

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Derek Pooley

Volume 34 No. 9

October 2011

PLUS d'ENTENTE

Barbara Bell



The August Bank Holiday probably seems a long while ago - so before we leave thoughts of summer, 2011 is the 11th year of Drayton Twinning. It was celebrated here by hosting 31 French visitors from Lesparre. It was lovely to see familiar faces and, of course, those with us for the first time. We must be doing something right as the numbers increase every time!

Our guests arrived in Drayton on Thursday afternoon via Luton and were duly billeted with their host families around the village and surrounding area to settle in.

Planning started back in January and in this year of a Royal Wedding we decided on a Royal theme. Our itinerary was selected to be exciting for everyone. We started on Friday with a visit to Windsor Castle. Our French friends just love the Royal Family and tours are available in many languages - I have to say it was a fantastic day with much to see. On our return we had dinner courtesy of various families which is an ideal time to get to know each other better and enjoy the hospitality of Draytonians.



Saturday morning the coach took us all to the Hawk Conservancy near Andover; the Trust is set in 22 acres of woodland and wildflower meadow and there are over 150 birds of prey on view or involved in spectacular flying demonstrations. This was a spell binding day with the most wonderful birds imaginable. The flying displays were breath-taking and I advise anyone who has not visited the Trust to do so. It was good to share an experience without language being a barrier. We finished our day in Steventon, at the North Star, for a Pig Roast. The evening was cold but the atmosphere was very warm, with good food, live music and friends. The pub looked after us admirably.

Continued on page 7 a

and MORE PLAYING

Richard Williams



In the last few days, anyone walking along Lockway or visiting the Village Hall may have noticed construction work in progress at the site of the children's playground. At the time of writing, all the new items of equipment were in place (picture above) but work was not yet finished, with resurfacing and making good being the main tasks still to be accomplished. However, we should soon see the final completion of a project which was first mooted back in the dark and distant days of last winter.

Regular readers of the Chronicle will be aware of the Parish Council's ambition to improve the recreational facilities in Drayton and, more to the point, the difficulties it has experienced in securing land that would be suitable for development. The Lockway playground is one of the village's few existing amenities (aimed in this instance at young children), and it seemed that if new facilities for young people were not at present achievable, then the PC could at least look at improving what it already has.

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Also in this issue:

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- P6: Sausage & Red Wine Casserole
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- P13: Affording Fairness



DRAYTON PLAYERS PRESENT

'A Dead Ringer for Murder', by Drayton's Oenone Grant

A NEW Murder Mystery Supper Evening
Friday 4 and Saturday 5 November 2011

At 7.30 pm in Drayton Village Hall

Ploughman's supper will be served

Tickets £8, available from mid-October, from Vickery's Hardware Store or by phoning 01235 200350



CHRONICLE INFORMATION

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

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

Distributor: **Helen Brasington, 1 Cheers Farm (534045),**

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

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

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

Key dates for the subsequent three Chronicles:

Issue for	Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available on:
December	14 November 2011	25 November 2011
Jan/Feb	16 January 2012	27 January 2012
March	13 February 2012	24 February 2012

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 SEPTEMBER LOTTERY

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	0355	Mr. Evans, 2 Greenacres	Keith Clough
£20	2209	Mr. Carter, 2 Mere Dyke, Steventon	Claire Soper
£15	0944	Mrs. S. Brooks, Church Lane	Susan Brooks
£10	2015	A. Durkin, 25 Whitehorns Way	Trudi Buckner
£10	1660	C. Turley, 18 Binning Close	Cathy Norris
£10	0390	Mrs. Clarke, Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
£10	2634	A. M.Hutchings, Samor Way, Didcot	Lawrence Vickery
£10	2017	J. Hager, 27 Whitehorns Way	Trudi Buckner
£10	2353	R. Jones, 11 Eastway	Teresa Burnage
£10	0406	J. Cook, 43 Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough

The winning tickets were drawn by members of the Drayton Art Group from the 2115 tickets sold

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

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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

Dear Editor

On behalf of all the children at Drayton Preschool, I would like to say a big thank you to all those companies and individuals in the Abingdon area who donated materials towards the refurbishment of our garden, and also to Paul and John Biddle, who carried out the work between them over the summer holidays. Pictures of our refurbished garden can be viewed on our website www.draytonpreschool.co.uk. Regards,

Andrew Watts, Chair, Drayton Preschool

CHRONICLE NEWS

Gareth Davies

I would like to thank Jean Hager, Jean Oliver & Brenda Whiting, who have been delivering the Chronicle & selling lottery tickets for many years but who feel the time has come to pass on the baton to others. They have all done a fantastic job, come rain or shine, and I thank them for their efforts & dedication.

Many thanks to Amanda Drysdale, who has taken over as agent from Brenda Whiting, and Pat Percival who has taken over from Jean Hager.

