DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Dave Lee Volume 35 No. 9 October 2012

Drayton2020 LAUNCHED

Andrew Bax

Friday 7th September was warm and sunny, a perfect day to go to the seaside or have a barbecue in the garden. Instead, over 200 Drayton residents crammed into the Hall for the launch of this very important project. Drayton 2020 is important because it is working towards a Neighbourhood Development Plan which, if successful, will mean that it is us, the residents of Drayton, rather than property developers or council planners, who will determine the future of our village.

Drayton's Past and Future

There was great interest in the display of large-scale maps showing how Drayton had changed in the last 150 years – and not always for the better; another series of plans showing contemporary Drayton was presented so that people could stick post-it comments of what they liked and did not like about the village, and how Drayton could be improved.

Daniel Scharf, Chairman of the Parish Council introduced the event, followed by Richard Webber, a member of the Drayton 2020 Steering Group and our District Councillor. Then Tom Shebbeare, another member of the Steering Group and Trustee of Drayton Community Trust reminded us how drive and initiative enabled us to raise over £100,000 for the Millennium Green. This shows that we have the necessary determination to create a credible Neighbourhood Development Plan which everyone with designs on our village would have to respect.

Government Support

The keynote speech of the evening came from David Buckle, Chief Executive of the Vale of White Horse District Council. He congratulated Drayton 2020 on the progress it had made so far and urged as many people as possible to demonstrate their support, if sending their email only draytontwentytwenty@gmail.com, or to become more directly involved. Best of all, he announced that as a result of a new Government initiative, Drayton would be eligible for £30,000 towards the costs we will incur before the Neighbourhood Development Plan is complete. Anton Nath, of Oxfordshire Rural Community Council and an expert on Neighbourhood Development Plans, took over the Hall's smaller room for a stimulating presentation on the process, which attracted a full house.

Drayton Spice

And then there was the curry. This was delicious, prepared and served by a team of volunteers led by Donald Bruce. Jayne and John Henderson were kept busy running the bar, and more volunteers conducted a series of guided tours around the village on the following day. Participants recorded their thoughts on particular features they passed to identify the best and worst aspects of Drayton – and how change might bring improvements. The involvement of so many people was a clear demonstration of a community determined to protect its future.

Five Themes

There were five overlapping themes in the launch of Drayton 2020 of which, unsurprisingly, 'Housing' attracted particular interest. There is little doubt that Drayton, like most villages in the Vale, will have to take its share of expansion. A lot of very constructive views were expressed about where any new housing should go, how many houses we could accommodate, and what kind of houses we need. Another theme was 'Work and Play' which concerned local employment and the need for more leisure and sports facilities; perhaps even a new village hall. A 'Transport' theme invited comment on Drayton's traffic, bus service and parking etc. 'Look and Feel' made people think about the appearance of our village and how it could be improved, and other environmental issues. Finally 'Sustainability' considered those facilities that make every community self-supporting – shops, pubs, schools etc.

Your Opinion is Important

The launch of Drayton 2020 is just the start of a process that could take 18 months before our Neighbourhood Development Plan is ratified. Already over 12 per cent of Drayton's adult population has signed up to the emailing list. If you have not done so, please email draytontwentytwenty@gmail.com to receive information about how the project is progressing. And that's not all. Get involved. Join a working group. Email draytontwentytwenty@gmail.com and tell us if you have a special interest, or what help you can offer, even if it is just delivering leaflets to your neighbours.

Don't forget, the decisions we make will not just affect the way we live now, but the kind of place we leave for our children and future generations. That is why Drayton 2020 is so important; we must not let this opportunity pass.

(More on Drayton2020 inside) Below - Daniel Scharf addresses the meeting



CHRONICLE INFORMATION

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

Editor: Derek Pooley, 11 Halls Close (559454). Distributors: Eve & Barry Sharp, (526939).

Deadline for advertisements: 17.00 on Friday, 12 October 2012 Deadline for other contributions: 17.00 on Mon., 15 October 2012

Printed copies available: Friday, 26 October 2012

Key dates for the subsequent three Chronicles:

Issue for	Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available on:	
December	19 November 2012	30 November 2012	
Jan/Feb 2013	14 January 2013	25 January 2013	
March 2013	11 February 2013	22 February 2013	

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.

