

# DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Tony Holmes

Volume 34 No. 4

May 2011

## PARISH THE THOUGHT - & CHERISH THE BUS

A quick update on the elections on May 5 for **your parish councillors** for the next 4 years. There will be no parish election. Only 7 people put themselves forward for the 11 seats.

As somebody who has been on the Council for the last 8 years I have no way of knowing whether this is a sign of satisfaction in the way in which the Council is being run, or residents feel that the parish council is not relevant to life in the village. I am not sure that the latter stands up to examination given the number of people who have benefited from grants made to organisations involving residents, or from the burial ground and allotments.

There is some evidence that residents expect litter to be picked and it is very important that play equipment is provided and kept in good working order. Walkers and horse riders will appreciate their rights of way being protected. There is currently a consultation on the subsidised buses serving the village.

Fortunately the opportunity to become a parish councillor does not end on 5 May as vacancies can be filled through a relatively painless process of co-option. The next time to **see the PC in action** is at its AGM (see page 9) when you can get a sense of whether you might have something to offer. There is a minimum commitment to one evening meeting per month - normally first Monday. Or you could always speak to somebody who has been a parish councillor (including me – **Daniel Scharf** - tel 531107).

The County Council are considering what to do with the **subsidised bus services**:- the 32B&C running in the evenings between Abingdon and Didcot, and the Sunday X2 service.

**The numbers of users is low**, and therefore a high subsidy per passenger. This is not a good picture when money is tight.

**Residents have until 3 June** to send their questions or views to [tim.darch@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:tim.darch@oxfordshire.gov.uk). There's a public meeting in Grove Village Hall on 12 May (Thurs) from 2pm to 5pm or come and tell the Parish Council (May 16th) what you are thinking.

For example, the Council need to know if you would be more likely to use the Oxford to Drayton service in the evenings if the journey was not broken in Abingdon, or if you will be relying on buses more in the future (including Sundays) as fuel prices increase. As with all public services, **if we do not use it we will lose it** - at a time when some people are dependent on these buses.

## **DRAYTON ART GROUP** **ANNUAL EXHIBITION**

**SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

**AT CAUDWELL DAY CENTRE**

**2.00 TILL 4.00 pm**

**CAKE, PLANT, BOOK & BRIC-A-BRAC STALLS**

**FREE ENTRY RAFFLE TEAS**

For Info call Cicely Willis-Dixon (531626)



**Oxfordshire  
Country Show**

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**Motorcycle Trails Display**  
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**Traction Engines**

**....And much more!!**

**Sunday 29th May 2011**  
Hill Farm, Steventon, OX13 6SW  
Gates open 10am

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 **Oxfordshire Federation  
of Young Farmers**

## **DRAYTON SCHOOL SUMMER FETE**

**SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> June**

**12.00 – 2.00 PM**

**AT DRAYTON SCHOOL**

**WW2 Army Vehicles**  
**Dragster**

**School Displays**

**BBQ, Cream Teas, Grand Raffle,**  
**Lots & Lots of Stalls,**  
**Bouncy Castle and fun activities**  
**For all children.**

**COME AND JOIN THE FUN**

# COMING CHRONICLES

The **JUNE Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Friday, May 27th**, from **Barry Sharp (526939)**, who should be contacted by Agents requiring extra copies.

The Editor will be **David Lee (202699)**. Contributions may be e-mailed (see below), or placed in the Chronicle letter box, outside Vickery's store on Drayton Green,

**NO LATER than 5.15 pm on Monday, May 16th 2011.**

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

**STOP PRESS - ADVERTISERS should note** that the deadline for ads is EARLIER, Friday May 13th, due to their preparation time.

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

The box is checked a little before the deadline. It is a great help if items can be left a few days before the closing date. Thank you.

## NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

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

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

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

**Please remember to check** that you soon get a confirmation reply. We do occasionally have emails sent that just don't arrive!

2. An email attachment, in WORD please.
3. A good, **black typescript** on white A4 paper or smaller. Or perhaps hand-written, either way, NAMES in CAPITALS please!
4. IF in any doubt, ASK the EDITOR!

