE GIFT DILEMMA

by Doggerelle

Some weeks before Christmas I ask of my love
"What can I buy you, my dear turtle dove?"
"You know me" he says, "There is nought I require",
And thus my request no thought doth inspire.

So I'll buy him a book he may well never read,
But that is a risk if he just won't give heed
To the heart-felt enquiries of his kindly wife,
Who has struggled each Christmas throughout married life
To find him a gift that will really give pleasure
And help him to fill his few hours of leisure.

One year in despair I bought him smart socks,
But he said he would rather have had a tool-box,
A surprise from a man who dislikes DIY,
So next year I gave tools, but he'd hoped for a tie!
On another occasion I chose DVDs,
But he'd set his heart on some classic CDs.



So next year I thought "Pyjamas he needs",
But he'd wanted a spade and some packets of seeds.
A great big surprise once I bought him two kittens,
But top of his wish list had been furry mittens!
I chose him a picture next, that was a waste,
For the style of the artist was not to his taste.

He's suggested for next year headphones for each ear
So my nagging requests he won't even hear.
And if he can't hear I'm relieved of the task
Of trying to please him ---I shan't even ask!

Simple Gifts

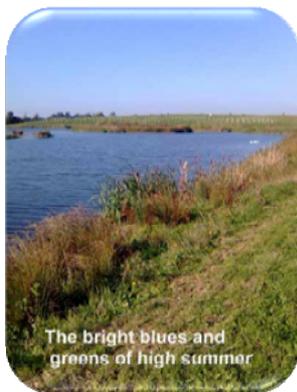
Wise men say that one key to happiness is appreciating the delightful all around us, the things that we so easily ignore. Drayton isn't a picture-book village but there are many places where it's interesting and beautiful.



The vibrant petals of early summer



The flaming leaves of Autumn



The bright blues and greens of high summer



The long shadows of winter



The new life of spring



The peaceful watch over time and weather

MERRY CHRISTMAS

To All Our Readers
From the Chronicle Team

Candlelight Carol Service

Drayton Hall at 7.30pm
Sunday 5th December

Music by Abingdon Town Band
And Wallingford Hand Bell Ringers

Mince pies, tea and coffee
Come and join us!



Free admission Collection for Action for Children

Also in this issue:

- p2: Christmas Lottery Results
- p3: The Bus Pass Controversy
- p3: Four Roads need Chronicle Agents
- p6: DAMASCUS Youth Achievements
- p7: Operation Maverick launched
- p7: Planting Norman's Oak
- p11: Genesis of the Vibrant Petals
- p12: Clearing Pavements of Snow
- p13: Wash n' Squash is the thing to do



CHRONICLE INFORMATION

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

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

Distributors: **Eve & Barry Sharp, 25 Steventon Road (526939)**

Deadline for advertisements: **17.00 on Friday, 14 January 2011**

Deadline for other contributions: **17.00 on Monday, 17 January**

Printed copies available: **Friday, 28 January 2011**

Key dates for the subsequent three Chronicles:

Issue for	Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available on:
March	14 February 2011	25 February 2011
April	14 March 2011	25 March 2011
May	11 April 2011	29 April 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 be emailed not to the editor but to **advertising@draytonchronicle.net**. Please note that they eventually need to be in Word format, 9cms wide and, for a single block advert, about 4.5cms high

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

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

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

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

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

ADVERTISING RATES

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

---- Number of Inserts ----

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

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

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

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

CHRONICLE LOTTERY

Daphne Samworth, Hon Promoter

RESULTS OF THE NOVEMBER LOTTERY:

CASH

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	0050	Mr. Pitts, 63 Abingdon Road	Jayne Henderson
£20	0235	Mr. Kimber, 9 Cornville Road	Gerald Redman
£15	2468	J. Greenaway, 15 Eastway MHP	Teresa Burnage
£10	0764	Mr. John Betteridge, 52 Abingdon Road	Jennie Stevens
£10	1454	Mr. Jones, 37A Steventon Road	Jackie Walker
£10	0337	L. Bruce, 16A Sutton Wick Lane	Beryl Dawson
£10	0125	Carol Arnold, 95 Abingdon Road	Carol Arnold
£10	1459	Mrs. Sharp, 25 Steventon Road	Jackie Walker
£10	1766	A. Poole, 18 Lockway	Sue Ash
£10	0602	J Oliver, Rippington Court	Marg'et Armstrong

BOTTLES OF WINE

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
1st	1797	C. Thornhill, 40 Lockway, Drayton	Sue Ash
2nd	1899	Mr. Mace, 15 Lockway, Drayton	Jenny Pooley
3rd	1347	K. Purbrick, 4 Caudwell Close	Barbara Purbrick
4th	1155	Mr. Martin, 1 High Street	Mary Alexander
5th	1111	Mr. Thouless, 33 High Street	Mary Alexander
6th	2552	Mrs. Raines, 2 Newman Lane	Jean Oliver
7th	2092	J. Lester, 17 Whitehorns Way	Trudi Buckner
8th	1425	Mrs. Harvey, 20 Steventon Road	Judy Henman
9th	0348	Mrs. Webb, 9 Sutton Wick Lane	Beryl Dawson
10th	1188	Mr. Mole, 26 High Street	Mary Alexander

