

# DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Derek Pooley

Volume 34 No. 6

July 2011

## COMMUNICATIONS PAST Derek Pooley



Bob Mathews recently lent me a copy of the last 'Drayton Parish Magazine' to be published in WWII, in December 1940. We all know that the change in our world since then has been breath-taking, but some of the differences might still surprise you.

Despite the rise and rise of the car since WWII, there are now twice as many buses each day from Drayton to Abingdon as there were then! Then telephones were rare but you could make your calls from 'Drayton 24' at Nye's

and take tea and light refreshments at the same time! And your family could leave messages for you there. That magazine contained 22 pages; this Chronicle has only 14! Not much of that magazine was about Drayton or by Drayton people though, which may explain the fall in circulation mentioned in the reasons given for ceasing publication.

You may Telephone from here—Drayton 24.

**E. G. Nye**  
Confectionery, Cigarettes,  
Etc.  
Teas & Light Refreshments  
Agent for *Yardes Seeds*, etc.  
Phone Messages Received  
**THE NOOK STORES**  
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*'War-time inevitably brings with it many and varied changes in our national and private life. One such change is the practice of economy both nationally and individually. No waste of food or any other essential commodity; no extravagance or unnecessary purchasing of anything but the necessities of life. Among many other things we are asked to save is paper, which in peace time is plentiful and cheap but now is scarce and dear. Accordingly, in common with many other Parishes, we have decided to discontinue our Parish Magazine, at least for the duration of the war. .... the monthly circulation has of late fallen away; also our list of advertisements would become smaller and as we chiefly rely on this for paying our way..... Hence the Drayton Parish Magazine, started in 1932, must, for the time being, be in 'abeyance,' which means, according to the King's English Dictionary, 'a state of suspension with the expectation of revival.'*

Revival did come, though it wasn't until January 1978 that the first 'Chronicle' appeared, the simpler 'Hall News' preceding it from July 1970. And I doubt that anyone in 1940 foresaw a day when village communications would be virtual, not on paper at all but in cyber-space!

Now read opposite: ⇨

## AND FUTURE! Alastair Grundy

### Village Website Goes Live!

In recent weeks Drayton village has been hauled into the digital age with the launch of our new village website, [www.drayton-near-abingdon.org](http://www.drayton-near-abingdon.org). Created and run by local volunteers, the website aims to be an information source for residents, visitors and well wishers of Drayton.



The website (see the home page below) has five main sections. Under Village Information you will find all of the important information about the village, including a calendar of events and details of local businesses, organisations and amenities. In the News section are up to date reports relevant to Drayton. The Drayton Chronicle features in the third section and they have kindly provided digital copies of current and past editions of their excellent publication along with information on how to submit new articles. A section dedicated..... Continued on page 6 ⇨



### Also in this issue:

- P3: Documenting Drayton Heroes
- P6: Surviving the Digital Switchover
- P8: Cultivating Future Reporters.
- P12: Up-grading the Playground
- P13: Willing ourselves a Parish Plan

Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project in Drayton

# Wonderwall 2011...

We invite you to come and see what we have been doing.

**When?** Saturday 2nd July, 2:30 - 4:30pm

**Where?** Drayton Village Hall

Andrew's allotment - 'Paint a Pot'

Eco-chic Fashion - 'Reduce and Reuse'

BMX - bring your bikes to be security marked



The DAMASCUS Youth Project is also supported by the local parish and parochial church councils

# CHRONICLE INFORMATION

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

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

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

Deadline for advertisements: **17.00 on Friday, 15 July 2011**

Deadline for other contributions: **17.00 on Monday, 18 July**

Printed copies available: **Friday, 29 July 2011**

## Key dates for the subsequent three Chronicles:

Issue for	Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available on:
September	15 August 2011	26 August 2011
October	19 September 2011	30 September 2011
November	17 October 2011	28 October 2011

## NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## ADVERTISING RATES

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

---- Number of Inserts ----

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

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

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

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

# CHRONICLE LOTTERY

**Daphne Samworth, Hon Promoter**

## RESULTS OF THE JUNE LOTTERY

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	1923	Mr. Pitts, 9 Lockway, Drayton	Christine Sadler
£20	1361	V. Purbrick, 4 Caudwell Close	Barbara Purbrick
£15	2320	Mr. Woodward, 85 Drayton Rd, SC	Claire Soper
£10	0370	Mrs. Cook, 1, Green Acres	Keith Clough
£10	0140	C. Arnold, 95 Abingdon Rd	Carol Arnold
£10	1761	Paul Holligan, 236 Steventon Road	Julie Lonsdale
£10	1440	Mr. Bale, 11 Steventon Road	Judy Henman
£10	0373	Mrs. Evans, 2 Green Acres	Keith Clough
£10	1306	G. Woolley, 71 Abingdon Rd	Barbara Purbrick
£10	2396	C. Soper, 127 Drayton Rd, SC	Claire Soper

The winning tickets were drawn by staff and clients of Sabina's - hairdresser from the 2086 tickets sold

*Margaret welcomes you to Sabina's*  
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**40 ABINGDON ROAD - DRAYTON - Tel. (01235) 531140**

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Wednesday closed all day  
Thursdays and Fridays 9.00am to 6.00pm



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

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Fascias cleaning; Gutters Unblocked & Cleaned out

**DISCLAIMER:** This Journal is published in good faith and great 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.

## YOUR LETTERS

### Help Document Drayton Heroes!

Dear Editor,

I am researching the history of the men from Drayton who died in WWI, WWII and Korea with the aim of producing a booklet in tribute to, and in memory of, these men. I hope this could then be kept locally within the Drayton community, for example in the church.