THE FOLLOWING TWO MONTHS		
Issue for	Copy for publication by Mondays (nb Agents Lottery Packs Fri before)	Chronicle published and available for distribution on Fridays:-
July	13 June	24 June
August	18 July	29 July

## ADVERTISING RATES

For Block Advert (about 1/12<sup>th</sup> page)

----- 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

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

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

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

**Letters to the Editor** You may request that your name & address are not shown; but we **MUST** have the details, and phone number.

# CHRONICLE LOTTERY

**Daphne Samworth, Hon. Promoter**

## RESULTS OF THE APRIL LOTTERY

Prize	Winner	Agent
£25	V. Cross 32, Binning Close	Cathy Norris
£20	P. Taylor 22, High Street	Daren McDonald
£15	P. Lacey 15, Whitehorns Way	Trudi Buckner
£10	J. Greenaway 15, Eastway Caravan Park	Teresea Burnage
£10	M. McMahon 16, Lesparre Close	Brenda Whiting
£10	J. White 2, Eastway	Teresa Burnage
£10	G. Redman 43, High Street	Gerald Redman
£10	G. Akers 4, Marcham Road	Karen Jackson
£10	B. Krason 108, Abingdon Road	Margaret Armstrong
£10	J. Simmonds c/o 28, Lockway	Sue Ash

Winning tickets, from 2179 sold, were drawn by staff at the Forge Garage.

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

## The Beauty Spot

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## ALL AROUND

### Drayton 1st Brownies

Ruth Hudson

We would like to express our thanks once again to the Police Community Support Officers Sandra Syphas and Carley Milward for arranging a tour around Abingdon Police Station.

Our thanks also to the Steventon Line Dancers, who spent the evening with us, teaching their routines, which the Brownies greatly enjoyed.

During May we will be working towards our Wildlife Explorer and Toymaker badges. This will include making a honey bee attracter and keeping records of garden birds for the Wildlife Explorer and making teddy bears for the Toymaker badge. We will also be sowing seeds and making bird feeders.

**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

## THE WHEATSHEAF



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Tuesday to Friday £6.50 including sweet

**Bookings :- call Gel or Austin (01235 531485)**

**Drayton (on the village green)**

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OFFICE**

## Drayton Post Office

Mon - Fri 9 - 5.30 Sat 9 - 12.30

## & CONVENIENCE STORE

Open All Week 8 am - 10 pm

9, The Green, Drayton, OX14 4JA

**01235 531359**

### OTHER LOCAL PLACES OF WORSHIP

**Methodist Chapel** Sunday Service: 10.30 am  
High Street, Milton  
Local contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409

## W. J. TAYLOR & SONS

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# DRAYTON Twinning

**Invites villagers to our AGM**

**7:30pm on Tuesday 10th May 2011**

**At the Caudwell Day Centre**

**Find out about our summer plans**

**More information:- 01235 531388 / 531347**

### The ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Pearl Stanbridge

The annual conference is being held in Telford at the end of the month, so watch your journal for updates.

NB:- The next Committee meeting is on Monday May 16th at 8pm.

## M. S. Lally

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## DRAYTON WIVES

**Pam Lacey**

At our March meeting Karen Wiseman, the Education Officer at Blenheim Palace, gave a fascinating talk on the Ladies of Blenheim, starting in 1704 when the Palace was built with Sarah, the wife of the first Duke John Swift, who was deemed to be of very strong character.

The subsequent Duchesses that followed all played a significant part in the history of the Palace, especially the 9th Duke's wife, Consuelo, who was beautiful and extremely wealthy (from the American Vanderbilt family), and spent a vast amount of money on improvements to the Palace. Hopefully Karen will be back at a later date with more stories from the Palace's history.

NB Reference our 50th Birthday Celebration in June, if anyone has any contact information on past members please call Ann Hutchings on (01235) 511122.