BOXES OF BISCUITS

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
1st	1069	C. Dewar, 3 Cheers Farm	Margaret Long
2nd	2445	E. Morgan, 6 Eastway	Teresa Burnage
3rd	2182	Mrs. Chick, 76 Whitehorns Way	Daphne Barrand
4th	1948	Mr. Tyler, 35 Lockway	Jenny Pooley
5th	0748	J. Buckingham, 48 Abingdon Road	Jenny Stevens
6th	1057	R. Blogg, 46 High Street	Margaret Long
7th	1437	Mrs. Messenger, 32 Steventon Road	Judy Henman
8th	1316	Glyn Woolley, The Red Lion	Barbara Purbrick
9th	0521	G. Logan, 34 Sutton Wick Lane	Beryl Dawson
10th	2588	S. Parsons, 5, Newman Lane	Jean Oliver

The winning tickets were drawn by Staff and Clients at Sabina's Hairdressers from the 2381 tickets sold

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YOUR LETTERS

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2010

A very big 'thank you!' to everyone in Drayton for the amazing response to this year's Poppy Appeal. We have got back most of the house-to-house collections and almost every one we have counted is between 20% and 30% up on last year. We still have many tins to be counted but our 'invigilator' cannot come in until over the weekend, so I'm afraid the total won't be known until near the end of November, too late for this Chronicle.

We will put up the totals on all the village Notice Boards so that you won't have to wait until the January/February issue to know what Drayton raised.

Very many thanks to all the loyal collectors for their hard work, and a big welcome to the new volunteers who collected for the first time this year. And many thanks to everyone for their generosity.

Peter & Diana Hasting

Dear Editor

The family of Edith Hale are sorry to say that she passed away at Abingdon Court Care Home on 23rd October. We would like to thank all friends and neighbours for all their kindness whilst living in Whitehorns Way.

From

Iris, Barbara and Family

Dear Editor

At long last both village-entry speed signs are working correctly. Steventon Rd now comes on at 33 mph., a situation not seen for 5 years. After 4 visits, the Abingdon Rd sign has been replaced; ingress of water was the reason of its failure.

Regards

Andrew Beacroft

Dear Sir,

So Richard Webber thinks that young students are one of the sections of society that are taking their share of the pain, but appeals to the elderly to bear their share, by giving up their bus pass perk.

Let me remind him that the bulk of the assets that saved this country was the accrued savings built up over 40, 50, even 60 years of prudent living, pension funds, Building Society savings. Whereas we were receiving a reasonable rate of return of around 5% - 6% for our life's work, this has now plummeted to less than 1% in some cases, with many hundreds of thousands of elderly widows and widowers relying on this interest just to pay their heating, power bills.

To many millions, the bus pass gives them a chance to travel to meet their friends in town, get to the Super Market, without it many would be unable to afford the bus fare. Unlike the young of today, with their 'we want it all NOW' culture; the latest iPod, the booze culture. No, we, the elderly, many of us gave 2 years of our lives in National Service for a mere 28 shillings a week, the real elderly gave many years of service to their country in war, they were 'called up', many gave their lives, many wives gave their husbands, mothers, their sons.

The elderly 'paid in advance' for this so called perk; we are still paying.

Brian Eastoe

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CHRONICLE INFORMATION

Gareth Davies

The end of the year brings some more changes to the agents and some rounds that have become vacant.

We would like to thank Jasmine Humphrey for her brilliant contribution as agent for Steventon Road (beyond the A34) and Manor Close. She is stepping down so she can concentrate on her GSCEs and we are very grateful for all her work. Jenny Pooley is stepping down after many years service as a Chronicle agent for Lockway East. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Jenny and we are grateful to Christine Sadler for taking over this round. We would also like to thank Daphne Barrand for all her efforts as agent for Whitehorns Way. She steps down after many years and we are very grateful for all she has contributed.

The following rounds are now vacant and I would be pleased to hear from anyone who thinks this is something they would like to be involved with.

Whitehorns Way - numbers 40 - 80

Hilliat Fields - numbers 17 - 36

Steventon Road - south of the A34

Manor Close & Abingdon Road (5-13)

Delivering the chronicle can be a good way to get to know your neighbours so give me a ring on 01235 529510 if you would like to chat about what is involved. In the meantime if you wish to pick up a chronicle and buy lottery tickets then a small supply is kindly kept in Vickery's store.

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)	<i>Church Room</i>
Monday	7.45 pm	Bell Ringing Practice	<i>Bell Tower</i>
Fridays	7.00 pm	Choir Practice	<i>Church Room</i>

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

Tues 7th 3.00 pm First Tuesday Connections *Church Room*

Note: It is with regret that we will no longer be selling Fair Trade goods at church, but hope that you will still support Fair Trade through the supermarkets and local shops.

YOU STAY - WE PRAY: DECEMBER

28 Nov to 11 Dec: Lockway; Whitehorns Way. 12 to 25: Cornville Road; Crabtree Lane; Lesparre Close. 26 to 1 Jan: Drayton Road; Milton Road; New Cut Mill; Fisher Close; Marcham Road; Meads Close; Rippington Court; Stone Hill

FAIR TRADE AT ST PETER'S **Josie Midwinter**

For the past 8 or 9 years St Peter's church has run a Fair Trade stall, the purpose of which was to sell fair trade goods and also to alert people to the need to buy products which helped to give the producers of those goods a fair price for what they grow. It all started with fair trade coffee, then moved on to tea .. and soon a whole lot of other products. Val Cross and Victoria Griffiths have worked hard to provide a well stocked Fair Trade Stall in the church and this has been used by the community as well as church members. Several years running the St Peter's stall sold more goods than any of the other Abingdon & district churches. In the early days it was only the churches which were promoting these things - now the supermarkets have realised that people want to buy ethical goods and are also stocking them on their shelves. So St Peter's have decided to discontinue their stall.

