

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Tony Holmes

Volume 34 No. 10

November 2011

CHRONICLE NEWS

Many thanks are due to **Margaret Armstrong**, who has decided to relinquish her role as one of the Chronicle distributors after many years of doing so; however she will still carry on delivering the Chronicle as an agent.

We are **very grateful** to **Brenda Malin**, with the help of **Sally Dixon**, they've stepped forward to become distributors.

Thanks also to **Maria Webb & Sarah Smith** who have been delivering the Chronicle & selling lottery tickets in Oday Hill & Crabtree Lane, but are no longer able to do this. So if there is anyone who would like to take over, please let me know.

We also still have vacant delivery rounds in **Lockway** (west side), **Whitehorns Way** (Nos 4-80) & **Newman Lane**.

And, (last but certainly not least!), we are also still looking for someone to take over Daphne's role as lottery promoter ** (& see Daphne's letter on p7).

If ANYONE can help with any of these roles, please call me (Gareth Davies, Chronicle Co-ordinator) on 529510.

** NB Ed's note:- In addition to last month's tribute to Daphne and her helpers, I'd like to restate the Chronicle team's gratitude for her immense stint (20 years) in this role. Come to think of it, I think I've been editing for nearly that length of time - don't remember exactly when I started! - but this job is only every 3 or maybe 4 months, thanks to our rota; if it was every month, I don't think I'd have managed that length of time. Twenty years? Incredible! Definitely time for parole!

FUN RACE NIGHT!! ALL ARE WELCOME!



SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER
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Gary Hibbins, Debby Mckenna, Paul Evans, Hazel Brant,
Trudi Humphreys, Debbie Harris, Donna Painton,
Emma Salaman, Rachel Seamark.



THE SOBELL CHRISTMAS GIFT FAIR

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YOUTH ZONE – Naomi Broomfield

Youth Zone is back after the summer break, it's lovely to see new faces. The weekly activities are varied but we've found that food-based ones are very popular - new ideas greatly appreciated!

On Monday Nov 7th we have a street dance session being run by OAYP which will start at 6.15pm till 7.15pm - **please come along and join in** - and in the next few months Gary Hibbins is coming along to run some bench ball sessions.

As always the group is open to all children living in the village in school years 6 to 10. Our regular volunteers are doing a **fabulous job**; thank you to everyone, especially Gina who helps most weeks, and James for a much-needed male involvement.

Claire Soper has been running Youth Zone for a long time, and, as her own children are older and no longer attend, Claire feels it is time to start thinking about handing over the reins. It is hoped that this will be a planned handover to one or more individuals that can give the commitment of one evening per week plus some planning time. **If you'd be interested** in 'taking the lead' or giving support then please do not hesitate to come along for a chat.

Sessions run from 6pm till 7.30pm on Mondays at Drayton village hall and fees are £1 towards the cost of hall hire and supplies. First session is free, and a permission slip needs to be completed by parent/guardian. Info:- please call Naomi (532248).

Last session of the term will be our free 'bring a friend' **Christmas party** on Monday 12th December.



CHRISTMAS FAIR

ST PETER'S CHURCH

SATURDAY 19th NOVEMBER

10am to 12noon

Home-made Produce, Mince Pies, Gifts,
Jewellery, Cards, Raffle etc.

Refreshments:- mince pies, tea and
coffee in the Church Room

IN THIS ISSUE :- PLEASE NOTE the appeal for School Governors (p10). & **'Well Done' to Eagles class for their Harvest Distribution** (also p10). Elsewhere, **Clubs & Groups** (p3, 5 & 6), **Noticeboard** (p12/13), **Letters** (p7/8), **Parish Council** (p9), & **W.I. Quiz** (p6/7).

COMING CHRONICLES

The **DECEMBER Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Friday November 25th**, from **Brenda Malin (524429)**, who should be contacted by Agents requiring extra copies.

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

NO LATER than 5.15 pm on Monday, November 14th 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 Nov 11th, 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!)

(next editor)	editor@draytonchronicle.net
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:-
Jan / Feb	16 Jan	27 Jan
March	13 Feb	24 Feb

ADVERTISING RATES

For Block Advert (about 1/12th 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

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 OCTOBER LOTTERY

Prize	Winner	Agent
£25	Mr Woodward 85, Drayton Rd, SC	Claire Soper
£20	Mrs Buckell 4, Steventon Road	Judy Henman
£15	P. Lacey 14, Whitehorns Way	Trudi Buckner
£10	Mr. Roberts Windyridge Court, SC	Claire Soper
£10	Miss Kyle 6, Steventon Road	Judy Henman
£10	Mr Clough 15, Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
£10	Mrs Johnston 49, Abingdon Road	Jayne Henderson
£10	N James 118, Abingdon Road	Margaret Armstrong
£10	H Mole 26, High Street	Mary Alexander
£10	Ms Yates 28, Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough

Winning tickets, from 2155 sold, were drawn by staff & customers at Sabina's Hairdressers.