### Dates for your Diary in May:-

COFFEE	Mon 9	Pam, Janet T, Rosemary
WHIST	Mon 16	Janet Thomas
MEETING	Wed 25	AGM and Tea

# ST PETER'S CHURCH

<b>Priest in Charge</b>	Interregnum	
<b>Minister in training</b>	Revd Rosie Bruce	525284
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Mrs Sue Harris	848361
	Mrs Val Cross	535183
<b>Choir Director</b>	Jo Burn	
<b>Organist</b>	Robert Legg	

## CHURCH NOTICES

### REGULAR SERVICES

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

### REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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

### CALENDAR for MAY

Tues	3rd	3.00 pm	1st Tuesday Connections	Church Room
Sat	21st	10.00 am	<b>Plant Sale</b> (until noon)	

### PARISH REGISTER

<b>Funeral</b>	April 8th	Grace Fuller
	April 15th	Sylvia Joan Lyford
<b>Baptism</b>	April 3rd	Finley Malcolm Noble-Stocks & Zachariah Benjamin James Tyler

## YOU STAY – WE PRAY (May)

1st to 14th Steventon Road; Eastway; Eastway MHP  
 15th to 21st Church Lane; Henleys Lane; Caudwell Close; Gravel Lane  
 22nd to 4th June Abingdon Road; Oday Hill; Binning Close; Haywards Road

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THE RED LION

## Letter from St Peter's Church

Dear Friends,

### 'Life before Death'

The village of Drayton has been supporting Christian Aid for many years mainly through the annual door-to-door collection in May. Delivering and then collecting well over a thousand red envelopes is quite a mission. As the co-ordinator, I should like to thank all those collectors who have generously supported me, offered their time and been unfailingly cheerful for so many years.

This year, with the band of willing volunteers slowly dwindling, we have reluctantly decided to 'take a break' and try something new. To maintain our support, we have asked the local shops and pubs to help. Collecting boxes and envelopes will be available from **15th to 21st May** at :-

- A.L. Vickery
- The Post Office
- Mace
- Python's Lair
- The Wheatsheaf
- The Red Lion and
- St Peters Church

The envelopes can be returned to the safe, (on the right just inside the church door), or popped through the letter box at 98 Abingdon Road. Posters will also be up around the village to help remind you.

Please do continue to support Christian Aid in their fight against poverty; it is an outrage robbing people of their dignity, freedom and hope, of power over their own lives. Christian Aid works with people of all faiths in many of the world's poorest countries enabling them to work their way out of poverty and transform their lives, the lives of their families and those of their community.

*Victoria Griffiths*



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MAY Dates

Abingdon (3rd Friday) – 20th Didcot (2nd Sat) - 14th  
 Newbury (1st & 3rd Sundays) – 1st (larger) / 15th

TVFM news - ring 01235 227266 - website [Tvfm.org.uk](http://Tvfm.org.uk)  
 Usually the markets run from about 8.30 am until lunchtime,  
 Lamb, Beef, Fish and Cakes stalls are all highly praised.

## (MORE) ALL AROUND

### Drayton Pre-School Playgroup Debbie Bargas

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

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

We are very lucky to have a garden area at preschool and it would be good to look at how we can improve what we already have and make it a fun, interactive and safe place to play.

We are calling on all our parents to get involved in the garden project by either:- Volunteering some of your time one Saturday or Sunday to do some work in the preschool garden. This might be weeding, planting, mowing or moving the shed!

Or Donating some plants - these could be ones you've grown at home or an extra one from your trip to the garden centre. Obviously any plant donations would need to be child safe, it would also be good to have both flowers and some fruit/veg - tomatoes, strawberries etc - the children could grow their own snack!! **If you can help**, please contact Preschool.

Our AGM this year is being held on Wednesday 15th June in the Preschool building. This is a very important meeting for Preschool as we will be looking to elect new officers to the committee. **We need a Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary.** These three important roles **MUST** be filled for Preschool to continue, we would also like general members who are also important to help with new ideas and fundraising items. All are welcome, please support us.

**We will have spaces available for September 2011.** Do you have a child who is approaching 2 1/2yrs. We are happy to put younger children onto our waiting list. Please do keep supporting us, the children have great fun and are always learning new things. **Please contact Preschool** ([draytonpreschool@btconnect.com](mailto:draytonpreschool@btconnect.com)) or on 01235 536094 for a welcome pack or to visit.

The collection boxes for Tesco School and Clubs and Sainsbury's Active kids 10 vouchers are now in Preschool, we appreciate all vouchers as these go to getting lovely new items for the children. Many thanks to everyone who has already given us vouchers.

