

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Dave Lee

Volume 34 No. 2

March 2011

DAMASCUS YOUTH PROJECT

Rita Atkinson

'Sustainable communities - young people are our future'

The young people of Drayton have been busy working on a number of projects aimed at enhancing their own, and that of others', experiences of living in our community.

I have been working with a younger group from Drayton who have been meeting on a Monday after school at the church room at St Peters' church. First, we had sessions looking at rights and responsibilities and now the youngsters are planning a workshop that they will be presenting to their peers and other young people from the community.

This report is by a young attendee - Niamh McCullagh.

'We are a group of young people living in Drayton. We meet at the church room every Monday after school. We have been talking about rights and responsibilities whilst drinking hot chocolate. We are going to design and produce a workshop on rights and responsibilities to show other young people. We are making posters, games and scenarios and it will be interactive. While learning about this we are sharing our own scenarios about where we have a responsibility in our village.'

Another group meets on a Thursday evening. Lauren and Sarah explain what they have been up to and what they like about the group.

'We are a group of Drayton girls aged 13 – 15 and are part of the Damascus youth project. The project we are working on at the moment is looking at different types of relationships. We discuss different situations and ideas around different kinds of relationships. We are doing a workshop where we are looking to get involved with the younger generation. We hope to present our interactive workshop to our peers and some younger people from the community.'

We're hoping to do some other projects with the community in the near future. Not just with young people but also the adults from the village.

DAMASCUS has given us somewhere to socialise, we have widened our range of friends and worked with people we wouldn't normally work with. It's changed our attitude towards the community and we are really enthusiastic about doing positive things to help our village move forwards. We hope to get everyone involved and have a good time in the process.'

Christian Milton, who is involved with contributing to the Chronicle's youth page, has been working recently with Roxy on a couple of things that he would like to tell you about:

'Roxy and I have been meeting up to help me find work. She has supported me through job searching and helped me put my CV together. We are going to start looking at interview techniques as I have my first interview coming up soon.'

As well as job searching, I have also been training to run 6 weeks of activities at Drayton Youth zone. To gain experience of this I have been helping out in Sutton Courtenay with some of the activities in which young people have been taking part.

I'm looking forward to getting involved with Youth Zone, working with the younger group.'

I first worked with Conor Painton over a year ago when he was out of school. With a little bit of encouragement we managed to get him to give Meadowbrook School a go. Here Conor gives us some feedback about how things have gone:

'I have been going to Meadowbrook school in Marston, Oxford for just over a year now. I didn't get on too well at the Abingdon mainstream schools so it was time to try something different.'

The school has had me doing some other courses. I am doing carpentry at the moment, which I am enjoying. I have just finished my mock exams and am pleased with how I have done. When I finish school in the summer I am not quite sure what I will do but I like the idea of working in the building trade and may think about doing a carpentry apprenticeship.'

Finally, I would like to mention the litter pick that took place on Saturday the 12th starting from the village hall at 10.00am.

The litter pick had been planned by the group of lads that we have been running a session with on a Tuesday evening. James McKenna had suggested to PC Keith Morton that we could organise a litter pick. Keith, along with PCSO Sandra Syphas, came to a session to help plan the litter pick with Damascus and the Damascus young people.

The day saw a fantastic turn out. Over 25 young people along with the police, local residents and some representatives from the Parish council all joined in the big clear up.

It was so great to see the community working hard together to make Drayton tidier. The young people also helped cook a brunch for everyone after all the hard work!

Youth Workers Andrew Gould and Roxy Elford



Litter Pickers with the results of their work

Inside this issue there are two articles related to the above, the Youth Zone Report on page 9 and a poem highly relevant to the litter issue on page 5.

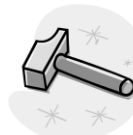
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CHRONICLE INFORMATION

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

Editor: **Derek Pooley, 11 Halls Close (559454).**

Distributor: **Margaret Armstrong, 1 Crabtree Lane (531122),**

Deadline for advertisements: **17.00 on Friday, 11 March 2011**

Deadline for other contributions: **17.00 on Monday, 14 March**

Printed copies available: **Friday, 25 March 2011**

Key dates for the subsequent three Chronicles:

| Issue for | Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday: | Printed Chronicles available on: |
|-----------|---|-------------------------------------|
| May | 11 April 2011 | 29 April 2011 |
| June | 16 May 2011 | 27 May 2011 |
| July | 13 June 2011 | 24 June 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.

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

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

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

Please head your email and label any attachments with a name distinctive to you, not just 'Chronicle'. Also, make sure the editor or advertising manager acknowledges your email within 2 or 3 days.

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

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

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

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

ADVERTISING RATES

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

---- Number of Inserts ----

| Advertiser Category: | 1 | 3 | 6 | 12 |
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Double-size adverts are charged at **twice** the above rates.