A big 'thank you' to Val and Victoria for all the hard work they have put into this; it has been much appreciated by the whole community. However St Peter's commitment to Fair Trade has not stopped as refreshments served at the church will continue to be fairly traded.

Janet Manning HOMOEOPATH

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LETTER from ST PETER'S

Dear Friends,

This Church Letter from the **Worship Group** concludes the Ministry Team's contributions to the Chronicle in the absence of a Priest-in-Charge.

The Group consists of Revd Rosie Bruce, Linda Johnson, Tom Oliver and myself; the Priest-in-Charge would also be a member as they are the prime movers of worship at St. Peter's. The Group was formed in 2001 with the aim "to foster a spirit of worship for all ages". The initial targets were to review regular services and to provide a varied menu of services.

Since its inception, the Group has tried to follow these targets by listening to members of the congregation and the wider public and receiving their comments and suggestions. Often these have been most helpful; one example is changing the time of the All Souls service so that older people did not have come out in the dark. The name of the non-Eucharistic service was changed from 'The Family Service' to 'Praise at Ten' since not all members brought their families and many children came without their parents.

The words 'worthy' and 'worship' are related in that, for Christians, the One who is worthy of our worship is God who was revealed to us in Jesus Christ. Further, the gift of the Holy Spirit helps us to maintain that worship. It follows that our forms and expressions of worship should be the best we can offer. We often fall short of these ideals but that is not an excuse to stop trying.

In the Anglican Church, the structure of worship has many forms but one has always been central to its worship - the Eucharist or Holy Communion - because this was instituted by Christ Himself in the Last Supper. Its form ranges from acts of simple worship to dramatic choral celebrations, for which famous composers over the centuries have written settings.

At St Peter's, we have a said Holy Communion at 8 am and a Sung Eucharist at 10 am with hymns and a simple choral setting. This is the pattern for all Sundays except the 3rd Sunday when the Sung Eucharist is replaced by 'Praise at Ten'. This is an informal Service based on a particular theme/topic. Every weekday morning, Morning Prayer is said at 8.15 am and on Thursdays there is a said Holy Communion at 9.30 am. Both these services are in the Lady Chapel.

The Christian year is set around major events in the life of Christ. It starts with Advent, the announcement of His coming; Christmas, His birth; Epiphany, His baptism; Lent, His temptation in the wilderness; Holy Week, His arrest, trial and crucifixion; Easter, His resurrection and post-resurrection appearances; Ascension, His return to the Father; Pentecost, the gift of the Holy Spirit and finally Trinity, celebrating the unity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The notable days associated with these major events were 'Holy Days' and in the middle ages were times of special worship and the only days off work. Hence the word 'holiday' has come to mean a time of rest and relaxation. Interspersed throughout the cycle of the Christian year there are also Saints days e.g. St Patrick on March 17 and St Peter on June 29.

And so, as the festival of Christmas approaches, we of the Worship Group wish you and your families a holy and happy time.

Tony Allen

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BAPTIST CHURCH

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

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

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

EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME

LOCAL METHODIST WORSHIP

High Street, Milton
Sunday Service: 10.30 am

Local contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409

STARS FOR REMEMBRANCE

Val Cross

We will again this year be putting up "Stars for Remembrance" in the church. The stars will be at the back of the church, on the welcomer's table, so if you would like to have a friend or loved one remembered at Christmas please write their names on a star and leave in the basket provided.

If you would like to give a donation for this, which would go towards the upkeep of the church, please put it in the wall safe.

Thank you.

St. Peter's Church – January 2011



HOLY COMMUNION at 8am on
Sundays 2, 9, 16 and 23 January 2011

SUNG EUCHARIST at 10am on
Sundays 2, 9 and 23 January

CHRISTINGLE *Praise At Ten*
at 10am on Sunday 16 January
(special collection for The Children's Society)

ECUMENICAL SERVICE in the
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
at 7.30pm on Wednesday 19 January in
St. Michael's, Steventon

The DAMASCUS Group SUNG EUCHARIST
at 11am on Sunday 30 January
in St. Blaise Church, Milton

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NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

We extend a warm welcome to Julie Yates and her dog Tashi who have moved into Sutton Wick Lane.

DRAYTON HALL

Ann Webb

The management committee meeting was well attended on 15 November. The matters arising were gone through and progress reported. First, the two new waste bins were now in place and well used, which is good to see.

Vehicles are still driving across the recreation ground grass. An advisory letter is to be sent out to the houses affected, that is the ones backing directly on to the grassed area, concerning the intended fixing of the metal posts to deter this happening. Anyone with a special need to enter their property via the grass should contact the Parish Council Clerk.

The committee agreed that it was almost impossible to arrange with the young footballers and Paul Evans to get the car park swept, by them, prior to the marking. We are grateful for their offer but as the dark evenings are here and the car park is in use over the weekends we decided we would pay the extra and get it swept by a road sweeper, prior to the white lining. The lighting in and around the building is being checked before the winter sets in, the dimmer lights in the alcoves are to be replaced, age is making them very brittle. We also decided to top up the tables and chairs; they are constantly vanishing! Bookings are constant and a lot of familiar faces are returning to us again and again, that is very nice to see. The decorations are to go up by the time you receive your Chronicle. In time for the Christmas sale and the carol service as well as all the festivities. Happy Christmas to you all and I hope a Prosperous New Year.