### ST PETER'S CHURCH HOME-VISITING GROUP

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

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

Mrs Suzy Willis

MCSP SRP AACP

### CHARTERED PHYSIOTHERAPIST

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### Drayton TABLE-TENNIS Club John Gould

By the time you are reading this, the season will have finished. There are still some ties left to play but the 8 Drayton teams in the Didcot League have fared as follows. The A team are runners up in Division 1. Having secured the title last season they failed to retain it by 2 points, losing a crucial tie against the new Champions due to only having 2 players available. Next season will see the team without Craige Campbell who has moved to Sweden with his wife and young family. **The B team have romped to the Division 2 championship.** Following relegation last season they have lost only one tie and are worthy winners. Captained by Tony Krason the team is Tony, Matt Davies, Glen Freeman & Rob Hudson.

The C team finished happily in mid-table in Division 2 as will the F & G teams in Divisions 4 & 5. The H team of cadets in their first season finished well, above Moreton F who are bottom of Div 5.

The D team in Division 2 are taking it to the wire. There are 4 teams at the bottom and with Moreton B certain to go down; one from Abingdon B, Howbery A or our D team will drop with them. The E team are also in the Division 3 relegation dogfight. Malborough D are relegated and either Drayton E or Malborough E will go with them. Hopefully both our D & E teams will survive.

On a better note, the E team have reached the Handicap Shield Quarter Finals so they may yet get some success this season.

**The club Championships are at the School on 8th May and our Cadets event on 9th May.** A report of these in next month's issue together with the Junior tournament from 12th April.

*Kindermusik*

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Call Sarah Whittle on 01235 832034



# BAPTIST CHURCH

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

## REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

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

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

## (EVEN MORE) ALL AROUND

### Drayton Twinning Society Michael Bell

Our next meeting will be our AGM, to be held at the Caudwell Centre on Tues 10th May at 19:30. This will be followed by more detailed planning for the forthcoming visit from Lesparre

Regular readers will already know that this year Drayton is host for our 'twinners' from Lesparre and they will be here over the August Bank holiday. This year there will be a larger group, over 30 visitors. This provides an opportunity to join in with what promises to be an active and enjoyable weekend. Not only will you be able to meet our visitors but you will have a great opportunity to meet your friends and neighbours from the village. For some of our events numbers will be limited.

Here is an outline of our present plans for the visit:-

**Thursday 25th August** - Visitors will arrive by coach, meet their hosts and settle in for the evening.

**Friday 26th** - in this Royal Wedding year we thought a visit to Windsor would be appropriate. With luck we shall see the Changing of the Guard at 11:00 and enjoy an audio guided tour of the castle and state rooms, which takes about 2 hours.

**Saturday 27th** - we hope to visit the Hawk Conservancy Trust and/or a visit to Avebury? In the evening we hope to have a communal supper with traditional Fish & Chips!

**Sunday 28th** - we shall spend the day in the village and have a walk in the vicinity of Letcombe Bassett with a picnic lunch and a leisurely afternoon. We shall probably return home via Wantage with a home cooked dinner to look forward to.

**Monday 29th** - Hosts will organise their own day to entertain their guests with or without other members of the group.

In the evening we shall all have dinner together before our guests return home on **Tuesday 30th**.

If you would like more information about the visit or local Twinning opportunities please call Michael Bell 01235 531388, Stephen Fearnley 01235 531347 or Bob Matthews 01235 531204.

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

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

Mondays & Tuesdays & Saturdays 9.00am to 5.00 pm  
Wednesday closed all day  
Thursdays and Fridays 9.00am to 6.00pm



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

**Special rates for Pensioners and Free Car Parking**

# CHRONICLE NEWS

Many thanks to Venessa Denton for everything she has done as Chronicle agent for Lesparre Close, we are pleased to welcome Brenda Whiting who takes on this round.

And thanks to Shirley Schofield for taking an additional round delivering the Chronicle to Manor Close.

We still have a few **vacancies** if there is anyone who would like to get involved, the **role can be shared** if that makes it easier. Feel free to give me a call if you would like to chat about it.

*Gareth Davies (529510 - Chronicle co-ordinator)*

## A J Taylor

General Services

01235 200954 / 07906 849524

adrian.taylor6099@ntlworld.com



• All aspects of removals and storage,  
plus house clearance welcome

• All gardening jobs such as weeding,  
mowing, hedge trimming, removal of  
garden waste etc

• Painting and decorating inside and out,  
including woodwork, fences and sheds.

