

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Dave Lee

Volume 34, No.11

December 2011

DRAYTON SUPPORTERS HONOURED

Vale Community Awards

It gives the Chronicle great pleasure to report that two of our residents were recipients of Community Awards at a recent ceremony at the Guildhall, Abingdon.

Derek Pooley, one of the Chronicle's editors, he, of 'Gnomon' fame (that metal pole that sticks out of the Millennium Green's sundial at precisely the right angle to tell us nearly the right time), author and editor of the 'Welcome to Drayton' brochure and long-time servant and supporter of this village.

Lawrence Vickery – of Drayton's Hardware Store, supplier of everything anyone could ever want for their home, together with information and DIY advice for everyone from experts to the completely incompetent amateur - and all given with great patience and good humour – not to mention his willingness to act as information disseminator for all activities in the village, ticket salesman, chronicle collector and much more.

The Community Service Awards are presented each year to people that have served the community with emphasis on a different theme each year, this year the theme was volunteering. Suggestions for prospective candidates are sought by the Vale of White Horse District Council from various organisations within the district with the final award winners being selected by the Chairman of the Council, this year, Alison Thomson

To Derek and Lawrence - many congratulations and thanks from all of us.

(Editor's note: the above text was taken from Richard Webber's District Council Report, his full report is on page 10)



Derek and Lawrence with their awards outside Lawrence's shop

DRAYTON WELCOMES NEW PRIEST

By Colin Arnold

On Monday the 24th of October, the Revd Rebecca Peters was welcomed to Drayton at a special Licensing service held in St Peters Church. The service was conducted by The Bishop of Reading and The Archdeacon of Berkshire, and marks the end of a period of almost 18 months without a Priest in Charge following the retirement of the Revd Josie Midwinter. During this time, the Curate of St Peters, the Revd Rosie Bruce and members of the church's own ministry team along with many Retired clergy, Lay ministers and Priests from local churches that make up the DAMASCUS group, have managed to cover all of the services in the church.

Rebecca is not a stranger to the area as she studied in Oxford and was a teacher at Radley College before her ordination. The congregation gave her and her family a very warm welcome and hope that they will be very happy in the village. So if you see Rebecca and her family around the village PLEASE say hello.



In the picture left to right: Revd Rosie Bruce, The Bishop of Reading, Revd Rebecca Peters



If you still haven't bought your Christmas cards yet, charity Christmas cards are on sale in the Bear Room, Abingdon Guildhall until 17th December – Monday to Saturday 9.30 to 16.30.



The Chronicle Team wishes all our readers a joyful Christmas and a very happy New Year

CAROLS AND MINCE PIES AT THE WHEATSHEAF

Geraldine and Austin invite you to join them for carol singing and mince pies in the Wheatsheaf on Thursday 22nd December at 6.30 pm



CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The next **Chronicle** will be the **January/February** issue:

Editor: **Derek Pooley, 11 Halls Close (559454).**

Distributor: **Shirley Thomas, (531626),**

Deadline for advertisements: **17.00 on Friday, 13 January 2012**

Deadline for other contributions: **17.00 on Monday, 16 January**

Printed copies available: **Friday, 27 January 2012**

Key dates for the subsequent three Chronicles:

Issue for	Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available on:
March	13 February 2012	24 February 2012
April	19 March 2012	30 March 2012
May	16 April 2012	27 April 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.

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 be emailed not to the editor but to **advertising@draytonchronicle.net**. Please note that advertisements 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 2 or 3 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 be either 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 deadlines.

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 NOVEMBER LOTTERY CASH

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	1602	Sarah Church, 238, Steventon Road	Julie Lonsdale
£20	1248	Mrs. Camplin, 10, Steventon Road	Judy Henman
£15	1317	Mrs. Harvey, 18, Steventon Road	Judy Henman
£10	0906	Margaret Long, 62, High Street, Drayton	Margaret Long
£10	0425	A. W. Ward, 31, Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
£10	0219	Mr. Hudson, 21, Corneville Road	Gerald Redman
£10	0120	Mrs. Nicholson, 105, Abingdon Road	Julie Brown
£10	1877	Jean Hager, 27, Whitehorns Way, Drayton	Trudie Buckner
£10	0552	A. Marshall, 3, Meads Close	Margaret Armstrong
£10	1488	S. Campbell, 1, Haywards Road	Judith Dunster

BOTTLES OF WINE

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
	0307	Mrs. Cook, 43, Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
	1889	Beryl Bray, 31, Whitehorns Way	Trudie Buckner
	1702	Mrs. Pitts, 27, Lockway	Christine Sadler
	0830	Mrs. C. Jackson, 39, High Street	Margaret Long
	0397	Mrs. Hamlett, 3, Greenacres	Keith Clough
	1467	P. Collett, 2, Binning Close	Judith Dunster
	0746	Mr. Bruce, 16A, Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
	1796	D. Roberts, 2, Whitehorns Way	Pat Percival
	0317	Mr. Brook, 51, Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
	1891	Mr. J. Morris, 1, Marcham Road.	Karen Jackson