If anyone else is willing & able to volunteer to become a Chronicle agent then please let me know. The areas for which agents are required are Newman Lane, Lockway (west side) & Whitehorns Way (nos 40-80). You don't have to live in a road to deliver the Chronicle there & rounds can be shared between two (or more) people. Our agents are crucial members of the Chronicle team, without whom the Chronicle could not continue in its present form, so please volunteer if you can.



Even more crucial for our existence is our Lottery Promoter, because the funds raised by the lottery provide some 2/3 of the money we need to print the Chronicle. Daphne Samworth has been our promoter for the past twenty years but has decided to retire from the job of at the end of this calendar year. So a huge thank you to Daphne for all her hard work & perseverance in collating the lottery money & tickets & carrying out the

lottery draw every month.

Mention must also be made of Daphne's assistants Trudi Buckner, Sarah Church, Doreen Eato & Beryl Dawson who have done a sterling job in helping Daphne in her tasks, so many thanks to them - also Geoffrey for making the tea!

The Chronicle team must therefore find someone to take over from Daphne as Lottery Promoter to start in the new year. If anyone would like to know more about this role please give me a ring (529510) & I can explain in more detail what is involved.

Technology has moved on a long way in the last 20 years and we hope we can use it to make the lottery promoter's job (and the agents') a bit easier in the future than it has been for Daphne and is currently for our agents. More of that in the next Chronicle!

MISSED OUT ON YOUR CHRONICLE?

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

A.L. VICKERY & SON

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Curate Revd Rosie Bruce.....525284
Churchwardens Mrs Val Cross535183
Mr Colin Arnold531923
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 OCTOBER

Tues 4th 3.00 pm First Tuesday Connections *Church Room*
Sun 16th Harvest Festival
Sun 30th 3.00pm All Souls Service

CHURCH REGISTER

Funeral:

19th September June Mary Brown

YOU STAY - WE PRAY: OCTOBER

25th Sept to 1st Oct High Street; Chiers Drive; Cheers Farm; Halls Close. 2nd to 15th: Lockway; Whitehorns Way. 16th to 22nd: Corneville Road; Crabtree Lane; Lesparre Close. 23rd to 29th: Drayton Road; Milton Road; New Cut Mill; Fisher Close; Marcham Road; Meads Close; Rippington Court; Stone Hill

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. Our next two dates are 4th October and 1st November. If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.

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LETTER FROM ST PETER'S

Dear Friends

As summer ends and autumn approaches the farmers, whatever the weather, tend their crops and bring the harvest home. The church celebrates this with a service of thanksgiving and our Harvest Festival will be on Sunday 16th October at 10.00 am.

As well as giving thanks for the harvest we also think of others less fortunate than ourselves, for

whom the provision of food and water is less reliable. Our collection at this service will go to 'Water Aid' and we are hoping to have a speaker from the charity at the service. WaterAid enables the world's poorest people to gain access to safe water and sanitation. Together with improved hygiene, these basic human rights underpin health, education and livelihoods, forming the first essential step in overcoming poverty.

The gifts of fresh produce will go to The Home Farm Trust. The other food items, the list for which is in the church, will go to 'The Porch'.

Also at this time we have our All Souls Service, when we remember our loved ones who are no longer with us. During this service, which is poignant and moving but also very peaceful, there is an opportunity to light a candle in remembrance of them. Please see the advert on page 14 for further details.

As you know we have had a lengthy interregnum which will come to an end on the 24th October when Rev. Rebecca Peters will be Licensed and Installed as our Priest in Charge. Please remember Rebecca and her family in your prayers as she starts her ministry in this parish

*Val Cross and Colin Arnold
Churchwardens*



Suzy Willis & Associates

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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

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NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

We extend a very warm welcome to Colin and Clare Holyoak, with Oliver, who have moved into Binning Close from Hertfordshire

Also to Lee and Angela Venn, with Frank and Lily, who have moved to Drayton from Didcot, also into Binning Close

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HALL MANAGEMENT MEETING **Ann Webb**

The meeting held on Monday 19th September proved to be quite lively. After a follow up report of the last two months' events, a discussion on financial assistance from the parish council caused a debate on how much we would or wouldn't need in the next financial year to enable us to continue to not only run the hall but keep up with all the general maintenance etc., which at times can be unforeseen and costly.

August is always a quiet month, several of our regular bookers are closed for the school holidays, but we have three new ventures started this month, two Zumba dance classes which appear to be very well attended, and a Pilates class which is also running at full capacity at the moment. Another lively discussion followed on booking priorities. There always has been a priority system in place that up to now has worked well. New users are coming in, regular users are having to cope with more people in the building, this is good for revenue but not so good for our longstanding patrons who have previously not had other users in the building. We thank them for their acceptance of a new situation. Over a cup of tea we all looked at the proposed extended storage area, the usage of the Lockway field was also brought up and we will hold off a decision on the plans until the outcome of this is made more clear. It was also decided to explore the possibility of some new curtains for the main hall. The ones we have are well past their sell-by date and spoil the look of the inside and outside of the building.