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

Well the new League season is under way and our 8 teams have all started their matches. The old stagers of the club will hope to maintain their playing levels of course. As for the newboys, they have no doubt started their League careers with some nerves but hopefully they are looking forward to the competition that lies ahead. Of course we play for fun and whilst it is hoped all our teams do well, the main thing is to enjoy playing and do your best.

A few early results are in and so far most of the teams have had a good start. There have been a few problems with injury and illness but overall the season has started OK. We have also welcomed back to the club Martin Honey, Luke Hunt and Francis Soltane. Each of these three will play in our two Division 4 teams and they will give those teams good squad strength.

I have to mention our three division 5 teams. Most of the players in the teams are new. So far the F & G teams have won their opening ties. The H team have our youngest players so it will be a case of learning and improving for them. Kavan Warrender won his first ever league game as did Matthew Wise so well done to both of them. The F team's first tie saw Captain Justin Hemsley win his 3 singles matches as did Ryan Gimigliano. David Craig weighed in with 2 wins so it was a good start for the team.

Our usual Christmas Curry evening is being arranged and we expect this to take place on Friday 16th December although the venue is yet to be sorted. Always popular with 20 plus attendees we hope for another good turn out (Ed:- sounds appropriate?).

A reminder that Monday practice starts at 6.30 pm for novice players and from 8.00 pm for Seniors.

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The Branch Standard will be in attendance at the **Remembrance Day services** listed below.

Assembly times are :- Milton War Memorial 10.45am, Steventon War Memorial 2.15pm (service in St Michael's and All Angels at 3), and St Peter's (Drayton) 5.45pm.

The next meeting is the branch AGM, Monday Nov 21st at 7.30pm.

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DRAYTON WIVES

Gwen Price

Our talk in September was about the Air Ambulance which covers our area and is based at Benson. It was accompanied by a film showing the skill and expertise of the crew with some useful information such as:- the helicopter flies on an average of four missions a day; it can be airborne within three minutes of a call out; it can land in accessible places; it provides inter-hospital transfer when speed is of the essence; and, maybe the most important, it has a top speed of 140 miles an hour.

The trust is a charity which relies on sponsorship, donations and fund raising. Two of our members had reasons to be grateful to the air ambulance as one had a friend who was rescued after a serious horse riding accident and the other person's brother-in-law was rescued after collapsing on a high peak in Derbyshire.

It costs about £125,000 a month to run so it is a very worthwhile cause to support.

DATES for your DIARY in November:-

Wed 9th Local walk, meet at Village Green at 11a.m.

Mon 14th COFFEE Irma, Margaret W, Pauline, Jacqueline

Mon 21st WHIST Rosemary Barlow

Wed 30th MEETING Diane Wilson - Night life in the garden

OTHER LOCAL PLACES OF WORSHIP

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

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Curate	Revd Rosie Bruce	525284
Churchwardens	Mrs Val Cross	535183
	Mr Colin Arnold	531923
Organist	Robert Legg	

CHURCH NOTICES

REGULAR SERVICES

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

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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

CALENDAR for NOVEMBER

Tues 1st	3.00 pm	1st Tuesday Connections	Church Room
Sun 13th	6.00 pm	RBL Service of Remembrance	

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms	Sept 25th	Isabelle Florence Wolfe
		Leanne Jessica Darley

YOU STAY – WE PRAY (November)

30 Oct – 12 Nov:- Lockway, Whitehorns Way
 13 – 19th:- Corneville Rd, Crabtree Lane, Lesparre Close
 20 – 26th:- Drayton Rd, Milton Rd, New Cut Mill, Fisher Close, Marcham Rd, Meads Close, Rippington Court, Stone Mill.
 27th to Dec 3rd Steventon Road; Eastway; Eastway MHP

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 or phone 01235 798972 or Mobile 07757 786027

Letter from St Peter's Church

Dear Friends,

Thank you for such a warm welcome to the village. It has been a time of transition for us, as baby Ruth was born earlier this year and, with moving house twice, it has been a time of letting go of the past and looking ahead to the future.

Times of transitions are not just about moving house, but include changes in people's circumstances, such as the birth of a child, a child starting/moving school, changing jobs, times of ill health or the death of a loved one.

Life never seems to stand still and as we get older these changes become more difficult to deal with. But we don't have to deal with them alone, God is interested in every part of our lives and he will stand beside us as we go through these times of transitions. God cares for us and will minister his presence and love to us, if we allow him.

November can be a difficult month for many, as it is a time of remembrance, remembering those who have died, family, friends, and people that have sacrificed their lives that we might live in freedom. **Why not come and stand with others** as we remember together all that have gone before us? There is a Remembrance Day service at St Peter's Church, Nov 13th, 6pm.