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

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

CHRONICLE LOTTERY

Daphne Samworth, Hon Promoter

RESULTS OF THE FEBRUARY LOTTERY

| Prize | Ticket | Winner | Agent |
|-------|--------|---|------------------|
| £25 | 1659 | M. Woodley, 25 Binning Close | Cathy Norris |
| £20 | 2088 | Mrs. Barlow, 7 Whitehorns Way | Trudi Buckner |
| £15 | 0773 | Mrs. Seamark, 42 Abingdon Road | Jenny Stevens |
| £10 | 2107 | Pam Lacey, 15 Whitehorns Way | Trudi Buckner |
| £10 | 0502 | Mrs. Shebbeare, 16 Sutton Wick Lane | Keith Clough |
| £10 | 1597 | Mrs. Sawyers, Fairway House, Haywards Road, | Judith Dunster |
| £10 | 1966 | Ben Tyler, 35 Lockway | Christine Sadler |
| £10 | 1461 | Mrs Harvey, 18 Steventon Rd | Katie Mansfield |
| £10 | 1615 | J. Griffiths, 7 Haywards Rd | Judith Dunster |
| £10 | 1505 | Mrs. Bourne, 70 Steventon Road | Jackie Walker |

The winning tickets were drawn by Members of "Youth Zone" from the 2118 tickets sold

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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Williams

Drayton Parish Council meeting on Monday 7th February 2011.

The subject of traffic in and around the village continues to be a cause for concern in several locations. For some time, the PC has been looking at measures that might slow down vehicles entering or leaving the village at the eastern (Sutton Courtenay) end of the High Street. Problems caused by speeding motorists are compounded by the fact that some householders have no option but to back out their cars onto the street; and the Rook's Nest footpath also descends very abruptly into the road at this point, creating a potential slip hazard for walkers, particularly in wet weather. A meeting was held with a representative of OCC Highways Dept in January, at which Jenny Pooley on behalf of the PC made a number of suggestions for improvement. While some of these (e.g. extending the 30 mph limit outwards) were ruled out because they cannot be supported by current regulations, or on grounds of cost, the Dept agreed to explore Jenny's other proposals, and report back.

Also in January, that month's PC meeting was addressed by four girls from Didcot Girls' School who are campaigning to reduce the speed limit on Milton Road into Drayton from the national speed limit (60 mph in this case) to 40 mph. The Parish Council discussions favoured supporting the campaign, on the grounds that the present high speed limit seems inappropriate for such a busy and narrow road, which has many bends, and is used by buses and heavy lorries, as well as (and extensively) by walkers, cyclists, and horse riders. The request for a 40 mph speed limit was forwarded to OCC as part of the village's response to the LPT3 (Local Transport Plan 3, 2011-2026) consultation process.

Another traffic item relates to the works to the bridge in Potash Lane, which are now scheduled to continue at least until July. The good news is that OCC are to put in place a 'tidal flow' system, which reflects the volume of traffic heading into or out of Milton Park at different times of the day. Thus, traffic will be one-way only, travelling from the A34 roundabout towards Milton Park in the mornings and early afternoon. On weekdays between 2pm and 10pm, the flow will be reversed, allowing traffic to take the direct route from Milton Park back to the A34. Hopefully, the latter will ease, if not eliminate the evening 'rat-run' via Milton Road, Drayton High Street, and Abingdon Road. Existing diversions will still apply when travelling against the direction of flow.

Having referred above to the excellent campaigning work carried out by the girls from Didcot Girls' School, it would be remiss not to mention the very good work which continues to be done by Drayton's own young people. Five members of DAMASCUS attended the February PC meeting and recounted various activities they have taken part in, including the interviews they conducted and wrote up for recent issues of the Drayton Chronicle. Two members, Conor and James, were organizing a litter pick around the village on Sat 12th February, and would be joined by, amongst other volunteers, two of our neighbourhood police officers, PC Keith Morton and PCSO Sandra Syphas.

Lastly this month, the PC has just been informed that the VOWH District Council has decided to open the community grants scheme for applications. Community groups can apply for grants from £500 to £5000 as of the 28th January. Applications need to be in by 2nd March 2011 in order to be considered, so by the time this issue of the Chronicle is distributed, the window of opportunity will be extremely limited, but if any organisations have a project already in mind and are interested in making an application, they should visit the council's website at http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/Community_support_and_advice/default.asp where further information and a link to an online application form are available.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 7th March 2011, at 7.30pm, in the Caudwell Day Centre, Gravel Lane, Drayton. As ever, all are invited to attend.

COMMUNITY PLAN

Daniel Scharf

The Environment Group has met and proposed the following projects which we hope would interest residents and inspire people to join the working group?