BOXES OF BISCUITS

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
	2160	I. Berry, 7, Eastway Park	Teresa Burnage
	0870	Mrs.L. Butler, 57, High Street	Margaret Long
	0991	Mr. Kidd, 9, High Street	Mary Alexander
	2040	Mr. Flower, 92, Drayton Rd, Sutton Courteney	Claire Soper
	0914	Mrs. J. Mayhew-Archer, 66, High Street	Margaret Long
	1270	Mrs. Gimigliano, 28, Steventon Road	Judy Henman
	1906	Mrs. K. James, 1, Marcham Road	Karen Jackson
	1978	R. Selby, 17, Lyford Close	Andrew Bax
	1344	Mrs. Drew, 76, Steventon Road.	Jackie Walker
	0679	Ms. Deabill, Henleys Lane	Susan Brooks

The winning tickets were drawn by Staff and Customers at Vickery's shop from the 2080 tickets sold

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CHRONICLE NEWS

Gareth Davies

This month sees a slightly new look to the lottery tickets. No more counterfoils for the agents to fill in which then have to be collected, folded up and then drawn each month. It will now be a computerised system which randomly selects numbers from all the tickets sold. We hope this will make life simpler for everyone involved.

We are looking for people to assist with the lottery. The new changes should make the job straightforward and much less time consuming than it has been in the past. The two roles are: **Lottery Manager** – dividing up the lottery tickets into bundles for each agent. **Lottery Promoter** – accepting in all monies and unsold tickets ready for the draw.

We would like to thank Barbara Purbrick, Judith Dunster and Mary Alexander who are giving up their rounds after many years. Their support has been much appreciated. We are pleased to thank Isla Smith for taking over Barbara's round and Kathryn Puncher for taking on Crabtree Lane.

There are still a few rounds currently missing an agent. The role can be as simple as delivering the Chronicle each month to selling lottery tickets if you feel able. It can be shared with a friend if that sounds more sociable. If you might be interested in learning more then I would love to hear from you. There will be no pressure to do any more than you feel able. Stonehill/Oday Hill

Haywards Road
Whitehorns Way – nos 40-80
Lockway – west side
Newman Lane
Halls Close/High Street (central)
Thanks, Gareth Davies, Tel: 529510

CHRISTMAS SECURITY

A note from your local neighbourhood police team
PC Keith Morton and PCSO Sandra Syphas

In the light of recent shed and garage break ins, we would like to stress the importance of keeping sheds secure. With Christmas almost upon us, this is even more important, as often people store their Christmas gifts in their sheds and garages. A reliable shed alarm can be purchased from most DIY stores, or even from the Police Station.

Could we also take this opportunity to offer the services of a visit from a crime reduction champion who will come to your home and perform an assessment free of charge to advise you on your security measures and offer suggestions on how to improve them if need be.

Also, with metal theft on the increase we would appreciate your help in reporting any suspicious activity or vehicles in your area.

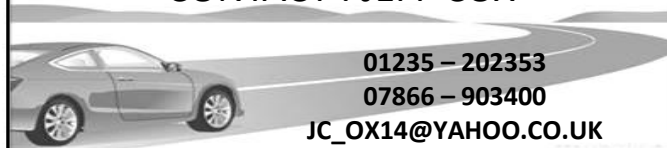
Don't forget, on the 15th November the non-emergency phone number changes from 0845 8 505 505 to a much easier 101

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year

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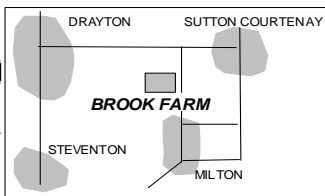
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Curate	Rev'd Rosie Bruce	525284
Churchwardens	Mrs Val Cross	535183
	Mr Colin Arnold	531923
Organist	Robert Legg	

REGULAR SERVICES

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

For services over Christmas and the New Year please see separate advert on back page.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Wednesday	10.30 am	Pebbles (Term Time only)	Church Room
Monday	7.45 pm	Bell Ringing Practice	Bell Tower

CHURCH REGISTER

Funeral

3rd November Sheila Mary Oram

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

Tue 6th	3.00 pm	First Tuesday Connections	Church Room
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YOU STAY - WE PRAY, DECEMBER

4th to 10th	Steventon Road; Eastway: Eastway MHP
11th to 17th	Church Lane; Henley's Lane; Caudwell Close; Gravel Lane
18th to 31st	Abingdon Road; Oday Hill; Binning Close; Hayward's Road



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Tony Holmes (editor of the Nov issue), would like to apologise to Homehelpers, also their current and potential customers, for inadvertently trying to suggest that they've moved back to their old address by clicking his PC mouse on an old version of their advert. The correct info is in the ad above. Tony's just had a hip replaced, and enquired if you could get fingers done too, as they seem increasingly unable to hit the right parts of the keyboard!

LETTER FROM ST PETER'S

Dear Friends,

November is always a time for remembering, reflecting on what has been. As we start December we move into the Advent season and enter a time of preparation. No not just preparing the Christmas cake and mince pies. Not just rushing to find Christmas presents and cards, but a time to step back to take stock and to prepare our hearts afresh, so that Jesus is born again in our hearts this Christmas. In the midst of Christmas we often remember loved ones who cannot be with us, so we invite you to come into church and write their name on a star, which will be displayed throughout Christmas.

