

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Derek Pooley

Volume 35 No. 4

May 2012

WHERE TO PUT NEW Drayton's urgent need

Drayton Parish Council, chaired by Daniel Scharf, held an additional, 'special' meeting on Tuesday 17 April. Its sole purpose was to discuss the relative merits of the 8 sites offered by local landowners (see map) for the 68 or so houses the Vale requires of Drayton under its 'Interim Housing Supply Policy'. Since the need for an extra PC meeting had been decided only at the Annual Parish Assembly on 02 April, advertising it in the Chronicle was not possible. Nevertheless, 17 members of the public attended and the chairman allowed them to contribute throughout the long discussion, though they were properly excluded from the votes involved in the Council's reaching its conclusions.

District Councillor Richard Webber emphasised that having so many sites on offer in Drayton gave us an important element of choice denied to most other villages in the Vale. We should deal positively with the need to screen sites for the IHSP, since simply opposing all development was unlikely to succeed and might result in our missing out on many of the benefits which can often be negotiated as part of major new development.

The council's conclusions, not obviously at variance with the views of members of the public present, was that building on the northern parts of sites 3, 7 and 2 would be better for the village than using the other sites offered. Their reasons included; 3, 7 and 2 are within easy walking distance of the centre of the village and would support local shops and bus routes; 1 and 4 are close to the A34, very noisy and have potential for possible additional sports pitches; 8 would extend the village significantly eastward into attractive countryside, cover well-used paths and bridleways and alter the rural character of the burial ground and the allotments; 5 and 6 are small, not significant for the IHSP and can be dealt with under normal planning procedures.

Derek Pooley

HOUSES IN DRAYTON? for a Village Plan!

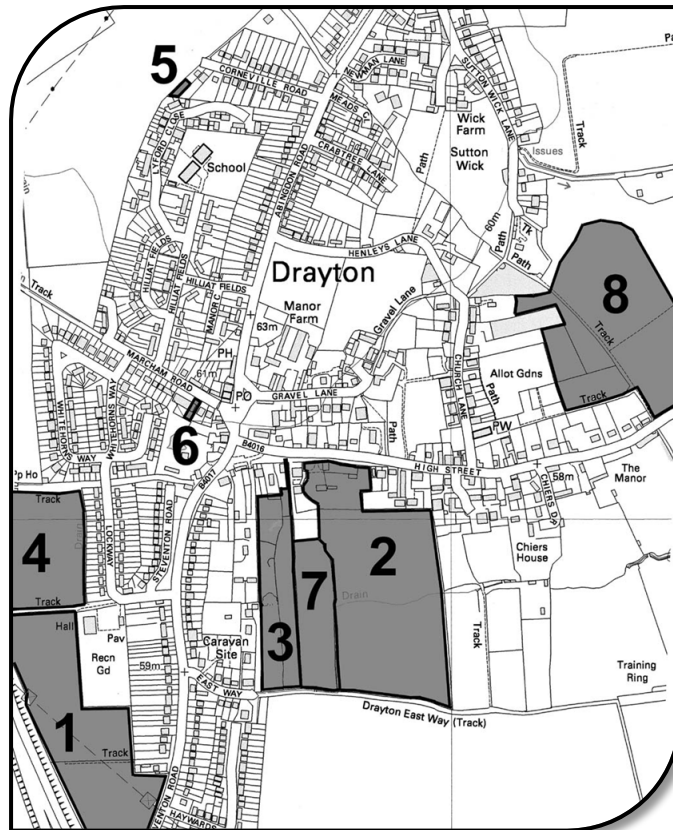
A 'special' Parish Council meeting (see opposite) was held to allow fuller discussion of the eight sites so far submitted for possible housing development and give the public an opportunity to put their views. The Vale required the PC to provide an initial response by 20th April and, in the light of the above discussions and their own individual views, the Parish Council has now done this. However, the final choice of sites is contingent on further discussions and negotiations which have yet to take place.

The main message to get across in Drayton now is that the Parish Council needs your help to make the village's views really count.

If a Drayton Village Plan, incorporating the development we would prefer to see, is to have credibility, it needs to have the support of a majority of the community, and this can only be demonstrated by the actual involvement of Drayton residents, in as representative a group of people as possible.

In other words, all age groups, all sections of the community, all parts of the village, should be represented in some way. The PC will do its best to consult with the community and will publicise events at which the public can contribute, but Drayton residents have to take on board the fact that their input is needed, that it is valuable, and that it will be listened to.

Richard Williams



Also in this issue:

- P3: Irresponsible dog owners
- P3: DCT and MGT AGMs
- P4: Jean reaches 80
- P8: Making it rain
- P10: Drayton's Annual Parish Assembly

Jubilee Picnic with Music

between 12noon and 3pm Sunday June 3rd
on the Millennium Green

Boulevard Swing Band

Children's Games

Exhibition on Emerging Village Plan

Bring your own picnic, rug and umbrella.

Everyone invited. Free Entry.

SHOW YOU CARE! BE THERE!