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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 SEPTEMBER LOTTERY				
Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent	
£25	1037	Julie Martin, 1 The High Street	Ali Bone	
£20	504	Mr T Shebbear, 16 Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough	
£15	1141	Judy Henman, 20 Steventon Road	Judy Henman	
£10	1331	Mrs A Gurl, 61 Steventon Road	Janet Dale	
£10	4	B Moyna, 73 Abingdon Road	Jayne Henderson	
£10	1401	S Hutchinson, 23 Binning Close	Cathy Norris	
£10	1808	Mrs Clarke, 29 Whitehorns Way	Trudi Buckner	
£10	2091	John Cross, 3 Eastway Park	Teresa Burnage	
£10	2012	Jean Barton, 157 Drayton Road	Claire Soper	
£10	1594	Mr Pitts, 9 Lockway	Christine Sadler	

Winning tickets, from 1787 sold, were randomly drawn by a computer (similar to the Premium Bond Draw)

Coffee Mornings at St Peter's Church

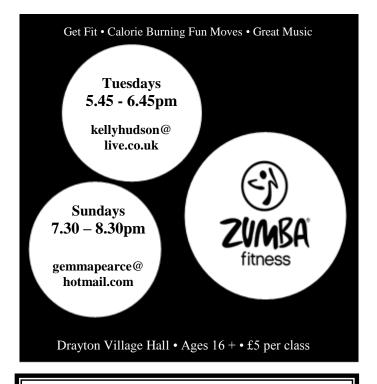
10am-12noon





Tea, coffee, cakes and chat.

A great way to start Saturday. All welcome!



Evenings: - **RUNNING**Wednesday, 7:15pm in Drayton

Tuesday, 7:15pm in Sutton Courtenay
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Drayton2020

A Saturday morning stroll Peter Clare

On a beautiful misty September morning a group of eight stalwarts set off from the Village Hall punctually at 09.30. Our task was to cover, in conjunction with other groups, part of the village and to note our thoughts against five key areas: Housing, Transport, Work and Play, Look and Feel, and Sustainability. Each individual was encouraged to record their own views on a sheet which will feed into the overall Drayton 2020 plan.

We stopped at what were regarded as critical points on our walk, which took us from the Village Hall round to Hilliat Fields via Whitehorns Way, across the Abingdon Road, along Henleys Lane and Church Lane then back to The Green. At each point issues were raised and there was sometimes a lively debate; not surprisingly views differed at times and these will come out in the collation of the sheets by Richard Webber and his team.

Without presenting all the different arguments, there were some common issues: the need to ensure that any expansion of Drayton retained its rural village character so that it did not turn into simply a dormitory village, and the importance of controlling traffic flow through the village.

Many thanks to those participating in the walk and for making it such a pleasant event.

MORE PICTURES FROM THE LAUNCH OF DRAYTON2020 ON SEPTEMBER 7th

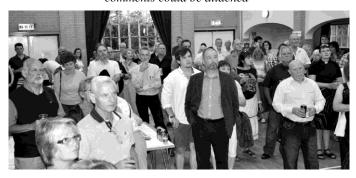




Richard Webber, then Tom Shebbeare address the meeting



A lot of interest was shown in the large scale maps to which comments could be attached



An attentive audience



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Thurs 9.30 am Holy Communion (CW) in Lady Chapel.

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

CHURCH REGISTER

Funerals

22nd August Ann Rosena Jones 17th September Peter Hasting

CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

3.00 pm First Tuesday Connections Church Room Tue 30th 3.00 pm First Tuesday Connections Church Room

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30th Sept. to 6th Oct. Sutton Wick Lane; Greenacres; Newman Lane; Conifer Drive

Hilliat Fields; Lyford Close; Manor Close; The Green 7th to 20th 21st to 27th. High Street; Chiers Drive; Cheers Farm; Hall's Close

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LETTER FROM ST PETER'S

Dear Friends,

One of the best things about being a vicar is getting to know some amazing people.

The most beautiful people are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths. These persons have an appreciation, a sensitivity, and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deep loving concern. Beautiful people do not just happen, it is through all the trials and struggles of life God changes these people more and more into the likeness of his son, Jesus. How do we respond to suffering/loss/struggles? Do we try to hold tighter control to all areas of our life? Do we get angry and fight everything that is happening to us? Do we try to rationalize and explain what is happening? Jesus is with us in all of this, however we respond to what life throws at us. Jesus is there asking us to trust in him one step at a time, little by little, moment by moment. He can bring us joy and peace, in the middle of the most desperate situations. During hard times I have been thankful for my Christian friends who have prayed with me, who have helped to direct me to Jesus and who have caught me when I have fallen. We are not called to live life alone, we are called to live life together, with God and with each other. If you are struggling with ill health or the loss of a loved one and feel that you would like to talk to someone please, phone Rebecca on 01235 531374.