I am looking for any details of the men whose names appear on the Drayton War Memorials especially their full names, date of birth, Regiment, Battalion and Service numbers.

Any help with this project would be much appreciated. If you have any information please send it to the following email address:

jeanandjohn1@ntlworld.com

Many Thanks

*John Roberts*

**Editor's Note.** Mr Roberts is an old friend of Bob Matthews and I am indebted to him for lending Bob the copy of the last wartime Drayton Parish Magazine, which Bob then showed me and inspired this Chronicle issue's front page.

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank all those in Drayton who contributed to the Christian Aid collection. As mentioned in the May Chronicle, we were not able to go 'house to house' with the red envelopes this year but left collection boxes in the local businesses and shops. A huge thank you to these businesses and especially to the congregation of St. Peter's for their generous support. A total of £435.72 was raised.

*Victoria Griffiths*

Dear Editor,

My disabled granddaughter Natasha's older sister Gemma, who was 13 last December, won the National Gymnastic Tumbling Championships in Stoke-on-Trent on 21 May. She competed as one of the 13 regional champions of Great Britain and won! Pictures will be on the Harlequin web-site and details on the British Gymnastics web-site

Yours sincerely,

*Judy Henman*



### First the DAMASCUS Wonder Wall, then the AGM!

Dear Editor,

May I invite all your readers who are interested in Drayton's young people to come to the AGM of the DAMASCUS Youth Project. This will take place on Wednesday the 13th July at 7.30pm in Sutton Courtenay Village Hall.

All are welcome

Yours sincerely, *Anne Whitehead*



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**Churchwardens** Mrs Val Cross .....535183  
 Mr Colin Arnold .....531923  
**Organist** Robert Legg

## REGULAR SERVICES

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

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Wed 10.30 am Pebbles (term time only) *Church Room*  
 Monday 7.45 pm Bell Ringing Practice *Bell Tower*

## CALENDAR FOR JULY

Tues 5th 3.00 pm First Tuesday Connections *Church Room*

## CHURCH REGISTER

### Baptisms:

5th June Thomas Murray Davis  
 12th June Lily Mae Oliver

### Marriage:

4th June Katherine Jarvis to Daniel Hoyle

## YOU STAY - WE PRAY: JULY

3rd April to 16th: Lockway; Whitehorns Way  
 17th to 23rd: Corneville Road; Crabtree Lane; Lesparre Close  
 24th to 30th: Drayton Road; Milton Road; New Cut Mill; Fisher Close; Marcham Road; Meads Close; Rippington Court; Stone Hill

## Home Helpers Care Ltd

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## LETTER FROM ST PETER'S

Dear Friends,

St Peter's Church is a Grade 2\* listed building and a focal point of the village, not only for the people who worship there but also for the wider community. The maintenance and running costs of the Church are solely the responsibility of the Parochial Church Council. We get no regular outside help unless we make a specific appeal such as the Gift Day which was held during Rev Josie Midwinter's time with us.



Parishes are asked to pay a "Parish Share" each year to the Diocese, which for St Peter's amounts to over £20,000. The Parish Share goes towards the cost of clergy stipends (i.e. salaries), national insurance, pensions, housing, training, etc. So far we have always managed to pay the Parish Share but it is becoming increasingly difficult, particularly as it increases each year. In addition to the Parish Share there are the Church running costs. For example; our insurance is over £3,000 each year; gas and electricity bills; routine maintenance of the bells, central heating, organ, fire extinguishers and clock. We have recently upgraded our kitchen and provided facilities for the disabled which were only possible due to two generous bequests. We hold our breath that no major work needs to be done in the future.

Where do we get our money? Most of our income comes from pledged weekly or monthly donations from our regular congregation. The rest comes from fund raising such as the summer and Christmas fetes, plant sales and recently jazz concerts held in Church. It is a huge and never ending task. If you can help or contribute in any way we would be glad to hear from you.

May God bless you,

*Sue Harris, Val Cross and Sally Dixon*

Mrs Suzy Willis

MCSP HPC AACP

**CHARTERED PHYSIOTHERAPIST**

Old Lodge, Henleys Lane

Drayton, OX14 4HU

Tel 01235 531269

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# BAPTIST CHURCH

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

## REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

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

**EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME**

## LOCAL METHODIST WORSHIP

High Street, Milton  
Sunday Service: 10.30 am

**Local contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409**

## FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS **Jean Hager**

Are you feeling lonely, isolated or in need of some friendly company? Why not come along to our monthly tea and chat afternoons. They are held on the first Tuesday of the month in St Peter's Church Room from 3.00 pm to 4:30 pm and you are invited to drop in during these times. The teapot is always at the ready and you can be sure of a warm welcome. Our next two dates are 5th July and 2nd August. If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.