### Drayton BABY & TODDLER Group Vicky Cotterell

Hello to everyone and hoping that you all had a good Easter break. We have been busy on Thursday mornings since the last Chronicle, even though we had 2 weeks off; we made Mother's Day cards, Easter cards and decorated baskets which were filled with yummy chocolate eggs, and on our first week back we had a celebration morning for the royal wedding, where we made flags and crowns and had a special party snack. **Thanks to everyone who provided food for us all to share.**

Thanks too to all that are helping to open up, it really does help.

This month we will be doing spring activities, and playing with all our friends. Mummies and carers will be enjoying a chat and our tea and coffee from Joy, thanks again Joy.

**If you would like to join us** we are in the village hall Thursdays 9.30-11.30 term times and would be glad to see you. For more information call **Vicky 07779 243290.**

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# YOUR LETTERS

## Grateful Thanks

Dear Sir, Fisher Close

I would like to thank everyone in the village for their kind messages and cards which have been sent to me and all my family, on the sad loss of Sylvia (Sue) Lyford.

Thank you for all the help and support that was given to Sue over the past few years, and the donations given to RNLI in her memory.

Brian Lyford & Family



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## PACE

Dear Sir, via email

We would like to thank all the many kind people who donated items and came along to the PACE Coffee Morning on March 24th.

We were so pleased with the response and absolutely delighted to hand over a cheque for £465 to PACE who rely heavily on charity donations.

Many people said how much they had enjoyed the morning and when were we going to hold another? There is nothing in the pipeline at present but we certainly hope to make PACE Coffee Morning an annual event.

Our thanks to you all again.

Rosemary Barlow, Judy Henman & Ann Gibson

## **Want help researching your family tree?**

*Don't have the time, resources or expertise?*

*Perhaps I can help. Contact me:*

**Maureen Hudson**

**Know your Kith n Kin**

Family History Research Service

**E-mail: [KithnKin09@aol.com](mailto:KithnKin09@aol.com)**

**Mobile: 07885 230613**

## **Drayton Window Cleaning Service**

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Online payment is also welcome.

Other services include: Conservatory roof cleaning;  
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## Children's Society

Dear Sir, Steventon Road

The recent collection for the Children's Society took place in Binning Close, Haywards Road, East Way, Lockway, Steventon Road and Whitehorns Way and it raised £156.

Many thanks to all who kindly contributed.

Doreen Bourne



## DRAYTON YOUTH CENTRE CHARITY (Apply Soon)

**Applications are invited** from any Youth Organisation in Drayton wishing to apply for financial assistance from the above charity.

To request an application form please send an email to [karen.tinson1@ntlworld.com](mailto:karen.tinson1@ntlworld.com) or telephone 01235 531596.

NB **Applications must be received by 31st May**

All applications will be considered at the Charity's meeting to be held in June (date to be confirmed).

## Return to Golf in Drayton!

**Drayton Park Golf Club are offering free one hour taster sessions in May followed by four 1 hour coaching sessions, June - August 2011**

Sessions are open to anyone over the age of 16 and are aimed at those who have either played little or no golf before, or those who gave up playing the sport a number of years ago.

Following the free taster there will be the opportunity to try out new skills on a regular basis throughout the summer as the club will be offering discounted one hour golf sessions between June and August at just £20 for four sessions (including balls and clubs).

Booking for both the taster and coaching sessions are necessary. Please contact Jonathan Draycott on 01235 550607 or [enquires@jonathandraycott.co.uk](mailto:enquires@jonathandraycott.co.uk)

(Terms & conditions apply)



## **MISSED OUT ON YOUR CHRONICLE?**

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

## YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

### On Picking & Choosing

Elections are all about choices. Much of the media would have it that the choices are simple. This lot cannot be trusted or that lot is beyond the pale. Much of the campaign advertising plays the same game. 'We want our troops to have decent safety equipment, we don't want AV' or 'The BNP are voting No – are you?'

All this insults the electors' intelligence. With falling newspaper readership (particularly amongst the young), and rapid communication via the internet – people are becoming better and more quickly informed of all the issues. They are ever-more able to spot when the wool is being pulled over their eyes – it seems that the politicians, the media and the campaign organisers are getting seriously behind.