Finally the meeting ended by saying farewell to Sarah, our very efficient secretary for the last two years, and welcome to her replacement, Mrs Sue Stevens, we are very pleased that Sue has stepped in to Sarah's shoes. We wish Sarah all the best for the future and thank-you.

HALL ENTERTAINMENT **Derek Pooley**

Why not make Drayton Hall the focus of your autumn entertainment? You can watch the Drayton Players on 4 & 5 November, compete in the Wit & Wisdom Quiz on 18 November, listen to Boulevard Swing play jazz on 19 November and join the Candlelight Carol Service with the Abingdon Band, the Drayton Choir and the Wallingford Hand-Bell Ringers on 4 December.

See the adverts on the front and back pages for details.

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BLUE PLAQUE PROGRESS Laurence Zipson

Following last month's request for Blue Plaque nominations the Parish Council was contacted by Colin Arnold, a Church Warden at St Peters suggesting the **Reverend F.E. Robinson MA (Oxon)**. F.E. Robinson seems to tick all the boxes required of the scheme as he is widely recognized for a significant contribution to bell ringing in the UK and around the world, which was established during 30 years of service as Vicar of St Peters Church here in Drayton between 1878 and 1908.

An Oxfordshire man, he was born in Begbroke in 1833, and as an undergraduate at Exeter College, Oxford, he discovered the joys of bell ringing. He was ordained as a minister in 1868 and in 1878 was presented to Drayton by the then Lord Wantage.

In 1881 he was a founding member of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers (ODG) and became its First Master, a post he held until his death in 1910. He did a great deal to reform bell ringing and set new standards which reach around the world to this day. Robinson was also an extremely capable and prolific ringer and to fulfill his ambition to become the first cleric to ring a peal in his own parish church he donated a treble and a tenor to augment the existing six bells at the Church. He was also the first person to ring 1,000 peals, which he did at the Church on the 9th of August 1905, aged 72.

In 1908 he retired to Wokingham due to ill health, where he remained until his death in February 1910. His funeral was held at Wokingham All Saints and was attended by hundreds of people; he is buried in the churchyard there. His legacy has continued to the present and he is still remembered and acknowledged. In 1913, Ringers from around the UK subscribed to this memorial tablet which is located in the cloisters of Oxford Cathedral.

St Peters gets regular visits from ringers from around the UK and further afield (see the visitors book). Photographs of Robinson still hang in many ringing



towers in the Oxford Diocese, including the ringing chamber at All Saints Wokingham where on the 9th August 2005, the Ringers rang a quarter peal in honour of the centenary of his 1,000 peals.

On the 16th of February 2010 the ODG marked the centenary of his death with tribute peals in many Churches across the county. The Ringing World (the bell ringer's weekly journal) ran a feature about him on the front page of its 16th April 2010 edition (a copy of the article can be seen in the Church's book of Ministers).

Numerous plaques marking milestone peals are set in the walls of the bell tower at St Peters; most notable, the original plaque commemorating his 1,000 peals and another erected on the 9th of August 2005 by the Ancient Society of College Youths (London's Bell Ringing Society) also commemorating the achievement.

As well as his passion for Ringing, he was a proficient wood carver, and while at St Peters he carved the organ case, the choir stalls and bench ends. He was also part way through carving a chancel screen when he died.

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AUTUMN CALENDAR Doggerelle

In case I hadn't realised that summer's nearly o'er
In August Christmas catalogues were posted through my door.
"That can't be right" I told myself, it's ages till December,
Before that time there's merriment twixt September and November.

First there's harvest festival, its gifts for all to share,
And then October brings again our ancient, famed Ock fair:

Blaring music, blazing lights, crowds of noisy folk,

For residents of Ock Street it's probably no joke,

Roads are blocked, traffic's jammed, but when all is said and done

This festive old tradition gives young and old such fun.

The thirty first October has youngsters all in stitches,
It's Hallowe'en and trick or treat for ghouls and ghosts and witches.

Within a week it's time to put poor Guy Fawkes on the fire,
Flashing fireworks light the sky, the flames leap even higher.

The smell of roasting chestnuts pervades the cold night air,

Children waving sparklers dance round without a care.

And then it seems quite suddenly December's really here,

Now thankful for those catalogues I get my mind in gear.

The autumn's past and all that fun is over yet once more,

So cards and presents must be bought, and that's a daunting chore!!

Though preparations fill my mind and all my thoughts employ,

Never mind that autumn's done, it's Christmas - yet more joy!!

WOODEN SPOON RECIPE Lois Rennells

Recipe No. 42 (from November 2003)

Sausage and Red Wine Casserole

1 tablespoon oil, 1 lb pork sausages, 1 onion (thinly sliced), ½ teaspoon dried thyme, 3 carrots (sliced), 3 sticks celery (sliced), 1 tablespoon plain flour, ¼ pint red wine, ¾ pint chicken or pork stock (made from a stock cube).

