

# DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Tony Holmes

Volume 34 No. 7

August 2011

## DRAYTON WONDER WALL 2011

On Saturday 3 July young people organised Wonder Wall 2011 which, as last year, was an opportunity for them to showcase some of the work they have been doing, as well as take part in activities such as eco-chic fashion, painting pots and planting seeds, BMX jumps and learning about the history of the Chronicle. Here is a report by the young people who led the organisation of the event.

**A report by Harry Latimer** - With support from Mike Milton and myself, Caly, Ryan and Kyle put together a fantastic display on BMX bikes. They visited bike shops, emailed various people and researched the Internet to get the information and poster. They put in a lot of hard work and should be very proud of what they achieved. We also worked with Ryan and Kyle to arrange a BMX event on the day, with ramps so people could demonstrate their skills, and even managed to get the police involved by inviting them to come and scribe security tags on people's bikes.

There was also a fashion day going on inside the village hall where people brought in their old clothes and used the sewing machine to turn them into the latest fashions. Lauren and Chelsea worked with some of the younger girls to put this together. **We are very grateful to Georgia Alston** who spent the whole afternoon teaching us how to use the sewing machine, and discussing creative ideas for re-using old garments. Thank you.

We also had young people painting plant pots to go on the **Damascus** allotment. As young Ryan Wheatley remarked "It was really fun to see people from the community coming to an event that we put together".

Daniel Scharf, chairman of Drayton Parish Council, visited the event and said "I was impressed by the concept of succession - how the younger follow the positive role model set by the older and also the need for adults to respond to the initiatives of the young as it takes two to tango".

### **DAMASCUS Youth Project AGM (by Lauren Strong)**

On July 13th we participated in the **Damascus AGM** at Sutton Courtenay village hall. We were there to talk about the different projects that we've been working on. It was a good opportunity to meet some of the people behind the scenes at Damascus and also some of the young people that get involved from other villages. It was interesting to discover what things they have been doing.

There is a short 5-minute video clip of the Youth Project on Oxfordshire County Council's website on Big Society Fund. If you would like to see it please type the keywords 'Oxfordshire County Council Big Society Fund Damascus' into your search engine, and once you are on the page scroll down to the video clip.

**IN THIS ISSUE :- Any New Players?** (p 3, 5 & 6)

**It's all in the Name!** (p 4) **Well Done Sue** (p 8)

**Now That's a Really Cool Fool** (p 6) **Who's Won?** (p 2)

**Stay on your GARD** (p 11) **Boulez Boulez Vous?** (p 6)

**Have YOUR Say!** (p 6 & 9) **Bus Chaos** (p 7)

**Please NOTE :-** There's an interesting proposal this month for village development; it's just a proposal as yet. DO read the 'Parish Council' column (that's page 9) - and **YOUR chance to comment** is at that Aug 1st meeting (or contact the Council, see page 11 for email & phone details)

Derek Pooley was out and about with his camera during Wonder Wall, **thanks Derek** for these photos of the day.

Firstly a shot of that plant-pot decoration, then **Darren Small** is seen passing his Cycling Proficiency test (!) - with the forces of law & order picking up some hints for their patrols.



## YOUTH ZONE – Naomi Broomfield

As I am writing this, it's the last session of Youth Zone prior to the summer break - hopefully everyone enjoyed the 'bring a friend' party! Sessions will start back on **Monday 12th September** at 6pm till 7.30pm. **Thank you to everyone** who attended the recent AGM meeting and we are currently investigating the suggestions for some new equipment.

**All children from school year 6 to 10 are welcome** to join us at the Drayton Village Hall on Monday evenings. Sessions cost £1 and a form needs to be completed by a parent or guardian.

For further information **please contact Naomi** on 532248. **A huge thank you to all the volunteers** who make the sessions possible and to the young people who come along, **see you in September**.

