

# DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Dave Lee

Volume 35 No. 3

April 2012

## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT Richard Williams

Report of the Drayton Parish Council meeting held on  
Monday 5th March 2012.

Housing continues to be an important and highly topical issue. Regular readers of the Chronicle will be aware of the Vale's Interim Housing Supply Policy (the IHSP) which was designed to make up the shortfall in current housing provision in the Vale district. At the end of last year, developers were invited to make submissions to a 'site screening' process, which, it was anticipated, would result in a large number of sites being put forward in the spring. This has certainly proved to be the case, with some 150 applications received across the Vale: all these sites are now being considered for suitability by the Planning Dept. of VOWHDC.

Some of the larger housing developments in the area, e.g. in Didcot and Grove, have supposedly fallen behind schedule (mainly due to the recession) but it has always been part of the Vale's overall housing strategy that, in addition to these large sites, villages throughout the district should also be prepared to take some housing development. This applies to 'large' and 'small' villages alike, but for each named village, an actual number of houses has been proposed, on the basis of 'proportionate growth'. This number takes into account the fact that household sizes have historically been shrinking (i.e. families are generally getting smaller, and an increasing number of adults live alone), therefore more houses will have to be built just to sustain existing populations within communities. It is recognised that proportionate growth is by itself a fairly crude measure, which cannot be considered in isolation. Much will depend on a), whether suitable sites are available, and b), whether the local infrastructure – roads, number of school places etc, will actually support the designated figure.

Anyone who visits the Vale of the White Horse website will be able to see that there are currently 940 houses in Drayton and that under proportionate growth, the village may be expected to take another 68 houses. These would be in addition to the 20 houses in the Manor Farm development, for which planning permission was granted as long ago as 1997. However, a further search of the site reveals the startling information that the site screening process has produced applications to build another 542 houses in Drayton! Not only is this by far the largest total for any single village in the Vale; the number of proposed new houses is exceeded only by the development at Wantage/Grove, and probably also by Didcot, although the latter (being in South Oxfordshire) is not included in the list.

All of which said, there is no need to panic! Applications for site screening are one thing; planning permission to go ahead quite another. Some sites will prove to be unsuitable for a variety of reasons – but noise, access, and location will all have a bearing, as of course will the notional growth figure of 68, which may not be set in stone, but can hardly be completely ignored.

As was mentioned in the last Chronicle, Drayton is to carry out its own Housing Needs Survey at the end of this month. This will not only ascertain if there is a need in the village for more affordable housing; hopefully it will help to inform a future Neighbourhood Plan for the village. Neighbourhood Planning was introduced by the new Localism Act of 2011, and while it does not enable communities to 'stop' development (it is not a Nimbys' Charter), it does give them a say as to where and what form that development should take. Best of all, unlike some previous initiatives of this kind, the Neighbourhood Plan has statutory force, so once in place it cannot be steamrollered by vested interests. The task of creating a plan should not be underestimated. Those towns and villages in Oxfordshire who have already started the process report that it demands real commitment and hard work, but the benefits in engaging and energising local people are more than worth the effort.

If you want to know more about the Housing Survey or Neighbourhood Planning, do please come along to the next Parish Council meeting, which will be the Annual Parish Assembly on Monday 2nd April 2012. Please note that this meeting will take place not in the usual venue but in the Village Hall, and at the earlier time of 7.00pm. You may also like to know that at the APA, the Chairman of the Parish Council gives a report on the events of the previous year, and also, the representatives of any local clubs, teams, societies, youth groups etc in Drayton are invited to come along and do the same. This is your chance to find out what's been going on in the village, and everyone is warmly invited to attend.

### ST PETER'S CHURCH



Due to theft of a panel from the medieval reredos (stone panel behind altar) from the Church, we are forced to keep the Church closed during the day, for the foreseeable future.

Please contact Revd Rebecca Peters 531374 or Val Cross 535183, if you need access to the Church.

## DRAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Ever wondered what YOUR Parish Council does, or met YOUR councillors?  
Then come along to the ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY.

7.00pm on MONDAY 2nd APRIL 2012

at the VILLAGE HALL

Followed by the Parish Council Meeting.

**EVERYONE WELCOME – AIR YOUR VIEWS!**



# CHRONICLE INFORMATION

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

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

Distributor: **Brenda Malin, (524429),**

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

Deadline for other contributions: **17.00 on Monday, 16 April 2012**

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

## Key dates for the subsequent three Chronicles:

Issue for	Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available on:
June	14 May 2012	25 May 2012
July	18 June 2012	29 June 2012
August	16 July 2012	27 July 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
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**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

**Jean Barton, Hon Promoter**

## RESULTS OF THE MARCH LOTTERY

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	2216	Yasmin & Ashley Shires, 15 Lesparre Close	Amanda Drysdale
£20	364	Richard Webber, Orchard Barn	Keith Clough
£15	2125	Don Osbourne, 7 Eastway	Teresa Burnage
£10	1584	Mr Pitts, 9 Lockway	Christine Sadler
£10	230	D. Kimber, 9 Corneville Road	Gerald Redman
£10	166	Mr. Stopps, 8 Corneville Road	Gerald Redman
£10	1302	Albert Watts, 84 Steventon Road	Janet Dale
£10	1809	Jim & Mo Morris, 1 Marcham Road	Karen Jackson
£10	751	Gareth Davies, 6 Church Lane	Susan Brooks
£10	96	Mrs J Keys, 99 Abingdon Road	Carol Arnold

Winning tickets, from 1981 sold, were randomly drawn by a computer (similar to the Premium Bond Draw)

## NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

John Clarke of 29 Whitehorns Way died peacefully in his sleep on Sunday 12th February. His funeral was held at St. Peter's Church on 1st March.

*(Editor's note; John Clarke was one of the first Chronicle Distributors.)*  
*Trudi Buckner*

### Drayton School Bus – An Update

The Appeals Clerk has now returned from holiday, so we are beginning to see some progress once more.

The new safety assessment which is to take into account our concerns and comments made at the Appeal has been delayed as the Council were expecting new guidance from the Government, which they have now received. The safety assessment will be carried out over the next few weeks, and the hearing is to be reconvened on 26th April.

Meanwhile those affected will have to continue to pay, but can be assured that should we win the Appeal, all monies will be refunded.

Let's hope we can resolve this before the start of the summer holiday, which will mark the 1 year anniversary of this controversial decision and our campaign against it.

*Jacquie Cook & Karen Sharman*



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# YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor,

## Millennium Green

Walkers on the green have been concerned about the leaking of water from the water trough at a time when water should be conserved. After a few phone calls, we had Thames Water to attend to the leak so hopefully the problem has been solved.

Gwen Price

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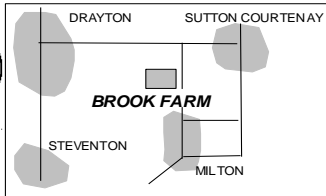
Brook Farm

Brook Farm, Milton Road

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## St Peter's Drayton

### Easter 2012

**PALM SUNDAY** - Sunday 1st April

8am Holy Communion

10am Dramatic Reading of the Passion Story

**CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP** - Thursday 5 April

10:30 am to 12 noon - Making Easter Gardens

**MAUNDY THURSDAY** - Thursday 5 April

9:30 am Holy Communion

7:30 pm Foot/hand washing and Holy Communion

**GOOD FRIDAY** - Friday 6 April

10am Ecumenical Service: Donkey procession from the Baptist church, round the village, to St Peter's church. Followed by hot cross buns in church room.

2 pm - 3pm Meditation on the Cross, church room.

Prayer stations in Church.