Working with the surveys carried out some ten years ago there would seem to be an opportunity to carry out new surveys to see whether there have been changes in flora and fauna.

The VWHDC is purchasing a heat sensitive camera to measure the insulation and leakiness of buildings. We propose to have a demonstration event in the autumn and ask for volunteers to have their properties surveyed.

We will be asking for a member of the Waste Partnership to give a presentation on what is one of the most topical subjects within our brief to give advice on shopping/packaging, the council waste stream and possibly alternative means of disposal including incineration.

There has not yet been a follow up to the presentation from the Council planning officer last year. However, the Localism Bill, if it becomes law, does provide the opportunity for the Parish Council to produce a Neighbourhood Development Plan and residents might be interested in how this might address the housing issues in the village.

Those interested in any of these and other issues affecting the village can speak to Daniel on 531107 or email rippington@waitrose.com

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REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday 8.00 am Holy Communion (CW Traditional)
10.00 am Sung Eucharist (CW), except 3rd Sunday
when there is a non-Eucharistic Praise Service.
Mon - Fri 8.30 am Morning Prayer (CW) in Lady Chapel
Thurs 9.30 am Holy Communion (CW) in Lady Chapel.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 9th March **Ash Wednesday** 7.30pm
Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Wednesday 10.30 am Pebbles (Term Time only) *Church Room*
Monday 7.45 pm Bell Ringing Practice *Bell Tower*
Every Second Friday 7.00 pm Choir Practice *Church Room*

CHURCH REGISTER

Funeral

11th February Brian Edwin Crook

Baptism

13th February Hugo Archie Octavius Wallace

CALENDAR FOR MARCH

Tue 1st 3.00 pm First Tuesday Connections *Church Room*
Sat 5th 10.00 am-12.00 noon Coffee Morning *Church*
Sun 6th 2.30 pm Beetle Drive *Caudwell Day Centre*

YOU STAY - WE PRAY, MARCH

27th Feb to 5th Mar Abingdon Road; Oday Hill;
Binning Close; Haywards Road
6th to 12th Sutton Wick Lane; Greenacres;
Newman Lane; Conifer Drive
13th to 26th Hilliat Fields; Lyford Close;
Manor Close; The Green
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NHS Oxfordshire has been asked to seek the views of the public in Oxfordshire on a strategy for public health.

The consultation can be accessed at
www.oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk/consult.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact
Julia Stackhouse on 01865 334638.

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- 6.00 pm Evening Service. A traditional form of service frequently with guest speakers. Communion every second Sunday of the month

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High Street, Milton
Sunday Service: 10.30 am

Local contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409

FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS Jean Hager

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*On a bright frosty morn as I strolled round the Green
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What did I see in the grass where they lay?
Bottles and beer cans and old paper bags,
And chocolate wrappers and butt ends of fags.*

*As I walked along footpaths and far bridleway,
Enjoying the air on a clear sparkling day,
And watching for field mice along the path's edge,
What did I see as I peered 'neath the hedge?
Dirty used tissues and old plastic sacks
And take-away boxes and cigarette packs.*

*While walking some roads and looking around
Along fences and walls and surrounding ground,
Sadly I noticed the same things emerged
On pavements, in gutters and many a verge:
Bottles and beer cans and old paper bags,
And chocolate wrappers and butt ends of fags.*

*It does seem so sad and a very great pity
That Drayton is spoiled when it might be so pretty;
And it surely can't be those who live in our village
Who drop so much rubbish and cause all the spillage
Of dirty used tissues and old plastic sacks
And take-away boxes and cigarette packs?*

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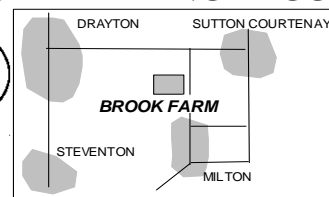
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SPRING CLEAN

March and April are months in which to prune, plant and give the garden a good tidy up after the diverse weather conditions of winter.

Shrub roses can be pruned in March, cut down to between 10 and 15 centimetres above ground. Prune to just above outward-pointing buds. Climbing roses can also be pruned now, quite vigorously if the shoots have got too long. March is also a good time to get new roses in the ground; remember to add plenty of plant food to the planting hole as roses are hungry plants.

If you're thinking of having a new tree or trees for the garden, these can be planted in the spring if you ran out of time in the autumn. They're just about to put out new shoots and getting them in the ground in March will help them on their way. Remember to water well during the first year of planting. Acid-loving plants also have a need for water in March so ensure you start watering Azaleas, Rhododendrons, bilberries, etc.

If you didn't have time to plant a deciduous hedge in the autumn, again, this can be done in March but remember to water well throughout the summer and into the autumn months. Give hedging plants, trees and shrubs a good start by adding a generous handful of plant nutrients to each planting hole. Don't skimp if you're investing money in new plants.