# COMING CHRONICLES

The **SEPTEMBER Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Friday, August 26th**, from **Shirley Thomas (531626)**, 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, August 15th 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 Aug 12th, 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:-
October	19 Sept	30 Sept
November	17 Oct	28 Oct

## 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 JULY LOTTERY

Prize	Winner	Agent
£25	Mrs Perry 1 Lockway	Christine Sadler
£20	Mrs. Anderton 33 Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
£15	Mr. Brannan 20 Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
£10	Austin Barrett The Wheatshaf	Austin Barrett
£10	Mr. Allen 89 Drayton Rd, SC	Claire Soper
£10	Brian Dore 15 Lyford Close	Andrew Bax
£10	B. Whiting 12 Lesparre Close	Brenda Whiting
£10	Mr. Fowler 9 Halls Close	Mary Alexander
£10	D. Eato 21 Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
£10	G. Lonsdale 248 Steventon Road	Julie Lonsdale

Winning tickets, from 2331 sold, were drawn by the 'Youth Zone'.

**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.

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## ALL AROUND

### Drayton TABLE-TENNIS Club John Gould

Table Tennis will recommence with Monday Practice from 5th September. **We have rearranged times:-** from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm we will restrict practice and coaching to new players whether adult or children. Then from 7.30 pm the rest of our members can attend.

The Club Pre Season Meeting took place recently. We have learned the school hire fees are to increase – hopefully not too much!

The main issue was to select our teams for the coming season. Sadly we have lost 3 of our A team for the new season. This has a knock on effect for the rest of the teams. However with 35 players available we have maintained 8 teams. Fortunately Karl Bushell our best player is still playing and the A team will be in Division 1. Karl is supported by players promoted from the B team that won the Division 2 title last season. We will have 2 teams in Division 2, two in Division 4 and three teams in Division 5. This assumes the Didcot League will again run 5 divisions. This won't be clear until mid August.

We are very pleased to have 3 teams of youngsters and new adult players in Division 5. The two teams of youngsters will play home ties on Fridays. The school have kindly allowed us to do this, something we haven't tried before. So with 8 teams we will be playing home ties every night of the week on a fortnightly basis. These will be organised by our club Coach Matt Wicks with support from the parents of the children of course. The other new team will be captained by Scott Johnstone who with Jeff Cox and Justin Hemsley are the new adult players we have welcomed.

The club has **plenty of room for more players** and if anyone wishes to join please either come along to the school in September or ring 01235 531538. A couple of our teams will be stretched this season due to holiday & work commitments, so new players will be very welcome.

Finally one of our players Geoff Cherrill is organising a 24 hour Charity Table Tennis Match. Geoff is the Didcot League's Development Officer. This event will take place at Manor Primary School, Didcot on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th Sept. No doubt Drayton players will be involved and I know Geoff already has several volunteers from the club.

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### DRAYTON WIVES

### Gwen Price

We have had two reasons to celebrate recently. The first was a poppy party in aid of the British Legion. It was a special coffee morning kindly held at Mr. and Mrs. Strelczuk's house, to celebrate 90 years of the British Legion.

It was very well supported by Drayton Wives, W.I. and friends. Forty -five people attended and an excellent amount of £360 was made for such a worthy cause. Everyone enjoyed it and many thanks must go to Mr & Mrs. Strelczuk for hosting the event.

Our next celebration was our 50th BIRTHDAY LUNCH which was held at Steventon House Hotel. We started with photos taken by Barry Sharpe (a very patient man among all these ladies). There were at least 80 people attending, made up of present members, and previous ones who came from some distance, including Somerset, Bournemouth and Shropshire to be with us.

It was a very happy occasion and everything about it was excellent. The food and service was good, the company very convivial and everyone enjoyed seeing and chatting with old friends. We had some reminiscent accounts of Drayton Wives in its early days, it was fun then, as it is now. The cake, made by Eve's daughter, was spectacular; all gold decorated with real yellow and gold flowers. It was a shame to cut it but it did taste nice (see p7). To finish the afternoon we were entertained with songs from the shows given by two members of Abingdon Operatic Society.