**EASTER DAY** - Sunday 8 April

8 am Holy Communion

10am Family Communion followed by Easter Egg Hunt

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# ST PETER'S CHURCH

<b>Priest in Charge</b>	Rev'd Rebecca Peters	531374
<b>Curate</b>	Rev'd Rosie Bruce	525284
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Mrs Val Cross	535183
	Mr Colin Arnold	531923
<b>Organist</b>	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.	

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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

## CHURCH REGISTER

### Funeral

1st March John Gough Clarke

### Baptism

18th March Faye Louise Elizabeth Howie

## CALENDAR FOR APRIL

Tue 3rd	3.00 pm	First Tuesday Connections	Church Room
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## YOU STAY - WE PRAY, APRIL

1st to 7th	Sutton Wick Lane; Greenacres; Newman Lane; Conifer Drive
8th to 21st	Hilliat Fields; Lyford Close; Manor Close; The Green
22nd to 28th	High Street; Chiers Drive; Cheers Farm; Hall's Close

### ST PETER'S CHURCH HOME-VISITING GROUP

will visit anyone who is, or has been ill or is recently home from hospital, or unable to get out because of a disability, or is in any other circumstances where support would be welcomed.

Please contact; - Jean Hager (531558), Sally Dixon (531547), Ros Blogg (535589) or Margaret Watts (527145)



## ABINGDON

### Air & Country Show – Sun 6<sup>th</sup> May, from 10am

Flying Displays, Vintage Vehicles, live music, Kids Amusements, Static displays, Crafts and more.

Gate Admission; Adult £15, OAP £10, Child 5-15 £5, under 5s Free.. Advance tickets available, enquire via the website: [www.abingdonfayre.com](http://www.abingdonfayre.com)

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Email: [l.kogel@virgin.net](mailto:l.kogel@virgin.net) Oxon. OX14 4LD

## LETTER FROM ST PETER'S

Dear Friends,

As Easter is closely upon us and signs of new life, flowers, daffodils, and animals surround us, I thought we might consider what the empty tomb means to us today? What does Jesus' resurrection mean to us today?

Well many argue that Jesus wasn't raised from the dead, but if you look into the historical evidence the case for this remarkable event is very strong. Why would people be prepared to die for this Jesus, if he hadn't indeed risen from the dead? Even so, why did Jesus have to rise from the dead? Jesus rose from the dead to show that he has conquered evil, sin and death itself. Jesus took on himself all the world had to throw at him, including all our sins. He died on the cross, so that nothing can get in the way of a relationship between us and God. Jesus' death wasn't the end, God raised Jesus to new life, the resurrected body, to show that there is new life, a new hope for those who believe in Jesus. This isn't just some future hope, by living in relationship with Jesus today we can truly live life today. A friend who became a Christian once told me, it was as if he was living his life in black and white and when he became a Christian he began to live life in colour.

This Easter why not investigate the Christian faith for yourself, try praying, or coming to a Church service. If you are struggling with questions then do get in touch and we can search for answers together.

Happy Easter

Rebecca



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## ST PETER'S CHURCH

### Jubilee Celebrations

2-4pm Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

Children's Treasure Hunt,  
Music and light entertainment in Church  
Tea, cakes and sandwiches,  
Raffle and stalls



**ALL WELCOME!**

# 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

**EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME**

## LOCAL METHODIST WORSHIP

High Street, Milton

Sunday Service: 10.30 am

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

## FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS **Jean Hager**

Are you feeling lonely, isolated or in need of some friendly company? Why not come along to our monthly tea and chat afternoons. They are held on the first Tuesday of the month in St Peter's Church Room from 3.00 pm to 4:30 pm and you are invited to drop in during these times. The teapot is always at the ready and you can be sure of a warm welcome. Our next two dates are 3rd April, and 1st May. If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.

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# WESTMINSTER LETTER

## Ed Vaizey

I thought it might be interesting to let you know the main subjects about which people write to me. In March, I received about 100 e-mails calling for changes in the Budget (mainly fuel duty); I also received over 250 emails from the 38 Degrees Campaign on the Health Bill. Most of my e-mails come from campaign groups but the issue on which I have received the most personally written emails has been gay marriage.