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DAMASCUS YOUTH PAGE

Each month we are interviewing Drayton residents involved in their community. This week Mike Milton talks to Richard Webber and Daniel Scharf.

Richard Webber:

Mike Milton. In what way are you involved in the village and why do you get involved?

Richard Webber: I am a District Councillor and on the Parish Council. I have been involved also with the Drayton Players for around twenty years. I think Drayton is a great village. It is plenty big enough to have a community spirit.

Mike. Do you think there are enough facilities in the village? Can you think of any facilities, which would improve the community?

Richard: Absolutely not, particularly for the young and I mean all the young (2years to 20 years). Also, facilities for the adults of Drayton are not good. For example, there is only one football pitch for six teams. I also believe that the village hall needs updating.

Mike. What is your favourite thing about the village?

Richard: I can walk out at any time and people are always warm and friendly.

Mike. If you could be any animal what would it be?

Richard: A kite, anything with good eyesight and that has the ability to fly (I have neither).

Mike. In what ways could other people get involved in their community?

Richard: We need volunteers of all ages. I believe that you get what you put in and the first volunteers will encourage more. Areas where I believe we need more volunteers are the Parish Council, Youth Zone and most of the clubs and societies.

Daniel Scharf:

Mike Milton. In what way are you involved in the village and why do you get involved?

Daniel Scharf: I am a member of the Parish Council and I am an infrequent visitor to the pubs. And also I regularly pick litter. I get involved due to privilege; you have to give something back. I love village life.

Mike. Do you think there are enough facilities in the village? Can you think of any facilities, which would improve the community? ➔

➔ **Daniel:** I don't think there are but I would like the community to say what they want. We don't want to give facilities that nobody wants.

Mike. What is your favourite thing about the village?

Daniel: It is not a fancy village. It is functional.

Mike. If you could be any animal what would it be?

Daniel: A tortoise. Slow mode is me!

Mike. In what ways could other people get involved in their community?

Daniel: Every sort of way. Every journey in the village should be on foot or bicycle. Villagers should use the shops and visit the pubs. And everyone should join the community plan.

Celebrating Achievements:

We have also asked young people to provide short pen portraits of achievements of which they are proud. This month Ryan, Harry and Liam tell us what they are doing:



Ryan Wheatley

I am Ryan aged 10. I am involved in the martial art of Taekwon-do. Taekwon-do is a self-defence fighting method which was brought to England in the 1960s by Grand Master Rhee Ki Ha. I have had the privilege on several occasions to meet him. I have been doing Taekwon-do for around two years now and I really enjoy it I have been to two competitions and have made it to two finals in both winning two silver medals. In the competitions there are 3 categories:

- Patterns - which is a sequence of movements against an imaginary opponent;
- Sparring, which is fighting against a real opponent;
- Special Technique which is jumping over a large object and side kicking a pad.

I thank my teacher Master Miller for teaching me the skills I need to progress in Taekwon-do.

Harry Latimer

Hi, my name is Harry Latimer. I live in Drayton and I am currently doing a coaching course with Oxford United. I am finding it very enjoyable. I have started only Level One but I am hoping to stick with it as coaching is something I like doing and I want to pass my course so that I can be a coach myself one day. When I first finished school, I thought about becoming a plumber. I even sat an entrance exam where I scored the highest mark. In the end I realised that I would be happier in coaching.

Andrew took me to Connexions when I was unsure of what I would do as a job. Damascus helped me to realise that I don't have to do a job just because it's an easy route and that I could do look for jobs that would combine work with something that I really enjoy. Damascus has also helped me in other areas of my life.

Liam Harris

When I left school (John Mason), I never really had any idea what my next path would be. At one point I was debating going into the army to do intelligence. However, my school said that I should speak to Connexions and seek their advice. I went there with my Mum, and I found them extremely helpful, they noted down my strong points and matched them to courses that would suit me.

Damascus had put on a music workshop where we learned to mix music samples on a computer. We really enjoyed this so with the help of Damascus I helped organise a more involved project. Doing this inspired me to do the course that I am doing.

With music in my family, and me being very interested, music technology at Witney College was definitely the course for me. After doing the course for a few months now I feel I made the right decision, and hopefully it is a path that leads to Uni.

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COMMUNITY MATTERS!

THE COMMUNITY PLAN

Daniel Scharf

A meeting was held in the Village Hall on 2 November to hear what Miles Thompson, chief policy planner at the Vale of White Horse DC, had to say about planning for houses in the area. He explained that the previous system of allocating sites, to meet targets handed down from above, had been abandoned but that no new system had been put in place. We are all waiting for the Localism Bill to see how much power the coalition Government want to place in the hands of local communities and District and Parish Councils.

The convenors of the working groups looking at environmental matters, recreational facilities, transport, allotments/horticulture and communications would all like to hear from those who have not yet expressed an interest (through me at tel 01235 531107; rippington@waitrose.com). Chalgrove is not much larger than Drayton and has 13 working groups employing the energies of 600 residents seeking to improve their village! Incidentally, none of its steering group are on the Parish Council.

OPERATION MAVERICK

Thames Valley Police are currently running Operation Maverick, to help tackle the problem of underage drinking in the Vale of White Horse.