Jubilee Celebrations

At St Peter's Church

2-4pm Saturday 2nd June

Raffle and stalls

Children's Treasure Hunt

Music and light entertainment in Church

Tea, cakes and sandwiches

ALL WELCOME!

CHRONICLE INFORMATION

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

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

Distributor: **Shirley Thomas, 48 Henleys Lane (531626),**

Deadline for advertisements: **17.00 on Friday, 11 May 2012**

Deadline for other contributions: **17.00 on Monday, 14 May 2012**

Printed copies available: **Friday, 25 May 2012**

Key dates for the subsequent three Chronicles:

Issue for	Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available on:
July	18 June 2012	29 June 2012
August	16 July 2012	27 July 2012
September	13 August 2012	24 August 2012

NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

Contributions to and advertisements in the Chronicle are most welcome. Please be sure **always to include your name**, address and (in case clarification is necessary) telephone number. Without names we will usually not print an item at all.

However, please also note that the editor has to ensure that each Chronicle fits exactly into an even number of printed pages. The editor therefore reserves the right to place, edit, shorten or even reject contributions as required to achieve this.

A contribution or advertising request can be sent to us in one of three ways:

1. The best is by **email** to **editor@draytonchronicle.net**. Your contributions should either be embedded in your email as **plain text** or attached as a **rich-text** or **Microsoft Word** document!

Requests for advertisements should not be emailed to the editor but to **advertising@draytonchronicle.net**. Please note that they eventually need to be in Word format, 9cms wide and, for a single block advert, about 4.5cms high

Please head your email and label any attachments with a name distinctive to you, not just 'Chronicle'. Also, make sure the editor or advertising manager acknowledges your email within a few days.

2. If you cannot send your contribution by email, send us a **good quality paper version**, using fairly large, **simple** black typescript, without underlining on white paper, A4 or smaller.

3. Finally, we do accept **hand-written items**. However, in this case **please write the names of people and places in capital letters**. This does save a lot of mistakes.

Paper contributions should either be placed in the Chronicle letter box (outside Vickery's shop on Drayton Green) or posted to Vickery's at 5 The Green, Drayton, Abingdon, OX14 4JA.

After the deadlines listed at the top of this page, only urgent items will be considered for inclusion and then only if emailed or delivered directly to the **Editor's** house by the Wednesday following the Monday deadline.

ADVERTISING RATES

Charge for a single Block Advert (about 9cms x 4.5cms)

--- Number of Inserts ---

Advertiser Category:	1	3	6	12
Drayton Resident	£5.00	£14.00	£25.50	£48.00
Non-Drayton Resident	£6.00	£17.00	£31.50	£60.00

Double-size adverts are charged at **twice** the above rates.

All advertising MUST be paid for up-front, either in cash or via a cheque made payable to 'The Drayton Chronicle' and placed in the box at or sent to Vickery's.

If you wish to discuss your requirements please phone **Stephen Fearnley**, the Chronicle's Advertising Manager, on 531347 or email him at **advertising@draytonchronicle.net**.

CHRONICLE LOTTERY

Jean Barton, Hon Promoter

RESULTS OF THE APRIL LOTTERY

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	1627	Mrs Chung, 13 Lockway	Christine Sadler
£20	1030	Jenny Pooley, 11 Halls Close	Alison Bone
£15	2150	Sid Jones, 17 East Way	Teresa Burnage
£10	1974	Thom Wilson, 51 Lyford Close	Andrew Bax
£10	1101	Diane Manners, 10 Halls Close	Alison Bone
£10	541	Mrs Clough, 15 Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
£10	1652	Mrs Taylor, 25 Lockway	Christine Sadler
£10	2232	Vanessa Denton, 9 Lesparre Close	Amanda Drysdale
£10	1319	P. Evans, 42 Steventon Road	Jackie Walker
£10	327	Daphne Samworth, 27 SW Lane	Keith Clough

We no longer use counterfoils. Instead, winning numbers from the 1907 tickets sold last month were generated randomly using a computer, as for national premium bonds and in the national lottery

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DISCLAIMER: This Journal is published in good faith and great care is taken in its compilation. The organisers of the DRAYTON CHRONICLE, and its Agents, therefore accept no responsibility for OPINIONS EXPRESSED, nor for the validity of any ADVERTISEMENT, nor for any EFFECTS ARISING WHATSOEVER from the publication.

YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor

As a responsible owner of two dogs I fail to see what the problem is picking up after they have done their business. There are some very irresponsible owners who don't seem to worry that young children often use the foot paths around the village especially during the holidays. You should pick it up and dispose of it in the dog bins provided and not give us responsible owners a bad name!

What is wrong with these people?

Yours sincerely,

Pat Bachrach

Editor's note: Like Pat, I'm a dog lover who tries very hard always to take the 'droppings' to the nearest dog bin, of which Drayton has many placed around the village, and I too am annoyed by those who do not. Even less understandable though, and just as irritating, are those dog owners (Drayton has at least one) who do clear the offending material from the path in a plastic bag but then place both faeces and bag in the hedgerow. Un-bagged excreta in the hedge are decomposed very quickly by bacteria, but in plastic bags they can survive for years!