As Christmas approaches we welcome all to join with us in retelling the nativity, at the Carol service on Sun 18th Dec 4pm, or the Crib service on 24th Dec 4pm, and in celebrating the birth of Jesus at Midnight mass or on Christmas day.

God Bless

Rebecca



STARS FOR REMEMBRANCE

We will again this year be putting up "Stars for Remembrance" in the church.

The stars will be at the back of the church, on the welcomer's table, so if you would like to have a friend or loved one remembered at Christmas, please write their names on a star and leave in the basket provided.

If you would like to give a donation for this, which would go towards the upkeep of the church, please put it in the wall safe.

Thank you Val Cross Churchwarden

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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. 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 of the month

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

18th December – Carol Service - 6.00 pm
Christmas Day – Morning Service – 10.30 am
(No evening Service that day)
EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME

LOCAL METHODIST WORSHIP

High Street, Milton
Sunday Service: 10.30 am

Local contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409

FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS **Jean Hager**

Are you feeling lonely, isolated or in need of some friendly company? Why not come along to our monthly tea and chat afternoons. They are held on the first Tuesday of the month in St Peter's Church Room from 3.00 pm to 4:30 pm and you are invited to drop in during these times. The teapot is always at the ready and you can be sure of a warm welcome. Our next three dates are 6th December, 3rd January and 7th February. If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.

We wish everyone a happy and peaceful time at Christmas

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ALL AROUND

DRAYTON WIVES

Gwen Price

In October we had a fascinating talk about a journey on a 5000 mile tourist train on the Trans Siberian railway which our speaker, Jill Carey and her husband took. It was a very long talk but no-one minded as it was so interesting, capturing our imagination with the varied scenery, the splendid buildings and the Russian names we were all familiar with such as Ivan the Terrible, Peter the Great, Lenin, Tsar Nicholas, Gorbachev, Boris Yeltsin, Faberge to name but a few.

We have recently donated £55 to each of our chosen charities; the local Alzheimers singing group and the Ovarian cancer action charity.

Dates for your diary in DECEMBER

Mon 12th Christmas tea at the Caudwell day centre 2pm to 4pm
Mon 19th Whist; Janet White

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Pearl Stanbridge

I regret to report the recent death of member Mr Frank Milverton. Our sincere condolences are extended to his widow and family.

The next Committee meeting will be held on Monday 19th December at 8pm.

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MORE ALL AROUND

ART GROUP

Shirley Thomas

Drayton has a small Art group that has been meeting once a week for the past eighteen years. Although we try to focus on the "Art", it is very much a social afternoon, especially after the tea break with lots of chatter going on!! We rarely have tuition, but learn a lot from each other and over the years it is great to see how we have all improved!! Unfortunately, we have recently lost some of our long standing members and we would be glad to see some new faces who might show some interest and enthusiasm in our group.

We meet every Tuesday between 1.45 and 4.00pm at the Caudwell Day Centre.

Budding Artists can find out more by calling 01235 531626.

DRAYTON 1st BROWNIES

Ruth Hudson

Leaving us at the end of this term are Leanne, Tanje, Phoebe & Caroline. We wish them all the best and thank them for the great times they have shared with us at Brownies. Thank you to all the parent helpers, Georgina, Annie, Helen and to Esther, Paula & Annette whom without their continued support and help Brownies would not be possible.

Our Christmas Sale is on Wednesday 7th December 6.30pm – 7.45pm. Please come and support us at our Christmas event, mince pies and mulled wine to warm up the winters evening will be on sale. Something for everyone with our hook a bag, tombola and cake stalls. This our last Brownie meeting for 2011, the first meeting for 2012 is January 18th.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year from the Brownies.

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
Annette Mitchell	(Barn Owl)	Tel: 01235 555216

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YET MORE ALL AROUND

DRAYTON PLAYERS (ACT 1)

Eve Sharp

A Dead Ringer For Murder

How lucky we are in Drayton to have in our midst the clutch of talented, willing and hard-working people who make up the Drayton Players, and how excellently they entertained us on the evenings of Nov 4th and 5th. Oenone Grant wrote and directed a theatrical murder mystery that perfectly suited the strengths of her cast.

Anton King was headmaster, Dr. Rambling of D.U.D.S. (Drayton-under-Didcot School) where all was definitely not well. His deputy, Mr. Thrust, played vigourously by Richard Webber, was disliked and feared by almost all the staff and pupils of the school and was, therefore, a prime target for murder.....so, who 'dun it'? Was it Mrs. Baggs, the hilarious caretaker (Jean Hager), Miss Take (Mirja Boyd), Miss Tickle (Jayne Henderson), the naughty art teacher, the secretary, Miss Dither (Catherine Webber), who dithered beautifully, or Mr. Pry (Richard Damerell), an Ofsted inspector?