The Diamond Jubilee will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate not just Her Majesty's amazing reign but also all that is best about South Oxfordshire. I am sure many people are preparing for the Bank Holiday Weekend in June as I am (I am especially pleased my birthday is a bank holiday - long overdue recognition!). I also wanted to raise awareness of the new Jubilee Time Capsule project. The JTC is a unique and accessible digital project which invites people of all ages to share memories and stories of the last 60 years and it will be gifted to the Queen at the end of the year. It is a great way of engaging with the Jubilee celebrations and I encourage everyone, but particularly schools, to get involved at <http://www.jubileetimecapsule.org/>.

There are also many other cultural celebrations of the Jubilee around the constituency - Faringdon, for example, is holding a Craft Competition, Wallingford is having a big picnic in castle gardens, Didcot is having the Diamond of Didcot Awards in their new garden at the Civic Hall and Wantage and Grove have teamed up for a massive celebration across both towns.

Last year the National Citizens' Service pilot scheme took 8,400 teenagers on a course of helping the local community and personal development activities. This summer the scheme is hoping to expand its participation to 30,000 teenagers who will spend a fortnight adventuring away from home and then a three to four week stretch in the local community, where they will develop social action projects to benefit their area and see them through to completion. Aside from the enormous good that it does for local communities it also helps the graduates. After completing the scheme, 96% of graduates felt more confident and 86% felt more responsible for their local area, plus 90% of the parents would recommend the programme to others. I heartily recommend this scheme to schools, parents and teenagers alike and you can find out more by visiting:

[www.direct.gov.uk/ncs](http://www.direct.gov.uk/ncs)<<http://www.direct.gov.uk/ncs>>.

The continuing rise in unemployment is concerning, however, out of 650 UK constituencies, we rank 609th for unemployment with 1,242 people out of work - less than 2.5%. This rate is so low due to the supportive local environment for small local businesses - those ones that need every scrap of help they can get in these tough times. I was pleased, therefore, to hear about the launch of the Small Business Finance Directory which should help make it easier for such companies to find credit. The directory allows companies to search by region for alternatives to conventional bank loans and overdrafts. There are nearly 1000 sources of finance listed and I believe that it could prove a very effective tool for local business.

Finally I'd like to bring people's attention to the Big Lottery Fund which has awarded grants totalling over £25 million in the South East since January 2011 to over 1,000 projects including two in the constituency: Marcham C of E Primary School and Project Inspire, a plan to convert Fernham village church so it could also be used for community activities. I would encourage local projects to consider applying for National Lottery funding here: <http://ask.biglotteryfund.org.uk>.

As ever please feel free to contact me at the House of Commons, SW1A 0AA, 020 7219 6350 or:

[vaizeye@parliament.uk](mailto:vaizeye@parliament.uk)<<mailto:vaizeye@parliament.uk>>.

Surgery details can be found at:

[www.vaizey.com](http://www.vaizey.com)<<http://www.vaizey.com>>.

# GARDENING MATTERS

## DOG, TOOTH AND VIOLET Anne Hendry

One of the most beautiful spring-flowering bulbs is the Dog's Tooth Violet (*Erythronium dens-canis*). Not a violet in fact but a lily. The dainty purple flowers droop from arching stems above mottled foliage. The petals are curious in habit in that they curl back towards the stem so giving the impression of a turban. In the USA, Dog Tooth Violets are also known as Fawn Lilies as the leaf markings resemble the coats of young deer. There is also the less enchanting name of Trout Lily as some consider the patterns on the leaves to resemble the scales of trout.