God Bless

Revd Rebecca Peters



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(MORE) ALL AROUND

Drayton BABY & TODDLER Group Vicky Cotterell

Well it's been a great start to this year, we have had lots of new faces both grownups for chats and children and babies to make new friends. We hope you are enjoying our mornings.

Dates for your diary:- Thurs 24th Nov we have the photographer coming, in readiness for Christmas (presents?!). **Anyone is welcome**, whether you use our group or not, but **please ring to say you're coming** to make sure there is enough time booked. Thanks.

Thurs 8th Dec is our last session and our Christmas party, hopefully with a special visitor. More details to follow.

Mums and carers night out - again more details to follow - **any suggestions welcome**.

We have lots of craft ideas planned ready for next term and of course the toys and snacks fantastically provided by Joy.

Baby and toddlers is a friendly group run by mums and carers for babies and children up to 5 years. We are open on Thursday mornings term time 9.30 - 11.30 in Drayton village hall, please call Vicky 07779 243290 for more information.

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Drayton BOWLS Club

'Roll Up'

The 'friendly fours' inter-club competition was a very successful day, with teams from Benson and Stanford competing with us, the outcome was a win for a Drayton team of Jean Mullins, Chris Bramwell, Olive Brown and Bryn Jones, beating a team from Stanford in the final; **thanks to Val and Carol** who provided a fine meal for the players, and **also to Jane** for organizing the day.

The winter leagues are underway, all teams have made a good start to the campaign, and we'll have a better idea of how things are going with next month's notes.

The final competition this year (the 'Didcot Windows' open singles) will be on Nov 20th, followed by finals day to be held on Dec 4th, when nine tournaments will be competed for.

In closing, 16 club members will be going on a bowling break at the end of the month to the Isle of Wight, this will be the 15th year that members have been on this break, with a fair amount of success over the years, hopefully even more this time.



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Drayton 1st Brownies

Paula Harper

Welcome to our new Brownies that have joined us this term, Aimee, Lottie, Ella and Izzy.

We would like to express our thanks to Marsha Locke for her fantastic talk and instruction on sign language. The Brownies can now all sign their names and can sign the Brownie Guide Promise. This evening helped the Brownies with their Disability Awareness badge together with investigating our other senses.

We are continuing with our World Issues badge, with one of our other favourite pastimes, eating food from around the World. We have also looked at the importance of buying Fairtrade goods whenever possible and the differences in languages around the World.

We have enjoyed our Brownie meeting so much this evening as we looked at the new play equipment in the park. Thank you, to the Parish Council for enhancing the village with this equipment and for consulting the Brownies on the selection of the equipment.

Meetings are held at Drayton Village Hall, on Wednesdays during school term from 6.15 - 7.45, meetings are open to all girls aged between 7 - 10 years old. Further details are available from:-

Ruth Hudson (Brown Owl) on 01235 205111

Esther Deabill (Tawny Owl) on 01235 528502

Paula Harper (Friendly Owl) on 01235 534166

Annette Mitchell (Barn Owl)

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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

UPCOMING Police 'Have Your Say' meetings :-

Sunday Oct 30th, 4pm to 5pm, Caudwell Day Centre;

Weds Nov 16th, 3pm to 4pm, Police office, High St., Sutton Courtenay; + Tues Nov 29th, 6pm to 7pm, Drayton Hall (car park - bring a torch?!); All with PCSO Sandra Syphas. For more information about your neighbourhood team, call 0845 8 505 505

Wooden Spoon Recipe No. 43 (from Dec 2003)

by LOIS RENNELLS

Celeriac in Cream (serves 4)

450g (1 lb) celeriac, salt, slice of lemon and lemon juice, 40g (1½ oz) butter, 150 ml (5 fl oz) fresh single cream, and a pinch of grated nutmeg.

Peel, wash and trim the celeriac, cover (**) with cold salted water in a pan with the lemon slice. Simmer (covered) for about 50 minutes until almost tender, then drain and cut into fairly small slices.

Melt the butter in a clean pan, add the celeriac with a little lemon juice, cover and cook for 8 – 10 minutes, shaking the pan occasionally.

Take off the heat and add the fresh cream. Simmer gently for 5 minutes and serve sprinkled with grated nutmeg.

(NB ** Celeriac discolours if not immersed in water fairly quickly. The lemon slice also helps to prevent this).

A J Taylor

General Services

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- All aspects of removals and storage, plus house clearance welcome
- All gardening jobs such as weeding, mowing, hedge trimming, removal of garden waste etc
- Painting and decorating inside and out, including woodwork, fences and sheds.

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

Sutton Wick Lane

CONGRATULATIONS to Dr Jonathan Pointer on receiving your Doctorate. We are all very proud of your achievement.

Mum, Dad, Diane & Megan.