**Many, many thanks go to Eve and Anne and the committee** for making it such a lovely, memorable birthday party.

#### Dates for your Diary in August:-

COFFEE	Mon 8	Gwen, Beryl, Pat B, Helen
WALK	Mon 15	
WHIST	Mon 15	Pat Hoyland
MEETING	Wed 31	Hugh Grainger - It's NOT always alright on the night

# ST PETER'S CHURCH

<b>Priest in Charge</b>	Interregnum	
<b>Curate</b>	Revd Rosie Bruce	525284
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Mrs Val Cross	535183
	Mr Colin Arnold	531923
<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

\*\* NB There is no 'Praise at Ten' in August; the 3rd Sunday will be a Sung Eucharist.

### REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Monday	7.45 pm	Bellringing Practice	Bell Tower
Weds	10.30 am	Pebbles (term time only)	Church Room

### CALENDAR for AUGUST

Tues	2nd	3.00 pm	1st Tuesday Connections	Church Room
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### PARISH REGISTER

<b>Baptisms</b>	June 19th	Olivia Rose Archer
	July 2nd	Jack Spencer Lewis Holton
	July 3rd	Lewis Brian David Sadler-Shaw
	July 10th	Brooke Ellen Latimer
		Harvey Kenneth McGowan
<b>Funerals</b>	June 27th	Valerie Harpwood
	June 28th	Jean Margaret Dore
<b>Internment of Ashes</b>	July 1st	Doreen Vera Gwendoline Orbell
	July 11th	John Ronald Gunner

## YOU STAY – WE PRAY (August)

1st to 13th Steventon Road; Eastway; Eastway MHP  
 14th to 20th Church Lane; Henleys Lane; Caudwell Close; Gravel Lane  
 21st to 27th Abingdon Road; Oday Hill; Binning Close; Haywards Road

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## Letter from St Peter's Church

Dear Friends, **Welcome REBECCA**

Following a lengthy interregnum we are pleased to welcome the Revd Rebecca Peters as priest-in-charge of St Peter's, Drayton.

Rebecca was curate at Christ Church Roxeth, Harrow, but prior to this she lived in Oxford and Radley, Abingdon for 14 years. Rebecca is looking forward to coming 'home,' as she taught Physics at Radley College, for seven years and her husband, Daniel, works at Oxford University as a Physics researcher. They are proud parents to baby Ruth, (5 months), who is already trying to explore and discover new things in the house.

They are both looking forward to becoming part of the Drayton village community, so if you spot them out walking the pram please do stop and have a chat.

Rebecca will be licensed by the Bishop of Reading at St Peter's on Monday 24th October at 7.30pm.



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THE RED LION

## (MORE) ALL AROUND

### Drayton BABY & TODDLER Group Vicky Cotterell

When you read this we will have finished for our summer break.

We ended with an 'end of year' party, where we all enjoyed our party snacks. Thanks to all that bought food to share and a bouncy castle – thanks Olivia.

We have had a good year at Toddlers, with lots of fun activities and playing with toys and lots of new baby sisters and brothers joining us.

We would like to say a big thank you to **Joy**, who provides our snacks throughout the year, and tea and coffee for the grownups.

I am pleased to say she will be back next term.

We would like to say a big goodbye to all those leaving for school in September but for those still here we look forward to seeing you back on **Thursday 8 September 9.30 – 11.30 in the village hall**. For more info call **Vicky 07779 243290**.

We wish everyone a fun and safe summer break, **see you soon**.

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### 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).

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### Drayton BOWLS Club

### 'Roll Up'

Thirty two members attended the AGM on June 22nd, main points from the meeting were, Val Locke was elected chairperson having been in the chair on a temporary basis since September. Treasurer Cyril Carter stated the club's finances were sound, and there would not be any increases in fees for the coming year, but added there was a need to try and get some new members, with the membership standing at 53. The meeting closed at 8:40.

The Tigers have made a good start to the summer triple league and if they can maintain their present form will be in contention at the end of the summer. The Leopards have made a steady start but will have to improve if they are to be in contention.

The latest internal competition completed was 'The Ladies Singles' and going through to the final will be Jean Mullins and Jan Cook, and the 'Don Alexander' this year was played as a pairs, and the final is between Jack Mitchenson & Ivy Harrison, playing Jan Cook & Eileen Long. Finals day will be held on Dec 4th.