'Erythros' comes from the Greek language and translates as red, referring in this instance to the purple-red of the flower. 'Dens' and 'canis' are Latin in origin, meaning tooth and dog or canine respectively. The shape and colour of the bulb in fact resemble a dog's tooth. Unlike most other bulbs, *Erythronium* bulbs are not protected by an outer membrane so do not retain moisture for any length of time. Consequently, they must be planted quickly so as to avoid water loss.

There are around 20 species of *Erythronium*, North America having the greatest number whilst Europe has only the one species (*E. dens-canis*) and Asia just two. All are classified as either woodland or alpine plants. Those that grow in wooded areas have mottled foliage and flower in the spring whereas the alpine varieties produce bright green leaves and bloom in the summer.

Cultivars of *E. dens-canis* to look out for are *E. d-c* 'Rose Queen', a lovely, early-flowering plant that produces offsets fairly quickly, and *E. d-c* 'Snowflake' which multiplies at a slightly slower rate. The American cousins that do well in British gardens are *E. californicum* 'White Beauty', considered to be one of the best white hybrids. It's vigorous and freely produces offsets which in turn form generous and eye-catching clumps. *E. 'Harvington Snowgoose'* is similar but taller and produces heavily-mottled foliage.

Also look for *E. 'Pagoda'*, a large and easy plant with tall stems producing sulphur yellow flowers mid-spring and *E. revolutum*, a graceful species from the mountains of California that produces rosy-pink flowers above heavily mottled bronze and green foliage.

Also of interest, but not necessarily available in the UK, are the two Asian species; *E. japonicum* which produces violet-purple flowers on short stems above prominent mottled foliage and *E. sibiricum* whose pale pink flowers and contrasting white centres are borne above plain green leaves.

*Erythroniums* like to be planted in light, well-drained yet slightly moist soil in a shady position, ideally in a woodland environment. If that isn't possible, they can be planted under shrubs or trees. Plant bulbs between August and October; get them into the ground as quickly as possible as they do not like to dry out. Nor do they like to be divided so ensure that they are planted where you intend them to stay. Between six and eight months later, you should be treated to a fantastic display of elegant and charming blooms or 'little turbans'.

**Drayton Players** are holding their AGM on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2012 at 7.30p.m.

in the Caudwell Centre, Gravel Lane, Drayton.

There will be an open meeting to discuss future productions and we are asking anyone who may be interested in helping with these productions to come along.

We would appreciate ideas for plays, help with backstage, production and direction and anyone who would like to "tread the boards". Please come along on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May - you will be very welcome

Contact: Fred Stevens Chairman, Drayton Players  
phone: 01235 200350 email:fred.stevens1@ntlworld.com



# T&C

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### DRAYTON 1st BROWNIES

Paula Harper

This month we were very fortunate in receiving a talk from the Blue Cross. Cris Jones visited us with her lovely Cocker Spaniel, Musket for the evening. The Brownies now have a much greater understanding of the responsibilities of keeping a pet thanks to her informative talk. The evening was very interactive, discussing pets' needs that have to be considered before purchasing a pet.

We celebrated Thinking Day on February 22nd by dressing up in clothes from around the World whilst thinking of others less fortunate than ourselves. We also had a "bring and share food from around the World" event in order for the Brownies to try different foods.

We have now designed our t-shirts in readiness for the forthcoming Fashion Show on March 28th and we will be working on the music and routines for our 'catwalk' Brownie models.

Our Fashion Show Finale will be our last meeting for this term, we will resume on April 18th, following the Easter break.

**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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### DRAYTON WIVES

Gwen Price

In February, forty -five members enjoyed a birthday lunch in the Village Hall. It was provided by members of the committee. The menu included chillie, chicken curry, baked potatoes and salad followed by delicious fruit flans. The tables were beautifully decorated by bunches of daffodils. It was a very successful and happy occasion.

APRIL dates:

Mon 2nd	COFFEE	Pam L, Janet T, Rosemary
Tues 3rd	WALK in Iffley village	
Mon 16th	WHIST	Pam Lacey
Wed 25th	A.G.M.	