The students, Jack Barlow, Emily Cackett, Annie Soper and William Annells, acted most convincingly and really made us believe that they were out of control and quite capable of dire deeds. It was, however, only when the police arrived in the persons of Inspector Denser and Sargeant Crass (Adam Blake and Annie Shepherd), that we really started to discover the wicked culprit. Or so we thought! The police worked hard to help us get to the truth, but in fact we didn't manage it and had to rely on the guilty party making a confession.

The back stage crew, led by Fred Stevens and Trudy Buckner, who prepared our tasty supper, worked hard with the cast to make the evening such a success. Well done Oenone and Players - we look forward to the next murder in Drayton!

DRAYTON PLAYERS (ACT 2)

Jean Hager

We have just completed our latest Murder Mystery production and thank everyone who came along to support us and join in the unravelling of WHO DONE IT! Amazingly, we had no correct guesses but a lot of fun was had during audience interrogation of the cast and that was the most important aspect - the enjoyment by all of the entertainment.

We do thank all those who, as usual, gave great help behind the scenes and without whom the show could not happen. We have special thanks for Oenone Grant's clever script. This is her first offering in the drama stakes, written largely to provide our new juniors with a good introduction to treading the boards. They did so well and offered many useful suggestions during rehearsals. We certainly hope to have them with us now for some time. Oenone's brain is already click clicking with new ideas so who knows what she will come up with next!

We are always looking for new members, of all age groups, so, if you would like to join us either on stage or on the production side, do give us a call on either 200350 or 531558. We would be delighted to hear from you.

In the meantime, we extend greetings to all, wishing you a happy and peaceful Christmas tide.

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BOWLS CLUB

Roll Up

We are coming to the end of another year which will be our 23rd year, and membership is still holding up well with something like 53 members on the books. We recently had a few new people showing interest, with Kathy, deciding to join us; we wish her a long and happy stay. We will be ending the year with finals day on December the 4th and we would like as many members as possible to come and see some, or all, of the 8 finals that will be competed for on the day. We will have a full list of the winners in the next edition of 'The Chronicle'.

The 'John Berry' leagues Monday and Wednesday; both sections look like going down to the last game before we know who will be going through to play the final. All the teams competing in the league are picking up points, with 'The Wasps' doing well, winning their first four games, and leading the afternoon league, but with 18 matches being played this year there is a long way to go. The trip to Isle of Wight was very successful with two of the party coming home with a trophy, Carol (Smith) being part of the triple winning team and Tony (Wright) on the Runners Up side. Lots of those who went this time are planning to go again in March.

In closing these notes, we wish all members and friends a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

PRESCHOOL PLAYGROUP

Debbie Bargus

We would like to welcome the new children who joined us after half term, they have settled in well and we hope they enjoy their time with us.

We successfully elected a new committee to take Preschool through the next year. Many thanks to all who attended the AGM and a big thank you to all the out going members for their hard work during the year and a big welcome to the new members. We hope you enjoy your time helping Preschool.

We will be holding our Christmas raffle after the children's Christmas party on Friday 16th December. We would be grateful for any donations to the raffle, please drop them into Preschool, raffle tickets will be on sale from Thursday 1st December in Preschool and also at Dane's Convenience store (formerly known as your local Mace store).

We have limited spaces available. Do you have a child who is approaching 2 ½yrs? 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.

We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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.

Also coming up: End of Term: Last sessions on Thurs 15th Dec, Christmas Party and raffle on Fri 16th Dec. Spring Term begins on Wed 4th Jan 2012.

DRAYTON SCHOOL

Ana Gurl

School news:

Children from the school council invited everyone to come to school dressed in a "Spotty or Sporty" theme in exchange for a donation to Children in Need.

Eagles children have been learning lots of new songs as they are taking part in the Young Voices 2011 concert at the O2 Arena, Birmingham. This is a fantastic opportunity for them to perform as part of a 5000 strong choir alongside professional performers. I'm sure the very late night will be well compensated for by the

unique experience! They are even allowed to start school a little late the next day if exhausted!

For a real Christmas treat, the whole school community will be enjoying a trip to The Watermill Theatre near Newbury to see Wind in the Willows. If previous year's performances are anything to go by, this will be a great day out for all.

Classroom news:

Robins (reception and year 1) are doing lots of singing in class this term. They are practicing hard for their part in the Key Stage 1 Christmas production, "Christmas with the Aliens!"

Children in **Ravens** (year 1 & 2) have enjoyed two concerts by the Jacqueline du Pré music school staff, one held here at school and the other at the Jacqueline du Pré music school, St Hilda's College Oxford.

Red Kites (Year 3) are still learning about Vikings this term. The entrance to their classroom is looking very colourfully decorated with the Viking shields they have designed and created.

After sketching in Abingdon, **Kingfishers** (Years 4 & 5) drew part of their sketch onto felt, which they then sewed together. Some of this work is now up outside the classroom with the original sketches and some computer drawings of the same part of Abingdon. Kingfishers have just started Design and Technology work on making some of the buildings in East St Helen's Street. Science has moved on to Earth, Sun and Moon - great enthusiasm over the start of this!