The scheme, run in conjunction with the Abingdon Bridge young people's support centre in Abingdon, which is now led by Drayton's Gary Hibbins, involves police officers recording the names of anyone aged between 13 and 17 who is found to be drinking alcohol.

On the first occasion a letter is sent to the child's parents. On the second occasion they are visited by the neighbourhood policing team and the young person is given the opportunity to attend an alcohol workshop run by the Abingdon Bridge.



The alcohol workshops, which last an hour, are designed to encourage the young person to understand more about the dangers of alcohol and its link to anti-social behaviour. Counselling and other advice is also available

at the Bridge.

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SUPPORTING A STRONGER CIVIL SOCIETY

The Government's Office for Civil Society is consulting on their plans to 'improve support for frontline civil society organisations'. If you are a charity, small voluntary organisation or social enterprise (for example, a village hall management group) this will be of interest to you.

The consultation paper can be found on www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk; for alternative formats contact info@strongercivilsociety.org.uk. The consultation support team can be contacted on 0121 288 6559 between 9.00am and 4.00pm. The deadline for replies is 6 January 2011.

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 4th of January and the 1st of February. If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.

NORMAN'S OAK

Jennifer Pooley

The Parish Council invited Daria Stimpson, the widow of Norman Stimpson who died earlier this year, to suggest some way in which the village could mark the debt that Drayton owes to Norman. He made many contributions, including a major part in the project which led to the construction of Drayton Hall. Not least of these was his 32 years as a member of the Parish Council, many of them as its chairman.

Daria and her family asked that an English Oak tree should be planted on the Millennium Green (incidentally another gift to Drayton for which he was partly responsible) and that it should be known as 'Norman's Oak'. The tree was planted in November; the picture shows Daria by the tree with Richard Ballard and his Vale tree-planting team - with myself to represent the Parish Council.



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ALL AROUND

DRAYTON 1ST BROWNIES

Ruth Hudson

December is upon us and the Brownies have been busy preparing for their Christmas fair. We have a fantastic array of gifts and crafts for sale on the evening of 1st December. Everyone is welcome to attend.

We had a non uniform evening in support of Children In Need, fun games and dancing was undertaken by the Brownies and all had a wonderful time.

We have also had an evening of sweet making, some of the yummy sweets made by the Brownies included coconut ice, peppermint creams and marzipan fruits, lots of sampling took place.

A small group of volunteers joined Drayton Youth Zone to help with a sale arranged by Annie Soper also for Children In Need.

60 of the Brownies and their families will be going to The Oxford Playhouse on the 3rd December to see the pantomime Cinderella.

It's just left for Tawny Owl, Friendly Owl and I (Brown Owl), to wish everyone a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW YEAR, have a fantastic break and we will meet back on January 19th 2011.

Meetings 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 Deabill (Tawny Owl) on 01235 528502

Paula Harper (Friendly Owl) on 01235 534166

PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

Debbie Bargus

During this term we have been looking at the winter festivals such as Diwali and Christmas, and learning what takes place. We have made Diwali pots and have been trying different Rangoli patterns. We have also continued to look at the changing of the seasons, collecting leaves to use in pictures and for printing and will be making snowflakes from paper. We have also been making hedgehogs out of clay.

We have been developing a new website, please feel free to take a look although please bear with us as it is still under construction. You can access it at www.draytonpreschool.co.uk

The annual Christmas party is being held on Friday 17th December. Children can be dropped off, although there will not be any normal sessions. The raffle will be drawn at the end of the party. Raffle tickets will be on sale soon. We would be grateful for any raffle items donated, please drop them off at Preschool.

If you have a child who is between 2 ½ years and 5 years, we do have places available for immediate start, please telephone Preschool on 01235 536094 for more details, to arrange a visit or to receive an information pack.

We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. ➔

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Also coming up: End of Term: Last sessions on Thurs 16th Dec, Christmas Party and raffle on Fri 17th Dec. Spring Term begins on Wed 5th Jan 2011.

SCHOOL REPORT

Dawn Waddup

Don't miss the school Christmas Fair on **Saturday 4 December** from 2 'til 4 pm. Come and see Father Christmas, win a prize on the tombola or in the grand raffle and enjoy a turkey roll and a glass of mulled wine!

Christmas preparations are now underway throughout the school and the children are busy learning their words and practising songs for their productions. Reception and Years 1 and 2 will be showing, "No Room for a Baby" on **Thursday 9 December** in the afternoon and **Friday 10 December** in the evening.

The older children will be taking part in "Stable Manners", led by Eagles class. Evening performances will be on **Monday 13 and Tuesday 14 December**. This will be a major project for years 5 and 6, incorporating their letter and script writing skills and their powers of persuasion through invitations and advertising.

Our Christmas Carol concert is on **Friday 17 December** at 2pm in St Peter's Church.

If you've noticed some unusual smells coming from the school recently, Ravens have been continuing their Pirates theme - making grog and ship's biscuits during their design and technology lessons. Meanwhile, Kingfishers have made spicy chilli and tortillas!

Red Kites have made some fantastic puppets of Tudor characters and these are on display outside their classroom.

Finally, as promised last month, an explanation of the house system we have recently introduced. There are four houses - Morris, Cockcroft, Rutherford and Morland, each made up of children from every year group. Points will be awarded for taking part in sporting activities and for attaining good places too. Outstanding achievements in class will also be rewarded with points. The prize will be a cup for the house with the most points.