- Heat the oil in a large frying pan and cook the sausages for 5 – 10 minutes, turning frequently until they are evenly browned. Remove from the pan and set aside.
- Stir in the onions and the thyme and cook until browned. Add the carrots and celery, lower the heat and cook covered for a further 10 minutes.
- Sprinkle the flour into the pan and cook for 2 – 3 minutes, stirring frequently, until browned. Pour in the wine and cook, stirring continuously, until smooth. Add the stock and bring to the boil stirring until slightly thickened. Return the sausages to the pan, season and return to the boil.
- Transfer to a casserole and cook in a low oven for about 45 minutes.
- Serve with rice or mashed potatoes.

a The Oxfordshire Blue Plaque Committee may not be able to consider our nomination of Rev Robinson until next year but we will keep you posted on how our proposal progresses. In the meantime if anyone has any other thoughts on a prospect for a Blue Plaque please drop a line to draytonclerk@yahoo.co.uk.

Editor's Note: Laurence Zipson is a member of Drayton Parish Council and Chairman of its Public Relations & Press Working Group

**An opportunity to meet Ed Vaizey, MP,
with Sutton Courtenay Conservative Branch**

You are invited to *Wine and Canapés* from
12noon to 1.30pm on Sunday 23 October 2011
at Drayton Manor, High Street, OX14 4JL
by kind invitation of Mr & Mrs Frank Caudwell

Tickets £15 each (cheque to "Wantage Conservatives")
from Mrs Peter Hasting, The Middle House,
11 High Street, Milton, Abingdon. OX14 4ER
Enquiries ? 01235 834740 or diamar1@btinternet.com

PLAY AREA FACELIFT

Richard Williams

Continued from page 1:

The Lockway playground is regularly inspected by RoSPA, and the Parish Council knew it to be in safe and generally in good condition, but some of the equipment was looking a little tired and perhaps in need of a facelift. Funds were not available to rebuild the entire playground, and in the event, it was felt there was no need to do so. Some items, such as the swings, have been retained because they continue to be popular and are very well used.

In the spring of this year, four separate firms specialising on playground construction were approached. All four met with the Parish Council on site and were invited to submit plans to improve the play facilities within a limited budget of around £16,000. Three of the four companies responded and produced high quality submissions which met the PC's requirements. I and Naomi Broomfield then took the plans along to a number of meetings for consultation with the most important partners in this particular project – the children who would be, hopefully, the 'end-users'.

Naomi and I met with several groups of children in the approximate target age-groups, and received many comments, both approving and critical, on the proposals. Eventually, and in conjunction with the full Parish Council, it was decided that the best combination of new equipment and value for money was to be



found in the submission by Wicksteed, and the contract was duly offered to this company and accepted.

Whilst it was impossible to incorporate all the ideas and suggestions made in the consultation, it was felt that if the present project proves successful, a further 'Phase 2' upgrade could be made, possibly next year.

STEWART'S DRIVING SCHOOL

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PHILIP PULLEN 07733 360230

LESPARRE'S VISIT TO DRAYTON **Barbara Bell**

Continued from page 1:

Walking was the next activity on the agenda and on Sunday we all met at Spanswick Farm in Letcombe Bassett, courtesy of Mr and Mrs John Wheeler, for a walk around Devil's Punchbowl. The weather was kind to us and we had an amiable amble in the English countryside with brilliant views over Oxfordshire.



A few members found it arduous but were rewarded by a lovely picnic back at the farm. On our return we had Sunday dinner courtesy of various local families once again.

As you can imagine, by now we are slowing down a little so Monday was reserved for a relaxed day for guests and hosts and their families! Trips to Oxford and the Uffington Show seemed popular.

On the evening of Monday we had our "formal" dinner evening "ensemble" catered by Jill Jarvis and her team. To continue the Royal theme everyone was asked to wear a Crown or Tiara and prizes were awarded for the best Crown and Tiara. We were royally entertained with excellent live music provided by one of our families followed by Country Dancing which was thoroughly enjoyed.

Tuesday arrived all too soon and it was time to say goodbye. The coach left Drayton at 9.00 am carrying people with many happy memories. We spent the day at Bletchley Park, en route to Luton, with a picnic lunch in the Victorian Mansion. The tour guide was excellent – we learned so many things about this top secret world during a vital period of our histories. Amongst so many things the visit included the famous code breaking huts and the Colossus rebuild. Hosts and guests had a fascinating time – if you haven't been do add it to your list.

Once again it was a wonderful weekend. Some of our new members, originally apprehensive, are now keen to visit Lesparre next year.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN OUR GROUP - call 531388. Please do not worry if your French is rusty or nonexistent - none of our members is fluent – but we get by and that is all part of the fun. You have the opportunity to meet your neighbours too!