The problem is, that with better, faster and more complete information on which to base our decisions, making our minds up becomes ever harder. Nothing seems simple any longer. We no longer quite trust what we are being told. We are no longer content to be told what to think. Decisions which seemed simple a generation ago, we now recognise as being fiendishly complicated.

Political Parties have policies on hundreds of issues. Manifestos are like telephone directories – and more often as not, about as entertaining. Do we reject a party because we do not like its position on this or that? Which are the issues that most matter to us? These are difficult and big decisions but our ancestors went through hell to give us our right to make them.

Luckily, the elections on May 5th are reasonably straightforward, although the media will try to make them complicated if they think it serves their purpose. Local District Elections are just that – LOCAL – do we trust this lot or that lot to make the best local decisions? Who has been doing the job? Would another lot do it better? These elections are not about Libya, or the National Health Service or Student Fees. They are about Waste collection, Planning and local communities.

Please when you make your choice on May 5th, and yes, **please do exercise your right to make a choice**, make it on local issues.

NB For clear, unbiased information on the AV referendum, I found the Election Commission's recent leaflet most helpful. But it arrived amongst the junk mail – and nearly went the same way!

*Richard Webber*

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



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### FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS

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

The teapot is always at the ready and you can be sure of a warm welcome. Our next two dates are May 3rd, and June 7th. If you need transport or further information please give me (Jean Hager) a call on 531558.

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## PARISH COUNCIL (April 4)

In addition to the Parish Councillors and our 2 County Councillors, 18 members of the public attended the Annual Parish Assembly. Daniel Scharf read his Chairman's Report covering matters dealt with over the past year. These included the outcome of the public enquiry into Thames Water's proposals for the new Reservoir, namely that TW were deemed not to have demonstrated a need for new water resources on anything like the scale originally planned. Daniel paid tribute to GARD, who at their own expense took on opponents with vastly greater financial resources, yet by virtue of sound research and argument, were able to expose the flaws in Thames Water's case.

Other issues were the long-running (ongoing) saga of the Earl of Plymouth Estates (Manor Farm) development, the Drayton Community Plan, and the new Localism Bill and its possible implications for planning and further new developments.

Parish Councillors serve for a four-year term, which comes to an end this year with the May 5th elections. Daniel therefore thanked the councillors and our relatively new but highly efficient Clerk, David Perrow for their past efforts and noted that David has already initiated a number of improvements in the Council.

It should be added that, although several of the present councillors intend to stand again on May 5th, there will continue to be vacancies on the Parish Council after that date. The closing date for nominations for election has passed, but the new Parish Council will have the power to co-opt councillors to make up our full complement of 11. In short, interested parties please come along and join us! →>>>>

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>>> Reports were also given by chairmen of each working group, and our County Councillors, Mike and Marilyn Badcock. Items of note included the following:- from the Finance Committee, various grants have been made to local bodies and organisations, and £15,000 has been set aside this year for a Recreation Project, which will hopefully be used to upgrade part of the children's playground in Lockway.

From the Rights of Way and Conservation Working Group, Jenny Pooley reported that an oak tree has been planted on the Millennium Green in memory of Norman Stimpson, who was a member of the Parish Council for 32 years, and also served Drayton in many other ways.

At the entrance to the Millennium Green from Sutton Wick Lane, an area of hard-standing has been laid where there was once a muddy rutted space, making for a much-improved appearance. In some other areas, such as traffic calming for the eastern end of the High Street, and making the slope from the Rook's Nest path less hazardous, progress is slow (as described last month), but not for the want of trying.

A matter of some concern, which was raised by two residents in the Annual Parish Assembly, is that the Kiln Lane bridleway is now being used by some vehicles as a road, since the laying of a hard surface by the developer of the new houses in Kiln Lane. It was pointed out that this is dangerous for the pedestrians and dog-walkers who use the bridleway on a regular basis. The Parish Council has undertaken to investigate, and work with VWHDC Planning Department and OCC's Environment Department to try to resolve the problem.

5 other members of the public spoke on behalf of their respective organisations:- Alan Alston for the Drayton Football Club; Andrew Gould for the Damascus Project; Tom Oliver for the Drayton Almshouses; Michael Bell for the Twinning Project; and Andrew Bax for the Drayton Community Trust.