Divide perennials; they age over time so grow less vigorously at the centre and produce less flowers. Dividing and separating every 3 to 4 years will help prevent this. If you plan to relocate the divided plants, enrich the soil to get them established more quickly. Also, plant biennials now so you get flowers the following year.

April is an excellent time for sowing a new lawn or restoring an existing lawn. Use a lawn restoration kit to give grass new life. Scarify the lawn to remove thatch if you didn't do this in the autumn. Also tackle moss in the lawn; any bare patches left after moss removal can be dealt with by reseeding. Grass will probably start growing more strongly now and you'll need to start regular mowing. Don't cut too low at first – a light trim once a week will be sufficient.

April is a good time to plant evergreen hedges including conifers and hollies. Specific tree and shrub composts are available so add some to the soil if the soil quality is poor. Also remember to add a good handful of plant nutrients to each planting hole. Water the new plants thoroughly and continue to water if the weather is dry – this is especially important with evergreens as they will not show signs of drought damage until it's too late to prevent dieback. ⇒

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⇒ Tidy the pond and remove all dead plant residues. Divide pond plants and get rampant varieties back under control. Give the plants special water plant fertiliser granules via the roots in the soil. Marginal plants may need dividing or re-potting into bigger baskets.

Weeds are starting to grow in March and April. Remove as many as possible before the seeds can form. This happens more quickly than you think. Eradicate stubborn weeds thoroughly. Sort out plant pots and troughs ready for April/May planting of annuals. Clean thoroughly, ensure drainage holes are not blocked and fill with fresh compost. Pressure-clean all flagstones, patio slabs and garden decking that have become green and slippery during the winter.

Anne Hendry, Newington Nurseries
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DRAYTON HALL REPORT

Ann Webb

The Hall committee met in January and was well attended by user representatives.

There have been a few routine repairs and improvements carried out to the inside of the building, e.g. the dimmer lights have been replaced, eight new tables and twenty new chairs have arrived, they were needed to top up our furniture. These items get a lot of rough treatment and do get damaged over time.

The Antiques fair is almost at the end of its run at Drayton; Mrs O'Meara would like to thank all residents and users of the surrounding area for their tolerance during her usage of the Hall. If she hadn't been able to come to us, she thinks the fair would have died. Our old piano that we gave the kiss of death to at the November meeting will live on, on the front of a CD case. All users will be pleased to know that we have been thoroughly electrically tested and have passed, with no faults. The committee has asked for a dog waste bin to be placed nearer the hall and the bridle way, this is to prevent waste being put in the bin by the childrens play area, (not pleasant).

The new price list came in to effect on the 1st of January.

It has been suggested by our local Councillor that we join forces with the Parish Council and try for an improvement grant for the Hall. So all users have been asked to offer a wish list for improvements to consider, should we get it. Finally, the person who left us their rejected Christmas tree, we have you on tape. There are many places to recycle your tree and the Hall waste bin is not the place, so please don't do it again, or we will return it to you.

M. S. Lally

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THE SEASONAL GARDENER

As I look forward to March, I find that I am doing the same thing as last year. I'm getting my garden ready for Spring and I am running the same charity run again. It struck me that life does repeat itself. Some people find comfort in this routine and some people find routine boring.

Many gardening tasks are repeated each year at their set times. March is just about the last time to be clearing up the garden in readiness for Spring and every March it's the same. Most people clear away the last of the leaves, divide up perennials to encourage growth, cut off all the dead growth from the herbaceous plants. This is all routine for gardeners. However, I have noticed, in my work, that the most neglected plants in gardens are the shrubs. They are quite often forgotten about and have generally been allowed to grow and do their own thing. So they become unsightly, too large for their allocated space and seem to have nothing special about them. But shrubs are an important part of gardens. They provide structure and foliage and a contrast to the generally accepted more exciting summer flowering plants. Cutting back shrubs should be a regular yearly occurrence. This vital task lets new growth through that gives fresh coloured leaves or brightly coloured stems or encourages new season flowers. It can be a chore to prune shrubs down every year but the results speak for themselves.

So have a look and decide which shrubs have got too big for their boots. These will be the ones that need drastic pruning. Let's face it, if they look boring or brown or too woody then they are not contributing to your garden and either need rejuvenating or removing. To these you need to be harsh. Prune them hard. Most people are too timid when it comes to pruning so if it's too big by a third then cut it back by at least half. I will quite often cut a shrub down to a couple of feet from the ground. Mostly they survive and come back bright and bushy again. Some don't come back from this hard pruning. But I console myself with the fact that they didn't look right and now they're easier to dig out and remove. Then I go out and chose a new shrub that's right for that location!

