PUBLISHED under the AUSPICES of the DRAYTON COMMUNITY TRUST (Reg. No. 255846)

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Derek Pooley

Volume 35 No. 7

August 2012

BETTER PLANNING Tom Shebbeare

Drayton's Plan is underway!

Since its first edition in 1978 the Chronicle has been reporting readers' ideas for improving the quality of life in our village. Over the years the Parish Council has put forward its own plans but more often than not it has been the developers, local planners, road engineers and government inspectors who have made the decisions which count. All that is about to change!

Sometimes we have been able to plan things ourselves. The Millennium Green was our best effort so far, created by us, with funds raised by us. We needed £128,000 and somehow found it. Everyone who was interested had a say in what the Green would look like; together we appointed a designer to help us and by the end of December 1999 we had our Green. Hundreds enjoy it every week. Those who come after us will do so for centuries.

As residents of this village we all own the Green and we also have our own local charity- The Drayton Community Trust which pioneers these initiatives. This same Trust also publishes the Chronicle; you are reading it right now!

Now the Trust has been asked by the Parish Council to help us all develop a Neighbourhood Plan. It's a challenge much like The

Green but considerably bigger and more complicated. To be successful it must involve many hundreds of us; residents and businesses.

It may take up to two years to cover all the which issues link together to make up Drayton; our school, housing, woods and trees, the allotments, transport and sporting facilities, the

creation of a 'centre' to our village and its 'look & feel'.



Vesna & Barrie Brock ponder possible changes to Drayton

Joining in could hardly be easier:

- 1. Come to our Launch Party on Friday September 7 at 7pm at the Village Hall. It will be fun and *very* informal. *Free* Curry Supper and Bar. 200 Tickets are available now on a first come first served basis, from Laurence Vickery (a member of the Drayton 2020 team) at Vickery & Son.
- 2. Reserve one hour on September 8 to join a guided walk through the village and report back on The Good, The Bad and The Ugly of what you see.
- 3. Keep in touch at **draytontwentytwenty@gmail.com**. Over one hundred have already registered; we are hoping for 400 more.

BETTER DRIVING Bridget Haffenden

Roadside temporary posters made from children's designs will be displayed on lamp posts/telegraph poles in and entry points to the villages of Appleford, Drayton and Sutton Courtenay as part of an anti-speeding campaign launched by the Neighbourhood Action Group of these villages.

Children from the village primary schools, including Drayton Community Primary School, were invited to design anti-speeding pictures for the campaign. The police neighbourhood team and Fire and Rescue Services spoke at the assemblies of both schools to introduce the idea to the children.

Rebecca Norkett and Ashley Massey won first prizes in the poster competition, in Drayton and Sutton Courtenay Schools respectively. Their pictures have been used to create the roadside temporary posters that are to be displayed in the villages.

PCSO Sandra Syphas and NAG5 member Bridget Haffenden have coordinated the project. Drayton Parish Council and Sutton Courtenay (National Power) Trust and South and Vale Community Safety Partnership have funded it.

Rita Atkinson, chairman of NAG5 said, 'Messages given by children act as powerful deterrents to motorists, particularly as



surveys have shown that motorists living in the villages form the largest group caught speeding through the villages.'

Mandy Rigault - Road Safety Team Leader from OCC's Fire and Rescue Services - said, 'This is a great example of partnership and collaborative

working – and what fantastic designs from the young people.'

Drayton's Rebecca Norkett shows off her poster, under the watchful eye of the Fire & Rescue Service. Picture by Don Osborne.

Editor's Note: Make sure you look at the 4-page pull out in this Chronicle, with its map of the village and questions and suggestions for items in the Drayton Plan. Help make Drayton 2020 an effective project and the village a better place for our children and grandchildren!



CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The next Chronicle will be the September issue:

Editor: **Tony Holmes, 53 Whitehorns Way (531180).** Distributor: **Brenda Malin, 2 Halls Close (524429),** Deadline for advertisements: **17.00 on Friday, 10 August 2012** Deadline for other contributions: **17.00 on Monday, 13 Aug 2012** Printed copies available: **Friday, 24 August 2012**

| Kev | dates | for | the | subsequent | three | Chronicles: |
|------|-------|-----|-----|------------|-------|--------------------|
| incy | unico | 101 | unc | subsequent | unice | chi onicies. |

| Issue for | Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday: | Printed Chronicles available on: |
|-----------|---|-------------------------------------|
| October | 17 September 2012 | 28 September 2012 |
| November | 15 October 2012 | 26 October 2012 |
| December | 19 November 2012 | 30 November 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)

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|---|-------|---------|------------|--------|
| Advertiser Category: | 1 | 3 | 6 | 12 |
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| 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 JULY LOTTERY

| Prize | Ticket | Winner Agent | | |
|-------|--------|---------------------------------|------------------|--|
| £25 | 1368 | Judy Dunster, 30 Binning Close | Cathy Norris | |
| £20 | 1245 | Mrs Sharp, 25 Steventon Road | Jackie Walker | |
| £15 | 866 | M Cook, 58 High Street | Margaret Long | |
| £10 | 618 | Elsie Weaver, 10 Eastway | Jennie Stevens | |
| £10 | 624 | John Stevens, 44 Abingdon Road | Jennie Stevens | |
| £10 | 1591 | Mr and Mrs Parker, 7 Lockway | Christine Sadler | |
| £10 | 1938 | Mr McFarlane, 1 Lyford Close | Pauline Roberts | |
| £10 | 1677 | Tony Holmes, 53 Whitehorns Wy | Mirja Boyd | |
| £10 | 99 | D Macpherson, 103 Abingdon Rd | Carol Arnold | |
| £10 | 512 | Mrs Stanbridge, 29 Sutton Wk Ln | Keith Clough | |

We no longer use counterfoils. Instead, winning numbers from the 1793 tickets sold last month were generated randomly using a computer, as for national premium bonds and in the national lottery

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YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor

I would like to express, through the Chronicle, my sincere thanks to our many friends for their kindness in so many ways during Frank's illness. I am sure their support and kindness helped Frank to keep so cheerful throughout this time. We managed at home until the last month when he went into Sobell house and they were wonderful. He died peacefully.

'He gained no title and he lost no friend'. Sincerely,

Margaret (Armstrong) and Susan

Dear Editor

I would like to thank friends and neighbours for their cards and messages of sympathy at the loss of my beloved son Ian. This also comes from his wife and sons, who still live in Wales where they all moved to 12 years ago. It was a great comfort that so many people in the village were thinking of us.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Cox

Dear Editor

May we, through the Chronicle, thank friends, relatives and neighbours for their kind messages of sympathy, cards and donations to the British Liver Trust during the recent sad loss of a wonderful husband and father, John.

Also, many thanks to Jack Jarvis for a lovely service.

Yours sincerely,

Gladys, Dawn and Pam Haines.

Dear Editor

I'd like to say a big thank you for the many cards, flowers, meals and cakes received following the heart attack I suffered on 23 April. I was taken very quickly to the John Radcliffe, where I received wonderful treatment the seven days I was there. Now, with medication, I'm back to my old (no! young) self.

Thank you for the kindness shown to Nick and me.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Carter Ð

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⇔

Dear Editor,

May I, on behalf of the PACE centre, thank all the people who bought quizzes and donated. I collected £350 for PACE and the paper shop, the Red Lion and the Post Office in their boxes brought the total to £433! If anyone wants this quiz (due in on 31 August) or the next one, phone me on 531651 or collect from me at 20 Stevenson Road.

Thank you so much; Drayton people make so much difference to special children's lives.

Sincerely,

Judy Henman

Dear Editor,

I write to you after reading the July 2012 edition of the Drayton Chronicle and would like to comment on the remarks in both the District Council Report and the letters to the Editor about dog mess/doggy doos around the village and in particular on the Millennium Green.

I regularly walk my dogs throughout the village on a daily basis and I too have noticed an increase in the amount of mess left by dog owners over the past few months and I'm not sure why. This is not only on the Millennium Green but on footpaths, roads and also my front garden and entrance to car park almost by my front door which I had to clear up myself. I have now put up stickers, freely provided by the local Council environmental department which do seem to have helped.

I always pick up after my dogs but object to having to do it for other owners who are just too lazy to bother. It can also get the wrong people in trouble for it's often assumed if you own a dog and it's near you it must be yours! It is also a good way of monitoring your pet's health.

One thing I would say though is the length of the grass on the Millennium Green at the moment does not aid finding and picking up very easily. I don't recall it being cut this year, except for the small patches in readiness for the postponed Jubilee Picnic.