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Call Sarah Whittle on 01235 832034

## WOODEN SPOON RECIPE

**Lois Rennells**

Recipe No. 40 (from July 2003)

Chicken with creamy mushrooms and mustard sauce (serves four – six):

2 tablespoons olive oil  
500g chicken breast cut into strips  
1 clove garlic (crushed)  
1 bunch salad onions (diagonally sliced)  
8 ozs button mushrooms (sliced)  
½ pint chicken stock  
8 tablespoons half fat crème fraiche  
2 teaspoons wholegrain mustard - and finally  
2 teaspoons cornflour (blended with a little water), salt and ground black pepper.



Heat the oil in a large frying pan and cook the chicken over a moderate heat for 4 – 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Add the garlic, salad onions and mushrooms and cook for a further 3 – 4 minutes.

Stir in the stock, bring to the boil, then stir in the crème fraiche, mustard and blended cornflour. Bring back to the boil and simmer gently for 1 – 2 minutes until thickened and smooth.

## PATIENTS TRAVEL SERVICES **Judy McCulloch**

Patients travel from all over Oxfordshire for appointments at hospitals and other health providers. Many of these patients use non-emergency transport services - these are not emergency ambulances and may be single driver vehicles or vehicles designed for wheelchair or stretcher access. NHS Oxfordshire is asking for your views on the future of these services. You may have used these services yourself, know someone who uses them or feel that any changes to this service may affect local people.

If you would like to find out more about the changes, take part in the consultation (open until 31 July 2011) or answer the questionnaire you can take a look to see what is happening online as follows <http://bitly.com/Patienttransport> or contact NHS Oxfordshire on 01865 334641

For further information please contact Judy McCulloch 01865 334363 [judy.mcculloch@oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk](mailto:judy.mcculloch@oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk)

## BE SAFE AND BE SEEN

**Karen Brown**

Young people at 14 primary and secondary schools across Abingdon have been given high visibility bands and advice to make them safer while walking and cycling.

The bands wrap around school bags and clothing to ensure both young people and parents can be safe and be seen. Parents parking inconsiderately are being reminded of the importance of zig-zag lines and asked not to park on pavements, to keep them free for pedestrians, wheelchairs and pushchairs.

The project was initiated by the Abingdon Neighbourhood Action Group and funded by the Vale Community Safety Partnership.

For more information about community safety call 01235 540485 or visit [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk).

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# MORE COMMUNICATIONS

## VILLAGE WEBSITE GOES LIVE Alastair Grundy

Continued from page 1

.....A section dedicated to Drayton Parish Council contains information on the role of the Parish Council, agendas for upcoming meetings, and suggestions on how residents can get involved. You will also find a digital archive of meeting agendas and minutes from council meetings of recent years. Finally, in the photo gallery, we showcase photos of Drayton in its best light. We have started things off by

uploading some of our own images, but hope that visitors to the website will send in new photos to add to the collection.

The website is intended to complement the Drayton Chronicle, and both publications come under the auspices of Drayton Community Trust. To avoid harming the Chronicle, stories submitted to the website will be shared with the Chronicle Team and a collective decision made on whether an article is better suited to their publication.

The content and design of the website are still in their infancy and we hope that they will evolve over time to accommodate the ever changing needs of local residents. A few suggestions we've had already include: more detail on the history of Drayton, feature articles, individual pages dedicated to each of the village organisations and publication of village sports teams results. If you like the sound of these suggestions, have some new ideas, or can supply additional content for the website then let us know by emailing [contact@drayton-near-abingdon.org](mailto:contact@drayton-near-abingdon.org).

From all of the team, we thank Drayton Community Trust and Drayton Parish Council for financial support. We hope you enjoy the site and look forward to your feedback.

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## THE DIGITAL SWITCHOVER

Derek Pooley

In September the analogue TV transmissions from the mast at Beckley, from which most of us in Drayton receive our television signals, will be switched off. Analogue BBC2 will be lost on 14 September and the other analogue channels on 28 September. The digital TV signals already broadcast from Beckley will be moved to new frequencies once the analogue signals have gone



If you are one of the few people still using an old analogue-only TV set, one which can receive only the 5 stations BBC1, BBC2, ITV1, C4 and C5, then you **must** get either a new TV set or a 'set-top box' to receive digital transmissions after September. But you will then be able to receive 50+ TV channels instead of 5, including 4 in high definition, 24 digital radio stations and 5 text channels, all free once you have a TV license!

You are more likely to be one of the many people who already watch Freeview digital television, in which case you will already be able to see BBC3 and BBC4, ITV2, ITV3 etc. You won't need any new equipment in September but you will have to re-tune your TV, along with any hard-disc or DVD equipment you use to record programmes.

If you watch satellite TV, from Sky or Freesat, or internet television, the switchover won't affect you at all.

In no case will you **have** to get a new aerial. Fortunately, the aerials used in Drayton to pick up the old analogue TV transmissions from Beckley should work perfectly for the **new** digital signals, though they don't work very well for **existing** digital signals. The new digital signals will allow these more-efficient aerials to be used and will also be more powerful, making in-the-loft aerials a much better prospect in Drayton than before.

Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC) is working with Digital UK to assist Oxfordshire consumers in the conversion. ORCC will be publicising the Switchover Help Scheme, run by the BBC, which has been set up to make it easier for older and disabled people to switch to digital TV. People are eligible for the scheme if they are aged 75 years or more, have lived in a care home for six months or more, get (or could get) certain disability benefits, or are registered blind or partially sighted.

The Help Scheme run by the BBC can provide:

- Easy to use digital TV equipment
- A security-checked installer
- A 12 month aftercare service.

It will cost £40 but is free to people who are on benefits. Everyone who is eligible for the Help Scheme should have received a letter telling them all about it but not everyone may have read it or understood what is on offer and how to get help.

ORCC is urging local organisations and volunteers to check that vulnerable people they know who are eligible for the Help Scheme have understood what is available and are accessing the Scheme if they need to.

For more information about the switchover and how to help, please contact Jayne Bullock, ORCC, Jericho Farm, Worton, Witney, Oxon OX29 4SZ. Tel: 01865 883488.

Email: [orcc@oxonrcc.org.uk](mailto:orcc@oxonrcc.org.uk)

## DRAYTON TELEVISION SERVICES

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# GARDENING PAGE

## THE FLOWER OF LOVE

Anne Hendry

Agapanthus is an outstandingly architectural plant, more commonly known as the Lily of the Nile although its native habitat is nowhere near this majestic piece of water. It actually hails from South Africa where they grow in abundance; in domestic gardens, in municipal parks, on windy mountainsides, even on the edges of dusty roads. In warmer climes, the rhizomatous root systems of Agapanthus are used to combat soil erosion in mountainous areas (think of Madeira) and swathes of Agapanthus planted as hedging in Australia apparently deter snakes. Agapanthus does however have a more romantic connotation: derived from Greek, *agape* means love and *anthos* means flower. On a more practical note, Agapanthus have been in cultivation in the UK since the late 1600s which contradicts the myth that they are difficult plants to grow and care for.

Agapanthus, botanically speaking, falls into two groups. Evergreen *Agapanthus africanus* (previously *A. umbellatus*) have broad, strappy and fleshy leaves. They produce tall, robust flower stems on top of which sit croquet ball-sized umbels (rounded clusters of flowers) of trumpet-shaped blue or white flowers. *A. africanus*, not fully hardy, are generally grown in pots making it extremely convenient to wheel them into the greenhouse or conservatory as winter approaches then wheeled out again as spring gets underway. The plant's fleshy root system likes to be constrained in pots and this results, by and large, in a more spectacular flower display. Divide the plant every few years to ensure continued flowering (although the plant may be a little shy in producing blooms immediately after division) and a healthy root system.

Deciduous *Agapanthus campanulatus* produce narrower yet still strappy leaves and the flower heads are smaller albeit no less showy than *A. africanus*. They grow at higher altitudes making them hardier than their lowland cousins. They can be grown in pots (which can be left in the garden during the winter) or in garden borders. Both evergreen and deciduous Agapanthus require plenty of sun and fertile soil; provided you oblige, they will reward you with fat, large clumps that can be divided in the spring. Although hardier than their evergreen counterparts, it's good practice to give *A. campanulatus* some winter protection; cover the crowns with a thick layer of home-made garden compost or good quality bark mulch.

All Agapanthus like plenty of water in the summer months as well as regular doses of a high potash plant food. Tomato food does the trick here. Mid-season, use a balanced liquid plant food to ensure that the plants receive all the trace elements that tomato food can't otherwise provide. In no time at all, flower spikes will appear followed by juicy-looking buds that will explode into show-stopping globes of flowers. Plants that associate well with Agapanthus are *Crocsmia* and *Kniphofia*, either the red or yellow varieties. Other associations include ornamental grasses such as *Miscanthus* or *Pennisetum*, small bamboos such as *Pleiolblastus* (plant these only in pots as they 'run') or the airy *Gaura* 'Whirling Butterflies' and *Verbena bonariensis*.

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# YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

## DAMASCUS NEWS

**Rita Atkinson**

The DAMASCUS Youth Project is a voluntary registered charity that works across the five DAMASCUS villages (Drayton, Appleford, Milton, Sutton Courtenay and Steventon). Part of our remit is to work with young people in these villages to empower and motivate them to grow their own potential and for them to feel integrated and supported by their communities. As part of this objective we are working on a project called YCAT (Youth and Community Acting Together) which is funded by a 5-year Big Lottery Fund grant.

You may recall the Fun Day and Wonder Wall display organised by young people last August. This year they are organizing another interactive Wonder Wall display – see the advert on the front page for details.

We are please looking for adults who might like to come along and share their ideas – gardeners might want to come and see what has been happening on Andrew's allotment and share some of their own experiences.

We are looking for donations of end rolls of material, ribbons, belts, flowers, fancy buttons, sequins etc – anything that could liven up and give a new look to clothes that have been consigned to the back of a wardrobe.