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GARDENING PAGE

GRASS FACTS

Anne Hendry

Pennisetum grasses, along with all other grass species, are incredibly valuable plants in any garden. Like hardy plants, the Chinese Fountain Grass provides the necessary form and structure needed in the border. It also gives texture and the same seasonal interest as herbaceous perennials, the 'fireworks' of the garden.

From the bottlebrush-like flower spikes of the *P. alopecuroides* cultivars to the billowing *P. orientale* types, the seeding flowers of this genus waft around in the gentlest of breezes, generating both movement and sound. The subtle ebbing and flowing of grass is at its best and most visible when the plants are used *en masse*, as in the wild, but they also work in harmony with other plants when used in the smaller garden.

Pennisetum grasses also look magnificently architectural when planted in contemporary containers such as zinc or steel which in turn can be sited in front of a modern or light-coloured building. Otherwise, the larger cultivars make good, stand-alone specimens in borders whilst the smaller varieties are more effective when planted as a group or used in drift planting. A grouping of a single cultivar looks more natural than an assortment of different varieties.

Pennisetum species come into their own in late summer when flowering really starts to get going. Combine these grasses with other late-blooming perennials such as *Crococsmia*, *Echinacea* and *Rudbeckia*, for example, to create maximum interest and colour in the early autumn garden. *Pennisetum* species should be grown in well-drained soil and in full sun although they will tolerate dappled shade in southern parts of the UK.

The best time for planting grasses is late spring but plants can be added to beds, borders and containers throughout the growing season. Once established, most grasses are drought-tolerant. However, an eye will need to be kept on the watering during the first year of planting especially if the spring, summer and autumn months are unusually dry.

Foliage and flower spikes are best left in situ throughout the winter so as to help protect the roots and new spring growth. Better though is the interest provided by the foliage and spent flower heads in an otherwise barren winter garden. The seed heads attract birds in search of winter food and the foliage offers a safe haven for small mammals.

Once the threat of frost has passed, the plants can be cut down to ground level. Make sure you don't leave it too late though as pruning may harm new growth. Although the plants..... a

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Although the plants can look a little untidy by the end of winter, early-flowering herbaceous plants in the near vicinity will provide a foil for this. *Pennisetum* species are generally pest and disease-free plants. Of equal importance is their low maintenance, perfect if this is a priority in any garden scheme.

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ALL AROUND

DRAYTON SCHOOL

Ana Gurl

School news ...

We returned to school after the summer break to nice tidy school grounds. There is a new pedestrian gate onto the playground which is a big improvement. Although we are only at the beginning of the new school year there is already lots going on. After-school clubs are up and running and include Gym club, Film club, Tag Rugby, and a new Drama Club to mention a few.

Children from Years 4, 5, and 6 took part in the Active Nation Try-athlon at the White Horse Tennis & Leisure centre. They all did swimming, cycling and running as well as taking part in lots of other activities during the day before going back to school exhausted but happy. Thanks to Mrs. Caudle for organising the event.

The Life Education Bus came to school, and all children had a chance to visit the bus where they looked at various subjects depending on age; friendships, the brain, all about me, decisions, feelings, great to be me.

All children now have access to our new on-line Mathletics program where they can challenge other children of similar abilities all over the world. This seems to be going down well with the children, many of whom far exceeded Mr Mayer's initial challenge costing him lots of medals as promised to the children.

Classroom news ...

Robins (reception and year 1) are learning "All about me". A big welcome to all our new reception children. They are settling in really well with the help of our year one children who are already familiar with the daily routines.

Ravens (year 1 & 2) are learning about Fire and Ice and have some very nice displays in the windows of their classroom. They will be learning about the North and South poles and Scott of the Antarctic and have set themselves an ambitious project of building a snow den from milk cartons.

Red Kites (Year 3) topic this term is all about Vikings. Where did they come from? Where did they travel to? Did they celebrate Christmas? They have set themselves lots of tricky questions to investigate. This year Red Kites are going swimming every week as part of their PE lessons.

Kingfishers (Years 4 & 5) have come back to a nicely redecorated room, complete with reading corner. They are learning all about the history of Abingdon, and have been sketching and photographing local buildings. Welcome to Mrs Kent who is job-sharing with Mrs Middleton, and welcome back to Arun Parkin who re-joins us after spending 18 months in Germany.

This term **Eagles** (year 5 & 6) are learning about Vile Victorians with their child labour, amazing dress and fantastic inventions. They did very well with their summer holiday homework, producing fantastic posters and a model of Stephenson's Rocket which were demonstrated in assembly. They all came back on the very first day of term dressed as Victorians.

FODSA (Friends of Drayton School Association) would like to welcome new parents and carers and hope that some of you come and join us. FODSA organise fundraising events throughout the year the proceeds from which benefit all our children. We are always open to new ideas!