Further to this, a similar issue which seems to be unregulated by any laws and rarely if ever mentioned are the large piles of horse poo often found in the middle of footpaths and roads. Surely an animal as large as a horse could carry a small sack and shovel for the rider to pick up after it? On the road especially; as a motorcyclist I know how dangerous, not to mention messy it can be! All responsible pet owners should pick up after themselves, end of!

Yours sincerely,

Thom Wilson



August 2012 – page 3

ST PETER'S CHURCH

| Priest in Charge | Rev'd Rebecca Peters | 531374 |
|------------------|----------------------|--------|
| Curate | Rev'd Rosie Bruce | |
| Churchwardens | Mrs Val Cross | 535183 |
| | Mr Colin Arnold | 531923 |
| Organist | Vacancy | |

REGULAR SERVICES

| Sunday | 8.00 am | Holy Communion (Common Worship - | | |
|--------|----------|--|--|--|
| | | Traditional) | | |
| | 10.00 am | Sung Eucharist (CW), except 3rd Sunday | | |
| | | when there is a non-Eucharistic Praise Service | | |
| 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 |

CHURCH REGISTER

Funerals:

| 2nd | July | Dominic Albert Hickey |
|------|------|------------------------|
| 4th | July | John Haines |
| 16th | July | William Frank Caudwell |

YOU STAY - WE PRAY: AUGUST

29th July to 11th August: Lockway, Whitehorns Way. 12th to 18th: Corneville Road, Crabtree Lane, Lesparre Close. 19th to 25th: Drayton Road, Milton Road, New Cut Mill, Fisher Close, Marcham Road, Meads Close, Rippington Court, Stone Hill. 26th to 1st September: Steventon Road, Eastway, Eastway MHP

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LETTER FROM REV. REBECCA PETERS

Dear Friends,

The afternoon of Sunday 8th July was the beginning of Messy Church. We have over 10 different, short craft/building activities, all of which were very very messy and lots of fun. Over fifteen children, their parents and grandparents and over fifteen helpers all joined together in making things and helping to tell the story of the wise man building his house upon the rock.



Some people have asked why the name Messy Church? Partly because someone else started it and suggested that name, but also because no matter how we are, naughty or nice, and no matter where we are in life, sorted out or all messed up, God is there for us and loves us no matter what.

God delights in us and we are called to delight and enjoy him. There is a verse, Psalm 37:4, 'Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.' Delighting in God is such an enjoyable activity, it's really its own reward. A person is NEVER more fulfilled than when he or she delights himself/herself in the Lord. And I think that's the point. God releases the grace, ability, and resources to those who delight in him because he can trust them.

I pray that, as the summer season approaches, you will really know a sense of God's joy and that you will learn again to delight in him as you spend time enjoying his creation by relaxing and resting with family and friends.

God Bless,

Rebecca

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NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

We say farewell to the Nicholson family, from Abingdon Road, who are moving back to Liverpool; also to Nikki and David Parker and family who have moved from Lockway into Abingdon. We wish them all well in their new jobs and/or new homes.

News of members of the Chronicle Team:

We learned with great sadness of the death of Andrew Walker, son of Jackie and Robert Walker of Steventon Road, who are Chronicle agents. Andrew had been fighting cancer with great courage and determination for many months. Nothing we can say is truly adequate in these tragic circumstances but the team send Robert and Jackie our sincere condolences and our sympathy.

We also send our condolences and sympathy to Margaret Armstrong, for many years one of our distributors, on the loss of her husband Frank. Those of us who were privileged to know Frank will miss his cheerful and friendly presence in the village.

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CHRONICLE NEWS Gareth Davies

The Chronicle team would like to thank (rather belatedly) Linda Farmer for taking on the delivery to Drayton Mill & Pauline Roberts for taking on Lyford Close. Also many thanks to Darren MacDonald & Margaret Armstrong, who have decided to step down, for all their efforts as delivery agents. Margaret has been involved with the Chronicle from the early days & was a distributor for many years.

As a result, we are now looking for new agents to take on the following areas; High Street West/Conifer Drive & Abingdon Road North East/Mead Close. There are also other vacant rounds which are Whitehorns Way (40 - 80) & Marcham Road/Hilliat Fields (1 -16). If anyone is interested in finding out more about what is involved, please contact me on 529510.