Closing these notes, members should be reminded that we will be entertaining Kirtlington in a friendly match on August the 7th; this fixture has been running for a good many years and is always a very enjoyable day, with the match followed by afternoon tea provided by the ladies, the organisers will be June and Carol.

Finally, Bryn would like to thank members for their cards and kind wishes after his recent visit to hospital.

**We are looking for new members**, so if anyone would like to give it a try, sessions are Mondays and Thursdays afternoons 2 till 5 and Wednesday evening 7 till 10, **the first 3 sessions are free, a warm welcome awaits**, we look forward to seeing you.

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## 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 Boules Club (new)

We have had a wonderful response from my letter in the Chronicle about forming a French Boules club here in Drayton.

I'm pleased to say we now have a venue for the Pitch at the Red Lion, & sponsorship from Greene King to enable us to build the pitch. Work is due to start within the next two weeks, so we should be able to play our first game in early August.

Anybody who would like to try, even if they've not played before, will be most welcome to come along (we have plenty of spare Boules), or even to watch. Opening day will be announced in the local shops.  
*John Sheppard (52 44 80).*

### UPCOMING Police 'Have Your Say' meetings :-

Sunday July 31st, 4pm to 5pm, Drayton Green;

Tues Aug 2nd, 10 am to noon, Police office, High St., Sutton Courtenay; + Friday Aug 12th, 5pm to 7pm, Caudwell Day Centre; All with PCSO Sandra Syphas. For more information about your local neighbourhood team, contact 0845 8 505 505

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## DRAYTON FOOTBALL CLUB

New season, new management team; Drayton Football Club are delighted to announce their appointment of a new first team management partnership of Kevin Wilkes and Adam French.

Adam played for the first team in the latter stages of last season, is a UEFA level 2 coach and says that he enjoyed being at the club so much that he had no hesitation in agreeing to take on the assistants job for the coming season; Kevin Wilkes (who lives in Corneville Road), is a former player, a UEFA level 1 coach and during his playing days won many honours in the North Berks league, including winning the Division One title on seven occasions and playing in the North Berks Cup Final ten times.

Kevin says his passion for the North Berks league came from his father (Dennis) who was a stalwart for many years. He also says he's looking forward to the coming season with excitement, and is **particularly keen to encourage the local lads** to come to the club and get a feel for what is being done for the 2011/12 season.

**The aim is to focus on high quality coaching**, and to continue the extremely friendly feel Drayton FC has always alluded to; the new team is keen to see players or potential players from the village at the club, we already have a decent squad and expect to do well next season but could do with a few more.

We have friendlies lined up until the new season starts on Aug 27th; **if anyone, that's players or supporters**, would like to come down and soak up the Drayton hospitality, then please just turn up at training (starts Tuesday July 19th) or at one of our games and you will be made very welcome.

**Call Kevin on 07850 952504 for more info.**

### OTHER LOCAL PLACES OF WORSHIP

**Methodist Chapel** Sunday Service: 10.30 am  
High Street, Milton  
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Thursdays and Fridays 9.00am to 6.00pm



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### Wooden Spoon Recipe No. 41 (from Nov 2003)

by LOIS RENNELLS

#### Blackberry and Apple Custard Fool (serves 4)

3 large cooking apples, peeled, cored and cut into ½" chunks

8 oz blackberries, washed; 3 oz caster sugar

¼ pint double cream, lightly whipped; 1 pint custard and Fresh blackberries to decorate.

Put the apples, blackberries and sugar into a large saucepan, heat over a very gentle heat until the fruit is cooked completely and the juices are syrupy

Remove from the heat and allow to cool, Gently fold the cream into the custard, Add the fruit to the custard and cream mixture and gently fold through.

Spoon the fool into individual glass serving dishes and place in the fridge, Just before serving decorate with fresh blackberries.

Serve with a crisp biscuit.

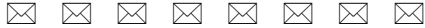
# YOUR LETTERS

## Grateful Thanks

Dear Sir, via e-mail

On behalf of the PCC of St Peter's Church Drayton, we would like to thank the Drayton Charity for awarding us a grant again this year. The money is used to fund our work with young people, specifically the holiday club which is held each summer in collaboration with All Saints, Sutton Courtenay and the workshops which are held periodically at St Peter's.