You can contact me, Rita Atkinson MBE, Trustee, DAMASCUS Youth Project at [ritaatkinson@googlemail.com](mailto:ritaatkinson@googlemail.com) or on 01235 848694

## WONDERWALL 2011 Chelsea, Lauren, Harry et al

Please come to see our 'WonderWall' on the 2nd of July. Some of the things that will be there are:

**Eco chic Fashion** – Georgia Alston who recently retired as wardrobe mistress for Drayton Players is kindly coming with her sewing machine and bags of ideas for weaving her magic in those old t-shirts, jeans, dresses, hair bands, flip flops etc. Bring along your old clothes and transform them. **Chelsea and Lauren**

**Chronicle** – it is important for the future of this very important newsletter that young people show interest in it. You will have noticed that the youth project makes regular contributions. We have made contact with the editors to find out how from writing a piece it eventually finds its way through you letter box and how did it all start in the first place? **Chelsea and Lauren**

**Allotments** – On the day there will be photos of the progress of the recently started allotment that we have all been working on. Young people will be on hand to talk about their gardening experiences and we will have some interactive activities that everyone can take part in. **Andrew**

**BMX**–As part of the Damascus wonder wall day a small group of us have been meeting up once a week to arrange a BMX project. This will hopefully include ramps with people doing tricks. There will also be tea, coffee and other refreshments. Mike and I have been working with some of the younger lads, looking at BMX videos and bike parts along with some of the stars of the sport and the different tricks. We have put the information onto posters for a display that we will be showing on the day. **Harry Latimer**

## GARY TAKES TAB FORWARD

**Derek Pooley**

The Abingdon Bridge (TAB) is a small charity supporting young people in the Abingdon area and its manager now is Drayton's Gary Hibbins. TAB concentrates on youngsters who lack good family support, often suffer from social and educational disadvantages, and tries to make sure they do successfully make the often-difficult transition from adolescence to adulthood and become happy adults and good citizens. Gary has taken TAB's work to the Abingdon secondary schools, into partnership with local police and, not surprisingly to those of us who know him, into cooperation with the DAMASCUS youth project. ➔

## YOUNG DRAYTON REPORTERS Abigail Perrow

The next generation of Drayton reporters are set to produce their own community newspaper, thanks to Trinity Learning News. Six pupils from Drayton Community Primary School have been chosen to take part in this lottery-funded mentoring project. From content to format and distribution, the children will make all the decisions and do all the work- in just six two-hour sessions. In the course of this, they will practise their literacy and IT skills and use life-skills like team-work, responsibility and working to deadlines, as well as learning a lot about their community.



The group have chosen to focus their investigations on facilities for the youth of the village, centring their attention on the Millennium Green. By the time you read this, they will have interviewed Parish Councillor Jenny Pooley. Preparation is the key to good reporting, and the interviewers had to think about what made good questions- testing out their journalistic skills on each other before turning them to the task in hand.

The newspaper project is organised by Trinity Learning, an initiative of Trinity Church in Abingdon, and is the latest in a series of events aimed at helping to improve the quality of life in our area's schools. Drayton Community Primary is the fifth school to take up their offer of free mentoring. Each term in the current school year, the resulting newsletter has been distributed free to around 500 homes in the local community, concentrating on a group chosen by the children themselves.

Look out for your copy, coming soon!

**Editor's Note:** Perhaps it can also be posted on the new web-site?

➔ Roxy Elford, one of the DAMASCUS leaders, said 'TAB has been extremely useful and offers DAMASCUS a lot of support, providing us with drugs and alcohol and sexual health workshops...It is a fantastic support network for our team.' Sergeant Kevin Hickman of Thames Valley Police said 'I'm very pleased to have the support of the Bridge, as quite often with policing we only have time to enforce the law and don't get enough quality time to educate young people in a slow-time environment. I believe (TAB) has helped the Abingdon area reduce its reported ASB crimes year on year.'



Sadly, TAB never has enough money to do all it might! If you are able and would like to contribute contact TAB on 522375.



# ALL AROUND

## DRAYTON SCHOOL

Dawn Waddup

At the time of writing for this month's Chronicle we are busy preparing for our Summer Fête. Hopefully, by the time you read this, we will be able to look back on a successful day and be able to say that a good day was had by all those involved and who joined in the fun. A big thank you to all the local businesses that supported the school by placing advertisements in the fête programme.

On Tuesday 24th May, Kingfisher class walked to Abingdon, to look at the River Thames as part of their topic 'Wind in the Willows'. Thankfully, the weather was good. Bev Rayner, Teaching Assistant, writes: -

*"We walked down the cycle path from Drayton to Abingdon. We took Mac - Mrs Creber's dog with us - the children were excited to do this. We went down Preston Road to Wilsham Road and then we saw the river. We had a rest and saw some people in a canoe. We then walked through town to Abbey Meadows and along the riverbank, stopping to look at an island in the river. Mac kept going in the river and then shaking himself near the children. We walked to the weir and were lucky enough to see some boats going through the lock. We crossed the river and stopped for lunch a little way up. After lunch we carried on walking towards Abingdon Bridge before making the long trek back to school.*

*Well done to all the children."*

On 21 June the school will be a circus for the day - all children will get a chance to try their hand at juggling (balls, clubs, rings), diabolo, devil sticks, unicycles, mini bikes, spinning plates, tightrope and much more, courtesy of Ana and Chris Gurl.