(EVEN MORE) ALL AROUND

DRAYTON PLAYERS

Jean Hager

A **LAST REMINDER** - if you don't yet have tickets for our **Murder Mystery** extravaganza on 4th & 5th Nov, 7.30pm, with **interval Ploughman's Supper**, NOW is the time to hasten down to Vickery's Hardware, or call 200350 to secure them.

The seats for '**A Dead Ringer for Murder**' are unreserved, so if you have a group booking do come early to get the table of your choice and pit your wits against other keen sleuths.

By the time you read this, we shall be very close to performance week, and absorbing ourselves in the appropriate mindset.

See you there, and enjoy the fun!

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

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

Mondays & Tuesdays & Saturdays

9.00am to 1.00 pm and 2.00pm to 5.00pm

Wednesday closed all day

Thursdays and Fridays

9.00am to 1.00 pm and 2.00pm to 6.00pm



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

Special rates for Pensioners and Free Car Parking

DRAYTON W.I.

Brenda Malin

At our October meeting we were treated by a most efficient and dedicated young lady, promoting the sterling work carried out in our area by the Thames and Chilton Air Ambulance.

We have plenty of volunteers for cake-making for our annual '**Wit & Wisdom**' **QUIZ** to be held at Drayton Village Hall on Friday Nov 18th. Doors open at 7pm, for a 7.30 start.

£5.00 per person, this includes both a ploughman's supper AND a delicious home-made cake. Worth coming for even if your little grey cells are not as sharp as they once were!



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YOUR LETTERS

Grateful Thanks

41 Sutton Wick Lane

MACMILLAN - World's Biggest Coffee Morning

May I through the Drayton Chronicle please thank **everyone** who supported the above at my house in Sutton Wick Lane on Friday 30th September. With the donations of some delicious home-made cakes, we had a very enjoyable morning which raised a grand total of £125.00.

To help get to such a great sum I would also like to thank **Jackie at Changes Hair Salon, Sutton Courtenay** who has been kind enough to sell some jewellery at her establishment and of which 10% of all the sales to date have also helped towards the £125.00 raised.

Yours sincerely

Annette Mitchell



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Village Lottery Promoter

Dear Sir,

Sutton Wick Lane

I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words, through the Chronicle, regarding **my twenty years as the Lottery Promoter**. On the whole I've thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Being new in the village, receiving and reading in my first ever Drayton Chronicle that a promoter was required, and after a talk with Harry Bisby regarding what the post involved, I decided that I would take on this role. It was certainly a quick way of finding my way round the village and meeting new people.

I took over from John Clark when Gillian Von Hoven was a 'helper'. My 'monthly helpers' were then Molly Munnock, Sarita Chambers, Sheila Clark, Trudy Buckner and Sarah Church. When Sheila left I had four helpers and it has been that way ever since. Not knowing the names of any roads or streets in the village, and the tickets coming in with CVR, WHW, BC, HS HF, LW, MHP etc., written on them, I wondered what I had let myself in for. However Molly soon taught me what these initials meant and came with me a few times to deliver the winnings to the appropriate agents and I soon learnt where all the roads were.

When I first became computer literate I had lots of help from Geoff Long, his help was invaluable. (Ed:- for any who don't know, Harry Bisby & Geoff Long were previous editors and co-ordinators of the Chronicle - both much missed - Harry had started it in 1970 with the original 'Hall News').

My helpers now are Beryl Dawson, Doreen Eato, Trudy Buckner and Sarah Church and I would like to say a **very big thank you** to them all and also **a very big thank you to Geoff, my husband**, who always 'stood in' if someone was unavailable. Without them the monthly lottery draw could not be completed.

May I take this opportunity of wishing everyone involved in the lottery continued success.

Yours Sincerely

Daphne Samworth

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ED VAIZEY - Your Local MP

Here's some good news for the voluntary sector in South Oxfordshire; Microsoft is trying to expand its software donation programme by appealing for **more applications from charities**. Through the Charity Technology Exchange Service (of the Charity Technology Trust), Microsoft has put on offer a range of software packages and licenses to provide affordable computer hardware to charities. I'd encourage anyone, whether setting up a new charity or extending the reach and scope of their existing one, to take advantage of this offer (<http://ctxchange.org/> for details).

In **Didcot** I have sponsored a seat at the Cornerstone arts centre – this is a great way for the arts centre to fundraise, it is a much-needed new resource for the town and I hope people from far and wide, not just Didcot, support it. Also the new civic hall has been superbly refurbished, it's a great place for meetings and events.

Also I opened a new house (Gt Western Drive) that's just been furnished with the very best **energy saving technology**: from solar panels on the roof and insulation throughout the loft and walls to energy efficient white goods and a new state-of-the-art boiler. This new home, retrofitted by SOHA Housing, will test these energy efficiency measures when used by a typical family this winter.

Insulation is the most important step for anyone worried about fuel bills this winter, so this government will offer 7.5 million vulnerable customers free or discounted home insulation and if just 1% take it up, an estimated £12m will be saved on fuel bills.