And finally a message from the school governors:

The Governing Body of Drayton Community Primary School is looking to appoint an LEA (Local Education Authority) governor. If you have an interest in the well-being of children and their education; are seeking to support the school and raise standards; have an understanding that becoming a governor requires commitment of time for meetings, sharing the workload and visiting the school in school hours then we look forward to hearing from you! For further information please contact Caroline Evans (Chair), 01235 550418 / carolinaevans@hotmail.co.uk.



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Anna (age 17)

PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

Debbie Bargas

We are continuing this term with settling into Preschool and learning how things are done.

We have had lots of fun in our newly developed garden. We would like to say a BIG thank you to all the people involved for their hard work over the summer improving the environment at Preschool. The children have been planting bulbs and look forward to seeing them grow in the spring.

We will be having a visit from Tempest photography on Friday 11th November, the timed list will be in Preschool soon.

We have some spaces available. Do you have a child who is approaching 2 1/2yrs? We are happy to put younger children onto our waiting list. Please do keep supporting us; the children have great fun and are always learning new things. Please contact Preschool on 01235 536094 or draytonpreschool@btconnect.com for a welcome pack or to visit.

There is an easy way to help our fundraising, if you order goods via the internet, you can register at 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.

Dates for your diary:

Friday	7th October	Inset Day - No Sessions
Friday	21st October	End of Term One
Monday	31st October	Term Two starts
Friday	11th November	Tempest Photography visiting

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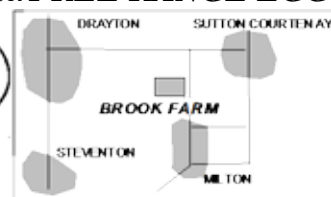


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MORE ALL AROUND

DRAYTON PLAYERS

Jean Hager

Our murder mystery rehearsals are progressing well, enhanced by the enthusiasm and ideas of our junior members, who are enjoying all the challenges put before them.

'A Dead Ringer for Murder' will be staged on Friday 4 and Saturday, 5 November at 7:30 PM. There will, of course, be a different baddie each evening to provide continuous suspense and, we hope, surprise.

Inclusive tickets for the performance and interval Ploughman's supper may be booked by telephone (200350) or in person from Vickery's hardware store from mid October. We thank Lawrence for extending this assistance to us once again. Full details of our show will be found in our advertisement on the front page of this chronicle. We do hope you will come along with family and friends to enjoy a happy evenings entertainment, puzzling over the usual and not so usual suspects.

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BOWLS CLUB

Roll up

Both summer league teams finished their programs in mid table, the 'Leopards' winning all their home games but not doing too well away, while the 'Tigers' away form was very good and their home record let them down. In the winter leagues this year there will be three teams competing in the Afternoon Triple League and one team in the South Oxon Evening League, so it looks like a busy time for members this winter. These matches start at the end of September.

The latest internal competition to be completed was the 'Attwood Cup' and, after a fine day's bowling organized by June and Josie, the winner was Maurice Bartlett, with Pat Hoyland in second spot and Cyril Carter third. The 'John Berry' leagues have got underway on Mondays and Wednesdays and will run through until the end of November.

On the 2nd of October the 'Friendly Fours' competition will be held, when three Drayton teams will be playing against teams from Benson and Stanford-in-Vale. This is always a big feature of the club's activities. This year Jane will be running the tournament and Val will be working hard with her helpers in the kitchen providing a cooked meal for the players.

TABLE TENNIS CLUB

John Gould

A warm hello to all those who play Table Tennis in Drayton, whether you call our sport table tennis, ping pong or even wiff-waff! Personally my efforts are often described as a bit wiffy waffy!

Anyway the club has opened its doors again; players have brushed off their bats (or paddles) and started back for the new season. Our new format of beginners starting at 6.30 pm, with the more experienced players arriving after 7.30 pm will hopefully work well.

Our first session on 5th September was a tad chaotic but overall it went well. We had some new faces and plenty of old ones but all seemed to enjoy themselves. It was especially good to welcome some new adults – Jeff, Kevin, Ali, Chris & Andrew - to the club. Anyway, by the end of the evening there were some smiling faces so I hope the experience was enjoyable. Personally I realised the lack of exercise in the summer has now come back to haunt me!

We are of course grateful to David Meyer and the school for allowing us to continue using their premises for our 26th year. The League matches will commence from 26th September. We hope our teams will do well and the players enjoy competitive play. We have a number of 'first time' league players who are starting in Division 5. I will give regular updates as the season progresses.

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BROWNIES

Paula Harper

With the start of the autumn term, we will have all the usual fun-filled games plus we are going to work towards our Disability Awareness badge and our World Issues badge. We have evenings planned for deaf awareness and for mobility awareness. The World Issues badge will enable us to try food from other countries and we will look at other languages. We also have a trip planned during October to Cadbury World.

We will break for half term, therefore no Brownie meeting on Wednesday 26th October.