Due to the local elections on May 5th, the **next Parish Council meeting** (the first meeting of the new Council) will be later in the month than usual, on **Monday 16th May 2011**, at 7.30pm, in the Caudwell Day Centre, Gravel Lane. As ever, all are welcome to attend.

*Richard Williams*

Please note that, although the Chronicle welcomes submissions on a variety of topics, the Editor reserves the right to shorten, clarify or reject any letter or supplied text.

## GARDENING TIME (Sara Southey)

Are you looking at your garden in all its glory and wondering why one or two plants that should be growing don't seem to be? Several in mine look like they've reached the end. It's been a hard winter for our plants and some, inevitably, haven't survived. By this time you should be able to see some kind of growth on all of them enabling you to know whether they're alive or dead. It may just be buds at the base or some green showing in the centre, but enough on close examination to say it's still alive.

One quick way of finding out if it's completely dead is by snapping or cutting dead looking branches. Starting at the tip, carefully cut or snap above a bud. If it snaps off easily or looks completely brown on the inside when you cut it then you can be sure it's dead. Carefully, keep snapping down until it doesn't give easily or when you cut the inside is a different colour to the outside, sometimes, greeny yellow, sometimes a lighter brown. By doing this you can see if the plant is still alive or completely dead.


Once you've established the plant is completely dead, dig it out and remove as much of the root ball as possible so you can replace it. If it's still alive but looks like it's struggling, prune back any damaged branches/shoots and give it a good feed with some general purpose fertiliser and ensure it doesn't lack water.

In fact, since our Springs seem to be taking on a hot dry aspect, it's really important to ensure that all your plants have enough water. This includes vegetable patches, anything in pots or newly planted. Most people water when they first plant something, but then forget. Newly planted stuff is particularly vulnerable, until a plant's roots have stretched from its original compost base and fully integrated with the surrounding soil the plant is very vulnerable to any kind of water shortage.

Anything newly planted or that has been damaged by frost, cold or heavily pruned needs water and food until it is established and flourishing. So, even in Spring time, when everything seems able to cope on its own, keep an eye on these weak plants and ensure they are watered and fed regularly to encourage good strong growth to enable them to survive a hard winter. The work we do now should pay off once the cold winters draw in. So invest in your plants now so they can bank enough energy to draw on when times get harsh. Happy Gardening!

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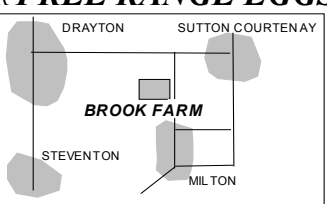
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## Drayton YOUTH ZONE Naomi Broomfield

A huge welcome and thank you to Gina, James and Josie who have bravely stepped up to the plate and become volunteers for Youth Zone.

This increase in adults will mean that we can offer a wider range of activities including lots of outside games and sports.

**Youth Zone is held on Monday evenings** from 6pm till 7.30pm at the Drayton Village Hall during school term time. All young people in school years 6 to 10 are welcome. **Please ring Naomi** on 532248 for more details.

### Update Report by Lauren Strong:

The girls' Damascus project is moving swiftly along and the workshop about relationships is nearing the end. We have worked really hard and are looking forward to running the workshop. We need to practice presenting it and then it's ready for an audience. We are hoping to run it for Drayton's younger generation, then move on to different villages to help them progress as well as ours.

As well as the girls' group, Damascus has been working with us to tackle antisocial behaviour and underage drinking. They are helping us understand the dangers and effects, and how antisocial behaviour reflects on the community as a whole.

**Andrew has recently taken on an allotment.** We couldn't quite understand why he got it, a patch of mud, filled with weeds. Digging and pulling weeds out didn't seem like a good way to spend our Saturday afternoon, however we gave it a go and helped Andrew. Now after a week, Andrew's crazy ideas have been put into action. We are halfway through building a shed, the weeds are gone and the swirly paths have been marked out. As Andrew said, "All this hard work will pay off when it's finished". We are a bit late starting it, but next year we are hoping to grow a variety of fruit and vegetables and distribute them around the community.