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NOTICE BOARD

CHRONICLE AGENTS

Gareth Davies

We would like to thank Karen Jackson, who has decided to step down as an agent, for all her hard work delivering the Chronicle & selling lottery tickets to residents in Marcham Road & part of Hilliat Fields.

If someone can take over as agent in this area then please contact Gareth Davies 529510.

DCT & MGT AGMs

Andrew Bax

The Annual General Meetings of the Drayton Community Trust, under whose auspices the Chronicle is published and the village web site has been constructed, and the Drayton Millennium Green Trust will be held at 7.30 and 8.00 respectively in the Caudwell Day Centre on Monday 11 June.

For further information please contact Andrew Bax, tel. 531512 (chairman, Drayton Community Trust) or Nick Hamilton, tel. 559291 (chairman, Drayton Millennium Green Trust).

OTHER WORLDS

Cath Nightingale

An exhibition of intriguing collaborations between more than 20 pairs of writers and artists has turned an atmospheric, dilapidated building - home of the future Story Museum - into a giant storytelling compendium, with a surprise around every corner. It's in the heart of literary and historic Oxford from May 1st to 27th (inclusive) 2012. Special May Day opening.

It's at the Story Museum, Rochester House, 42 Pembroke St, Oxford OX1 1BP This is for all ages: £3 entry for adults and children, under 2s free. Pay at the door..

More info and times at www.storymuseum.org.uk/otherworlds

Drayton Players

are holding their AGM on

Thursday 3rd 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 3rd May - you will be very welcome

Contact: Fred Stevens, the Chairman

phone: 01235 200350

email: fred.stevens1@ntlworld.com

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 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

Wed 10.30 am Pebbles (term time only) *Church Room*
 Monday 7.45 pm Bell Ringing Practice *Bell Tower*

CALENDAR FOR MAY

Tues 1st 3.00 pm First Tuesday Connections *Church Room*

CHURCH REGISTER

Baptism:

15th April Summer Claire Goodway

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 01 May and 05 June. If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.

HAPPY 80th BIRTHDAY! **Teresa Burnage**

Jean Hager celebrated her 80th birthday in April and was a bit confused when she arrived at the First Tuesday Connections meeting to find the hall decked out in banners and balloons-she thought it was for someone else!



The surprise was secretly organised by a small group of helpers - no mean feat when Jean is always there to help and support others! She was quite overwhelmed, but gave a short speech to thank all those at Connections for the lovely cake, cards and gifts.

Jean started First Tuesday Connections almost ten years ago and many cups of tea have been made since then!

LETTER FROM REV. REBECCA PETERS

Dear Friends,

Although Easter is nearly a month away, the significance of the Easter story is only actually understood and worked through at Pentecost, which is at the end of May.

For myself and many people Easter week has been a tough time, the lows of ill family and Jesus' pain and death and the highs of the joy of resurrection and restored relationships. But so what?

If Jesus did rise from the dead what does that really mean for my life today? Well it means that Jesus is Lord over all, that we can have a relationship with him and above all things that he is alive, living today. That means God is active, he is involved in our lives today. The Holy Spirit, which was given to his disciples at Pentecost and is available to us today, he enables us to hear and see God. The Holy Spirit enables people to know God better and enables them to live close to God. However, the Holy Spirit is unpredictable and powerful and as such must not be constrained by us. To see all the gifts of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we must give all of our selves to God, not holding anything back. Only by wanting God more than anything else, only then does God draw us into himself and provides us with more power to truly follow him.

God Bless

Rebecca



Good Friday Village Service and Procession



YOU STAY - WE PRAY: MAY

29th January to 12th February: Lockway, Whitehorns Way.
 13th to 19th: Corneville Road, Crabtree Lane, Lesparre Close.
 20th to 26th: Drayton Road, Milton Road, New Cut Mill, Fisher Close, Marcham Road, Meads Close, Rippington Court, Stone Hill.
 27th to 2nd June: Steventon Road, Eastway, Eastway MHP

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Church Secretary: Mrs Jayne Henderson.....Tel. 522161

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

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Sunday Service: 10.30 am

Local contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409



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NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

We give a warm welcome to Benedict, Lindsay, Louis, Evanna, India & Lily-Rose Yue who have moved into the High Street.

HALL NEWS

Ann Webb

Due to family commitments, the meeting on 26 March was a week later than usual, so we did not have as many members attend.



We did discuss a revised price list. The previous system has been in

place since the hall was opened to allow villagers a preference when booking. After a long discussion it was decided that this would now be consigned to history and a new system brought in, one tier for all. This will mean that the question 'are you a resident?' has been binned. The good news is that prices are now lower than they were for weekend functions. Drayton's regular users are run on a session system to allow them some villager perks. These are the people that provide a regular income and are rewarded for their loyalty. We have replaced the water miser in the gents cloakroom, This is a gadget that controls flushing, It is a wonderful invention and has saved a great deal of water and money already. The previous one was installed many years ago and was probably very furred up and had ceased to function, and our last water bill had rocketed.