This Autumn we have two services whereby we remember together loved ones who have died, 3pm Sunday November 4th All Souls Memorial service and 6pm Sunday November 11th Remembrance Day Service with the Royal British Legion.

All are welcome to come and stand together to remember.

God Bless Rebecca



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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 normally 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 2nd October, and 30th October. Please note that November's meeting has been brought forward to accommodate a visit from the Damascus Youth Group on their half-term break. We look forward with pleasure to this event. If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.

Help Abingdon-on-Thames add a



Abingdon is turning **PINK** in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month and local research charity

Against Breast Cancer
Family fun in the Market Place
on Saturday
27th October
from 10am to 4pm
Join in the fun

street entertainment, face painting, stalls, merchandise, dancers, firewalk (evening),bring your old bra's, printer cartridges, mobile phones and put them in our recycling boxes



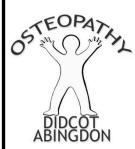
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NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

Congratulations to Thomas Deabill and Jack Harper who along with two other team mates won Operation Dragnet. The boys from Abingdon Explorer scouts - forming the youngest and most inexperienced group in the competition - won the national navigating and hiking challenge in the Lake District beating approximately 300 other scouts. The competition involves navigating fells and valleys after being dropped off at midnight in an unknown location. After 35 continuous hours, the team crossed the finish line and received their champion's trophy from mountaineer Sir Chris Bonington.

Well done both of you from your proud families.

Esther Deabill

We welcome George and Claire Pavlides to Sutton Wick Lane. They have moved from Ealing with their children Alex and Elena. We hope that they will all enjoy their time in Drayton.

Keith Clough

Congratulations to Martin and Katrina on the birth of their beautiful son Harry Ethan James Rawlings who arrived on September 1st 2012 and is the newest resident of Lockway.

Christine Sadler



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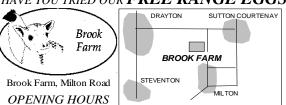
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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT Richard Williams

Report of the Drayton Parish Council meeting held on Monday 3rd September 2012.

Four members of the public attended the meeting in addition to the Parish Councillors. The preparations for the launch of the village's Neighbourhood Plan, Drayton 2020, scheduled for Friday September 7th in Drayton Hall were discussed at some length, but as the launch itself has been written up elsewhere in this issue, suffice to say here that some 200 people attended, and although the free (and delicious) curry was an obvious attraction, it is clear that a great deal of interest in Drayton 2020 has been aroused. However, it is very relevant to mention that an extraordinary meeting of the full Vale Council, called specifically to discuss local housing policy, was held in the Abingdon Guildhall on 13th September. The context for this was the lack of a current districtwide Core Strategy for housing, the demise of the Interim Housing Supply Policy (IHSP) designed to fill the gap, and recent pronouncements that make it clear that central government wishes to push ahead with house-building.

The problem is that the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published in March, requires that all local government authorities should maintain a housing supply sufficient to meet housing needs over the next 5 years. The Vale, like other authorities up and down the country, has a shortfall in this respect. The message from District Councillors which came across loud and clear is that, all the time we don't have a 5 year supply in place, the Vale (including Drayton, of course), is vulnerable to speculative housing developments. This could be a case of first come, first served, so that, even if there is concerted local opposition to a proposal, as long as the development in question complies with the NPPF, the Vale planners may not be able to refuse it planning permission.

At the present time there are no formal applications in for Drayton, but if Drayton residents want to have any say in where and what sort of housing we have to take, it is essential that we get on with our Neighbourhood Plan as soon as possible. The Drayton 2020 steering group aim to have some tangible ideas in place about housing by Christmas time, as we believe that in the New Year, developers are likely to come forward with their applications. Many readers will be aware of a proposed development of 170 homes which has already been mooted, east of the Drayton Road, on the field just south of Virginia Way. Although in South Abingdon rather than Drayton village, if this development goes ahead, it will obviously have a significant impact on traffic flows between Drayton and Abingdon.