Millions of households could reduce their tariffs without even moving suppliers, and millions more could save up to £200 per year by shopping around. Prices can easily be compared to those of competitors at direct.gov.uk, or moneysavingexpert.com.

In **Wallingford & Cholsey**, I celebrated the community library's first anniversary – a great example of how one can be run. It costs £4,000 a year (£750 to set up), most of the books are donated, it is run by volunteers and has reading groups for adults and children.

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; the Website is www.vaizey.com with up to date news and surgery details, which are always Fridays, 5.30 pm to 7pm, just turn up (King Alfred Drive Community Centre, DIDCOT, Nov 11th, + also Town Hall, WALLINGFORD, Nov 18th).

DRAYTON WIT & WISDOM QUIZ

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Friday 18th November 2011



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YOUR LETTERS (extra)

Bill's Green Garden Award

Dear Sir, Steventon Road

On Tuesday, Oct 4th, Bill Coombes and his wife Eileen attended a lunch for winners of the Sovereign Vale Garden Competition at the Loyd Lindsay Rooms in Ardington and came home with the Green Garden Award, a large and handsome glazed flower pot.

Over several years Bill has won certificates and awards for his garden at 38 Steventon Road, Drayton. Last year it was his array of flowers by his greenhouse. In my opinion this year's show was even better than last but the judges were impressed with the extent of his composting bins, and his use of rainwater for watering his plants, so gave him the prestigious Green Garden Award.

In the picture of Bill in his garden you can see both the water butt that is filled by the rain running off the greenhouse roof and the magnificent flowers.

A pity the Chronicle is not normally printed in colour!

Yours Sincerely George Russell



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ODE to the FULLER FELINE FIGURE

We occasionally receive poems from 'Doggerelle', and very good they are too. This is a one-off (perhaps from 'Catter-hell'!) and I'm told that some of the story - about 'Dennis' - is true!

The vet keeps saying :- that he needs

A diet, though HE pleads

To be given free range of the fridge;

'Cos the size of his figure

Says he can't get much bigger

He's already the size of the base of a bridge.

He's not much of a hunter,

Sometimes called 'Bunter',

Never much chance of getting too thin ;

But he's a lovable fellow,

And ginger, NOT yellow,

Just as well he's not learned to open a tin.

Now he's got quite good habits -

(Not eaten the rabbits!)

Doesn't cause smells or dirty his tray;

But an inveterate cadger,

That weighs like a badger -

From a snack or three, and four 'squares' a day.

He sometimes tries a small ablute,

But isn't wholly resolute -

Those choppers have to stay on 'food alert';

Always hoping for meat,

As his taste isn't sweet -

He'd be a balloon if fond of dessert.

We'd have named him Garfield, had we known

How much in time he's gone and grown -

But at Blue Cross he seemed so sweet and small;

He likes a snooze, to rest the frame

And if could talk, would doubtless claim

(Like Garfield) :- "I'm not fat, just under-tall".

Though unlike him, ours doesn't get Pizza

That would insult the furry geezer

Who's favourite snack is chicken - organic grown;

Most nights he takes a stroll, at leisure

Not to the gym, or far, our treasure -

And I just wish he'd learn to catch his own.

Now though he's got this 'grander' figure,

And is full of flab, not much vigour

He DOES some exercise, a little way;

We just learnt that, down the road -

There's a lady feeds our little toad

When he turns up pleading hunger twice a day!!

PARISH COUNCIL (Oct 3rd)

Eight members of the public attended the meeting in addition to the Parish Councillors. Several people raised the issue of apparent changes to OCC's policy on school transport, and pointed out that this will create a number of anomalies within the village. Firstly, approximately half the village lies outside the designated 3-mile limit, and these residents' children will be offered free transport on the school bus; whereas those families living in the half of the village nearer to Abingdon, within the limit, will have to pay for their children's travel.

The new system also means that within the same families, older children already receiving free transport may continue to get it, while their younger brothers and sisters newly starting secondary school may not qualify. The Parish Council has been raising this issue with OCC for some time in an ongoing correspondence, but the situation, and the county's explanations for it, still seem far from satisfactory or clear.

The county has said that a further assessment of the supposed 'safe' walking route will be carried out shortly, and a final decision on policy will be made in the light of this. In the meantime, the Parish Council intend to pursue the matter with Ed Vaizey at his next constituency surgery and will report back at the November meeting.

A couple of items regarding the A34:- the Parish Council raised two issues with the Highways Dept of OCC, concerning re-surfacing of the road where it passes through Drayton so as to reduce road noise, and also the possibility of opening up the slip road in Drayton to give direct access onto the trunk road. The reply stated that noise reduction will be applied first to roads through areas of the highest population density, characterised as Important Areas or First Priority Locations.