We have also changed the system under which the bar has been run in the past. The bookings are not as regular as they were in more affluent times and before the drink-drive law. All this has made it more difficult for the pub trade, the bar is not booked as often as it was. So after a great deal of thought it was agreed to close the bar in its present form and just bring in a bar when needed. We thank Austin and Geraldine for their co-operation over the years, and realise that the weekends when we needed a bar were their busiest times in the pub. I know at times it has been very difficult for them to man the bar, We wish them both the best in the future with their new B&B venture.

We are hoping to accommodate a clothing bin, this will be for the Flying Ambulance. More details about this next time. I realise there are two other bins in the village but this is far enough away to be of use to the south end of the village. Finally, we are still looking for someone good at figures to do our books It entails keeping the books up to date, banking, paying bills and attending our bimonthly meeting and presenting a financial report. There is a small fee involved, but a great deal of gratitude as well.

Next meeting will be our AGM, 7.30 pm in the lounge, on Monday 18th May, all are welcome, Hall users will be asked to find a representative from their members to attend the meetings

ALL AROUND

BOWLS CLUB

Roll up

The latest internal competition to be completed was the 'Beryl James' triples and going through to play the final in December will be Tony Wright, Val Locke, and Pam Lacey, who will play Doug Rich, Kathy McCann, and Jane Pimm. The 'Rose Bowl' triples leagues are drawing to a close, and it looks like it will be the last game before we find a winner. Talking of winners, 10 members of the club went recently on a bowling holiday to the Isle Of Wight. Drayton came out on top in two of three competitions that were played for, with Jack and Pat Mitchenson, Josie Carter and John Spraggon (from Essex) winning the fours, with a good win over a strong team from Essex. In the final of the pairs it was an all Drayton affair with June Hyde and Bryn Jones beating Cyril and Josie Carter in the final. The next internal competition will be the 'Don Alexander Trophy' to be played for on the 20th of May. Finally a note for your diary; the annual general meeting date is June the 13th at 7.00 pm in the main hall.

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MCSP HPC

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TABLE TENNIS

John Gould

Our Cadet Championships were held last month. These are the under 15's and we have a good squad of improving youngsters. Kavan Warrender played well on the day to become our 2012 Cadets Champion. Kavan is in his first season but has made tremendous progress to become a very good young player. The runner up was Mikey Young. Mikey was also runner up in the doubles with partner Jai McIntosh. The doubles champions are Harry Jones-Locke & Ed Greatrex. Ed has recently joined the club and is looking forward to playing League table tennis next season.

Kavan & Harry together with James Cooper play in our G team. They have won the Division 5 Championship winning all their ties and proving to be the best in that Division. So next season they will be playing a higher standard but I'm sure will cope with it.

Drayton A has reached the Handicap Shield Final. They beat our B team in the semi final and will play either a team from RAL or Marlborough Club. They will have to overcome a point's deficit whichever team they come up against so it will be tough!

The League ties are almost all finished and I will give a full report on the final standings next month. The D team are fighting for promotion & the E team strive to avoid relegation so it's a nail biting end for both those teams.

Finally the Club Senior Championships are on 20th May. Its our 20th year of holding this event and we are looking to rounding off the season in style.



DRAYTON 1st BROWNIES

Paula Harper

Goodbye to Holly, good luck at Guides from us all at Brownies.

We are currently working towards our Out and About and Seasons badges. We are planning to explore the local community of Drayton. We have evenings full of butterflies, bees and stick insects and are looking forward to enjoying the sunny evenings.

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 March our speaker was Josie Midwinter, who is one of our members. She was continuing her previous talk on her experiences in Africa. She is thoroughly at home with all the people she meets and with the country. She encouraged people to do things for themselves which is what they did, thus providing a better life for themselves and for the local people. We all found her talk fascinating.

DATES for May:

Wed. 9th Walk to Dry Sanford and Cothill

Mon. 14th Coffee: Mary, Margaret L.

Mon. 21st Whist: Barbara C.

Wed. 30th: Meeting: Karen Wiseman giving a talk entitled 'Odd Men and Necessary Women at Blenheim'.

W.I.

Brenda Malin

The journey from Lower Splottland to Culham College via Merton College was the subject of the talk given by Mr John Endicot. Lower Splottland is adjacent to Tiger Bay in South Wales, and was in the shadow of the, now-defunct steel works there, with his parents and three brothers he started life in a one bed-roomed flat. Thanks to his mother's asthma the family were allotted one of the first council houses built locally after the War. His mother, despite having three more children, one born after their father was killed in a road accident, went on to live well into her mid eighties, one of the many thousands of strong-minded women who overcome hardship. All of John's siblings went on to enjoy successful careers, John's as a geography teacher. This story, although not unique of its time, just goes to prove that under-privileged does not have to mean under-achievement.

Our new committee are finalising this year's program and it looks to be full of interest. Our first undertaking for fund raising is a table top sale on 23rd June - Drayton Hall - 10am-12noon - £7.00 per table. Set up from 9am tea & coffee

For further details please see advert on page 14.