Those who attended the launch night of Drayton 2020 will be aware that we are looking for volunteers to take part in four working groups, who will consider the following elements of the Neighbourhood Plan: Transport, Work and Play, Sustainability, and 'Look and Feel'. All four groups will also have an input into housing (where and what type etc), as it was felt that this was central to the Plan, and everyone would have an interest. We already have a number of names, but if you would like to add yours to the list, do contact us at draytontwentytwenty@gmail.com Please don't hesitate — we really do need to get working on our Plan as soon as possible.

The other main subject discussed at this meeting was the Millennium Green, and Nick Hamilton, Chairman of the Millennium Green Trust, was present to explain some of the difficulties that have arisen this year in keeping the grass mown and the green maintained. The Parish Council has received a number of complaints about the generally unkempt appearance of the green this year, and although it was acknowledged that this summer's exceptionally wet weather has not helped, it was agreed that the present arrangements for cutting are far from satisfactory. It was decided to make the Millennium Green an agenda item at

the next PC meeting in October, so that the matter could be looked into at greater length and options discussed.

Finally, the PC would like to remind readers of the advert in last month's Chronicle for a Deputy Parish Clerk. This is a part-time post (20hrs a month), with earnings of approx £2000 p.a. and we would welcome more applications. The post would suit someone hoping to learn more about the job, with a possible view to applying for a 'full' Parish Clerk post at a later date.

To contact any members of the Parish Council, all enquiries should be directed to the Parish Clerk, David Perrow, in the first instance. David may be contacted via E-mail at draytonclerk@yahoo.co.uk or by telephone on 07909 176061, and he will ensure that any messages are passed on. Any Drayton resident may also ask to be added to the Clerk's E-mailing list, so that they receive prior notice of meetings and any relevant documents. In addition, all Parish Council minutes are now archived on the village website: www.drayton-near-abingdon.org. The latter also carries back copies of the Drayton Chronicle and details of other events in the village.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 1st October, at 7.30pm in the Caudwell Centre, Gravel Lane. As always, all are welcome.

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YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor,

We attended Drayton 2020 and feel that all who contributed to the organisation of the evening should be applauded.

So much hard work had gone into the exhibition of maps and displays which were very easy to follow and well laid out, a delicious curry was also served.

The huge disappointment was to hear our locally elected Councillor telling us, the residents of this village, that we have no choice other than to accept the proposal to build an extra 500 houses in Drayton. Councillor Webber was not prepared to take any questions from the floor. One young man (the future of Drayton), was repeatedly shouted down from the platform when he tried to put his question forward.

We the residents can still appeal against any building development but no mention was made of this. Councillor Webber is totally focused in his quest to have these houses built here! How undemocratic of him! Many villagers are against further expansion. The main concerns of people are the impact of extra traffic into Abingdon and loss of our village identity. We need our local politician to represent these views!

Rosemary and Alan Barlow

(Editor's note: I was at the Drayton 2020 meeting and my interpretation of what Richard Webber said at the meeting is different to the above but Richard's position on housing in Drayton is clearly stated in his District Council Report on Page 9)

Dear Editor,

We would like to say how we enjoyed being part of Drayton village for just on two years. We would like to say a belated thankyou to all our neighbours for making us so welcome. We really were made to feel like we belonged.

We moved back to Liverpool at the beginning of the Summer Holidays but it is only now that the children have gone to school that I have time to begin on all the correspondence I was aiming to do a while ago.

James has just started his PGCE and is enjoying it. He is retraining as a Physics teacher. I am missing my job as a TA at Drayton school but will look for something else once all the domestic sorting is done. Ray did his foundation stage year at Drayton and loved it. Daniel went to Kingfisher in Abingdon and had a lovely time. We are missing the Red Kites but have swapped them for the sea birds.

Drayton is a lovely place to live and we will miss all the lovely people we were lucky to meet over our time there, epecially those at the pre-school, school and youth club. We had great neighbours on our little inlet off Abingdon Road. Julie Brown and Carol were our delivery people for the Chronicle. Please give them our best if you see them.

We will look at your webpage to keep up with the news. We wish you all well and hope to visit some time.

> Karen, James, Daniel and Ray Nicholson (Formerly of 105 Abingdon Rd)

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DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT Richard Webber

Your Neighbourhood Plan needs you - All of you

Planning is a very complex business, stuffed full of jargon and quasi-judicial. It is not easy to understand and it is not easy to explain. Even after two years of trying to understand the opportunities and the threats of the Government's major planning reforms, I am sure I still have much to learn.