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YOUTH ZONE

Naomi Broomfield

A big thank you, goodbye and good luck to James who has been a valued volunteer at Youth zone over the last year; he is moving out of the area. James' going has left a big hole in our adult volunteers, those willing and able to come along to support the group and we are therefore DESPERATE for some willing people to come forward. Please consider if you could spare a couple of hours once or twice a month - contact me on 532248 for more details. If we don't have some new people to assist then we will either have to drop to one session a month or close altogether. Each week we currently have two or three youth leaders from Damascus attending, which the young people attending the group gain from immensely, so a huge thank you to them and Damascus for this support.

Sessions currently run every fortnight from 6.00pm till 7.30 at Drayton Village Hall and the next session after the summer break will be 17th September. The group is open to all school children in years 6 to 10. The charge is currently £1 per week, which pays for the hire of the hall and activities.

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PLANNING

Dogerrelle

You've surely heard of 'localism', The brainchild of the Coalition, A chance to make each neighbourhood Community both strong and good. Drayton now could form its plan To make this place the best we can. On your wish list what would be The things you'd really like to see?

Need for houses, where and what? Have we enough with those we've got? What about a smarter hall, More fields on which to play football? Would a park the youngsters like In which to skate and ride their bike, Have basket ball and climbing frames, Adventure space to play their games?

Is more allotment ground a need For gardeners to plant their seed? What business opportunity is there For those with acumen and flair? Does speeding traffic you annoy, Should calming measures we employ? And what about a swimming pool, Now *that* I think would be quite cool!

All plans become pie in the sky If they're ignored and you and I Sit back and do not take a part In giving Drayton its new heart. There's chance to find out more for all, The launch is in the village hall, So do take note & please remember The dates are 7th and 8th September.

Below: Vesna Brock (again) with Jean and Geoff Caudle, Susan Ash and Mirja Boyd scrutinise the map (see the following 2 pages) which is the starting point for thinking about the Drayton neighbourhood plan.

JOIN THE PLANNERS

The Parish Council

For the past sixty years people who don't live or work here in Drayton have planned our Village. Yes - the Parish Council has been consulted but in the end it has been the developers, local planners and government inspectors who've decided which houses, estates, roads, roundabouts, street lights, open spaces and sports facilities (or lack of them) we have. But government has now decided that, in future, local communities - and specifically parish councils - should be able to plan their own neighbourhoods.

Our time has come at last!