ART GROUP

Cicely Willis-Dixon

Our annual exhibition takes place this year on May 26th in the Caudwell Day Centre (see advert on page 14). We hope once again our supporters will come in force; not only to view the 'fine art'!!!! but also to sample the other stalls including the bric- a-brac, books, plants, a good raffle and finally enjoy a nice cup of tea!

Our group is really short of members, we are not at all stuffy, we run a more social afternoon with some fun painting and lots more of the chit-chat! We meet every Tuesday between 2.00 and 4.00pm. Why don't you come along and see for yourselves. If you want anymore information my contact number is, 01235 531626 .



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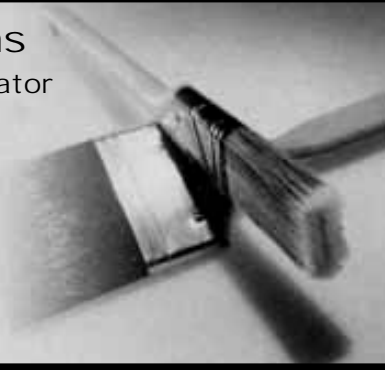
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GARDENING PAGE

DEALING with DROUGHT

Doggerelle

The pools were empty, rivers low,
Thames Water's comeback rather slow.
The soil was parched, the lawns looked dead
And then Thames Water wisely said
"This is serious, there's a drought,
We must act without a doubt."
"With care use water" was their call,
"You may use hosepipes not at all!"



A butt I purchased big and black,
Installed it straightway round the back.

I bought large jug and water can
To be compliant with this ban.

I'd catch cold water 'ere I got
From the faucet water hot;

This I'd collect, the butt I'd fill,
Obey the ban with all good will.



No sooner had I got things ready
Then down came rain, prolonged and steady.
From '76 I should have learned –
Drought minister appointed – weather turned!!



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THE RED LION

A TOUCH OF THE EXOTIC

Anne Hendry

Think of bamboo and we think of Asia. Yet these exotic, evergreen plants are also to be found in South Africa and South America. All bamboos are technically grasses but some can reach the height and width of trees.

As bamboos are evergreen, they are ideal candidates for screening. Although the bright green, delicate foliage is attractive in itself, it's the stems that provide most interest. Hues range from bright to golden yellow, olive to deep green, even purple-black or green with yellow stripes.



Bamboos either grow in clumps or produce 'runners' so care must be taken when choosing plants. Phyllostachys and Fargesia types are generally clump forming although the odd stem may pop up here and there, a metre or two away from the parent plant. Sasa and Sasalla varieties 'run' so are best planted in containers unless space is not an issue. In such cases, they can be planted to create low-growing hedges or used in land stabilization projects.

Bamboos are not fussy about soil type although they will perform better if planted in fairly fertile, moist soil (they respond well to an organic food such as fish, blood and bone). Once established, bamboos are fairly resilient to dry conditions. Site the plants in a sheltered position if possible, almost mimicking their natural habitat of sheltered valleys. Exposed sites are not ideal for bamboos although they will survive but look rather unkempt.



Generally speaking, bamboos are shallow-rooting plants and therefore don't pose a risk to underground drainage or other pipe work. Bamboos grow really quickly so results are evident fairly soon after planting. They are not prone to pests and diseases, are tolerant of pollution and are fully hardy.


In terms of growth habit, Phyllostachys varieties tend to be upright so make excellent screens and hedges. In the UK, they are described as clump-forming bamboos although they will run but only in warmer climes. The yellow/green-caned P. aurea can reach a height of some 6+ metres whereas black-stemmed P. nigra grows to some 5+ metres. The lovely P. bissettii is rather more tolerant of exposed positions and attains a height of around 4 to 6 metres.

If the above are too tall, try one of the Fargesia varieties. They too are suitable for hedging and screening as they are pretty dense. Fargesia murielae has thin, elegant canes in graceful arches reminiscent of a fountain. A clump-former, it grows up to 1.5m in height. Fargesia nitida is another thin-caned bamboo, with a more vertical habit. Its height is around 3m with little spread.



The low-growing Pleioblastus species form very dense mats and spread over a wide area so take care when planting. Pleioblastus variegatus is a slow-spreading, dwarf bamboo. It has beautiful green and white striped leaves. Sasa veitchii comes from Japan, won't grow much taller than 1 metre but it is a spreader. It will grow in sun or semi-shade and is useful for land stabilization. Sasaella masamuneana is another spreading dwarf bamboo that is quick to establish. It appreciates some sun and doesn't grow taller than 1m.