The Localism Act is a comprehensible document (although even here, it has supporting documents over 1 foot thick!). The Act clearly lays out that the Government wants to give some of the planning powers, formerly given to Councils of various sorts, to local people.

Boffins in Whitehall have calculated that as a result of predicted population growth, increasing longevity, smaller family units and the location of likely job opportunities, we need so many thousands of houses in the SE of England.

As a humble local politician, I have to accept this. I understand that many of us feel that most of these houses, if needed at all, should be going to the less crowded North of England. It's a perfectly fair position and needs to be argued at national level, but those of us on the ground, have to argue in the here and now. The present position in this District is that many villages in the Vale are having to cope with sizeable developments, whose location and size has been decided upon by people outside the villages - by Central Government, Local Councils and speculative landowners and developers. This is not Localism. Thanks to the arrival of our Neighbourhood Plan, we are rapidly gaining some defence against this process. Without a Neighbourhood Plan we are as at the mercy of speculative development as other villages.

Personally, I am absolutely not for 100 houses, certainly not 500. I am for Local democracy and Localism. I want Drayton residents to play a part in deciding, within the limitations of the law, how Drayton should be looking in 10, 20 and 30 years.

Whatever your position on housing, even if it is that Drayton should stay exactly as it is, it is important that you get on board with the Neighbourhood Plan, arguing your case. The alternative is that you work outside the process, de-rail it, and the power reverts back to the traditional authorities - who then decide, quite quickly, where and how much development happens in Drayton on our behalf. Operating outside the process is therefore, in my view, highly irresponsible and likely to bring about exactly what none of us want.

If you have comments or suggestions on the Neighbourhood Plan, please direct them via the Parish Council Clerk.

(Contact details for the Parish Council Clerk are given at the end of the Parish Council report on Page 7.

For Drayton 2020, email: draytontwentytwenty@gmail.com)



ST PETER'S CHURCH ALL SOULS SERVICE

Sunday 4th November at 3pm

A time to remember loved ones who are no longer with us and light a candle in remembrance of them.

If you would like a loved one's name to be read out during this service, contact Rebecca via e-mail rev.stpetersdrayton@gmail.com

or phone 01235 531374





GARDENING MATTERS

Autumn chores

October brings rain, wind and cloud, but often there's a spell of settled weather. Gardens can still be colourful with Chrysanthemums, Michaelmas Daisies and Cyclamen, not forgetting berries and autumn foliage. It's not too late to plant something that will give colour for years to come.

Continue to plant bulbs in the open garden. Enrich the soil in the planting hole with a sprinkling of bone meal. This is also a good time of year to plant new shrubs and perennials. The warmth in the soil will help them to get quickly established. Be generous with the planting mixture and be sure to water in well in dry weather

At this time of year the amount of material suitable for composting multiplies alarmingly. Summer bedding, trimmings from perennials and fallen leaves will all rot down so don't waste them. Use up all existing homemade compost to mulch around established borders or to add to planting mixtures for new acquisitions. Then start a new compost heap. Always mix the different materials together – this helps decomposition.

October is a good time of year to move established evergreens and conifers. Dig up the biggest root ball manageable to ensure a successful transplant. Prepare the new planting site well, enriching the planting hole with good quality soil and compost as well as a good dose of bone meal to boost root formation. Then water in very well. Watering needs to continue until the plant becomes established.

Rooted cuttings should be planted out before the end of the month. If they're rather tiny, keep them in pots until the spring. Some alpines with woolly or hairy leaves hate winter rain. Protect them with tiny open-ended cloches made from large lemonade bottles sliced horizontally. Fasten the cloches down with wire.

As well as planting containers with bulbs and spring bedding, consider planting a couple with small evergreen shrubs to give a bit of structure and greenery through the winter months. Euonymus, ivies and dwarf conifers are ideal.

Harvest carrots and potatoes, making sure the crops are clean and dry before they're put into storage. Marrows can be stored once their skins have been hardened in the sun. Finish picking tomatoes before the plants become diseased.

To ensure a supply of fresh mint during winter dig up some roots and plant them 5cm (2 inches) deep in a seed tray and keep it in the greenhouse. Clumps of chives can also be put into pots and brought into the greenhouse.