This term **Eagles** (year 5 & 6) are learning about Vile Victorians. They are looking forward to a great day out at STEAM, museum of the Great Western Railway, Swindon where they will learn all about famous Victorians. This will be a very exciting way of rounding off their Victorian learning.

FODSA (Friends of Drayton School Association) hope you all enjoyed our spooky Halloween activities. Well done to Becky Watts who won the Halloween quiz. There is a lot more planned especially as we head towards Christmas at the end of this term.

And finally a message from the **school governors**:

The Governing Body of Drayton Community Primary School is 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 information please contact Caroline Evans (Chair), 01235 550418 / carolinaevans@hotmail.co.uk.

The governors would like to thank Mr Mayer and his dedicated team of staff for two fantastic terms! The children have worked incredibly hard and have produced some fabulous work. We are very proud of the motivation, effort and dedication contributed by all - well done!!

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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Williams

Report of the Drayton Parish Council meeting held on Monday 7th November 2011

Five members of the public attended the meeting in addition to the Parish Councillors. A question was asked about the problem of low-flying aircraft over Drayton, and Laurence Zipson reported that, on behalf of the Parish Council, he had made representations to the MoD about the matter. The ministry replied as follows: that helicopters and other military aircraft are discouraged from flying over built-up areas with a population greater than 10,000. This of course leaves them open to flying over smaller towns, or villages like Drayton. Villages in the neighbourhood of Benson airfield have complained about an excessive number of flights, so the airbase in Abingdon has been assigned additional flights to relieve the pressure on Benson. Aircraft should normally fly a minimum height of 500 feet above villages, but this may on occasion be reduced to 100 feet. The rationale for this is that the country is currently at war (i.e. in Afghanistan) and that as some missions require pilots to fly very low over built-up areas, they must be able to practice in similar conditions in the UK. In current circumstances, the MoD's view on this seems unlikely to change, so the matter effectively rests here for the foreseeable future.

Following further information from Gary Hibbins about plans to improve the Drayton FC clubhouse, three Councillors visited the premises over the weekend to ascertain what the project might entail. There was general agreement that, in principle, the Parish Council would be supportive of the improvements, although the details of any financial arrangements will have to be discussed alongside other commitments when the budget for the next financial year is set. Ann Webb also presented plans relating to an extension to the Village Hall. It was explained that this is primarily to create some badly needed additional storage space for equipment. The plans have not yet gone out to tender, but when costings are received, the PC will consider whether it is able to assist - another item for consideration in next year's budget.

A document concerning the Vale's Interim Housing Supply Policy (IHSP) has been circulated amongst the PC's Planning Committee. A key objective of the planning system is to ensure that enough homes are built. The IHSP states that the Vale expect to be 45% short of its housing targets in the period 2011-16, and that therefore the immediate priority is to improve housing delivery in the short to medium term. This is a complex matter, what with other changes in the planning system in the pipeline, and the impending Localism Act, and two councillors will be attending a workshop in Wantage later this month to find out more about the Policy.

The PC has been sent some information about the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations next June, when it is planned, amongst other events, to light 2012 Beacons throughout the UK. Any community wishing to 'host' a beacon is invited to register the location on line at www.diamondjubileebeacons.co.uk. While Drayton village itself may not be suitable territory for a conventional beacon, other nearby venues come to mind - Wittenham Clumps perhaps? However, the alternative of a (propane gas-fired) Church Tower Beacon is also offered. Clearly, communities could find many other ways to celebrate the occasion - a village fete, street parties, or whatever Drayton can come up with. It's never too early to plan, so those of an organising frame of mind might like to get working on this.

Finally, a couple of 'housekeeping' points. Could those residents who have trees or shrubs where foliage possibly overhangs an adjoining footpath please ensure that this is cut back so that it doesn't cause an obstruction to pedestrians.

The last item is addressed to dog walkers, who are advised that the new bin on the Millennium Green (the one on a post by the pond) is for litter only and is not to be used for dog waste. The

same goes for new bins at the edge of the recreation ground and Village Hall. There are specifically designated dog bins (all clearly marked with VOWH identification and/or dog logo) at both these locations (one either side of the Green) and elsewhere in the village, so please use only these. If the dog bins need emptying more regularly, this can be taken up with the Vale, but please let the Parish Council know in the first instance.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 5th December 2011, at 7.30pm, in the Caudwell Day Centre in Gravel Lane. As always, all are invited to attend.

Dyslexia, ADD, low self-esteem, highly stressed?

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DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Webber

Transport, Buses, Bicycles and Cars, Cars and more cars

The Thames Water Reservoir plans are now on firm hold, thank goodness – at least for the next few years. One often overlooked consequence of the Reservoir, had it happened, was on traffic congestion. Milletts Farm generates about 1m visitors a year. An estimate of how much traffic Europe's largest above-ground Reservoir would have generated (from sightseers, yachtsmen, nature-lovers and so on) suggested we could expect at least 2m a year. The last plans I saw showed that TW had allocated 20-50 car parking spaces. The impact on traffic congestion would have been unimaginable. Great for local retailers, pretty grim for everyone else. The A34 is at capacity, Abingdon traffic just gets worse (hopefully 2 hours of free parking will not make it worse still), Air Quality in many parts of central Abingdon is poor and getting worse, and it took me 5 minutes to cross the road outside Drayton Post Office at 5pm yesterday. It does make one question the whole thrust of the 'Rights of the Motorist' lobby. Whatever rights some motorists feel they should have in terms of how fast they can drive, where they can park, how much they should pay for petrol, car taxes and road maintenance, none would argue for their right to endanger and kill other people by driving too fast or damaging their health.