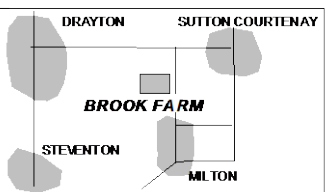
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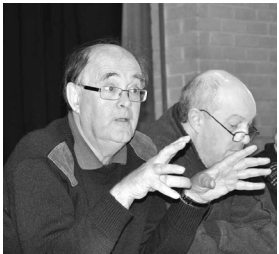
ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Richard Williams



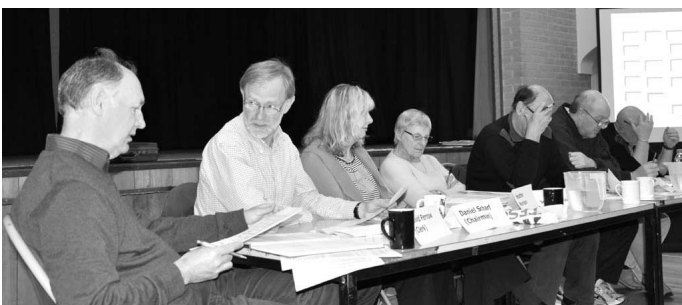
of village clubs and societies also spoke about their activities, including Gary Hibbins (pictured) for DAMASCUS.

The Drayton Housing Survey has now been delivered to all households in the village. This is to ascertain whether there is a need for affordable housing in Drayton, and if so, to put a figure on the number of such houses required. As an exercise, this is entirely separate from the Vale's Interim Housing Supply Policy (the IHSP), which seeks to make up a perceived shortfall of all types of housing across the district. However, the survey will feed into and inform the Parish Council's eventual response to the



Policy. A total of eight housing sites in Drayton have so far been put forward by local landowners for consideration under the initial 'site screening' process of the IHSP. Although it is possible that further sites might still be identified, it is likely that most serious applications will already have been received, because the IHSP requires construction to begin within a fairly tight time frame – the next 18 months or so. Readers of last month's Chronicle will be aware that if all of these sites were to go ahead, it would add in excess of 500 new houses to the village, or roughly speaking, increase the size of the village by half as much again. It can be categorically stated that this is not about to happen; nevertheless it was anticipated that at this meeting there might be a lively debate around the subject of housing, and so it proved!

The Parish Council does not believe that the building of new housing is of itself a negative. Communities cannot be preserved in aspic, and we know that there is a nationwide shortage of housing, with affordable housing being especially problematic here in the south of the country. There are potential benefits to be had from new housing, but, in the opinion of the Parish Council, only if it is accompanied by supporting improvements in the village infrastructure. ➔



Report of the Drayton Annual Parish Assembly and subsequent Parish Council meeting held on Monday 2nd April 2012. 42 members of the public attended the Annual Parish Assembly, which this year, was held in the Village Hall, Lockway. Those present heard the Parish Councillors give accounts of the work done over the past year by the various sub-committees, and a number of



➔ Thus Drayton School is already at capacity; we have serious traffic congestion problems at certain times of day; the village is woefully underprovided for in terms of recreational facilities; the Village Hall could do with substantial refurbishment; we would like more allotments; and so on. The Parish Council see it as essential that these and other issues are addressed as part of the 'sustainability' aspect of any future housing development. To this end, the PC would like to develop a Drayton Plan with the assistance of the wider village community, more of which on the front page

The next opportunity to find out more will be at the May Parish Council meeting, which is on Monday 14th May at 7.30pm in the Caudwell Centre, Gravel Lane. Needless to say, all are welcome.



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Photos from the Parish Assembly: Clockwise from below; the council and the public; the Parish Clerk and councillors; Daniel Scharf, Richard Webber, Gary Hibbins, Richard Williams and 3 Damascus Young Leaders (names on the screen) presenting.



FROM THE P.C. CHAIR

Daniel Scharf

On 2 April we held the Village AGM for the PC and other village clubs and societies to report and compare notes. Do look at the minutes on the village web site (www.drayton-near-abingdon.org) or on one of the notice boards around the village. There were encouraging reports from DAMASCUS, the village hall and football club and accounts were received from councillors/clerk responsible for our footpaths and bridleways, finances, planning responsibilities and play ground.



As PC Chair (for this and the last 7 years) I said a few words about local democracy and would like to expand here on the 'state we are in'. The more powers which central Government gives to parish councils, the less interest is shown in this lowest level of democracy. The fact that 40 people attended the village AGM made for a worthwhile meeting but this was still only about 2% of the village adult population. Given that the PC is being asked questions about housing development in the village which could have serious effects on the environment, village facilities and accommodation for people with and without existing ties to the village, I would feel much more comfortable if the PC was more representative of the people in the village. It is not good that we have only 8 councillors out of the allotted 11, inadequate resources to fulfil existing let alone new responsibilities.

I have looked at the current inadequate level of representation in a number of ways. If people think being a councillor would take too much time then it does not seem fair to rely on existing councillors, many of whom have been on the PC for over 8 years. I happily acknowledge and give personal thanks to those many people who give more time and energy to other village activities than is normal for a parish councillor. If the responsibilities given to the PC appear to be trivial and/or unnecessary, then presumably residents would be happy to live in the village without its own Council. The District Council would have to manage the burial ground and allotments but there would be no village involvement in maintaining rights of way and I wonder whether the playground might have to be abandoned and other assets sold off? I am sure that no grants would be available to village societies and there would be no 'village' input into the making of planning policy and making planning decisions. Residents might save a few pounds of council tax

I believe that what existing councillors have in common is not wanting to live in a village which is just a suburb of Abingdon. It seems to be a shame that this belief in 'localism' seems to be shared by so few residents (and the Coalition Government). The monthly meetings of the PC are arranged not only to conduct its business but also to hear from residents about what it should or could be doing.