Prepare a site for planting bare-rooted fruit trees and bushes. Fruit trees dislike poor drainage so add plenty of coarse grit and organic matter if the site has heavy soil. Protect established fruit trees with glue bands. These set in place a sticky barrier which stops female moths climbing the tree to mate and lay their eggs. Finish harvesting autumn-fruiting raspberries and cut down all the canes that have fruited this year.

New lawns can be laid or sown on well-prepared sites in October. Scarify established lawns with a rake, then aerate with a fork if not done it already.

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WESTMINSTER LETTER Ed Vaizey

One of the best things about being a local MP is being invited to some great celebrations. Recently, I was asked to present medals to some of the children who have completed the Summer Reading Challenge. Using local libraries and with the help of lots of local volunteers, hundreds of local children each read 6 books over the summer. The enthusiasm and excitement of the children, and the pride both they and their families felt in their achievement, was wonderful! That's not the end of the many activities available in local libraries for children (and adults!) so do visit your local library to see what might interest you.

I am very glad to see that the work to improve Didcot Parkway station is finally underway. Thousands of people from across the constituency travel through the station every day, and the improvements will make their journeys much easier. As the work will take around 15 months to complete, it may get worse before it gets better, but I'm sure that this partnership between the various local councils, Network Rail and First Great Western will eventually be good for everyone.

This summer has been an eclectic couple of month for my office mailbag. The parliamentary recess has been so full of amazing sport and other spectacles that people have been very distracted from political campaigns. But as soon as the parliamentary term began again on September 3rd I was flooded with emails and letters. I have continued to receive representations on same-sex marriage; I've had a quite a few emails about the price of petrol; and, more recently, a few submissions for the consultation on internet parental controls. However, by far the largest campaigns have been for the Post Office DVLA contract and the reduction in Air Passenger Duty tax.

Unfortunately, while I very much support the post office bid to run DVLA services, the DVLA is required by EU law to tender the contract competitively and so the Government cannot take sides on this occasion. As for the Air Passenger Duty campaign, it may be the largest one-issue campaign I've ever seen as an MP. In the past few months almost 500 people have got in touch to express their views. I know that my colleagues in the Government have also had their mailbags flooded with similar letters: they have already taken firm steps to limit any rise and will continue not to levy VAT on domestic flights.

As ever, please 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.

To contact Drayton Parish Council: email draytonclerk@yahoo.co.uk, tel. 07909 176061 Vale of White Horse District Council, tel. 520202 Oxfordshire County Council, tel. 01865 792422

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ALL AROUND

DRAYTON WIVES REPORT

Gwen Price

For our August meeting we had our Bring and Share lunch at the village hall. As usual it was a very successful occasion with lovely food and good company. Thanks must go to the committee for organising it and to Irma for the flower arrangements.

OCTOBER DATES

Thurs 11th: Walk round Swyncombe.

Wed 31st: Lace Making-presented by Anne Gould.

(A change from the original subject)

GARD REPORT

Nick Thompson

Since last reporting there has been little real progress, but studies by Thames Water and their consultants are happening, albeit slowly. We are promised results in November, by which time the Environment Agency and Thames Water will have decided what the increased demand for water by London will be. We cannot challenge the figure until we know what it is and how it was calculated! It will be this demand figure to supply London which will dictate the range of options available for meeting it. I will report as soon as I have further details, but will not bore you with repetition.

There is an interesting planning application for a large solar panel electricity generation farm with a 25 year life just opposite the Steventon Storage Depot! An interesting reaction after the farmer has had the land blighted for so long.

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MORE ALL AROUND

DRAYTON 1st BROWNIES

Paula Harper

Welcome to our new Brownies, Amy, Harla, Naïve, Frankie & Lottie who have joined us this term

This term we will be working towards our Seasons Badge. Once again we will be visiting the Millennium Green looking at the leaves and collecting conkers. We will also be continuing our involvement with the Down Memory Lane Project at the Abingdon Resource Centre. We will be taking along our collage of Brownies Today & Yesterday that we have worked hard to create. We will also have a special evening meeting owls that are coming to visit us and we will have an opportunity to pose for photographs with the owls.