Yours sincerely, Sue Harris (PCC Secretary)



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**Drayton Running Group** is open to all level of runners from the absolute beginner to very experienced. You will be able to try out many different types of running drill at your level to enable you to achieve your personal goal. Our runners' goals vary considerably from wanting to run regularly for enjoyment, to increasing speed, from wanting to lose weight to keeping supple and fit.

We run for 35 minutes, followed by a strengthening and stretching session. At £4 per session this group is good value, friendly and supportive. Call Caroline on 07714 896 033 or visit [www.dendy.co.uk](http://www.dendy.co.uk) and click on 'classes'.

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Other services include: Conservatory roof cleaning;

Fascias cleaning; Gutters Unblocked & Cleaned out

## Bus Chaos

Dear Sir,

Steventon Road

We are writing to let you know how concerned we parents are about the problems we are having with the school bus journey for new year 7 pupils joining John Mason School in September 2011. We have been informed that they will not qualify for the free school bus that all those pupils now catch, presently they are all eligible to catch that school bus, but from September only the children that live 3 miles or more from the school will qualify. Those children that live 3 miles or less distance will NOT be eligible to catch this bus service. We are also unsure, at present, if this will apply to all current John Mason School pupils.

The powers that be have decided that the best way for our children to get to school is on foot, from Drayton to John Mason School in Abingdon. That's not too bad I hear you say, except that to get to school for 8.30am they will need to leave home at 7.20am each morning. During the winter months these journeys to and from school will be in the dark. There are no street lights or houses on the very busy stretch of road between Drayton and Abingdon, and these children are only 11 years old.

John Mason School knew nothing at all about this, and as far as they were concerned the free School Bus for all pupils from Drayton would continue. We are also unsure if this applies to bus journeys to and from any of the other schools in Abingdon.

In summary, some pupils living in Drayton will have to pay for bus travel (£80 per term), and some won't, regardless of the fact they will embark the same bus at the same bus stop. But, the overriding message is:- The path from Drayton to Abingdon is not safe for eleven year olds to walk to and from school, especially during winter months. **This is an accident waiting to happen.**

On behalf of concerned Drayton parents Dusty Evans



**From page 3 (Drayton Wives) here are the three Founder Members cutting that wonderful celebration cake!**

## YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

### Blame and Punishment

Whether it is News International, The Met or Westminster Politics, the world seems a pretty murky place these days. Someone has broken the rules, or invented the rules to suit themselves. Things have gone wrong, someone is to blame, someone should have seen it coming. Heads must roll.

Well, call me an unashamed optimist, but when it comes to conspiracy or the other thing, for me, the other thing is almost always the answer. Human beings are short-sighted, self-seeking and fallible. But they can also be imaginative, brave and forgiving. When things go wrong, as they often will, someone has usually fouled up by mistake. Only very occasionally in my experience have they fouled up by design. In most cases, the culprits are quite incapable of the level of conspiracy of which they are accused.

These days, we seem to be obsessed with who is to blame and how they should be punished. Of course, it is right when mistakes are made, to discover who made them and why they made them – if only to try to ensure that the same mistakes are not repeated. If in the process, we discover that some people are culpable in law, of course it is right that the law holds them to account.

The trouble, it seems, is that too much time is spent pursuing large numbers of foolish Indians at the expense of time spent pursuing a small number of clearly culpable chiefs. It takes too long for the blame to arrive on the right doorstep, and because we are so obsessed with parking blame on someone's doorstep at any cost, we do not get on with the first job anything like fast enough.

And what is that? Surely, if something has gone wrong, the first task is to make sure that it will not go wrong again in as short a time as possible. If a problem has damaged the system, fix the damage first, then worry about the recrimination and the punishment. And always let's remember that we are dealing with fallible and mostly forgivable human beings. And if that all seems soft and unrealistic, it's the summer holiday and I'm much happier being optimistic than when I am being a grumpy old man. ==>>>

**CHRONICLE NEWS** :- We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Sue Ash who has been the Chronicle agent for the West side of Lockway for several years and has now decided it is time to hand the baton on to someone else.