## results

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## MORE ALL AROUND

### BOWLS CLUB

### Roll up

The winter leagues are almost complete with 'The Wasps' retaining the afternoon triple league. The winning team members were, Tony Wright, Olive Brown, Barbara Watts, Josie and Cyril Carter, June Hyde, Bryn Jones, Gillis Tate, and Doug Rich. In the same league, 'The Rollers' finished 4th with 'The Hammers' in 6th place. 'The Dynamos' also had a good season and with still a few games to go, look like finishing in the top half of the 'South Oxon' evening league. A good all-round performance by all the teams.

As we approach Spring, we would be looking to field teams for the summer league, but as things stand, we won't be fielding any teams this year mainly through lack of interest. This will be the first time we haven't been able to raise a team since the league was formed some 20 years ago.

The latest internal competition to be played was 'The Henry Bunce' handicap pairs and after a fine day's bowling organized by Jane and Carol, the winners were Jack Mitchenson and June Hyde who beat Jan Cook and Pam Lacey in the final. The next competition will be 'The Beryl James' triples and will be played for on the 25th March. The 'Rose bowl' triple leagues are well underway and will end in May.

### GARD REPORT

### Nick Thompson

The current drought has its obvious down sides with reduced flows and restrictions on domestic water use, but also some upside! Defra, Ofwat and the Environment Agency clearly expect water companies to look to a variety of long term solutions and not just reservoirs.

Thames Water is now working on its plan for 2014 and GARD is monitoring that work as best we can through our expert consultants. The recent Water White Paper stresses the need for greater sharing of water resources between river basins, and adjustment of unused or unwanted abstraction licences. This would include abstractions from the Thames by Didcot "A" Power Station which is due to close. Both of these factors are helpful in increasing the amount of water likely to be available to meet increased demand.

However, it is clear that Thames Water intends to do all it can to bring back the Abingdon Reservoir proposal as it is the company's most profitable and favoured option in which they have already invested £40m of customers' money, so we are almost back to where we were in 2007. Thames Water's failed plan was thrown out last time because of the wrongly inflated demand figure. Next time we will certainly have to challenge their demand figures again, but low river flows may mean less water can be abstracted and supplies must come from elsewhere. We should know the scale of the predicted water supply shortfall by August this year.

GARD still contends with good evidence that there are far better, cheaper, quicker and less environmentally damaging alternatives to the Abingdon reservoir. Thames Water has been forced to investigate all of these alternatives properly as a result of the Public Inquiry, and we are trying to ensure fair play. Options include Severn-Thames transfer by pipeline or using a restored Cotswold Canal and much greater treatment and re-use of waste water and effluent as well as a variety of smaller schemes. We greatly hope the Thames Water investigations will be impartial and wholly independent.

### YOUTH ZONE

### Naomi Broomfield

A huge thank you to Claire Soper who has stepped down from running Youth Zone after 5 years! Claire has been so committed to the group and will be greatly missed. The future of the group is not certain but Gina Edge has kindly stepped forward and with two volunteers is going to have a go at keeping the group running. Sessions will continue once a fortnight. The next few dates are 16th April, 30th April, 14th May and 28th May at the normal times of 6pm till 7.30pm in the village hall.

Do you have 1½ hours to spare once a month? Volunteers are wanted to assist with supervision of the group, any support offered is greatly appreciated. Please contact Naomi on 532248 for further information.

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## YET MORE ALL AROUND

### DRAYTON W.I.

**Brenda Malin**

March being the start of our New Year, the retiring committee handed over to the newly elected committee, who in turn will elect a new president at their next meeting.

After our official business we had social time combined with a bring and share supper, which had the usual amazing selection of scrumptious food, and was greatly enjoyed by all.