Drayton unfortunately doesn't fit into either category, but it was indicated that the dept has a rolling programme of maintenance, and we could expect the Drayton section of the road to be re-surfaced sometime within the next 4 years.

An answer on the slip road rests with the dept's investigatory team and a reply has not yet been received. →>>>

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>>> **Gary Hibbins reported** on the activities of **Damascus** over the summer, and it is pleasing to note that much constructive work appears to have gone on, especially in the areas of peer leadership and mentoring, the main theme throughout the school summer holiday period being problems with drugs and alcohol. Gary also outlined proposals drawn up by the Football Club that would greatly improve the facilities in the present club-house and make it more family-friendly. The plans include the creation of an on-site café, which could be used as a youth 'hub' and drop-in centre. The provision of new male and female showers would hopefully make the facilities more attractive to all users, but would certainly make it easier to attract female players, and perhaps pave the way for a female football team.

Gary asked for financial assistance from the Parish Council, which would be needed quickly for the Club to proceed with its funding application, the deadline for which is imminent. The PC was sympathetic, and strongly supports the proposals in principle, but felt that it would not be right to commit to the substantial sum requested without further detailed discussion about the plans. It was felt that the bid for funds should be held over until the spring, when the next round of applications commences.

Re the possible development of the field between Lockway and the A34, Councillors were due to meet representatives of the Earl of Plymouth Estates on Oct 12th. It's emphasised that this meeting is still a fact-finding mission, and whatever its outcome, there are many steps down the road of consultation with all interested parties in the village before anything can or will be decided.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday Nov 7th, at 7.30pm, in the Caudwell Day Centre in Gravel Lane. As always, **all are invited to attend.**
Richard Williams

School news ...

In the local community. This autumn we celebrated Harvest Festival in the usual Drayton school style. Children brought in a lovely selection of produce and after our harvest service by Mrs Bruce, children from Eagles class **delivered over 20 boxes of fruit and vegetables to local elderly people.**

Robins class have also been out and about in Drayton, and enjoyed a walk to the Millennium Green.

Dramatic Drayton. November has seen this year's first production by the Drayton School Drama Club. Their short play 'This is Halloween!' was an adaptation of the song from the movie 'The Nightmare Before Christmas'. And the whole school will be enjoying a production of Dick Whittington performed by travelling theatre group M&M productions.

Spectacular Science. Ever wondered what makes the Sun shine? What process is capable of keeping it burning for 5 billion years and will keep it burning for 5 billion more? That process is FUSION! And year 5 & 6 children will be able to tell you all about it after their 'virtual' journey to the sun inside Culham Centre for Fusion Energy's giant inflatable 'Sun Dome'.

Magic Maths. Children are continuing to make good progress with our on-line Mathematics program. We have now seen not just bronze certificates, but already the first few silver ones. We have even had one pupil in the top 100 students within the UK. Keep up the good work everyone!

Sporting Successes. Congratulations to our two teams of runners who took part in the recent Vale Schools Cross Country competition at Tilsley Park. Both the girls team and the boys team did very well. The boys now have to do it all over again as they have earned themselves a place in the final. We wish them the very best of luck!

The first term ended on a sporting note with a Multi-skills house competition where all the children had a chance to earn points for their houses.

More Classroom updates coming next month ... But for those of you who read last month's report, I can't resist reporting how good the Raven's class snow den is looking underneath its sky of snowflakes... →>>



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==>> **FODSA (Friends of Drayton School Association)** would like to thank all the committee members for agreeing to stay on in their current roles and also those who have taken on new roles. We have lots of exciting events planned, in particular Halloween and then of course Christmas special events too.

And finally a message from the school governors: -

The Governing Body of Drayton Community Primary School are looking to appoint two LEA (Local Education Authority) **governors.** 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 info, please contact Caroline Evans (Chair), 01235 550418 / carolinaevans@hotmail.co.uk.

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GARDENING TIME

Heathers - Acid or Alkaline?

Heathers seem to confuse us. Do they like acid soil? Do they like alkaline soil? It depends on the species in fact. Some require acid soil conditions to thrive. Others will grow in neutral and alkaline soils. Flowering time also causes headaches. Again, all is dependent on the species.

Calluna vulgaris heathers are **acid-loving plants** as are *Erica cinera*, *E. x stuartii* and *E. vagans* as well as the taller-growing *E. arborea*. *Callunas* and *E. vagans* flower late summer to early autumn whereas *Erica cinera* and *E. x stuartii* can flower from early summer onwards.

In contrast, *Erica carnea* and *E. x darleyensis* cultivars thrive in **lime tolerant** conditions and flower from early to mid winter until early summer. In other words, these very under-rated plants provide year-round interest and colour.

With careful planning, a heather garden can give a colourful display within 3 to 4 years. It will require little maintenance and last 15 to 25 years. Good value then. A heather garden is also **wildlife-friendly** in addition to the flowers being very attractive to **bees** who are currently having a tough time in the British countryside.