Years 5 & 6 will start cycling proficiency training on 23rd June 2011. Over the next few weeks, Year 6 pupils will be attending induction days at their chosen senior schools. We wish them all the very best.

We have two more cake sales coming up before term finishes. The first will be on 24 June, all proceeds will go to the Ravens Class; and the last sale for this academic year will be on 15 July in aid of the Robins Class. Money raised at the cake sales goes to each class in turn and is used by the teacher to purchase books and equipment for the class. Contributions of home made cakes are most welcome in the school office on the morning of the sale.

27 June is the school's Design and Technology week. Activities will include cooking and sharing a healthy meal, building shelters, designing, manufacturing and racing balloon powered vehicles, making and playing musical instruments, and for the finale - design and glamour in a "Trashion Show"! During the week the Year 5 children will also be working on amazing skills at St Birinus and Larkmead schools in their dedicated Technology facilities. Any donations of materials (boxes, straws, balloons, bottle tops, cartons, old clothes) would be greatly appreciated.

On 12th July, the Production club will be staging their performance of the Wind in the Willows, closely followed by School Sports Day on 13 July. ➔

➔ FODSA, Friends of Drayton School Association, is a team of friendly people who organise fund raising activities for the school, if you are interested in joining please contact Mel and Kate at fodsa@hotmail.co.uk. The more the merrier!



## PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

Debbie Bargas

During the last term of this academic year our focus will be to embed the children's knowledge of counting and number recognition and to encourage letter formation. Also continuing with circle time and listening activities, essential for both our school leavers and for our younger children who will remain at preschool.

The children who will be moving on to BIG school in Drayton in September will be having visits across to school. This helps familiarise them with the layout, classrooms and teachers in preparation for the move ahead.

Thank you to everybody for all the Tesco's and Sainsbury's vouchers you have given us, we have submitted our order to Tesco and are looking through the Sainsbury's catalogue to see what we can order. These are great ways too bring new resources into Preschool, so thanks once again.

Sessions will finish for the summer on Wednesday 20th July and we will be having a picnic on Friday 22nd July, more details in preschool.


We return to preschool on Tuesday 6th September.

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 visit [draytonpreschool@btconnect.com](mailto:draytonpreschool@btconnect.com) or contact Preschool on 01235 536094 for a welcome pack.

There is an easy way to help our fundraising! If you order goods via the internet, you can register at [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) You choose a charity, we are on the list, then when you buy online from major companies like Amazon, Next, Play.com, Churchill Insurance, AA, Ebay and The Book People, they give a percentage to us at no extra cost to you.

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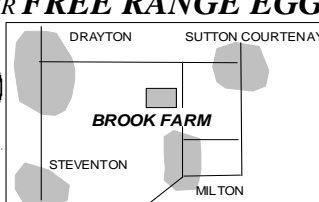


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## MORE ALL AROUND

### TABLE TENNIS CLUB

**John Gould**

Table Tennis is taking a summer break. The Club will recommence with Monday Practice from 5th September 2011.

The Club AGM took place recently. Our thanks go to Drayton Football Club for the use of their facilities. The existing officers all stood for re election and in the absence of opponents they were all re-elected. Tony Krason will continue as Chairman with David Hudson in charge of the purse strings. Pleasingly the fees will stay the same next season. This is in part due to successful fund raising and also an increase in the membership.

The AGM was preceded with the Presentation of our three main trophies. Karl Bushell was the Senior Player of the Year. Karl won all his 45 matches in Division 1 helping the A team to second spot. Our Junior Player of the Year is Ryan Seamark who had the highest percentage of all our Junior & Cadet League players. Ryan was therefore presented with the Geoff Hoyland Shield.

The main award of the Alan Bachrach Trophy for our Club Person of the Year was presented to Rachel Seamark. Rachel is a fantastic supporter of the club. She attends most practice sessions helping with supervision and the organising of the sessions. Also she is regularly seen supporting her son Ryan and his team at league ties. She enthusiastically gets involved in our fund raising and social events. She also provided the food for the buffet at the AGM.

Well done Rachel and thanks from all at the club for your support.

The next and most important event is the pre-season Meeting. This is when we sort out our teams for next season. So anyone wishing to play in the Didcot league next season should attend the meeting. New players need to make contact with the club on 01235-531328 to confirm their interest and they will be welcome at the meeting. The meeting is arranged for Tuesday 12th July and will take place at Drayton CP School with a 7.30pm start. Have a good summer.



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## BROWNIES

**Paula Harper**

We have been continuing to work towards our Wildlife Explorer badge, our evening at the Millennium Green was very successful finding lots of wildlife hidden. We have now made bug attractors to take home to see how many insects will take residence in our gardens. We have also made home made perfume from lovely scented rose petals.

The Toy-maker badge is also underway with some very beautiful cross-stitch now completed.

We have some more great evenings planned for July. We are all looking forward to a circus skills workshop when we can try our hand at plate spinning.

Brownies breaks up for the summer after the BBQ on July 6th, which again should be great fun as we have a 35 feet bouncy obstacle course to work up our appetite first.

Brownies resumes on the 14th September, for more fun packed adventures.