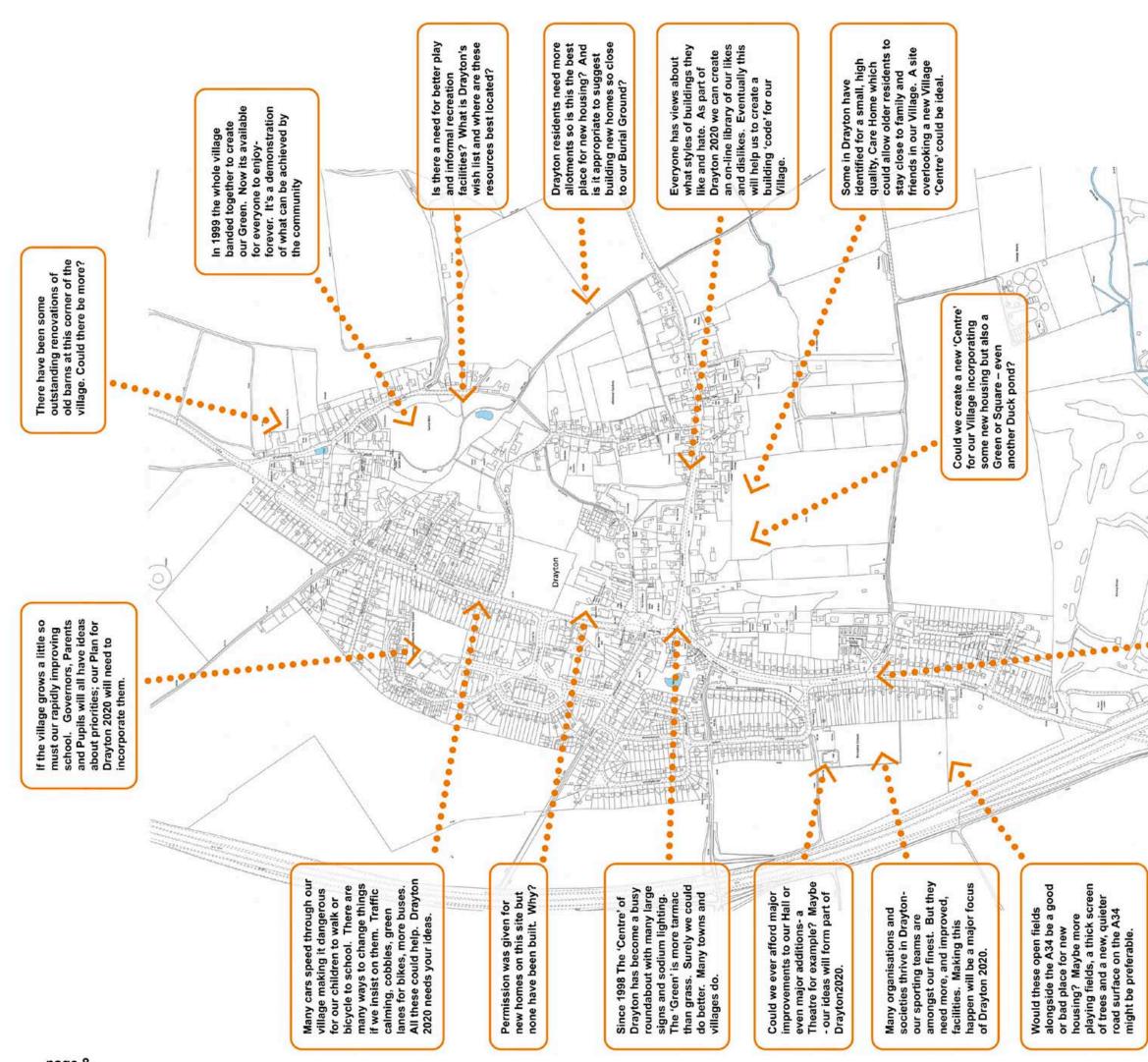
Local landowners have suggested sites sufficient for 542 new homes, though Drayton's 'quota' was always likely to be only about 68. These plans are now on hold and instead we have the opportunity to create our own Village Plan. We can now have real influence on what is built and where, but to exert that influence we need as many people as possible to help produce a plan of how Drayton could and should develop. We may even decide to hold a formal referendum to demonstrate public support for the plan we agree.

Of course this is easily said, but not so easily done. Drayton certainly needs more affordable housing, but it also needs to balance this with new and improved community facilities. And if the village grows a little so must our School. And many will argue for more allotments, more football pitches and a new or improved Village Hall. One priority might be to generate more jobs and businesses in the village, to make Drayton more genuinely sustainable. Once you get thinking about it there are lots of things to improve. Everyone will have ideas.

Your ideas are where we start and to get them we need to keep in touch with you. So please:

- 1. Register your interest in the project to make a village plan, Drayton 2020 we're calling it. Just email us at draytontwentytwenty@gmail.com and give us your details.
- 2. Come along to the launch of the project, on September 7 at 7pm. There will be a free curry supper for the first 200 people who get tickets from Lawrence Vickery's shop.
- 3. Reserve one hour on September 8 to join a guided walk through the village and report back on the good, the bad and the ugly of what you see.





It has been suggested that re-opening the A34 slip road might divert fast traffic from the Village

We have some wonderful old oaks which bring great character to the Village. With very little money but a lot of imagination we could transform the look and feel of the village for future generations. Tree planting would be a start. Some villages have even transformed their roundabouts into wild gardens. In Yorkshire "incredible, edible, Todmorden" has turned everything in to a feast.

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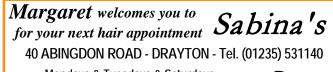
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ALL AROUND

DRAYTON WIVES

Gwen Price

At our June meeting we welcomed the Rev'd Rebecca Peters. It was a lovely social occasion at which Rebecca told us about her interesting academic life. She was at Oxford at two different times, once to read Physics and then to read Theology. She taught physics at Radley College for a while, which she enjoyed very much. She then trained for the ministry, first having a curacy and then coming to St. Peters as Priest in charge. She and her husband and lively toddler, Ruth, enjoy living in Drayton. After her talk Rebecca circulated and got to know people whom she had not already met. The meeting finished with tea and cakes (as reported by Beryl Dawson).