Heathers are best planted in beds totally devoted to themselves. A few conifers or small evergreen shrubs could be added to create some contrast in height and form. Otherwise, plant heathers in containers of varying sizes and heights and position around the garden to create colour and interest during the autumn and winter months in particular. Make sure you choose the right compost for the heather cultivar.

A heather bed should be positioned in full sun, away from deciduous trees. Foliage heathers colour much better when planted in a bright and sunny position. Try and plant in groups of 3 or 5, or more, to create impact.

Plant heathers deeply with the lower foliage resting on the soil surface. Bark mulch the bed to keep weeds at bay. Pruning is done annually making heathers really low maintenance plants. In general, trimming retards the flowering by two to three weeks. Prune as follows:-

Calluna vulgaris - February or March, prune long flowering spikes back to plant. Trim off all flower heads.

Erica carnea - Every other April or May, trim flower heads with shears. Trim the more vigorous cultivars hard to stop the centre going bare.

Erica cinerea - February or March, trim off dead flowers particularly long flowering spikes.

Erica x stuartii - April or May, trim off dead flowers.

Erica arborea - After flowering, trim half of previous year's growth for the first four years to encourage bushy growth; trim off broken branches. Stake for support.

Erica x darleyensis - Trim each June. Do not be afraid of limiting growth.

Erica vegans - Leave flower heads on for russet colours during winter. Trim every March. Do not be afraid of limiting growth.

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Letters to the Editor

You may request that your name & address are not shown; however we MUST have those details, and phone number in case any text needs verification. NB Please also note that, although we welcome submissions on a variety of topics, the Editor reserves the right to shorten, clarify or reject any letter or supplied text.

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TUESDAY 8th NOVEMBER
The Village Hall (S.C.) 7.30 pm

**"A GLIMMER IN THE DARK: THE LIFE, ARTS
AND CRAFTS OF THE ANGLO-SAXONS"**

By Martin Way

We know from earlier excavations, and more recently from those carried out by the Time Team investigators, that there was an important Anglo-Saxon settlement nearby. For several centuries until the Norman invasion the Saxons ruled England, a period sometimes called the Dark Ages. But were they? Martin Way is an enthusiastic historian who will talk about the Anglo-Saxon way of life and reveal the many crafts and skills employed by the Anglo-Saxons during this time.

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MISSED OUT ON YOUR CHRONICLE?

If by any chance your Area Agent is unable to deliver your Chronicle you can collect a copy from Vickery's shop in the week after normal delivery. Lawrence very kindly keeps a few for us.

NOTICES (ORCC)

Buy Central Heating Oil early for Christmas

Do Drayton residents rely on oil for heating? Any that do, should be aware of this central purchase scheme to lower the price. Our nearest organiser is at Culham, apparently, so check the website in the text below. And it's anytime of year.

ORCC Trading is urging everyone with oil central heating to buy their oil early this winter so they avoid last year's huge December spike in the price. The cost per litre rocketed from around 45p per litre to more like 70p per litre in just a few short days, and early buying is essential if people are to save money.

Since it started last year, the ORCC bulk oil buying scheme has meant savings of around 4p per litre or more for its members (compared to average oil prices on the day of purchase). And if you're buying 1,000 litres this is a significant saving – twice the annual membership cost! Nearly 30 local communities have now got volunteer co-ordinators in place and the more members there are, the more negotiating power we have.

So if you haven't yet joined, and haven't yet thought about your winter oil order, DON'T DELAY! Go to www.oxonrcc.org.uk where you will find an application form and payment details, plus information about all the monthly prices and savings to date.

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Please email info to Caroline Wood or Jenny Fenn, that's at either caroline.wood@southandvale.gov.uk or jenny.fenn@.

As a minimum we need the date, location, a brief description and any charges that will apply. We can link to websites, add information about transport and include a photo or logo.



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The texts above in this column originate from the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (Witney) Tel: 01865 883488 or you can email :- christine.bartle@oxonrcc.org.uk for more info. Their oxonrcc.org.uk website also has lots of other schemes listed.

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Abingdon (3rd Friday) – 18th Didcot (2nd Sat) - 12th

Newbury (1st & 3rd Sundays) – 6th / 20th

TVFM news - ring 01235 227266 - website Tvmf.org.uk

Usually the markets run from about 8.30 am until lunchtime, Newbury market is on a Sunday (the first one is the largest) and starts about 9; it and Abingdon usually has a fishmonger & greengrocers (remember them?!), and excellent stalls for cakes, pies, and various organic meats.

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NOTICE BOARD

GARD UPDATE

Thames Water are *still* working out the revision of their *already twice revised* Water Resources Management Plan 2009! All GARD can do at present is to monitor their work for accuracy and thoroughness, which we are doing with the help of our experts.

We do not expect a Thames Water announcement until the very end of this year.