Meetings are held at Drayton village Hall, on Wednesdays during school term time $6.15 \, \text{pm} - 7.45 \, \text{pm}$. 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

DRAYTON TABLE TENNIS CLUB John Gould

The bad news is that summer is over. The good news is that the coming of autumn sees the resumption of Wiff-Waff as described by one Boris Johnson. At Drayton Table Tennis Club service is back to normal. Our Club Coach Matt Wicks has returned from his 6 months in Africa and is once again trying to improve the skills of our members. This is easy with the youngsters but near nigh impossible with the older players who are very set in their idiosyncratic ways. Matt's value to the club is appreciated by us all and the proof of his 'pudding' is shown by the improvement in our younger players.

The Didcot League season has not started at the time of writing. We have 8 teams entered in the 5 divisions, making Drayton the largest table tennis club in the area. This of course takes a lot of organising. Fortunately we have a very committed group of captains and in addition a very keen group of players. Pleasingly, the youngsters are fully backed by their parents who have become valuable members of the club. We also thank the school for continuing to support our club. We have together improved the playing conditions with new curtains that will enable us to actually see the ball as it flies past!

The club is not all about playing in the League. From 6.30pm each Monday, young 'beginners and improvers' attend a coaching session with Matt and from 7.30 pm onwards, adults and juniors mix to play 'social' table tennis. This gives much needed practice to the league players and enables others who do not wish to play in the league the opportunity to exercise and just enjoy playing ping pong.

So we are happy to welcome you along to try table tennis. It will only cost £2.50p per session. Feel free to come along one Monday and try.



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EVEN MORE ALL AROUND

DRAYTON SCHOOL Ana Gurl & Dawn Waddup

School news

Welcome back to everyone at school after an enjoyable summer break. We have an extra class to welcome this year as numbers of children are expanding, and each year group in the lower unit now have their own classroom and teacher.

All children had the chance to visit the Life Education Bus which visited the school at the end of September. On the Life Bus, children look at a wide range of health related issues depending on age; Friendships, The brain, All about me, Decisions, Feelings, Great to be me.

Harvest festival will be celebrated in usual style at Drayton School with a Harvest Assembly when children bring in donations of produce to be gifted to various local elderly people.

Meet the classes

Robins Class (Reception) with Ms Spencer

An especially warm welcome to all our new children in Robins class. We hope you enjoy your time here at big school! Also a big welcome to Ms Spencer who has just joined us at Drayton School teaching our youngest children.

The new children are all settling in well and have already enjoyed a teddy bears picnic as they all get to know one another.

Puffins Class (Year 1) with Miss Bowerman

Puffin's topic for the Autumn Terms is 'Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No it's Superpuffin!' This broad topic will encompass superheroes, fantasy worlds including knights and princesses and space, and will give the children opportunities to learn whist encouraging their imaginations.

Ravens (Year 2) with Mrs Raven

The Ravens topic is Huff & Puff - They have lots of exciting activities to carry out including: decorating 3 large cardboard houses to role play the stories of The Three Little Pigs, The True Story of The Three Little Pigs and The Three Little Wolves and The Big, Bad Pig.

Red Kites (Year 3) Mr Collett

Red Kites are starting off the year in gruesome style, learning about Predators in the natural environment. They have started looking at their own favourite predators, from Golden Eagles to Killer Whales, and have started to research them using books, the internet and wildlife videos. They are looking forward to a visit to the Natural History Museum in London to tie in with this topic. In art, they have started learning how to scale-up paintings and sketches to make larger images, and will be making some habitat displays on the display boards outside the classroom. In science, they will also be learning about teeth and eating, so may well come home one day with their teeth dyed blue (to show how clean their teeth are - keep brushing!)

Kingfishers (Year 4 & 5) Mrs Middleton and Mrs Kent

Welcome back to Mrs Kent who has returned from maternity leave to teach Kingfishers once again. Their topic this term is the explorer, mountaineer, survivor, Chief Scout and fund-raiser, Bear Grylls. The children produced some excellent holiday homework over the summer, they found out lots of facts about Bear Grylls and the class are all very enthusiastic about the topic, but also quite shocked and amazed by some of the situations that he has got himself into. Kingfishers have been trying their hands at survival skills starting with shelter building in the wooded area within the school grounds.

In line with this topic, PE will incorporate cross - country running and orienteering.