For the other shrubs in the garden, general pruning should keep them happy and healthy. The key to pruning is very simple. Always have clean, sharp secateurs, loppers and a saw, if necessary, as a clean cut is the best cut. Then your starting point should be the 3 D's. Cut out everything that is dead, damaged or diseased. This should clear the way for the remaining work. Think thirds. Remove a third of the height and/or a third of the stems and generally chose the oldest wood (new growth generally being smoother and greener). This should leave you with a healthy disease free shrub that will give you new lush growth on fresh stems. While you are carrying out this pruning, step back regularly to see what it looks like as it's easy to get carried away in a pruning frenzy! And a top tip, if you have a shrub that's higher on one side than it is on the other then prune the shorter side! It seems odd but remember pruning encourages growth. The unpruned side will not grow as fast as the pruned side. It will look odd for a bit but will then even out through the growing season. Pruning, although routine and repetitive, can be the most therapeutic and the most rewarding of jobs in the garden. You may find your garden looking completely different just by routinely maintaining these background plants. Don't be scared of it, give it a go! Happy Gardening!

Sara Southey, www.southey-garden-solutions.co.uk

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ALL AROUND

DRAYTON SCHOOL

Ana Gurl

Film Club is now up and running and being thoroughly enjoyed by a group of children/film critics. For one day a week after school, the Red Kites classroom is transformed into our cinema giving the children the opportunity to watch and discuss a whole variety of films.

Red Kites will be representing Drayton school in a musical production of 'The Peace Child' along with other schools from the Abingdon area, which will take place in Sutton Courtenay School.

Years 5 & 6 will be going on their week long trip to Yenworthy. They will have the opportunity to try all sorts of new activities and outdoor pursuits, and hopefully enjoy the challenge of being away from home for a week. We wish them an enjoyable and safe trip (and better weather than during Drayton School's previous snowy visit!)

Kingfisher & Eagles classes are looking forward to a visit from Creation Theatre Company who will be working with each class for half a day on their current classroom topics of "India" and "Around the World in 80 Days".

All classes will be taking part in our second sporting house competition the "Jump Off" event. This will enable children to demonstrate how they have developed their skipping ability this term during PE lessons and also in the playground. They will also be raising money for the British Heart Foundation, who have supplied skipping ropes to school.

FODSA (Friends of Drayton School Association) organise fundraising activities which provide valuable benefits to the school children. We are currently looking for new committee members to join our existing team so please get in touch with school if interested. ⇒

Mrs Suzy Willis

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⇒ Classroom news

Robins class celebrated Chinese new year by making and eating stir fry and noodles. In PE, they became fearsome Chinese Dragons and learned a dragon dance. Robins are continuing their space topic of "To infinity & beyond" and are getting excited about everyone's favourite – Toy Story.

Ravens (year 1 & 2) are learning "All about us" and will be completing their full size images of themselves. In Maths, they have been model building by following instructions and diagrams to complete complex models.

Red Kites (Year 3) have been tasked with making a Viking longship as part of their homework and have produced some amazing models which are proudly displayed in their classroom – already a sizeable fleet is developing. Their Viking day will provide the opportunity to try making Viking soup and bread.

Kingfishers (Years 4 & 5) are continuing to learn about India and the village of Chembakoli and will be having an Indian day this term. They have produced some fantastic artwork through the medium of collage depicting Indian daily life. Kingfishers are lucky to have final year student teacher Mrs Ahmed joining them this term - we hope she enjoys her time at Drayton.

Eagles (year 5 & 6) have been working on persuasive writing, debating and arguments, so apologies if you get more than you bargained for when trying to reason with your 9 & 10 year olds!

However the big highlight for all our year 5 & 6 children will be their week-long trip to Yenworthy.

DRAYTON 1st BROWNIES

Ruth Hudson

One of our February meetings was greatly enjoyed by our Brownies with the Police Community Support Officers spending the evening with us. We would like to express our thanks to Sandra Syphas and Carley Milward for a very informative talk regarding their roles within the area.

During March we have lots of special evenings planned:-

St Davids Day Celebrations - wearing something yellow whilst we investigate Welsh culture and enjoy eating Welsh cakes.

St Patricks Day celebrations - wearing something green whilst learning some Irish dancing. We are going to look at Irish culture and enjoy eating soda bread.

We also have planned, pancake tasting on Ash Wednesday plus making Mothers Day cards and flower decorations.

Meetings are held at Drayton village Hall, on Wednesdays during school term time 6.15pm – 7.45pm. Meetings are open to all girls aged between 7 – 10 years old.