**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

**Gwen Price**

Our meeting in May was our A.G.M. It was well attended although some members were on holiday. It was a review of the past year and our plans for the future which included a varied programme. We are fortunate to keep our present officers and committee, all of whom do an excellent good job. We had some light entertainment from Oenone, who read some fun poems. The afternoon ended with some delicious cakes from Helen.

**JULY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Tues 5th WALK Contact Josie Midwinter  
Mon 11th COFFEE Betty, Irma, Mavis, Margaret Watts.  
Mon 18th WHIST  
Weds 27th Visit by train to Bath

## W.I.

**Brenda Malin**

Our June meeting was a wonderful mixture of a typical balmy summer evening, a walk through an English vineyard accompanied by a boisterous dog and bird song. After the walk we were treated to an enthusiastic talk about the work involved in owning a vineyard, and on the wines produced at the Brightwell Vineyard, by Carol Nielson who with her husband has owned the vineyard for the past eleven years. The evening was rounded off by wine tasting and a few giggles by the non drivers.

At our next meeting we will have a report about the Resolution Meeting which was held in Liverpool last week. As reported last month the matters under discussion were Mega Dairy Farms and the Closure of Local Libraries, from all accounts it was quite controversial. There will also be a talk on Palestine by Ann Dodd.

As usual we meet on the second Thursday of the month at the Caudwell Day Centre at 7.30 -9.30.

## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

**Pearl Stanbridge**

I regret to report the death of member Mr Robert Gray. Our sincere condolences are extended to his widow and family.

The next committee meeting will be held on Monday 18 July at 8.00 pm.

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## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Williams

### Meeting on Monday 6 June 2011

In addition to the Parish Councillors, 5 members of the public attended and Marilyn Badcock, one of our County Councillors, was also present. Tim Atkins and Stan Hignell, Allotment Wardens, reported on last year's operations. Five new tenants had been leased plots and there was now no waiting list. The use of email where tenants had email accounts has been a great help in the collection of rents. Several issues were raised, among them the provision of water troughs and the cutting back of hedges, which the PC agreed to look into. On a similar subject, Mr Alan Stimpson said that a hedge set back from the grassy area along the Steventon Road was overgrown and that, despite numerous attempts to contact OCC to get them to deal with it, going back to last autumn, no action had been taken. Marilyn Badcock undertook to chase this up with the County Council.



It is pleasing to note that the Drayton Village website is now up and running. We have in particular to thank Alastair Grundy, who has put in a tremendous amount of work to design and set up the site. Everything is still in its early stages, but content will be added as we go along, and it is hoped this will become a valuable community resource in the weeks and months to come.

Progress has also been made in other areas. Drayton residents will be well aware that there is, in general, a lack of recreational facilities in the village, especially for young people. This has been a problem for many years, and the stumbling block has not been a lack of will on the part of the PC or other bodies, but more to do with a lack of land available for the purpose. A number of people have asked why the Millennium Green could not be used, but the whole Millennium Greens project, not just in Drayton, was designed to give villages an area of public open space which would be available to the community in perpetuity, and which could never be built on or developed. While our Green may be used for occasional one-off events, the terms of its creation do not allow for any permanent facilities to be provided on it.

One asset the village does possess is the children's playground at Lockway, and the PC has decided to refurbish part of this. There are not the funds to refurbish or replace the whole playground, and in any case, the PC did not feel that all the items should be replaced. For example, the playground professionals consulted all felt that the swings were in good shape, and would always be popular, so should be retained. However, some new equipment will be installed, and the existing climbing frame removed. The PC consulted with a wide range of 'interested parties', among them the Pre-School group at Drayton School, the Mums and Toddlers' group, and the Brownies, and generally received a very positive response to their proposals. Obviously, a number of comments and suggestions were made as to what people would like to see in the playground, but, whilst accepting that we will not be able to please everybody, at least this time around, we hope that the 'Phase 1' refurbishment will be well received. We have listened carefully to the other suggestions made, and may be able to incorporate them in the further reconstruction next year.

Meanwhile, the PC has met with representatives of the Earl of Plymouth estate in connection with the Manor Farm development, and continues to explore its objective of obtaining more land on which recreational facilities could be established. Nothing is yet decided, and there is a long way to go, but all present felt that the meeting was positive and offered pointers to a direction in which we might make progress.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 4th July 2011, at 7.30pm, in the Caudwell Day Centre, Gravel Lane. As ever, all are welcome to attend.

# DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Webber



Like many of us, I believe in devolving power downwards and I am in good company. Both Coalition parties support the idea, as did Margaret Thatcher. Giving local people the power to carry out what they think should be done in their local area, with a minimum of interference from above, seems a great idea. But there are problems. You have to trust all people to be sensible, and because you can't, you have to lay down laws that will control and restrain the irresponsible. So time and again, politicians who believed in the devolution of power have found themselves rowing back on the whole idea.

The Localism Bill has already come in for plenty of stick. 'Half-baked', 'Too many gaps', 'Leads to planning by appeal (where Developers decide where developments will happen)', are just some of the complaints. There is very little Government money to support it – but then there is very little Government money.