A group of Drayton Wives had a very interesting tour of behind the scenes at The New Theatre, starting right underneath and then climbing many steps to the top of the theatre.

Dates for August:

Friday 10th: Walk around Ardington

Wed 29th: Bring and Share lunch (details in your programme)



W.I.

Brenda Malin

Our July meeting, exercises for all capabilities, both sitting and standing, was very successful and enjoyable. Everyone left feeling invigorated and intending to continue exercising.

On Friday 20th July we are off to the Lavender fields near Chipping Camden, let's hope that the rain will also take the day off! Our August meeting is a boat trip to Oxford. Please keep your fingers crossed for a fine day.

We will be back at the Caudwell Day Centre in September; all are welcome to join our friendly group. We meet at 7.30 on the second Thursday of each month with a varied program throughout the year.



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Jerry Draper-Rodi is a registered osteopath working in Abingdon and in Didcot. He also teaches at the British School of Osteopathy, London.

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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 **07** August and **04 September**. If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.



MORE ALL AROUND

SCHOOL BUS Jacquie Cook & Karen Sharman

It is with the greatest pleasure that we can announce that WE HAVE WON! Our Appeal has been upheld!

Free school transport is once more restored to Drayton. Justice has been done, and an insane ruling overturned.

We thank the Oxfordshire County Council Appeal Panel for being open minded, and applaud their resolve to ensure this matter was dealt with fairly.

We thank all parents, villagers, friends, families, Drayton Parish Council, Cllrs Badcock, Ed Vaizey MP, Nicky Morgan MP, The Campaign for Better Transport, Sustrans and the Schools, who have supported us, and voiced their concerns. Affected parents got involved, we held meetings to prepare for the Appeal, to consider particular issues, raise points and discuss strategies. This was ultimately written up and put in the Village Appeal File, which grew to an unprecedented size! A special mention for Adrian Strong whose relentless emails to Oxfordshire County Council and research skills were invaluable and to Steve West and Simon Hedditch for sharing their knowledge of risk assessments – which helped to get an insight into the oversight!!

This truly is democracy in action, and may this be remembered that it is worth rising to the challenge and speaking up when you disagree with a political decision on any level.

This has been a great message for the kids and to us all, it is always worth trying! We are thrilled to have won; the right decision has been made.

With all good wishes

Ps: it would be worth reporting any incidents that you might see on the route to Drayton Parish Council. It would be a good idea to have such things on file should this ever happen again.

GARD

Nick Thompson

Everyone affected will want to know when there will be some firm news on the Abingdon reservoir proposal! All GARD can do at this stage is report progress to you on the various studies commissioned by Thames Water, and monitor and criticize the outcomes with the help of our experts, and pass on details.



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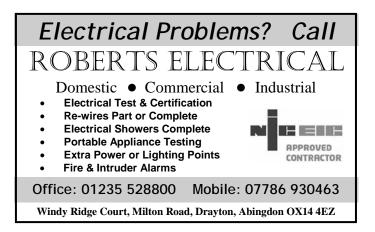
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⇒ Independent analysis and studies of the flow in the Thames, and the effect of low flows on the ecology, especially fish, are nearing completion. The outcome will give the Environment Agency the information needed to determine whether a reduction of permitted abstraction (sustainability reductions – SRs) are essential to improve water quality to meet standards set out in the EU Water Framework Directive. We should have a clear idea on this by the end of August this year. If the figure for SRs is large then the Abingdon reservoir is likely to be a proposed solution, but one of several options; if it is small there are schemes and combinations of ways of making up the shortfall in supply more cheaply, quickly and easily.

GARD's consultants have been monitoring progress on the studies which Thames Water was required to commission following the Public Inquiry. We are included in both the main stakeholder updates and the technical group meetings (about one a month), and interestingly our experts have been the only people present sufficiently knowledgeable to be able to contribute and challenge the Company constructively. The work on the river Severn Environmental Assessment and Severn-Thames transfer options has been disappointingly slow, and we feel that Thames Water has tended to find difficulties rather than seeking the best solution. News on the treatment of effluent is encouraging and the upgraded treatment works at Deephams seems to be producing a good output to add to supply.