The critical study which has just started is the analysis of the future flow in the River Thames, from which there is a great deal of water abstraction. The Thames flow studies are directed towards the 2014 Plan which is the really important one as far as GARD is concerned. They also include climate change considerations, and only when the results are known will it be possible to assess which new water resource options are appropriate. These options will include a reservoir, Severn-Thames transfer and much more recycling of water.

All have to be studied by Thames Water and we will endeavour to ensure they are properly and fully researched and the true costs identified. Our experts are keeping in close touch with progress.

For any further info, please call me (01235 832077).

Nick Thompson (Hon Chairman GARD)

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District (VofWH) Richard Webber (534001);
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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 Nov 1st, and Dec 6th. If you need transport or further information please give me (Jean Hager) a call on 531558.

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LISTINGS Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock :-

Oxfordshire Craft Guild Christmas Exhibition

(Nov 19th to Jan 3rd) Annual Christmas selling exhibition featuring the county's leading contemporary craft designers and makers. Jewellery, ceramics, textiles, keepsakes and treasures – perfect for Christmas! (Museum 10-5, 2-5 Suns, closed Mons)

PLUS, Children & War, the Oxfordshire story;

PLUS Sat Nov 26th, Special Christmas Market, 10am to 7.30pm, Barrel organ, hog roast, carol singers, roasted chestnuts, mulled wine, as well as lots and lots of local stalls selling fantastic crafts, food and gifts all set out in the museum garden.

& CATS a recommendation for an excellent new Cattery, in Grove, should your pet(s) need to stay in a 'hotel' for a while. Modern, clean pens, and sympathetic owners, who can also cater for other small pets while you're away. See their website www.thegrovecattery.co.uk, or call 767980.

& Sutton Courtenay Church All Saints Singers present Mozart's Requiem, Sun Nov 27th, 7.30pm, for tickets for this much-praised ensemble, The Bookshop, Abingdon, or call (01235) 848205.

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DRAYTON VILLAGE WEBSITE

Don't forget that you can look up past Chronicle issues, to 2004, by visiting www.drayton-near-abingdon.org; it also has details of Parish Council business, other useful info for the village, and a 'suggestion box' to get future events a mention.

AND there'll soon be a need for an extra website administrator, which might suit a retired person, or even a quite young volunteer wanting to gain useful experience?

DRAYTON DIARIES

DIARY FOR NOVEMBER

All events held in Drayton Hall unless otherwise stated

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

Fri	4	7.30pm	Players Murder Mystery (page 6), and >>
Sat	5	7.30pm	"A Dead Ringer for Murder"
Mon	7	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting (p9) <i>Caudwell DC</i>
Fri	11		Private Booking
			Chronicle Ads Deadline (see p2)
Sat	12		Private Booking
Sun	13	1.00pm	Arts & Crafts SALE (to 4pm)
Mon	14	5.15pm	CHRONICLE DEADLINE <i>Vickery's</i>
Fri	18	7.30pm	W.I. Wit & Wisdom Quiz (p6)
Sat	19	9.00am	Clothing Sale (to 11am, p13)
		7.30pm	Boulevard Swing Concert
Sun	20		Bowls
Sat	26		Spirit of Destiny Psychic Readings

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 (to 7.30 except Bank Hols)	
6.30 pm	Table Tennis (New Players)	<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	Parish Council (1st Monday)	<i>Caudwell DC</i>
7.30 pm	Table Tennis (Senior practice + playing 2 hrs)	<i>School</i>
7.45 pm	Bell-ringing (for 1½ hours)	<i>St Peter's</i>
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)	<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 Fitness	
6.00 pm	Ladies' Netball (for 1 hour)	<i>School</i>
7.00 pm	Pilates	
7.30 pm	League Table Tennis (now every night to Fri)	<i>School</i>

WEDNESDAYS

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

THURSDAYS

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

FRIDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>Sch'l Ground Bldg</i>
11.00 am	The Friday Club (fortnightly) 202466	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
7.00 pm	Whist Drive (ACHLoFriends)	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>

SUNDAYS

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

HAVE YOU TRIED OUR **FREE RANGE EGGS?**

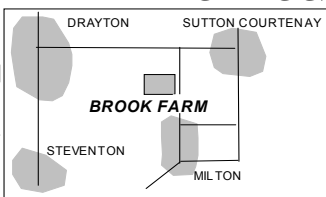


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Brook Farm, Milton Road

OPENING HOURS

Mon to Sat - 9.00am to 1.00pm Except Friday 9.00am to 6.00pm



FREE RANGE EGGS, & POTATOES (if available)

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FOUND - IN DRAYTON HALL

Ann Webb has a nice gent's watch, discovered in the cloakroom on a Thursday, several weeks ago.

Have YOU lost such a watch, or do you know someone who did? Give Ann a call (531418) and mention a few details of said watch, and it can be returned.

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