Eagles (Year 5 & 6) Mrs Duffy

Eagles topic this term is "The Woeful World War II" so they will spend lots of time learning about the history of the period. They started the term in style as they all came dressed up in World War II costume on the very first day of term, complete with model air raid shelters that they had built for holiday homework which are now on display. In English they will be looking at instructions

on how to build air raid shelters, poetry and Anne Frank's Diary amongst others. In Science they will be learning about gasses all around us, and why during WWII, gas masks were carried by everyone. They will also have a go at making cookies using rations and a 1940's recipe.

Sporting News

Sports day, which was postponed in July due to bad weather, is to be held at the end of September. Hopefully the weather will not put it off this time and the children can enjoy a day of fun challenges and races out on the sports field.

Year 5 & 6 children took part in Abingdon's 2nd TRYathlon event organised by the charity Active Nation at the White Horse Tennis and centre. This involved loads of activities to try including bootcamp, Zumba, Street Dance, amongst others, as well as the swimming, cycling and running, so a very tiring day for all involved – but lots of fun!

Some teams from Drayton will also be taking part in the Abingdon Schools cross-country event so good luck to all involved in that.

FODSA (Friends of Drayton School Association) would like to welcome new parents and carers and hope that some of you come and join us. FODSA organise fundraising events throughout the year, the proceeds from which benefit all our children. We are always open to new ideas!

Events coming soon:

Cake Sales – For parents who are new to the school, FODSA hold a few cake sales throughout the year after Friday family assembly. Proceeds from each sale go directly to the class teacher to buy extra supplies for their class. This could be anything from books and stationery to arts and crafts materials – but is always appreciated! The first cake sale will be on Friday 19th October – proceeds to go to our oldest children in Eagles class.

Our second cake sale will be on Friday 16th November – proceeds go to our youngest children in Robins class.

Race Night – Friday 30th November to be held in Drayton School Hall. First race at 7.30pm.

Anyone who would like to sponsor a race or buy a horse please e-mail fodsa@hotmail.co.uk. First come first served!









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YET MORE ALL AROUND

HALL REPORT

Ann Webb

Report of meeting held on Monday 17th September.

We were again a very small group. Favourable comments have been made about the wooden floor after its relining and polishing, it does look very good. The new concrete litter bin is now in situ by the play area. I would like to ask the public that use the playing field, to only put litter in the four bins provided. They are not there for dog waste bags, broken toys, vacuum cleaner waste, baby's nappies or decorating leftovers e.g. paint, rollers and trays. These bins are emptied on a voluntary basis by hall helpers and therefore can only take litter. Take it home, to the tip or place dog waste in dog bins, in Bridleway at hall entrance or on Steventon Road green. Thank you.

We are getting quotes for the repair of the potholes in the car park, these are now very bad. We are still awaiting quotes for the planned storage extention, we need to get these before we can apply for grants to help us with this expense.

The piano has been declared unfit for use so we need to look for a usable piano of the upright type.

Date of next meeting 19th Nov at 7.30pm

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Post-natal maternity services

The Oxfordshire LINk has teamed up with Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to carry out a survey of post-natal maternity services in Oxfordshire. Post-natal services are those services used after birth including breast feeding clinics, the Newborn Screening Programme, Neonatal Unit, Special Care Baby Unit, Birth Afterthoughts, and Health Visitors. If you have any comments about these services please contact the LINk office. If you have any spare time and would like to be part of the project group to help with research please contact the LINk office.

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DRAYTON DIARY

FOR OCTOBER

All events are at Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise (To book Drayton Hall call Ann Webb on 531418)

website address www.draytonvh.org.uk

Regular Events are listed opposite

Mon 1st 7.30 pm Parish Council Meeting Caudwell DC

Thur 4th W.I. Group meeting

Sat 6th Party

Dog Show – All day Sun 7th

5.00 pm Chronicle Ads deadline Vickery's box Fri 12th

Sun Bowls Club till 1 pm

15th 5.00 pm Chronicle copy deadline Vickery's box Mon

Sun 21st Didcot Church meeting Bowls All day Sun 28th

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REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

MONDAYS

10.30 and 11.30 am Pilates

9.00 am Pre-School Playgroup (in Term) School Ground Bldg

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 Steventon Hall

7.00 pm Scouts (Boys/girls, 8-10 yrs, Tel. 512834) 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

Drayton Drop In (Except Bank Holidays) 7.45 - 8.45 pm

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 pm Pilates – also at 8.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 20 min) Haywards Rd

11.20 am Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min) The Green Car Pk

Whist – now each week Caudwell Day Centre 2.00 pm

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)

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)

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

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