MORE ALL AROUND

BOWLS CLUB

Roll Up

The year is drawing to a close and, on December the 5th, we will be having our finals day, when 8 finals will be competed for. All members old and new will be very welcome, starting at 10 am and finishing around 4.30 in the afternoon. There will be a raffle and tea and coffee will be available to all who come; something like 24 members will be taking part.

The latest competition to be completed was 'The Didcot Windows' open singles and, going through to play the semi-finals and final, will be Pat Hoyland, Jean Mullins, Olive Brown, and John Goodacre. Well done to the girls filling three of the four places! 'The John Berry Fours' league on Mondays and Wednesdays look like going down to the last game before we know who will compete in the final.

The trophies will be presented at the annual dinner dance which will again be held at 'Drayton Park' golf club on January 7th 2011, 7 for 7.30. Any member not booked in yet there is still time, we would like to see as many as possible for this event. The afternoon league 'The Wasps' have made the better start of the two teams competing, winning both their opening games, but there is a long way to go with the league due to end around the middle of March.

Finally we would like to wish all our members old and new, a happy Christmas and a healthy new year, and of course happy bowling for 2011.

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TABLE TENNIS

John Gould

The Quiz Night held on the 8th October was a resounding success. Our thanks to all those who entered teams and bought raffle tickets. We raised important funds for the club that will help us with finances for the coming season. Congratulations to Rosie & Keith Etwell and Tim Wilde for showing their cerebral abilities to win on the night. Also thanks to Jill Gimigliano for organising the raffle and to Shaun & Sara Collins for running the refreshments.

The League season is now underway with our teams having mixed fortunes. The A team have won three and drawn one tie in their attempt to retain the League Championship and the B team have won all five of their opening ties in Division 2. Also the G team in their second season have started well in Division 5 with a win and two draws.

New player Andrea Burbank has started well and Ryan Seamark has won 5 of his first 5 matches. In addition, Ryan is the Runner up in the Division 5 Individual Championships.

It looks like being a tough season for the D team who have only won 1 after five ties and are



Ryan Seamark &

Alex Emery

bottom of Division 2. Allan Lovelock's F team in Division 4 have also started well with Allan winning 11 from 15 matches.

Club Nights are going well with several new faces coming along on Monday evenings. It is especially good to see you many youngsters attending and we hope they will continue to enjoy ping pong for many years. Many of them are in the H team and looking forward to their first taste of League table tennis. A reminder that novice players both adults and children can come along at 6.30 pm for expert coaching and get an introduction to the sport.

A reminder; there is no Club session on 13th December as the school hall will stage its Christmas show.

We could do with a few more lady players so if any ladies are reading this and fancy trying Table Tennis please come along to the school on any Monday. It only costs £1.00p and is very good exercise.

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YET MORE ALL AROUND

DRAYTON PLAYERS

Jean Hager

Here comes the play! We are up and running again, with rehearsals in progress for our next production, and we have chosen an Alan Ayckbourn comedy, 'Ten Times Table', to get us back in the swing.

A local history pageant is to be held and this involves a series of committee meetings which become veritable battlefields of conflicting views (remind you of any committees you may have served on?!). These escalate into a totally chaotic and hilarious event day, with not much going to plan but very good fun to watch. That's just a brief synopsis but I hope it is sufficient to whet your appetite for coming along to join in the merriment.

Production dates are 24 to 26 February 2011 and full details will be given in our advertisement next month. So, make a note in your diary now and we'll look forward to your company then. In the meantime we wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas.



DRAYTON WIVES

Pam Lacey

At our October meeting Anne Gould gave another very interesting talk, accompanied by slides, on the history of Abingdon and we were all very surprised to learn that Abingdon was the oldest settlement in England. Anne spoke about the various changes that had taken place in the town centre in the 1960's, resulting in the demolition of many historic buildings to make way for the construction of the Bury Street Shopping Precinct.

Dates for your Diary in December:

VISIT	Wed	01	Visit by train to Bath Christmas Market
TEA	Mon	13	Christmas Tea, Caudwell Day Centre 2.00pm to 4.00pm
WHIST	Mon	20	Janet White

DRAYTON W.I.

Shirley Thomas

'Not so much the art of entertainment as the art of entertaining with art'.

That is how Beryl Maile describes herself and I don't think we have ever had a more enjoyable evening of pure entertainment. She combined her very skilful demonstrations with a light hearted and very witty anecdotes, totally captivating us all.

The following evening we held our Annual Quiz which was a great success, probably one of the best we've had, and we have been able to send a nice cheque to Help the Heroes.

December is a time for celebration for the W.I. On December 4th we will be celebrating our 90th birthday when we hope to see many past members so that we can all have a natter over a cup of tea! Please let us know if you can make it. On 9th December we will have a sit down supper in the Day Centre in place of our normal meeting.

We would like to wish all the readers of the Chronicle a VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Pearl Stanbridge

The Officers and members of the branch wish all members and their families A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PEACEFUL NEW YEAR.

The next Committee meeting will be held on Monday 20 December at 8pm.

GARDENING MATTERS

SEASONAL GARDENER

Sara Southey

So I heard this week that the holly bushes are overly heavy with berries this year and that means we're in for a hard, harsh winter. Well, I'm not sure my holly has more berries than normal but I know for certain that it's so much colder than last year as I have just reread my article from last December and I was still waiting for a really hard frost this time last year. No shortage of those so far this winter!