**If anyone would like to take on this role** then please let me know (529510). It can be a great way to get to know your neighbours and can be shared with others if that makes it easier.

*Gareth Davies (Chronicle Co-Ordinator)*

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### Cuts and Savings

Most well-run Councils have managed to make their books balance under very difficult circumstances in recent years. Falling revenues and increasing costs have compelled even the most spendthrift to become more efficient by cutting unnecessary expenses and services that do not function well, or are deemed to be unnecessary. Doubtless all councils can make many more efficiency savings yet.

However, the most forward looking and zealous councils are beginning to show signs, here and there, of having overdone the cutting process. The cracks may be beginning to show.

20 years ago Councils and other authorities employed teams of men to dig out ditches and keep our rivers clear of blockages. Nowadays, those same authorities employ less than 30% of the number, and some jobs are being done by volunteers.

As a direct result of cuts, some things are being done more slowly than they were 10 years ago. Sometimes a mistake may be made by a hard-pressed Council employee simply because he/she is being asked to do the job 3 people would have done only 10 years ago.

Sensible councils will use some of the money they save by identifying further areas of savings to re-employ where the cracks are showing. This will of course necessitate them admitting that they overdid it in the first place. **We will have to see if they are brave enough to do this.**

Wishing everyone a warm, dry, enjoyable summer.

*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))



## PARISH COUNCIL (July 4)

The subject of the Manor Farm development was discussed at some length at this meeting. Drayton residents may be aware that the Earl of Plymouth Estates (EoP) has had planning permission since 1998 to convert the barns and erect 16 new houses, including 4 low cost homes, on land to the rear of Manor Farm and to the east of Abingdon Road (opposite the Red Lion). Apart from conversion of the barns, there has been no development yet.

One of the requirements for the rest of the development is the need to secure agreement with the Parish Council for alterations to the junction of Gravel Lane with the main road (ie opposite the Post Office). The PC had agreed to co-operate with these alterations on the basis of receiving a cash payment (£100,000 - now increased to £135,000), and the transfer of about 3 acres of land to the south of Henleys Lane to be used as public open space.

The PC felt there would be no particular benefit to the village in acquiring this land if it could not be used for specific recreational purposes, but instead became just another open area for joggers and dog walkers; the Millennium Green and the footpath network already cater well for these. However, the area of land on offer was that part of the field furthest from Abingdon Road, which presented serious access problems; also, neither the shape nor the location made it suitable for the sort of organised recreational facilities which Drayton badly needs and at present lacks.

The new Parish Council recently met with the EoP and was offered an alternative arrangement whereby it would receive a slightly larger area of land (about 4 acres) - about half of the field - between Lockway and the A34. The main disadvantage of this site is its proximity to the A34, making it noisy, however, in some other respects, this field offers recreational opportunities which the Henleys Lane site does not. Its closeness to the Village Hall means that the existing car park could be used for access.

The PC has considered the current offer and feels that the whole field would be necessary to provide the potential of a cricket ground, a planting strip sufficient to reduce the A34 traffic noise, and to accommodate two football pitches. It has put its case in writing to EoP, but obviously this is only the start of a negotiation process. Other factors have to be considered, such as the ground water conditions in winter in the Lockway field, which may mean that drainage is required to make the surface playable. →>>>

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>>>> Those residents of Lockway whose homes back onto the field would be **directly affected** by any proposed developments, and the **Parish Council has written to each of these households** to inform them of the current situation and to [ask for their views](#).

Were the whole field to be obtained, the Parish Council also proposes that the current football area near the Village Hall be re-developed as a multi-purpose games area (MUGA) for games such as basketball, tennis etc., and as a play area for younger children, once the new pitches at the rear of Lockway are in place.

**It has to be emphasized** that nothing has yet been formally agreed between the Parish Council and EoP. Those who remember the original granting of planning permission for Manor Farm, and have over the years watched, and waited, and wondered if and when anything might happen, are perhaps entitled to be sceptical about the current process.

The Parish Council is cautiously optimistic, and believes that the Lockway site represents the best hope yet of meaningful progress towards better recreational facilities for the village.