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

W.I.

Brenda Malin

All eyes were sparkling when Michael Lynes from 'Henley Collectables' passed around a diamond worth *FIFTY THOUSAND POUNDS*. This, believe it or not, was at our usual monthly meeting and just goes to show that you never know what may be in store when you attend a W.I. meeting. Michael also gave us an in depth talk on the history of the grading and cut of diamonds and the skill required by engineers to perfect a perfect piece of jewellery.

Next meeting on Thursday 13th October, 2011

Subject the Air Ambulance Service.

Friday 18th November our annual Wit & Wisdom Quiz

Remember to book your table see advert elsewhere in the Chronicle.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Pearl Stanbridge

We look forward to meeting you at the dinner next month. The next committee meeting will be held on Monday 17 October at 8.00 pm



DRAYTON WIVES

Gwen Price

At the August meeting we were delighted to welcome back an old friend, Hugh Granger, whose talk was entitled 'It's Not Always Right on the Night'. It was a most entertaining account of the many occasions when things have gone awry when visiting groups. These incidents were never his fault and I'm pleased to say we were blameless, never having led him astray! As usual with Hugh, we spent the afternoon laughing and chuckling and came away feeling better for it. (reported by Eve Sharp)

OCTOBER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tues 10th COFFEE Connie, Josie M

Mon 17th WHIST David Hale.

Wed 26th MEETING Jill Carey -The Thin Line from West to East. Moscow, St Petersburg and the Trans Siberian Railway



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PARISH COUNCIL

Daniel Scharf

Meeting held on 5th September

Readers of the Chronicle will know that the Earl of Plymouth Estates has asked the Parish Council whether it would be interested in having ownership of a field between Lockway and the A34, in preference to about half of the open land between Manor Farmhouse and Henleys Lane (part of the terms of the existing planning permission for 16 houses in that area). A number of Lockway residents had expressed their concerns at the PC in August but the next meeting with the EoP will not be until October. Moreover, a Steventon Road resident has now offered an opinion that any more intensive use (eg tennis courts, multi-use play area) of the existing recreation ground that would be made physically possible were pitches provided to the rear of Lockway, would be undesirable. There will be opportunities for all village residents to air their views about the potential to acquire land and use it for recreational purposes when we know more about what the EoP intends.



The remainder of the public session was devoted to the illegal use of Kiln Lane. As everybody should know, this is a bridleway over which the driving of cars and vans is illegal. The PC is keen to place obstructions in Kiln Lane which will limit the use to walkers, cyclists and horses only, but first clearer signs will be erected and there will be monitoring of the use and possibly action taken by the police. All this would be unnecessary if drivers stuck to the roads and stopped causing this nuisance and danger.

The PC also discussed and responded to a letter written by the Director of Education, Children and Families to Ed Vaizey MP as it seemed that Oxfordshire County Council did not properly understand how to implement a change to their policy on providing home-to-school transport. The PC remains very keen to see all families in the village treated equally as has been the longstanding policy of the County Council. If any change is proposed it should be properly reasoned and made the subject of a proper consultation.

The PC agreed to write to the Highways Agency asking whether the slip road onto the A34 could be opened to allow traffic back onto the trunk road when it was blocked to the south of Drayton. It has been pointed out that on a daily basis Drayton residents were also driving through Steventon when wanting to travel north on the A34, looking for the reasoning behind the closure of the slip. The Highways Agency is also being asked to take steps to quieten the A34 by the use of a better surface and acoustic barriers.

Despite a good number of residents coming to express their views at the last few meetings of the PC, with one notable exception, none were attracted by the idea of taking one of the vacancies on the Council.

A further opportunity will arise at the next meeting on 3 October at 7.30pm at the Caudwell Day Centre.

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DISTRICT COUNCIL

Richard Webber



On Fairness:

OCC, like all County Councils, is short of cash and, to be fair, it is certainly not all their fault. They have to save money, even from their frontline service budgets. That means Roads and Education. To be fair, OCC is keen to limit the impact of any cuts on the people of Oxfordshire. Again, to be fair, there are not too many places they can turn to make the savings they need to make within the schools and

education budget. One such place, which would not affect the quality of the education they provide, is the transport to schools' budget. It must cost a packet to pay for every child to get to and from his or her nearest secondary school, and hence there is a '3 mile rule'. If you live further than 3 miles from the nearest school, the law says the council must pay - under 3 miles and they do not have to pay so long as there is a safe walking route. There is an argument going on as to whether it is safe or not for a child to walk unaccompanied to school. The difficulty here is that 'safety' is very difficult to quantify while people on both sides of the argument could be said to have vested interests. Important though safety is, this article is simply about fairness.