It will be a couple of months before I can report anything really positive, but be assured we are being consulted by the Company and demanding really independent and constructive analysis of all the options.

WESTMINSTER LETTER

Ed Vaizey



I'll start by letting you know the main issues and campaigns about which people have been writing to me. Many are calling for a tough and extensive independent inquiry into the LIBOR scandal and I'm still getting letters about the consultation on redefining marriage – from both sides. I had quite a few emails about changes to the Budget (mainly fuel duty). Understandably many were concerned about the rises in

petrol costs that this would cause - so I was delighted to hear that the Chancellor was able to defer the planned increase in fuel duty, which would have increased prices by 3p per litre this August.

However, the largest number of emails in the last month have been about reforming the House of Lords. I have seen opinions on both sides of the argument. Some people have highlighted their concerns about the current structure of the House of Lords, while others insist that more elections would be expensive and time consuming, without serving much purpose. I remain strongly supportive of reform – I think our legislators should be elected.

On constituency news, I'm very happy that the number of unemployed claimants in this constituency in May 2012 was 32 lower than April, and now stands at 1120, 2.1% of the economically active population. That's lower than 606 of the UK's 650 parliamentary constituencies! It appears that in this constituency we're physically active too. The Sport England adult participation figures are out and Oxfordshire topped the table with the highest rate in the country. 27.2% of Oxfordshire adults, nearly 143,000 people, take part in sport and active recreation for at least 30 minutes on 3 or more days a week. This means that 13,000 more people are doing more sport and active recreation than this time last year. This is a fantastic achievement and I hope we can continue to build on these impressive figures so that Oxfordshire can remain the most active county in the future.

Over the past few weeks I have been supporting a campaign run by The Reading Agency to encourage all primary school children to join their local library and take part in this year's Summer Reading Challenge - http://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk - the UK's biggest reading promotion for primary school children. Children will be challenged to read six books over the summer holidays and this will undoubtedly increase the likelihood that they will read for pleasure in the future. ➡





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⇒ Next, I'd like to make 16-24 year olds aware of the 'Inspired Impressions' challenge being run by 'Bite the Ballot', a national group started by young people to get more under 25s interested in political issues and democracy. The challenge is an artistic competition - enter any artwork around the theme of 'Britain in 2012'. They want to know what inspires you about the great things going on in Britain and in what way you would display it to others. If you want to enter all you need to do is upload a photo of your artwork via www.bitetheballot.co.uk. Winners will be chosen by votes from Facebook, Twitter and guest judges with some great prizes for the winners – and the top 42 works will be put on display in Parliament.

Lastly, I want to make people aware of the sorts of groups and proposals that are awarded money by the BIG lottery fund. Community organisations, schools, parish or town councils and health related bodies can apply for between £300 and £10,000 to help fund a specific project or activity.

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

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Richard Webber



If there is one thing that gets everyone involved in politics, it is Housing. The country needs more houses and many of them need to be 'affordable'. Most of us accept this. What divides us is where the housing should go. Not in my back yard (NIMBYism) is our starting position. Up until now, this dilemma has been resolved by giving the power of decision to local District Councils. The Councils employed large Planning departments

full of experts in Transport, Education, Housing, Employment etc etc to assist them in making the decisions. At least under this system, local people could blame their 'councils' for 'dumping' housing on them. People watched their local villages and towns change as a result of decisions made by distant experts often living miles away. The system generated endless anxiety and frustration. Most local elections were decided on the level of anger felt.

For the first time ever, under the new Localism Act, things might change. For them to change, two things must happen:

- First, those planning departments and their experts who have always had all the power to decide must be prepared to give up some of their power. This is not certain to happen unless local communities and central government insist on it.
- Secondly, and more importantly, local people have to understand their new powers and be prepared to take them.

This is why the Drayton Neighbourhood Plan is something that should involve us all. For the first time ever, we all have a chance to decide what should happen in Drayton over the next decades. So far more than a hundred people have signed up to be involved. Drayton has more than two thousand people over the age of 8, so there is some way to go. We can no longer take the comfortable position of 'I'm too busy' and 'It'll never make any difference' or 'I'd rather blame the council than be responsible myself'. We need everyone to get involved to give the final Plan as much planning 'clout' as possible. Please make sure you get your ticket for the launch evening on Friday September 7th at the Village Hall. (Available from Vickery's and Mace's).