**However, it needs to know the views** not just of Lockway residents, but of **as many Drayton residents as possible**. **You are invited**, as always, to come along to the next Parish Council meeting and air your opinions, on this, or any other matter.

The meeting will be on **Monday 1st August**, at 7.30pm, in the Caudwell Day Centre in Gravel Lane.

As ever, all are welcome to attend, and in view of the above topic, a good attendance would be especially desirable.

*Richard Williams*

## Classroom news

Robins (Reception and Year 1) spent an enjoyable and interesting day at Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre where they were able to do some pond-dipping and bug hunting. They will be rounding off this term's theme of 'I Spy with my Little Eye' with a Teddy Bears' Picnic.

Ravens (Years 1 & 2) have been on 'Walkabout' exploring the village, its different features and street furniture. Following one of their exploratory walks, they designed and made some fantastic models of playground equipment.

Red Kites (Year 3) have been completing their adventure stories and comic strips ready to take home for some summer reading.

Kingfishers (Years 4 & 5) have created a collage of the pond from photographs they took of it. They divided the pond into 6 parts and the class into 6 groups. At various stages they put the 6 pieces on the floor to make sure that everything matched up! They have also been looking at methods of seed dispersal outside.

Kingfishers and the whole school community bid farewell and good luck to Mrs Creber who has been job sharing with Mrs Middleton. We are especially grateful for Mrs Creber's musical contribution to both curricular and extra-curricular activities ('The Wind in the Willows' was a lovely musical production led by Mrs Creber, congratulations to all involved) and we wish her well in her new role at Rose Hill School, Oxford. Laura O'Connor will be Mrs Middleton's new partner teacher from September.

Eagles (Year 6) concluded their Ancient Greece studies with the opening of their museum exhibiting some excellent 'artefacts' which the children had made. This was a magnificent display showing creativity and exploration of the topic. The school was well represented by pupils from this class at an athletics meeting at Tilsley Park. There were some good individual performances and together, the pupils displayed excellent teamwork – well done!

Sports day was really enjoyable for the whole school, with thankfully good weather so spectators and participants could enjoy their time outdoors. Well done all for taking part! →>>



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### Friends of Drayton School Association - UPDATE

FODSA have been busy organising events to raise funds to add to the school and benefit the children.

Congratulations to Trudi Humphreys who won the first FODSA Quiz. More are planned for the future. Thanks to Ana Gurl for organising this.

The Circus Day was a fabulous opportunity for the children to learn some Circus skills and we are very grateful to Ana (again) and Chris Gurl for providing this - all their hard work really was appreciated.

At The Big Farewell Disco we wished our Year 6's well as they move on to Secondary School.

We are pleased to report that the Summer Fête was a great success this year. We hope those of you who came along enjoyed yourselves. Thank you to everyone who helped prepare and run the day.

We also want to say a big thank you to Kate Foster and Melissa Head for their hard work and commitment in creating such a splendid event.

Thanks to everyone who has helped with and supported the school and FODSA activities this year. Your contribution is invaluable. We wish you all a very happy summer.

## NOTICE BOARD

### GARD UPDATE

The GARD Committee has not been idle! The **reservoir threat remains**. The challenge of ensuring that a half-sized reservoir on the same site (50 million cubic metres) does NOT appear as the preferred option in the revised plan is our most pressing concern.

GARD's representatives and consultants have had two recent meetings with the Environment Agency, and we are due to meet Thames Water at the end of July in an attempt to ensure that the Company realizes the outcry which would result if the reservoir comes back in October's re-written 2009 plan.

Meanwhile we are commenting on all the important work plans being set up by TW both for the re-write of the 2009 plan, and for the 2014 plan which will be the critical one for us all. We are hoping to impress on the Company the need for impartial work by all their specialist consultants instead of contrived results such as those which were defeated at the Public Inquiry.

We do now need **two reasonably technically experienced people** to take over GARD's leadership next year. I'd welcome volunteers, no prior knowledge of water resources is needed as we have excellent professional advice. For further info, please call me (01235 832077). *Nick Thompson (Hon Chairman GARD)*

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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 Aug 2nd, and Sept 6th. If you need transport or further information please give me (Jean Hager) a call on 531558.