**Ed's Note :- Sadly a lack of space in this issue means we cannot include the latest in the set of 'youth' interviews, so the report by Chelsea Dennis, talking to Beverley Rayner, will appear in the next issue. SORRY!**

**STEWART'S DRIVING SCHOOL**  
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## NOTICE BOARD

### DRAYTON COMMUNITY TRUST and the DRAYTON MILLENNIUM GREEN TRUST

The Annual General Meetings of these local charities will be held in the Caudwell Day Centre from 7.30pm on Monday 13 June, and anyone is welcome to attend. The Drayton Community Trust exists to sponsor long-term community projects in the village; if you would like to discuss such matters in advance of the meeting, please telephone the chairman, Andrew Bax on 531512. Drayton Millennium Green Trust is responsible for the care and maintenance of the Millennium Green; its chairman is Nick Hamilton who can be contacted on 559291.

#### Wooden Spoon Recipe No. 39 (from March '03)

by Lois Rennells Orange Chutney excellent with Curry

2 chopped shallots, 1 peeled and chopped cooking apple, 2 large oranges (about 1 lb weight), 1 teaspoon salt, 6 fluid oz light vinegar, 4 oz sultanas, ½ teaspoon ground coriander, ½ teaspoon paprika, ½ teaspoon finely chopped fresh ginger, ½ lb sugar.

Simmer the shallots in a little water until soft. Add the apple and simmer until soft. Grate the rind of the oranges. Remove all the pith from the oranges and discard. Either chop or mince the orange flesh and reserve the juice. Add the orange rind, flesh and juice, the salt, 3 fl oz of the vinegar, the sultanas, coriander, paprika and ginger and simmer until the orange peel is tender (½ to ¾ hour).

Finally add the remaining 3 fl oz of vinegar and the sugar. Stir until the sugar dissolves then cook until thick stirring from time to time (about 20 to 30 minutes). Pot and seal.

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#### YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL CONTACTS :-

Parish (Clerk) David Perrow (draytonclerk@yahoo.co.uk)  
District (VofWH) Richard Webber (534001);  
& Oxfordshire County Mike & Marilyn Badcock (201810).

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# DRAYTON DIARIES

## DIARY FOR MAY

All events held in Drayton Hall unless otherwise stated

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

Thur	5	POLLING STATION
Sat	7	Private Booking
Mon	9	WI Group
Fri	13	Chronicle Adverts DEADLINE (p2)
Fri	13	Private Booking
Sat	14	Private Booking
Sun	15	Private Booking
Mon	16	5.15pm <b>CHRONICLE DEADLINE</b> Vickery's
Mon	16	7.30pm <b>Parish Council Meeting</b> (p9) Caudwell DC
Sat	21	Private Booking
Sat	28	Private Booking
Sun	29	Private Booking

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### MONDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	School Ground Bldg
12.00 pm	Weightwatchers	Caudwell DC
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
5.45 pm	Beavers (Boys/ girls, 6-8 yrs, Tel. 512834)	Steventon Hall
6.30 pm	Youth Zone (to 7.30 except Bank Hols)	
7.00 pm	Scouts (Boys/ girls, 8-10 yrs, Tel. 512834)	Steventon Hall
7.00 pm	Table Tennis (Junior coaching - 90 mins)	School
7.15 pm	Drayton Wives Whist (3rd Monday)	Caudwell DC
7.30 pm	Parish Council (1st Monday)	Caudwell DC
7.45 pm	Bell-ringing (for 1½ hours)	St Peter's
7.45 pm	Drayton Drop-In (to 8.45, except Bank Hols)	
8.00 pm	Table Tennis (Senior practice + playing 2 hrs)	School
8.30 pm	Badminton (Private Group)	

### TUESDAYS

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

### WEDNESDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	School Ground Bldg
11.00 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	Haywards Rd
11.20 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	The Green Car Pk
2.00 pm	Whist - now each week	Caudwell Day Centre
2.00 pm	Drayton Wives (Last Wednesday in the month)	
2.15 pm	Badminton	
6.15 pm	Brownies	
6.15 pm	Cubs (Boys/ girls, 8-9 yrs, Tel. 512834)	Steventon Hall
7.00 pm	Junior Table Tennis, Age 9+ (for 1 hour)	School
7.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
7.30 pm	Bingo Session	Caudwell Day Centre
7.30 pm	Table Tennis - League	School

### THURSDAYS

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

### FRIDAYS

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

### SUNDAYS

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

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