As I was crossing the road outside the PO, I bumped into the boss of one of the largest taxi firms in Abingdon. We had a full five minutes to chat whilst we waited, in vain, for a gap in the traffic. Almost every passing car had one occupant. What we should be seeing, I suggested, was not only lots of bicycles, and a few more buses, but also taxis – lots of them – and all full. I think he thought I was joking.

NAG and Speedwatch.

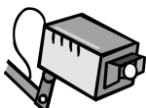
And whilst I am busy annoying all Drayton's car owners, I should report on the activities of our 'Neighbourhood Action Group'. Some will remember a consultation a few years ago, run by Thames Valley Police at which they asked residents what were their top priorities. In common with most rural villages, Drayton's top priority by a long way was Speeding. I suspect it still is. The police do spend a large proportion of their time addressing this issue. (Some would say, time they should spend on catching 'real' criminals – although, to TVP's great credit, we live in one of the safest places in the world). Initiatives in other parts of Oxfordshire and elsewhere have shown that rather than speed traps and patrol officers, a more softly, softly approach to the problem has at least as much effect. In the next few weeks, you may see notices 'requesting' people to drive more slowly, some will be produced by children – maybe children in this village. You will see notices which encourage, plead and gently point out that speeding can ruin life for many. You may even see young people (supported by the police) speaking to drivers who have been speeding and 'asking' them to drive more carefully. It will be very interesting to see the effect. Most of us would say it was worth a try, at least.

*Richard Webber, VWHDC Cllr, 01235 534001
richard.webber77@ntlworld.com*

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SCRAP METAL THEFT

An increase in the cost of scrap metal has meant that thieves have been targeting lead on buildings and vans with catalytic converters. Thames Valley Police advise that there are some simple steps that business and van owners can take to help prevent these kinds of thefts:

You can get a catalytic converter marking kit (these are available on line at www.fordpartsuk.com/shop/c/security_415). The kit provides permanent marking and a registration kit that will assist the police in identifying the rightful owner of any recovered catalytic converters.

If you have lead on the roof of your business or property, use anti climb paint to prevent access to the roof and put up signs to say that the paint is being used (to act as a deterrent).

COMMUNITY SELF-BUILD AND CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING

Daniel Scharf

I hope that most if not all villagers have picked up on the fact that the Vale of White Horse District Council is concerned that the failure of developers to build houses on the larger sites in the District allocated in its Local Plan for residential development could give rise to appeals being allowed for unsuitable developments. The Draft Interim Housing Supply Policy can be seen at <http://tinyurl.com/5wrady7>.

The IHSP is proposing a system that encourages landowners to submit smaller sites for immediate uptake. It is also suggesting that the number of units should be those required to maintain the population. As this is expected to fall by 9% by 2026 the draft policy says that the number of houses in Drayton (currently 940) should increase by the same amount ie 68 (88 minus the 20 with permission but not built). The District Council wants to hear your views by 25 November 2011. The Parish Council is considering how to reply but I have a personal angle on which I would welcome your thoughts.

(Editor's note: this date will have passed by the time that the Chronicle is distributed but I am sure that Daniel would welcome your views, even after this date)

If the purpose of the proposed policy is to maintain the population of the village then its expected decline would be due to fewer people living in the existing housing stock. This 'under-occupancy' would gradually also apply to any new housing if it was built in the usual way. Following publicity given to the injustice being felt by younger generations there has been talk of incentives and inducements being offered to small households in larger houses to 'downsize' to properties of a better fit. I believe that it would be preferable to make downsizing more attractive.

Co-operative or co-housing provides the private space which we all need but then includes other shared spaces for gardening, home-working, storage, laundry, library, games, workshops etc. This living arrangement would be particularly attractive to those (not just down-sizers) who want to share knowledge and skills, heating costs, lawnmowers, pets, cooking, care of children, elderly, the sick and disabled and even cars.

There will be many in the village who already share on an informal basis but new developments could be designed to make this easier and affordable. Such schemes could also lend themselves to 'community self-build' where people with a need or desire to live in the village could be involved to different degrees in the design and construction of the new housing

If anybody agrees that new housing in the village should include the opportunity for co-operative instead of or as well as conventional housing and/or for self-building, I would be pleased to set up a meeting to discuss.

Daniel Scharf

(email: rippington@waitrose.com)

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GARD SUCCESS

Nick Thompson

As most readers of the Abingdon Herald and Oxford Times will have seen, Thames Water has recently notified its stakeholders that the plan which was rejected by the Public Inquiry Inspector and Secretary of State for the Environment, and will be re-published in revised form shortly, will NOT include the smaller 50 million cubic metre reservoir suggested as an option. So our work has been successful in the short term thanks in large part to the efforts of the GARD Committee and especially our consultants.