Further details are available from:-

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Ruth Hudson | (Brown Owl) | Tel: 01235 205111 |
| Esther Deabill | (Tawny Owl) | Tel: 01235 528502 |
| Paula Harper | (Friendly Owl) | Tel: 01235 534166 |

DRAYTON WIVES

Pam Lacey

In January, one of our members, Josie Midwinter (previously until her retirement, Vicar at St Peter's, Drayton), gave a very interesting talk on her life from her childhood spent in her parents greengrocery shop in Didcot to later, after various jobs, her calling to the Church. She joined the Church Army which took her to work in Yorkshire amongst many other places. This was followed by her joining the Church Missionary Service which led to her working in Uganda and elsewhere in Africa. Josie has kindly agreed to continue her life story after our AGM meeting in May which we will all be very much looking forward to.

Dates for your Diary in March:

| | | |
|---------|--------|------------------------------------|
| COFFEE | Mon 14 | Helen, Jackie, Oenone |
| WHIST | Mon 21 | Cathy Norris |
| MEETING | Wed 30 | Karen Wiseman – Ladies of Blenheim |

PRE-SCHOOL

Debbie Bargus

Do you have a child who is approaching 2½yrs. We are happy to put younger children onto our waiting list. The children have great fun and are always learning new things. Please contact Preschool on 01235 536094 for a welcome pack or to visit:

Term 4 begins – Mon 28th Feb - Term 4 ends – Fri 8th April

YOUTH ZONE

Naomi Broomfield

Thank you to all of the young people who attended our first members meeting - it was great to hear your views on what is good about Youth Zone while acknowledging areas for improvement! We hope to have these meetings on a regular basis.

As reported last month, we have been struggling for volunteers and I am pleased to say that things are looking brighter - thank you very much to Josie and Gina for your interest and we look forward to working with you in the coming months. We are also going to have one of the young people from DAMASCUS, Christian Milton, working with us and running some activities during the Youth Zone sessions for six weeks in March and April. This is an exciting partnership between Youth Zone and Damascus and one which we hope will be able to be repeated with other young people wanting experience doing Youth work.

A special mention to Toby Soper who helped us out running some sports sessions for us before our paid sports coach could start. He was resourceful, committed and organised and all who attended his sessions thoroughly enjoyed them - thank you Toby.

Midnight ice skate was unfortunately cancelled due to the snow, - refunds on the way but watch out for details of a possible outing to the rink on our own.

(Youth zone is a youth club open to all young people in school years 6 to 10 and operates on Monday evenings in term time from **6pm till 7.30pm** at Drayton villiage hall, £1 admission.)

GARD

Nick Thompson

We hope to have some news about the outcome of the Public Inquiry into Thames Water's draft Water Resources Management Plan in the near future, indeed, by the time of this newsletter's publication there may have been a press release or announcement as we understand the Inspector's Report has now passed through Defra, and presumably reached the Minister's Office.

It has been a long battle and the Minister's decision will affect all of us in the four villages surrounding the proposed reservoir site. Whatever the outcome there is nothing to prevent Thames Water bringing forward the proposal again in its next plan, even if the decision is broadly in our favour. However, the Company's decision to opt for a reservoir which cannot be justified on the evidence of demand forecasts, and which is the most expensive solution should be reflected in the Inspector's Report.

We hope that Thames Water will be required to study and cost several more appropriate, sustainable and less environmentally damaging alternatives which it dismissed in its plan, in the event of a real need for more water resources becoming evident.

The AGM of GARD will be held at Stocks Lane Farm on Tuesday 22nd March at 7.30 pm and we would welcome attendance by members, whom we thank for their support.

DRAYTON W.I.

Shirley Thomas

We had a most interesting meeting listening to Julia Sharpe talking about Pets as Therapy. She brought along with her a local volunteer from Drayton with her "Pat Dog", Roxie. It became obvious through her talk what joy and comfort these dogs can bring to the most disadvantaged members of society.

It is amazing to learn that there are 23850 dogs and 115 cats on the register in the U.K. Within Oxfordshire, there are about 120 volunteers but with 60 locations still awaiting visits, they are always looking for new recruits. It takes a placid dog with a special temperament to be a Pat Dog but what a wonderful thing to do with your pet.

Our March meeting is our A.G.M. when we hope to have a shake up of our committee and some new blood generating new ideas. Our speaker will be Catherine Hitchens talking on Family History and Registration Service.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Pearl Stanbridge

Please "HELP US TO HELP THEM" by supporting our Easter Draw. The next committee meeting will be held on Monday 21st March at 8 pm.

YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor,

I am a resident of Drayton and in April will be taking on the swim of my life to raise money for **Marie Curie Cancer Care**. I am participating in this years Swimathon at the White Horse Leisure Centre where I will be completing a distance of 2.5K, my target time for this is 90 minutes. The fundraising target I am trying to reach is £300, my page can be found at the following link <http://my.artezglobal.com/personalPage.aspx?registrationID=336151&langPref=en-CA>. Alternatively, I do have a good old fashioned paper form if anyone would like to come and say hello at Sutton Wick Lane. I would be very grateful for any help Chronicle readers can give.