I have to say that I'm a huge fan of the cold frosty days. With the clear blue skies and sunshine there's no winter blues, nor any overheating on those outside jobs. It certainly beats putting the garden to bed for winter in the pouring rain, or worse the murky drizzle! It is much more pleasant to clear out your shed or greenhouse of all the dirt and bugs accumulated over the year when it's sunny. Dry mud is so much nicer than wet.

All those ex summer bedding plants, the remains of the summer vegetables and the small, thin prunings from your flower beds can all go on the compost heap to be mixed up and turned ready for compost next year. Refill your outside pots with some lovely winter colour. It's not too late for the pansies to shine. Throw in a few shop bought or homemade decorations in your pots to make a change from or add to the christmas wreath on the door. Spray some seed heads or prunings with gold or silver paint to brighten up your doorstep. A great activity to get the kids outside.

Then, retire inside with a cup or glass of what you like best and spend some time pondering how your garden looked this year. Like our houses, gardens need to be redecorated every once in a while. Maybe you didn't get quite so many summer flowers off the regular herbaceous performers. So make a note to dig them up and divide them, putting back some of the younger outside growth. Or maybe you couldn't see your flowers because some shrub has got too big for its boots and is taking over. In which case you can't go wrong in winter by giving it a decent haircut. Most shrubs respond well to a hard prune giving you new fresh lush growth come spring at a height or spread that's manageable. And if it all goes pear shaped and dies on you then do what I do and console yourself with the fact that it was too big for its place anyway and get yourself something that will fit the space. If you're not sure what to get then use some of the miserable drizzly days to look through some plant reference books to get some ideas. I can lose hours doing just that!

Here's wishing you all a frosty and sunny festive season with plenty of toasty warmth inside and lots of lovely friends and family to share it with.

Happy Gardening!

DRAYTON SCENES

Derek Pooley

The scenes from Drayton throughout the year, hanging as 'simple gifts' on the Christmas Tree on the front page, are all publically accessible and easy to find, bar one! The 'vibrant petals of early summer' were taken in the garden of 90-year-old Bill Coombes of Steventon Road, who incidentally came third in this year's 'Sovereign Vale Garden Competition'. Congratulations to Bill and our thanks for the picture.

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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Williams

Report of the Drayton Parish Council meeting held on Monday 1st November 2010.

In addition to the Parish Councillors, our two County Councillors and three members of the public attended the meeting. Two of the latter, Ian Brooks and Peter Harper, had seen a document relating to a proposed housing development on a site bordering the eastern extremity of the High Street and occupying fields behind the Parish burial ground. They expressed concerns that, although extra housing might be needed in Drayton, the site in question would deprive the village of green space at its heart, and would also pose some difficult problems regarding vehicle access. Daniel Scharf outlined the context to the proposal: that the VWHDC had designated this as one of the sites for housing development in their strategic plan; that new planning legislation was being drafted which is likely to give the local community/Parish Council more weight in influencing which developments go ahead; that the Community Plan was looking at housing needs in the village overall; that the High Street proposal was not yet at the planning application stage; and that the Parish Council had taken no stance on this site, but had merely received information from the landowner's agent at a previous PC meeting (Sept 2010).



Andrew Bax updated the meeting concerning the proposed village website. Although some details of this were described in last month's report, Andrew said that a skeleton site is now in place and is almost ready to add content. Annual running costs are expected to be around £300, for which a grant application will be made to the Parish Council in 2011. The initial set-up costs will be borne by the Drayton Community Trust.

Anyone travelling west along the High Street on weekday evenings after 5pm, and then through the village towards Abingdon, will have noticed a recent sharp increase in traffic. The main cause of the congestion appears to be the temporary closure of the Potash Lane Bridge which allows access from the A34 Milton Interchange to and from Milton Park. ➔

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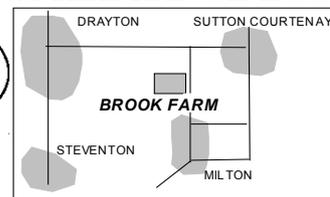
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For the duration of the works that will replace the bridge, it has been made one-way only, meaning that traffic leaving the industrial estate and heading for the A34 roundabout is now being asked by OCC to take a 4 mile detour east through Milton Park towards Didcot, and then back along the A4130 link road to the Milton Interchange. Not surprisingly, those motorists living to the north of Milton Park, in Drayton, Abingdon, or beyond, are preferring to take a 'rat-run' past the Park Club, through Milton Village, eventually turning left onto Drayton High Street. OCC say they have put up signs to deter motorists from taking this route, but are not able to take any further action. The bridge is scheduled to re-open in Feb 2011.

As winter approaches, new government advice has been published which aims to clarify the position regarding residents who would like to clear away snow from outside their own homes, but have been reluctant to do so in the past because of fears they might be held responsible for a subsequent accident. The full text of this advice is available on the Directgov website: www.direct.gov.uk/en/NI1/Newsroom/DG_191868, but in summary, it states that there is no law stopping residents from clearing snow and ice from the pavement outside their property, or from pathways to their property, or from public spaces in general. If an accident did happen, the website says it's highly unlikely you would be sued as long as you are a) careful, and b) use common sense to make sure that you don't make the pavement or pathway clearly more dangerous than before (e.g. don't use hot water to melt the snow, which will then simply refreeze to form ice!)