We would expect Thames Water to bring the full sized Abingdon reservoir back into its 2014 plan as one of its options, so our task is now to monitor the work which was directed by the Secretary of State relating to the cheaper, less damaging and more sustainable options of water re-use and water transfer from the Severn to supply London. Much will depend on the outcome of any increased water demand figures to be agreed by the Environment Agency. As local residents, we now have some respite, but the GARD Committee will continue to do their best to protect the local landscape and avoid the massive protracted disruption which construction of a reservoir would involve.

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WESTMINSTER

Ed Vaizey

It's been a busy month in the constituency. I've met with the Headteachers of all the secondary schools in my constituency to talk about all the issues they are facing. We are lucky to have five excellent secondary schools which achieve outstanding results - though they are all ambitious to do more. I recently presented awards at TRAIN, a youth project which helps provide activities for teenagers in Didcot. I have made donations to TRAIN in the past and I really admire the work they do. I spoke to the kids at Faringdon Community College about politics and talked about internet safety to a number of primary and secondary schools at an event in Oxford. I met with a group of farmers to hear the issues affecting them; and I visited the bomb disposal heroes stationed at Didcot's Vauxhall Barracks, and made a donation to the Felix Fund, a new charity set up to provide R&R for soldiers from the Regiment coming back from Afghanistan.

There are a number of railway issues I am pursuing: controversy in Steventon over changes to the level crossing, which would mean it was operated from Swindon; and the number of reserved seats on commuter services between London and Didcot (too many!)

There are a number of national schemes recently announced which could be of use, so I thought I would tell you about them.

The Money for Life Challenge is a scheme which provides money management skills to students in further education and to community groups. So, if you know an institution or group that would be interested then please visit their website at www.moneyforlifeprogramme.org.uk or <http://www.moneyforlifeprogramme.org.uk/>.

I would also like to let you know about an initiative that the Heritage Lottery Fund is launching across the UK. With Remembrance Sunday just passed and the centenary of World War One fast approaching (2014), the HLF have set up a fund to support new memorials commemorating the sacrifices of men and women during the Great War. I can think of many people who would jump at the chance to commemorate the service of men and women in our towns and villages - so please visit the HLF website at:

www.hlf.org.uk/FirstWorldWar or <http://www.hlf.org.uk/FirstWorldWar> to see if there is an opportunity for a World War One scheme in your community.

I am also proud to say that the Olympic torch will be passing through. The Torch relay route has been painstakingly worked out so that 90% of the UK's population will be within ten miles of the route. It starts at Land's End in Cornwall and will even visit Jersey and Guernsey; and on day 52 of the relay, which will be July 10th, the torch will come out of Abingdon, pass close to Didcot and make a stop in Wallingford! And for those of you who will not be able to make it on that date there will also be a stop in Swindon on May 23rd and also an 'Evening Celebration' in Oxford on the July 9th.

I also recently launched Festival 2012, the arts festival that will accompany the Olympics. There are loads of great events, but one in particular I think you should be aware of and participate in - 'All the Bells'. As the website says, "We need you to make musical history. Help us ring all the bells in the UK on 27 July 2012 to welcome the London 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games. At 8.00am people all across the UK will ring bells to perform Martin Creed's Work No. 1197: All the bells in a country rung as quickly and as loudly as possible for three minutes, a piece specially commissioned as part of the London 2012 Festival - the culmination of the four-year Cultural Olympiad. Hand bells, door bells, bicycle bells, church bells, town hall bells, sleigh bells, cow bells, school bells, last orders bells, dinner bells: where there is a bell, we need someone to ring it!" Please visit www.allthebells.com to take part.

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CRAFTSMANSHIP ALIVE AND WELL IN DRAYTON

The photographs showing the various stages of this cottage restoration are shown overleaf on Page 14

Visitors to Sutton Wick in recent weeks may have noticed that part of the cottage which stands behind the duck pond has been returned to its 17th century origins. The transformation results from the foresight and skill of Drayton builder Richard Yates.

Inspired by the restoration of the frontage of No.44, High Street which had acquired its new timber frontage in 2010, Mr Yates set about examining whether there might be other properties in the village that could be returned to their former glory. While working to restore a brick and timber barn at Sherwood's Farm in Sutton Wick Lane, he suggested that underneath the bulging pebble-dash frontage of its neighbour at No.16 might lie something more interesting.

In August, he cautiously began to chip away at the outer skin of the listed property. Removing the mix of concrete, render, chicken wire, plastic fillers and expanded metal - which Council experts believe to have dated from the 1950s - was a daunting task but eventually revealed a very different building to that on view for the past sixty years. The first photograph shows Richard investigating the outer skin.

The second photograph shows the cottage half way through the restoration process; it is constructed from oak timbers in-filled with panels of wattle (a mix of earth, wooden lathes, cow dung, horse hair and rubble) and brick - the latter probably added two hundred years later when Drayton had a plentiful supply from its own works.