Amy Nicholson

Dear Editor,

I am tracing our family tree and have a record of a James Allen living at No. 3 Corneville Road in 1955. We also have a record of the death of Dorothy Allen, wife of a James Allen but we are not sure whether they are one and the same.

We are trying to trace any living relatives of James (he was born in Whitehaven, Cumberland) and any help would be appreciated. My telephone No. is 01274 590640. Many thanks.

Janet Mackin

Dear Editor,

I would like to express my thanks to everyone in Drayton who sent me cards and best wishes during my three month stay in hospital. My grateful thanks go especially to Jackie Walker and Sally Dixon for their support over the last six months.

Dorothy Drew

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THE RED LION

YOUR LETTERS CONTINUED

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank all my family and friends for the cards and letters sent to me on the death of John, my husband and David and Lynne's dad, they were very much appreciated. Thanks also for all the Get Well cards sent to me on my illness.

Marion, David and Lynne Gunner

Dear Editor,

The PACE Centre is very grateful to the people of Drayton for their kindness and generosity. PACE is going through difficult times and cuts as we all are.

In common with other parents of children with handicaps, Clare has little respite for Natasha now, it has been cut. Natasha likes respite and calls it her sleepover! She has continuous pain in her back and legs and now regularly has terrible migraines with violent sickness.

On a brighter note, Rosemary Barlow and I are holding a very special coffee morning for PACE on Thursday 24th March, 10 -12.30 am. We hope to see you there.

Judy Henman

Dear Editor,

Friday Club

While we acknowledge the thanks paid to us by Sylvia and Beryl (see last month's Chronicle), I would like to say that Sylvia Bond, Beryl Dawson and supported from time to time by Brenda Whiting are the unsung heroes. Without them, there would not be a Friday Club, they give up every other Friday throughout the year to be there for those in the village who need a little support and company.

They are the ones who deserve the gratitude.

Shirley Thomas

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Dear Editor,

I would like to reply to letters you have published in your last two editions of the Chronicle, written in response to my contribution on the subject of bus passes.

I am delighted that people have been moved to respond, but disappointed that I seem to have given the impression to some that I am anti-bus passes, anti-the elderly and even anti-the environment. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The purpose of my original article was to invite all those who currently claim bus passes, but could afford to pay for the journey, to do so. I believe, passionately, that bus passes (for those that need them) are indeed a very good idea and have been a real and deserving benefit to many elderly people.

However, if we are to avoid growing divisions in society, the pain of the next few years must be shared by all, and in proportion to what each of us can afford. The problem with blanket benefits, handed out in the good times, is that, very soon, they become inalienable rights in tough times.

As far as environmental issues are concerned, I would like to encourage as many people out of cars and *into* buses, *onto* bicycles and *walking* as possible. Indeed, in my view, this is the *only* realistic solution to Abingdon's traffic problems. Dreams of bridges and by-passes are just that - unaffordable dreams.

This brings me to the second issue raised in the correspondence. As a result of the Drayton Survey, which I instigated, organised, distributed, and collated in the summer of 2008 and reported on fully in the Chronicle in December 2008, I realised that I needed to get as involved as possible in Drayton's no1 issue - namely traffic in Abingdon. Traffic and roads are a County Council responsibility. As a mere District councillor I can only have an indirect affect on policy. However, I volunteered to be the District Council rep on the newly formed Abingdon Partnership (joining reps of the Town and County Council). Here traffic issues can be discussed with those who have the power to do something about it. A solution will take many years to achieve as it is not just an Abingdon issue, but a common problem throughout the nation.

The survey also showed that there are many more bicycles in Drayton than there are people, and, even allowing for many of them belonging to young children, only a tiny proportion are actually used to get people to and from Abingdon! In the same way, the speeding figures (another of the Survey's top Drayton issues) suggested that an uncomfortably large proportion of the speeding in the village, is done by its own residents!

I learned much from the Drayton Survey and still use the data it produced to argue Drayton's corner at every opportunity. I will continue to do this as long as you elect me to do so.

Richard Webber

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LETTER FROM FLORIDA

David Huband

During the past 28, years twice a year The Painton's of Henleys Lane have mailed us the last six months of Drayton Chronicles to keep in touch with the news. After reading them I pass them on to Jill who lives near Philadelphia, is married to Michael and have five wonderful children under 12 yrs.

They then go on to the Boston area to John and Francine, they have two children, Jason and new baby Joslyn. John was a late starter with his family!

Cast your thoughts back to the 80's The Huband Family were still living in Drayton. My wife Margaret was involved with running the Play Group and President of WI for a period. I was Chairman of the PTA, and also involved on the "New Village Hall" committee and the Air Force Cadets in Abingdon. Our son John attended Drayton School and later John Mason in Abingdon, Jill attended Drayton school. I was the technical manager at the printers, Burgess & Son Abingdon.