In my seven years as your District Councillor, there has never been a better opportunity for this village.

We simply must seize it!

Richard Webber

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Editor's Note: Some readers may notice that this issue of the Chronicle does not contain some of our regular features, e.g. the diary page and the list of 'regularly occurring events'. This is because the constraints on the editor in printing the 'Drayton 2020' map across the centre pages are much tighter than we normally face. The regular features should reappear next month; meanwhile older issues of the Chronicle can always be accessed at www.drayton-near-abingdon.org.

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PARISH COUNCIL Richard Williams

Report of the meeting held on Monday 2nd July 2012.



7 members of the public and County Councillors Mike and Marilyn Badcock attended the meeting in addition to the Parish Councillors.

One resident of Abingdon Road, near the northern exit from the village, complained that cars were speeding up before they left the 30mph zone, as they approached the 50mph zone. She emphasised that horse riders, including learners, use this stretch of the road and that horses are easily frightened by

accelerating cars. She suggested that a 'Slow – Horses' sign might be useful. The Chairman commented that a mini-roundabout where Sutton Wick Lane joins the Abingdon Road or some other traffic calming measure might also be appropriate. He suggested that this type of issue should be included in the proposed Neighbourhood Plan. In the meantime, the police might be asked to set up a mobile speed trap to catch offenders.

Karen Sharman and Jacqui Cook informed the Parish Council that the parents' appeal to Oxfordshire County Council against charging for school transport to John Mason School in Abingdon has been upheld. The walking route has been reconsidered, and the OCC panel now agree that it is unsafe, as the parents had stated from the very beginning. There are still some issues to be sorted out: refunds to parents who have already paid for transport and the matter of adequate capacity on the school bus to accommodate all those children entitled to free transport. The letter to parents was unclear on these matters, and our County Councillors have agreed to take up these two points with OCC. The Parish Council has also written again to OCC seeking clarification.

Speedwatch and the Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG 5) recently held a competition at local schools to produce a road safety poster. 26 entries were received and a judging team comprised of members of the Police, the County Road Safety Team and NAG selected 3 winning entries from Drayton School and 3 from Sutton Courtenay School. The Drayton winners were: 3rd – Georgia Kogel; 2nd – Grace Payne; and 1st – Rebecca Norkett. Two of the designs – the winners from Drayton and Sutton Courtenay, have been made into posters by the firm 'Creative Spirit' of Kettering and 15 of each have been produced. These will be used in both villages (see page 1). A short presentation took place in Drayton on Thurs 5th July at 2pm, attended by a fire crew from Abingdon Fire Station as representatives of Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service, which has been involved in many initiatives aimed at improving road safety.

Arrangements for the Jubilee Picnic, postponed from last month to the new date of 8th July, were discussed with some misgivings about the continuing dreadful weather which again threatened to sabotage the event. However, on the Sunday in question, the rain miraculously cleared up, blue sky was glimpsed for the first time in weeks and by the afternoon, the Millennium Green was basking in unexpected, but very welcome, warm sunshine.



Naturally, there were a couple of short, sharp showers to ⇔ keep everyone on their toes, but the rain didn't last, or detract from enjoyment of the occasion (see photographs on page 16). A good time was had by all who came along, to the backdrop of some truly excellent entertainment provided by the music of Boulevard Swing. The Drayton 2020 tent (the display relating to our Neighbourhood Plan) attracted a good deal of interest, and a large number of people signed up to our emailing list to receive further information. Anyone else who would like to be added to the list is invited to contact draytontwentytwenty@gmail.com Another reminder that the official launch of the Plan will be at the Village Hall on the evening of Friday September 7th - with other activities planned for the rest of that weekend - please make a note in your diaries!

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 6th August, at 7.30pm in the Caudwell Centre, Gravel Lane. As always, all are welcome.

All Parish Council enquiries should be directed to the Parish Clerk, David Perrow.

David may be contacted at **draytonclerk@yahoo.co.uk** or by telephone on 07909 176061. Any Drayton resident may also ask to be added to the Clerk's emailing list, so that they receive prior notice of meetings and any relevant documents.

All Parish Council minutes are now archived on the village website: **www.drayton-near-abingdon.org**. This also has back copies of the Chronicle and details of other events in the village.



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THE DRAYTON JUBILEE PICNIC; SECOND TRY!



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