Eric Pickles, Greg Clarke and Andrew Stunell (The three ministers in charge of the Localism Bill) are all passionate about Localism and ensuring that, modified or not, the Bill will go through. The Bill, they say is written in such a way that changes can be made as the effects of it unfold. If they had attempted to tie up all possible loose ends (assuming they could be anticipated), then any changes would have had to go through endless parliamentary procedure. This way, they say, Localism can be more reactive and more evolutionary.

At meetings I have attended in the past few months, I heard Greg Clarke and Andrew Stunell both making the same points – Localism was a central plank of the Coalition Agreement – everyone should engage with the idea, because it was going to happen. By everyone, they meant all local people needed to believe that they were indeed going to have more power than ever before to determine their own futures, but they also meant that all layers of Government had to learn to give up some of their powers. The impression from both was that 'giving up power' would turn out to be the harder lesson – from Government departments, down to District Councils, all must embrace Localism.

Ten days ago I was invited to a meeting in London called by the big man himself – Eric Pickles. Having only witnessed the heavyweight, heavy handed Eric in the House of Commons and Question Time, I was fascinated to know why he would wish to speak to a bunch of Liberal Democrats – many of whom had been fierce critics. The Minister arrived in trademark shirtsleeves and beamed at us. He talked openly and freely and, to my surprise, displayed a deal of charm. He gave it to us straight – whether we liked it or not, but in such a way that invited rather than demanded co-operation. Localism was going to happen – Greg and Andrew supported it, Eric, in the nicest way, demanded it.

If I am right, those communities that formulate Parish Plans first are going to be at an enormous advantage. If Drayton is to have a Parish Plan, we all have to will it - Landowners, developers, residents and councillors. For the first time in the past six years, there are signs in this village of some real movement and talking between people who really can make things happen. I am signed up to the Clarke/Stunell school of persuasion and encouragement as a general way of trying to make things happen, but maybe a little touch of Pickles would help. 'Look folks, Localism is going to happen, whether you like it or not, so get on board because the ship is about to leave harbour!'

I can be contacted by emailing [richard.webber77@ntlworld.com](mailto:richard.webber77@ntlworld.com) or by phoning 01235 534001.

Wishing everyone a happy, warm summer holiday.

# WESTMINSTER LETTER

Ed Vaizey



Recently I've received a huge number of letters and emails about all kinds of issues, including some about the introduction of cooking lessons in schools. This campaign was sparked by an Early Day Motion, tabled by Zac Goldsmith MP, which supports adding cooking to the National Curriculum. While I, as a Minister, cannot sign EDMs, I do broadly agree with the spirit of this one. It is vital that our children should be taught how to make healthy food choices - better nutrition means better health and it's as simple as that. I have been very supportive of recent efforts in the media, like those by Jamie Oliver, that have tried to introduce children to the preparation and enjoyment of good food. Without the confidence to try cooking in the kitchen we can easily be tempted to the realms of fast food and unhealthy eating. The Department for Education is currently undertaking a review which aims to slim down the national curriculum allowing greater flexibility for schools to include subjects that they think are in the best interests of their pupil's education. Practical lessons like cooking are likely to be included in this part of the review and I am eager to see the outcomes.

Another serious issue that I am often contacted about is wild animals being used in circuses. The Government has estimated that this practice is now so unpopular that only 3 circuses still use wild animals in England. Unfortunately, DEFRA has received clear legal advice that any ban on this practice would be illegal under current UK and EU law. However, I am pleased that DEFRA have wasted no time on this issue and have introduced a licensing regime where circuses must prove to official government vets that they are meeting the new VERY high welfare standards. If circuses cannot meet these welfare standards then they will not be allowed to use wild animals in their performances at all.

Finally, if anyone wishes to contact me then please write to [ed.vaizey.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:ed.vaizey.mp@parliament.uk), or visit [www.vaizey.com](http://www.vaizey.com) for details about my upcoming surgeries.

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# DRAYTON DIARY

## FOR JULY

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

**Regular Events are listed opposite**

Sat	2	2.30 pm	DAMASCUS Wonder Wall	
Sat	9		Thai dancers	
Mon	4	7.30 pm	Parish Council	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
Mon	18	9.15 am	Chronicle Lottery deadline	<i>Vickery's</i>
		5.15 pm	Chronicle copy deadline	<i>Vickery's box</i>
Sat	30		Charity Sale	

## ST PETER'S CHURCH SUMMER FETE



In the church grounds

Saturday 9th July

2pm to 4pm

Home Produce

Cards and Jewellery

Bric-a-Brac - Books

Hook-a-Bag Raffle

Refreshments



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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>
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
5.45 pm	Youthers (Boys / girls, 6-8 yrs, Tel. 512834)	<i>Steventon Hall</i>
6.30 pm	Youth Zone (except Bank Holidays)	
6.30 pm	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 pm	Junior Table Tennis	<i>School</i>
7.30 pm	Parish Council (1st Monday)	<i>Caudwell DC</i>
7.45 pm	Drayton Drop In (except Bank Holidays)	
7.45 pm	Bell-ringing	<i>St Peter's</i>
8.00 pm	Senior and Social Table Tennis	<i>School</i>
8.30 pm	Badminton (Private Group)	

### TUESDAYS

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

### WEDNESDAYS

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

### THURSDAYS

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

### FRIDAYS

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

### SUNDAYS

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

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