The next meeting will be on Monday 6th December 2010, at 7.30pm, in the Caudwell Day Centre, Gravel Lane, Drayton. As always, all are invited to attend.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Webber

Drayton Community Plan

Many thanks to Senior Vale Planning Officer, Miles Thompson for coming to speak to our meeting at the Village Hall, and to those who came along to hear and ask questions of him. Government policy on planning is in a state of some flux at present. We are waiting to hear just how many houses we need to build, just how much power locals will have in deciding what will be built where. There is a concern that we might end up with a system of planning by bribery. Those that agree to take housing will benefit financially. However, locals will almost certainly have more power than ever before and those that have prepared best, will be in the best position to benefit.



Budgets and accountants

I have never been as close to trying to formulate a sizeable budget, as I have been to the VWHDC's this year and I have learned a number of things.

First that accountants have a lively sense of humour – dark, but lively. Most news, good and bad, is delivered with a grin. Secondly, as the implications of the latest Government edict are realised (usually resulting in council's having even less money than they thought they had the day before), and small glimmers of good news (something some minister may have implied in some speech given), the budget outturn predictions shoot up and down like any Wall Street Index. Trying to form a budget whilst we still await news of our pension obligations and how the Government's spending review will affect each individual council, involves much guesswork, it is certainly not an exact science. Thirdly, local government finances are tied up in far too much red tape. For example, the Icelandic Bank fiasco.

Local councils were only allowed to put spare cash in certain triple A rated institutions and these included the Icelandic Banks. The Audit commission criticised the LAs for not picking the 'right' triple AA rated institutions. It then turned out that the Audit Commission had lost more of its own money than almost any LA on these same institutions! ➔

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➔ New Waste Collection Service

The first week's recycling figure of 83% will probably fall back a bit as people get more used to the system. At the moment, our green box is bulging but I know that when I stamp on the contents, it will hold twice as much. I am told that the message should be – '*WASH N' SQUASH!*'

There is still a shrinking number of problems – even within our own village – usually involving 'difficult to access' properties. These are being solved one by one and *all* should be solved within the next week or two. This in itself will be a major achievement as there are 40,000+ properties of all types in the Vale. If anyone has problems, with the service itself or getting through on the phone lines, please let me know (01235 534001).

The overwhelming feedback so far is that this going to be an excellent service – easy to operate once understood – saving the public purse a hefty sum and saving the planet in terms of reduced landfill and reduced CO2 output.

One final thought.

I am all for devolving power downwards and making Local Government truly responsible to its electorate for what it does. The coalition government is making plenty of good noises on this issue.

However, Mr Pickles tells us that if we freeze council tax, the government will give us 2.5% extra grant. If we don't, it won't. In other words, any council wishing to increase its tax by say 1%, would be 1.5% worse off. Even one which wanted an increase of say 5%, would be only 2.5% better off and would take the full political hit. In effect, this policy is a freeze on council tax – not necessarily a bad thing, but hardly an example of localism!

DRAYTON DIARY

FOR DECEMBER

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

Regular Events are not listed this month but were in November

Sat	4	WI 90th party	
Sun	5	all day	Bowls
		7.30 pm	Candlelight Carol Service
Mon	6	7.30 pm	Parish Council <i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
Sun	12	all day	Antiques Fair
Sat	18		Sequence Dance Christmas Party
Sun	19	7.15 pm	Yettis Concert
Fri	31		New Year's Eve Party

And in **JANUARY:**

Mon	17	9.15 am	Chronicle Lottery deadline	<i>Vickery's</i>
		5.15 pm	Chronicle copy deadline	<i>Vickery's box</i>

THE YETTIES FAREWELL CHRISTMAS SINGALONG



SUNDAY 19th DECEMBER

At 8pm (doors open 7.15pm)

Drayton Hall

£10 Adults, £5 Children 16 and under
Tickets from Margaret Meardon 01235 210525
or Eileen Bolton 01235 511816
Proceeds go to Conservation work at the RSPB Otmoor Reserve

St. Peter's Christmas 2010



NATIVITY PLAY – Wednesday 15 December
10.30am (see PEBBLES)

CAROL SERVICE – Sunday 19 December
4pm – collection for CRISIS
Mulled Wine & Mince Pies
will be served after the Service

(8am Holy Communion but no **10 o'clock service** that day)

CRIB SERVICE – Friday 24 December 4pm – collection for PACT
(Parents and Children Together)

MIDNIGHT MASS – Friday 24 December 11.30pm –
collection for the homeless at The Gatehouse and The Porch

CHRISTMAS DAY – Saturday 25 December
8am Holy Communion

10am Eucharist with Carols – vote to sing your favourite Carol!
Collections at both services for The Gatehouse and The Porch

BOXING DAY – Sunday 26 December – only one service
9am (said) Holy Communion by Extension

All are welcome at every service. Envelopes will be available to Gift-Aid your donation to any collection

PEBBLES – Christmas

Special Wednesday mornings,

10.30-11.30 am in St Peter's Church Room

PEBBLES is for small children with their parents or carers, offering a time for songs and stories. In preparing for Christmas, each week the children are making decorations for the Christmas Tree to be displayed in Church over Christmas.

Wednesday 1 December – Stars
Wednesday 8 December – Candles



Wednesday 15 December – PEBBLES Nativity Play in Church

The children are invited to attend dressed up as shepherds or angels and will be included in the Nativity Play which will be followed by refreshments.

Family and Friends are welcome to attend!

For further information please contact Shirley (531683)

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