On the subject of new housing, Central Government has made it clear that councils (referred to as 'communities' and 'neighbourhoods') who sit back and wait for things to happen will have no reason to complain if new developments are permitted by the district council or on appeal and of a kind and in locations to which they then object. The big question facing your 8 councillors is whether they feel they could or should express views to be taken to represent the position(s) of nearly 2500 other residents? We are likely to be damned if we do (with such flimsy legitimacy) and damned if we don't, as developments get allowed in the least desirable places with no community benefits.

At this quite important time for democracy in this Country I feel compelled to reflect on the role of my own parish council. My inclination as both villager and councillor is to take the low level of interest in the affairs of the PC as an expression of confidence in the existing Council (including its clerk). However, I will not stop trying to find out what it is that stands in the way of greater levels of participation.

Daniel Scharf – writing as a resident and parish councillor



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DISTRICT COUNCIL

Richard Webber

NAG

Most people will have noticed the Speedwatch signs around the village. A success of this initiative around the country had prompted the development of a children's 'Design a Poster' competition. Drayton Primary School children are being asked to design speed curbing posters. The winners will receive prizes and 16 of the winner's posters will be posted around the village.



New crime statistics have been published for the region. Crime continues to fall; detection rates are climbing and the VWHDC continues to be one of the safest places to live in the world. Perhaps most notable, is the fact that the figures keep on improving. There must be a limit to how low we can get crime, but it seems that we are not there yet!

We should congratulate the work of our local Police officers and PCSO and the efforts of our local Neighbourhood Action Group.

IHSP – Threat or opportunity?

Applications for more than 500 houses in a village with less than a thousand might seem like the greatest threat to its community life that Drayton has faced since the Great Fire. I don't like the IHSP (The Interim Housing Supply Policy) which has produced all these applications, but reluctantly I accept that something was needed if we were to prevent a longer term development free for all.

Drayton has the highest ratio of anywhere in the Vale of houses applied for to number allocated – 6/1. Elsewhere, the ratio is much closer to 1/1. What this means, in effect, is that Drayton has a unique opportunity to choose where housing should go. It is essential that as much of the village is involved in making such decisions as possible. VWHDC says so. Localism says so. I cannot remember another time where the authorities are so keen that we, local people, should have so much say in what happens.

"They'll do what they want, whatever we say" may have been so in the past, but it is not the case now – not if we can get our act together. We need people, in large numbers, to get involved. If we can agree how our village should look for the next 10, 20 and 30 years, there has never been a better opportunity to make it happen.

In the next few weeks you will hear about a Drayton Village Plan – a document which will state how we would like the village to look – where the housing will be, including affordable housing, what public transport we need, what recreational facilities, education provision, what we require of a Village Hall, Shops, Pubs and so on. It will contain ambitions for Drayton which will affect all of us. It will have been agreed democratically by referendum. I hope that many, many people will be involved. I hope that those who do not think that it is important to get involved, will understand that others will be making decisions on their behalf – like it or not. Because the alternative is to let the likes of Tony Blair, John Prescott and Eric Pickles make the decisions for us – and that is a threat!

Jubilee Celebration – Show your care! Be there!

As part of the nation's celebrations, we are holding a Jubilee Picnic with Music on the Millennium Green between 12pm and 3pm on Sunday June 3rd. Brian Thompson's Swing Band will be entertaining us and there will be some other fun and games for children and families. St Peter's PCC will be serving soft drinks. There will also be a display tent explaining more about the developing Village Plan and how to get involved. So please bring your family and friends with a picnic and a rug and pray for decent weather (or bring an umbrella).

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FROM WESTMINSTER

Ed Vaizey



I hope everyone enjoyed Easter and is looking forward to the Diamond Jubilee.

I promised to tell you each month what were the main national topics that people have written or e-mailed about. This month many were about the upcoming government consultation on same sex marriage and the proposals for increased counter-terrorism powers on the internet. Many others, from campaign websites, were on fuel duty and the environment.

I get about 550 emails every month on national topics. About a third are personally written, the rest are templates downloaded from campaign websites. Broadly speaking, a quarter come from Wantage and Grove, a quarter from Didcot, 18 per cent from Wallingford and 18% from Faringdon.

Other news: From July, there will be some changes to the opening hours of our police stations in South and Vale. Some hours will be reduced, but I have been assured (in meetings with the police chiefs for the area) that no front counters will close in the area and our police officers will remain visible and accessible. Full details of the new opening hours at the Thames Valley Police front counters are available on www.thamesvalley.police.uk, and don't forget the new non-emergency number, 101.

After the tragic death of their son, Guy Evans, my constituents Beth and Crispin campaigned to make use of their village's (Long Wittenham) redundant telephone box to create a potentially life-saving medical resource. The red box, sold to the Parish Council for just £1, now holds a defibrillator which can be used to restart a heart in an emergency. This is a really innovative way to make use of old phone boxes and is something for other parishes to consider.