In 1982 the opportunity to move to Boston Massachusetts was offered to me by the the board of directors at Burgess to set up a new company. This resulted in us selling our home (to the Border Family, former head master at Drayton) and moving to a new life in the USA. Margaret and I later left Boston and moved to Florida in 1989 where I have been selling Real Estate, although retired now. Margaret passed away after a 5 year battle with cancer, we were in our 41st year of marriage

I remarried 8 years ago to Jackie a widow from Indianapolis and built a new home to start a new phase of life together. We are travelling a lot and enjoying our expanded family. Jackie has two married sons similar in age to John and Jill, Steve and Sue and Brian and Laura, they each have 2 children, Evan, and Aiden, and Anthony and Violet. This gives us a total of 11 grandchildren under 12 years old.

In the last batch of Chronicles several names from the past popped out at me which prompted me to write this letter, Ann Webb, Geoff Caudle, Sheila Cook, and memories of Norman Stimpson, and Vic Parly.

Back in the 70's the Caudle's, along with the Chapman's and the Huband's had a lot of fun Caravanning together in the New Forest. Ann, I remember acting in a WI play with Margaret. Sheila and family were very helpful to us when we first moved to Drayton from Norfolk.

We hope to be in the UK next year and maybe visit Drayton once again.

I would be pleased to hear from old friends, my e-mail is djhuband@hotmail.com.

Kindest Regards to all,

Dave Huband

PS. Since writing this letter Number 11 grandchild Joslyn has died following an eight month fight from complications at birth.

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DRAYTON DIARY

FOR MARCH

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website address www.draytonvh.org.uk

Regular Events are listed opposite

| | | | | |
|------------|-------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Sun | 6th | Bowls | All day | |
| Mon | 7th | 7.30 pm | Parish Council Meeting | <i>Caudwell DC</i> |
| Sat | 12th | Sequence dance, private event | | |
| Sun | 13th | The last Antiques Fair All day | | |
| Mon | 14th | 5.00 pm | Chronicle copy deadline | <i>Vickery's box</i> |
| Sun | 20th | Private booking | | |

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REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

MONDAYS

| | | |
|----------------|--|---------------------------|
| 9.00 am | Pre-School Playgroup (in Term) | <i>School Ground Bldg</i> |
| 12-12.30pm | WeightWatchers | <i>Caudwell DC</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> |
| 6.00 - 7.30 pm | Youthzone (Except Bank Holidays) | |
| 6.30 - 7.30pm | Novice Table Tennis Coaching | <i>School</i> |
| 7.00 pm | Scouts (Boys / girls, 8-10 yrs, Tel. 512834) | <i>Steventon Hall</i> |
| 7.15 pm | Drayton Wives Whist (3rd Monday) | <i>Caudwell DC</i> |
| 7.30 - 8.30pm | Junior/Improvers Table Tennis Coaching | <i>School</i> |
| 7.30 pm | Parish Council (1st Monday) | <i>Caudwell DC</i> |
| 7.45 - 8.45 pm | Drayton Drop In (Except Bank Holidays) | |
| 7.45 pm | Bell-ringing (for 1½ hours) | <i>St Peter's</i> |
| 8.30 pm | Badminton (Private Group) | |
| 8.30 - 10.00pm | Senior Table Tennis Practice | <i>School</i> |

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 20 min) | <i>Haywards Rd</i> |
| 11.20 am | Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min) | <i>The Green Car Pk</i> |
| 2.00 pm | Whist - now each week | <i>Caudwell Day Centre</i> |
| 2.00 pm | Drayton Wives (Last Wednesday in the month) | |
| 2.15 pm | Badminton | |
| 6.15 pm | Brownies | |
| 6.15 pm | Cubs (Boys / girls, 8-9 yrs, Tel. 512834) | <i>Steventon Hall</i> |
| 7.00 pm | Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours) | |
| 7.30 pm | Bingo Session | <i>Caudwell Day Centre</i> |
| 7.30 pm | League Table Tennis | <i>School</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 in Month) | <i>Caudwell DC</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 | Women's Institute Meeting (2nd Thursday) | |
| 7.30 pm | Sequence Dancing. Tel: 531701 | |

FRIDAYS

| | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 9.00 am | Pre-School Playgroup (in Term) | <i>School Ground Bldg</i> |
| 11.00 am | The Friday Club (fortnightly) 202466 | <i>Caudwell Day Centre</i> |
| 7.45pm | Choir Practice (fortnightly) | <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 (1st Sunday) | <i>Baptist Church</i> |
| 6.00 pm | Evening Worship | <i>Baptist Church</i> |

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