The 3-miles rule throws up a major problem for Drayton. Only some of the village lies outside the line. Families outside the line have no need to worry - OCC will pay for their children as they always have done. For the first time, however, those within the 3 miles limit are being faced with the prospect of having to pay for school transport for children, who are starting secondary school. Older brothers and sisters at present will still be paid for. So it is proposed that children within the same family are to be treated differently, and families from the same village or parish are to be treated differently - that strikes me as divisive and very unfair.

Our County Councillors are doing their best to fight this, and as a mere District Councillor, I have refrained from commenting. However, I now believe that, party politics aside, we should all get in behind our County Councillors and call for a *fair* solution to the County Council's problems rather than the solution OCC is currently proposing.

Of course I am speaking for those families directly affected, but I also hope that I am speaking for an overwhelming majority of Drayton residents and the residents of all other villages affected.

Waste Collection Service:

It has come to my attention that there are a number of problems that have arisen with this service. It would help me enormously if anyone who has had or is having a problem would let me know directly either by telephone or email. At the end of the month, I am sending in a report summarising these problems to the waste services team at VWHDC. I want to make sure that everything they need to know is covered.

Many thanks in advance for your help. You can contact me on richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or on 534001

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WESTMINSTER

Ed Vaizey



Much has happened recently:

We've had riots and looting, the downgrading of US debt, the euro crises and the new youth unemployment figures - but it's not all news is bad for our area.

The Chancellor, George Osborne, announced 11 new Enterprise Zones throughout the UK, one in Oxfordshire, covering the Harwell and Milton science and business parks, in an area now branded as Science Vale UK. I have been supporting Science Vale UK for many years: it will help Oxfordshire become one of the economic dynamos of the UK by raising the profile of the many hi-tech companies based in our area, attracting further investment and jobs. I'm delighted that the Government has recognised us but that is far from the only thing this announcement brings.

This Enterprise Zone is designed to attract businesses by providing 100% relief on rates, simplified planning and super-fast broadband. Also the businesses that are already here (some of the best in the world) will be able to invest these savings (~£30m next year) into local growth, creating up to 10,000 new jobs. They will recruit from our universities, pushing down youth unemployment and paving the way for an innovation-led path to recovery.

I was also delighted, as the Minister responsible for getting broadband to rural areas, that we have announced a grant of almost £4 million for Oxfordshire, to help the County Council to roll out broadband to areas where the speeds are very low.

And finally, I wanted to let you know some good news on pubs. Ministers have already announced a range of policies to support pubs, including a ban on supermarkets selling alcohol below cost, fairer taxation on alcohol and a reform of licensing rules, not to mention the small business rate relief scheme. But also, the Government has launched a review into restrictive covenants - an absurd legal clause which sometimes prevents community pubs reopening following a sale - a policy that has caused over 570 pubs to be permanently lost over the last 5 years.

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DRAYTON DIARY

FOR OCTOBER

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

Regular Events are listed opposite

Sat	1	Sequence Dancing	
Sun	2	Bowls (all day) – also 7th, 11th, 14th, 16th and 28th	
Mon	3	7.30 pm Parish Council	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
Thurs	6	7.00 pm Young Farmers – also Thursday 20th	
Mon	17	9.15 am Chronicle Lottery deadline	<i>Vickery's</i>
		5.00 pm Chronicle copy deadline	<i>Vickery's box</i>



ST PETER'S CHURCH ALL SOULS SERVICE Sunday 30th October at 3pm

A time to remember loved ones who are no longer with us and light a candle in remembrance of them.

If you would like a loved one's name to be read out during this service, please put the names on the list that you will find on the table at the back of the church

Wit & Wisdom Quiz



Drayton Hall

Friday 18 November 2011

Doors open at 7.00 for 7.30pm start

Teams of 4 Includes ploughman's supper

Tickets £5 per person - available from:
Brenda Malin 524429 or Ann Webb 531418

CHARITY JAZZ EVENING

In Drayton Hall at 7.30 pm

Saturday 19th November

Bar & Raffle

Music by BOULEVARD SWING

Tickets £10 CONTACT Judy Henman (531651),

Rosemary Barlow (206148), or Vickery's shop

In Aid of the PACE Centre

Candlelight Carol Service



Drayton Hall at 7.30pm

Sunday 4th December

Music by Abingdon Town Band,
Drayton Community Choir and
Wallingford Hand-Bell Ringers

Also readings and other items

Come and join us!

Free admission

Mince pies, tea and coffee

Collection for Action for Children

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	Beavers (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 and Adult 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>
5.45 pm	Zumba Class	
6.00 pm	Ladies' Netball (for 1 hour)	<i>School</i>
7.00 pm	Pilates Class	
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>LyfordClose</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 (until 11.30am)	
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	

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>
7.00 pm	Zumba Class	

www.drayton-near-abingdon.org

Don't forget that you can look up past issues of the Chronicle, as far back as the start of 2004, by visiting the village web-site.

The web-site also contains details of Parish Council business, the 'Days in Drayton' Newsletter written by our schoolchildren and much useful information about and photographs of the village.

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