If anyone is interested to see what the Women's Institute do in the Twenty-first century, please feel free to pop in and join us for the evening. We are a small group of friendly ladies, from the village and surrounding area, the beauty is you do not have to be a 'Delia' or able to create a bridal gown from your old curtains, or indeed from specially imported silk, woven by spiders, to join. We have varied and interesting speakers, outings, and a walking group which occasionally, no, always ends up in the pub!

We meet on the second Thursday in the month at 7.30 pm at the Caudwell Day Centre in Gravel Lane Drayton, you will be made very welcome

### DRAYTON TABLE TENNIS CLUB **John Gould**

First of all we wish to thank all the villagers who came to our recent Quiz Night. The support for this fund raising effort is much appreciated and it was good to see so many 'locals' stretch their brains. I can only apologise for the quality of the questions if anyone found them too obtuse. Congratulations to 'Team Etwell' on securing their second win in our quizzes. The money we raised will help with our ever increasing running costs and aid the shortfall on our income this season.

Our Junior Championships were held recently. We have a number of very good young players and they showed their ability in a very competitive evening. James Cooper won all his matches to become our 2012 Junior Champion. The runner up was Peter Weir who at the age of 12 is showing great promise. James & Peter combined in the doubles but were pipped at the post by Harry Jones-Locke & Kavan Warrender who are the 2012 Junior Doubles Champions. It is Harry's third success in 4 seasons - he's becoming a bit of a doubles star. James, Harry & Kavan are the club's G team in Division 5 of the Didcot League. The team is unbeaten and are top of the table by a clear margin. With four matches to go they look good to win the Division and gain promotion.

The rest of our teams are having a mixed season. The D team have a good chance to gain promotion from division 4. However, they have availability problems and this could affect their final position. All other teams are reasonably placed except the E team who hope to stave off relegation from Division 4. Again player availability has affected their season.

The Bidmead Cup has reached the semi final stage with our team hoping to win and reach yet another final of this competition.

Finally we have four teams into the Quarter Finals of the Handicap Shield. Luckily the A, B, C, & D teams have all avoided each other in the draw so we are keeping our fingers crossed for success for at least one of the teams.

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## DRAYTON Twinning

The Drayton twinning Society AGM will be on  
**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30 - Caudwell Day Centre.**

Please feel welcome to attend and find out more about twinning. For more information:  
Michael Bell - 531388 Stephen Fearnley - 531347

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## EVEN MORE ALL AROUND

### PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP **Debbie Bargus**

**Welcome;** We would like to welcome the new children who have joined us this term, we hope they enjoy the time they spend with us.

**Thanks;** Many thanks to the Mace store for their kind donation and also thanks to those involved in improving the storage in our kitchen. Both are greatly appreciated.

**Fundraising;** We are collecting Tesco School and Clubs and Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers. If you wish to add to our total, please donate your vouchers to a member of staff. We receive great new resources through these collections.

**Children's Learning and Development;** After Easter, pre-school's key focus will be to develop and extend children's knowledge and understanding. To enable rich opportunities, Drayton Pre-school needs the help and support of its local community.

Are there any keen gardeners in the community who would be willing to spend time in the garden at pre-school to aid children's understanding of growth, i.e. planting bulbs etc?

Is there any musical talent in Drayton? Perhaps you play the piano or guitar? Might you be willing to bring this talent into pre-school to accompany familiar nursery rhymes?

We plan to hold an International Week next term. Are there any members of the community who celebrate different nationalities/cultures who would be willing to visit pre-school and share their lifestyle with the children? This might involve traditional tales/stories, costumes or bringing a traditional dish for the children to taste. This would be a valuable learning tool for the children to develop an understanding of different communities.

If you are able to help with any of the matters discussed above please contact Nadine Howard (Manager) on 01235 536094. We look forward to hearing from you.

**Vacancies;** Do you have a child who is approaching 2½ years? If so, we are happy to put younger children onto our waiting list for September 2012. Please do keep supporting us, the children have great fun and are always learning new things. Please contact pre-school on 01235 536094 or draytonpreschool@btconnect.com for a welcome pack or to arrange a visit.