I was really pleased to hear that 100% of parents in this constituency whose children applied for secondary schools got into their first preference of school. Since the national average is around 86%, I think this is very good news.

In my last newsletter, I said that the Big Lottery Fund had awarded over £25 million to the South East since January 2011. I am now also pleased to let you know that Oxfordshire Country Council will continue its Big Society Fund for another two years. Local community groups can bid for one-off grants from this new £1 million pot which will be available through to March 2014. For more information please visit <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>. I was also pleased that my mention of a local community fund in my article a couple of months ago brought forward an immediate response, and a family in Didcot were able to secure some money to buy a cooker. Another community fund which might help is run by the Asda Depot in Sutton Courtenay called Community Life. Their aim is "to provide as much support and assistance to the local community as possible" and they are offering opportunities to gain awards of up to £200 as well as access to their facilities for free. For more information, please email Emma at ekahlon@asda.co.uk or 01455884838.

As you may know I am the minister for film. I am delighted that a film made by my constituents in Kingston Bagpuize will get a premiere at the re-opening of Leicester Square on May 24th. It's called 'Tortoise in Love' (www.tortoiseinlove.co.uk). On the subject of film, film makers of all ages can submit their amateur films to 'Film the House', a competition designed to promote the wealth and variety of film in the UK. MPs have been asked to nominate the top film from their constituency and then the winners will be announced at a reception on the House of Commons Terrace in October. Categories include drama, thriller, action, comedy, music video, documentary, as well as a separate category for under 18s which can be any genre. Get your entry in by 30th June and be in with a chance of winning a special reception and

screening of your film at the Houses of Parliament. For more information on how to apply, visit www.filmthehouse.com.

Finally, I would like to wish a very happy 10th anniversary to Diamond, the UK's national synchrotron science facility. In celebration, the flagship science institute based locally at Harwell are asking the Oxfordshire community 'What were you doing on the 27th March 2002?' – the day the company was founded. Perhaps you were born on this day, got married, or have a specific memory of that time of your life. Or maybe you are celebrating your own Diamond Anniversary this year. If so, e-mail diamond.communications@diamond.ac.uk or call 01235 778639 and you will be invited to one of the Inside Diamond public open days in June.

As ever please feel free to contact me at the House of Commons, SW1A 0AA, tel. 020 7219 6350 or vaizeye@parliament.uk. Surgery details can be found at www.vaizey.com.

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DRAYTON DIARY

FOR MAY

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(To book Drayton Hall call Ann Webb on 531418)

Regular Events are listed opposite

Mon	14	9.15 am	Chronicle Lottery deadline	Vickery's
		5.00 pm	Chronicle copy deadline	Vickery's box
		7.30 pm	Parish Council	Caudwell Day Centre
Sun	20	all day	Bowls Club	

W.I. Table Top Sale

Drayton Village Hall

Saturday 23 June 10.00am to 12 noon

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Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

MONDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	School Ground Bldg
10.30 am	Pilates	
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
5.45 pm	Beavers (Boys / girls, 6-8 yrs, Tel. 512834)	Steventon Hall
6.30 pm	Youth Zone (except Bank Holidays)	
6.30 pm	Novice Table Tennis Coaching	School
7.00 pm	Scouts (Boys/girls, 8-10 yrs, Tel. 512834)	Steventon Hall
7.15 pm	Drayton Wives Whist (3rd Monday)	Caudwell DC
7.30 pm	Junior and Adult Table Tennis	School
7.30 pm	Parish Council (1st Monday)	Caudwell DC
7.45 pm	Drayton Drop In (except Bank Holidays)	
7.45 pm	Bell-ringing	St Peter's
8.00 pm	Senior and Social Table Tennis	School
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
5.45 pm	Zumba Class	
6.00 pm	Ladies' Netball (for 1 hour)	School
7.00 pm	Pilates Class – also at 8.00 pm	
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 15 min)	Haywards Rd
11.20 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	The Cross
11.45 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 15 min)	Lyford Close
12.00 am	OWLS Group	
2.00 pm	Whist – now each week	Caudwell Day Centre
2.00 pm	Drayton Wives (last Wednesday)	
2.15 pm	Badminton	
6.15 pm	Brownies	
6.15 pm	Cubs (Boys / girls, 8-9 yrs, Tel. 512834)	Steventon Hall
7.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
7.30 pm	League Table Tennis	School
7.30 pm	Bingo Session	Caudwell Day Centre

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)	Caudwell Day Centre
9.30 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's Lady Chapel
9.30 am	Parent & Toddler Group (in Term)	
11.00 am	Weight Watchers (until 11.30am)	
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
7.30 pm	League Table Tennis	School
7.30 pm	W.I. (2nd Thursday)	Caudwell Day Centre
7.30 pm	Sequence Dancing. Tel: 531701	

FRIDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	School Ground Bldg
11.00 am	Friday Club (fortnightly) 202466	Caudwell Day Centre
10.30 am	Creation Station	

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	Baptist Church
6.00 pm	Evening Worship	Baptist Church
7.30 pm	Zumba Class	

www.drayton-near-abingdon.org:

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

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