### LISTINGS Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock :-

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**ED's Note** :- This Jazz advert is way ahead of time (yes, November!) - BUT fans will know that this group sells out very quickly, so don't delay!!

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### YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL CONTACTS :-

**Parish (Clerk)** David Perrow ([draytonclerk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:draytonclerk@yahoo.co.uk))

OR phone 07909 176 061

**District (VofWH)** Richard Webber (534001);

**& Oxfordshire County** Mike & Marilyn Badcock (201810).

### ED VAIZEY - Your Local MP

Given the current financial climate, it's natural that my postbag is taken up with concerns about the risk to much-loved local services. A few months ago I had an opportunity to visit the Sweatbox, a popular youth centre in Wantage that is in danger of closure. Everyone had come together to help with the fundraising to keep the centre open. They were recording a CD and going out to sell it to local residents. Even the local school, King Alfred's, has stepped up, offering support to keep down costs.

The County Council is about to embark on the first wave of grants from their £600,000 Big Society Fund. Competition has been fierce with over £1.2m worth of applications but, due to a boost in its popularity and no-doubt thanks to the initiative they have shown, the Sweatbox seems set to receive £20,000 which will supplement another £10,000 from the Town Council.

Ten other youth projects across Oxon have qualified for a slice of the £282,000 to be allocated in the first wave, eg FAZE in Faringdon which I had the pleasure of re-opening a year ago (I was struck by the volunteers' devotion and the determination of the youths building a haven of which they could be proud); also Uffington who've won a small sum to start new youth activities.

I am a big fan of the Big Society. It is far more meaningful than the "cover for cuts" that some have cynically labelled it. This govt is pushing power down to local levels, and local groups are rising to take it back:- Total bids for Oxon's fund exceeded £1.2m and every one of them has its strengths. You only have to look at the ideas and enthusiasm coming out of our communities, they don't just want funds, they've shown ingenuity and innovation - new ways to spend the money to achieve far greater returns.

**In Drayton** I am working with local parents, and county councillor Mike Badcock, to express concerns about proposals to withdraw free bus travel for children travelling to Abingdon (see the page 7 letter). I know there is a lot of concern about this, mainly because the council has changed the arrangements, and I will do what I can to get the decision reversed.

**If you need to get in touch with me**, telephone 020 7219 6350, write to me, c/o House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA, or you can e-mail me on [vaizeye@parliament.uk](mailto:vaizeye@parliament.uk); the Website is [www.vaizey.com](http://www.vaizey.com) with up to date news and surgery details (Town Hall, WALLINGFORD, Friday Sept 23rd 5.30 pm to 7pm).

# DRAYTON DIARIES

## DIARY FOR AUGUST

All events held in Drayton Hall unless otherwise stated

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

Mon	1	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting (p9)	Caudwell DC
Mon	15	5.15pm	CHRONICLE DEADLINE	Vickery's
Tue	16	7.00pm	Pilates Class (new - call Gillian 814299)	

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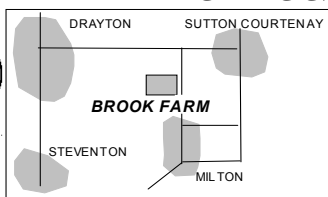
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## REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

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### MONDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	School Ground Bldg
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)	
6.30 pm	Table Tennis (New Players)	School
7.00 pm	Scouts (Boys/ girls, 8-10 yrs, Tel. 512834)	Steventon Hall
7.15 pm	Drayton Wives Whist (3rd Monday)	Caudwell DC
7.30 pm	Parish Council (1st Monday)	Caudwell DC
7.30 pm	Table Tennis (Senior practice + playing 2 hrs)	School
7.45 pm	Bell-ringing (for 1½ hours)	St Peter's
7.45 pm	Drayton Drop-In (to 8.45, except Bank Hols)	
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 (now every night to Fri)	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

### 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)	
11.00 am	Weightwatchers	Lounge Bar
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	

### 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

### 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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