The restoration was completed when the wattle and brick panels were covered with three layers of lime render (mixed with goat hair) topped with lime wash (the 'breathable' version of modern acrylic emulsions). The third photograph shows the finished restoration

The result is a sympathetic restoration of one of Drayton's oldest buildings by one of Drayton's fine craftsmen. How good that we still have them!

REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

MONDAYS

- 9.00 am Pre-School Playgroup (in Term) *School Ground Bldg*
- 2.00 pm Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)
- 5.45 pm Beavers (Boys / girls, 6-8 yrs, Tel. 512834) *Steventon Hall*
- 6.00 - 7.30 pm Youthzone (Except Bank Holidays)
- 6.30 - 7.30pm Table Tennis (Beginners & New players) *School*
- 7.00 pm Scouts (Boys / girls, 8-10 yrs, Tel. 512834) *Steventon Hall*
- 7.15 pm Drayton Wives Whist (3rd Monday) *Caudwell DC*
- 7.30 - 10.00 pm Table Tennis Practice (League juniors & adults) *School*
- 7.30 pm Parish Council (1st Monday) *Caudwell DC*
- 7.45 - 8.45 pm Drayton Drop In (Except Bank Holidays)
- 7.45 pm Bell-ringing (for 1½ hours) *St Peter's*
- 8.30 pm Badminton (Private Group)

TUESDAYS

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

THURSDAYS

- 9.00 am Pre-School Playgroup (in Term) *School Ground Bldg* followed by lunch club and afternoon session
- 9.00 am Foot Clinic (First Thursday in Month) *Caudwell DC*
- 9.30 am Holy Communion *St Peter's Lady Chapel*
- 9.30 am Parent & Toddler Group (in Term)
- 11 - 11.30 am Weight Watchers *Lounge Bar*
- 2.00 pm Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)
- 7.30 pm League Table Tennis *School*
- 7.30 pm Women's Institute Meeting (2nd Thursday)
- 7.30 pm Sequence Dancing. Tel: 531701

FRIDAYS

- 9.00 am Pre-School Playgroup (in Term) *School Ground Bldg*
- 11.00 am The Friday Club (fortnightly) 202466 *Caudwell Day Centre*
- 7.30 pm League Table Tennis *School*

SUNDAYS

- 8.00 am Holy Communion *St Peter's*
- 10.00 am Sung Eucharist (Praise Service 3rd Sunday) *St Peter's*
- 11.15 am Family Time (1st Sunday) *Baptist Church*
- 6.00 pm Evening Worship *Baptist Church*

THE RED LION

DRAYTON:
01235 531717

NOW TAKING CHRISTMAS BOOKINGS

Open all day from 11 am

Juke Box is now back

QUIZ NIGHT on Sunday

NEW MENU -

FOOD until 8:30

Every day



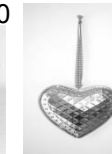
Are you looking for an original gift?

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We have original and restyled furniture

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DRAYTON DIARY

FOR DECEMBER

All events are at Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise
(To book Drayton Hall call Ann Webb on 531418)
website address www.draytonvh.org.uk

Fri	2nd	6.00 – 7.00 pm	Charity Zumba
Sat	3rd		Private party
Sun	4th	Day time	Bowls
		7.30 pm	Candlelight Carol service
Mon	5th	7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting Caudwell DC
Sat	10th		Private party
Sat	17th		Sequence Dance Club Christmas party
Sun	18th		Private party
Sat	31st		Sequence Dance Club New Year's Eve Party
And in January:			
Fri	11th	17.00 pm	Deadline for Chronicle adverts
Mon	14th	17.15 pm	Deadline for Chronicle copy

St. Peter's Church, Drayton – Christmas 2011

CAROL SERVICE – Sunday 18 December 4pm
Mulled Wine & Mince Pies will be served after the Service.

CRIB SERVICE - Saturday 24 December 4pm

MIDNIGHT MASS – Saturday 24 December 11.30pm

CHRISTMAS DAY – Sunday 25 December

8am **Holy Communion**

10am **Family Eucharist with Carols**

NEW YEAR'S DAY – Sunday 1 January 2012

9am (said) Holy Communion

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Sunday 15 January
2012 10am

All are welcome at every service.



Richard carefully removing the 1950's layer



The original facing exposed, the left hand side showing the wattle, the right hand, the brick infill



The finished restoration

!!FAMILY FUN RACE NIGHT!!

ALL ARE WELCOME!



SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER
DRAYTON PRIMARY SCHOOL
DOORS OPEN 6:30 – FIRST RACE 7PM



*RAFFLE*BAR*FOOD*



CASH PRIZE PROGRAMMES AT THE DOOR

*ENTRANCE FREE OF CHARGE *

ALL PROCEEDS TO SUPPORT A LOCAL FAMILY
AT A VERY DIFFICULT TIME.

BUY A HORSE FOR £10.00 OR JUST
COME ALONG AND PLACE A BET!

For more information contact any of
the following:

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



Photographs related to the "CRAFTSMANSHIP ALIVE AND WELL IN DRAYTON" article on Page 13

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