#### Important dates

Term 5 Tuesday 17th April 2012 – Friday 1st June 2012  
Term 6 Monday 11th June 2012 – Friday 20th July 2012

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# EVEN MORE ALL AROUND

## DRAYTON SCHOOL

Ana Gurl

### School news

Although we will be enjoying two weeks off school for our Easter holidays in April, there is still a lot going on in school.

### Sporting events

Some of our talented gymnasts have taken part in the Abingdon Gym Festival. Children from years 5 & 6 formed a mixed team and took part in the Vale Primary Schools Hockey tournament at Tilsley Park. Well done to all those who participated and represented our school.

### Classroom news

Robins (reception and year 1) have been learning about dinosaurs. They have been working on writing stories and poems all about dinosaurs. This has also given them lots of opportunities to practice their speaking and listening skills. They have enjoyed building and painting a big dinosaur island out of modroc.

Children in Ravens (year 1 & 2) have finished their work on puppets and are now thinking about Spring and all things living. They have been out and about on the school field and around the pond looking for signs of life and interesting things.

Red Kites (Year 3) are coming to the end of their Charlie and The Chocolate Factory theme which will fittingly come to an end at Easter. In literacy the children have been writing some fantastic poetry. They have also been practising writing instructions for others to follow. Their skills will be put to the test when they reach the finale of their theme by making some tasty sweets! Well done to all Red Kites this term as everyone has made excellent progress with their swimming lessons.

Kingfishers (Year 4) have loved their pirate topic and have produced some excellent work. They have continued to fact - find at home and we have all learned a great deal. The second visit to London was very successful, and the Kingfishers thoroughly enjoyed their visit to The Golden Hinde. They were very grateful to FODSA for funding the rest of the coach money and have written thank you letters to FODSA and Tappins. They are ending their topic with a Pirate Day when they will be invited to wear suitable attire and bring pirate food.

This term Eagles (year 5 & 6) brought their Jabberwocky topic to a close with a whole class production of the poem in family assembly, complete with costumes, masks and actions.

### FODSA (Friends of Drayton School Association)

Thanks to those of you who brought in your bags of unwanted

clothes etc on Bags2School day. We will be doing this again later in the year so keep saving those unwanted items.

We hope you enjoy our Easter Chocolate Hour and have a chance to have a go at our Spring Quiz.

## DRAYTON PLAYERS

Jean Hager

Our May AGM is approaching and it is really going to be a vital event which all members are urged to attend to discuss the future of our group. After the optimism generated by acquiring a new intake of junior members we are now faced with total shutdown, albeit temporary, due to lack of numbers available in the senior section and, our large problem for some time, a dearth of directors!

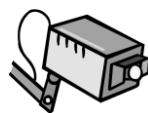
Two new members have come along just recently which encourages us to believe that there may be more thinking of giving us a try. If you are somebody living in the village or surrounding area, wanting a new interest or possibly wishing to rekindle a previous enthusiasm, do please join us for the AGM at which exploring new ideas and ways forward will be high on the agenda.

You can contact our chairman on 01235 200350 or me on 01235 531558 for further information. We look forward to hearing from you. See our ad in this Chronicle for AGM details..

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# DRAYTON DIARY

## FOR APRIL

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

Regular Events are listed opposite

Mon	2nd	7.00 pm	Annual Parish Assembly
Mon	9th		Dog Club All day
Fri	13th	5.00 pm	Chronicle Ads deadline <i>Vickery's box</i>
Sat	14th		Wedding
Sun	15th		Dog Club All day
Mon	16th	5.00 pm	Chronicle copy deadline <i>Vickery's box</i>
Sat	21st		Dog Club All day
Fri	27th		Oxford Drama Network AGM
Sat	28th		Birthday Party



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## REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

### MONDAYS

10.30 am	Pilates	
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
7.00 am	Pilates – also at 8pm	
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

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