

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Dave Lee

Volume 36 No. 1

February 2013

Drayton2020 UPDATE

Richard Williams

A provisional timetable has now been developed for the year ahead, and progress is being made on developing a series of policies which will form the framework for the Neighbourhood Plan. It was felt that, in view of the strong possibility that formal planning applications for housing might be made early in the New Year, the housing chapter should be our first priority and this has now been completed and forwarded to the Vale. It can also now be read on the village website. Initial comments indicate that some people feel the housing policies are over-prescriptive and set unrealistically high standards for developers. The Steering Group's view on this is that developers are well able to stand up for their own interests, and that we should deliberately set the bar high rather than too low, particularly in relation to issues like insulation, carbon emissions, and the like, as this is the only way to ensure that the various housing codes and standards are taken seriously.

Clearly, the best way forward is to engage with developers and negotiate with them, and this we intend to do, but as a starting point, it may be worth quoting directly from the latest edition of a government document known as the 'Urban Design Compendium'. The Introduction to this hefty, but readable, tome (freely available online, it should be said) includes the following statement: 'Since the Second World War, this country has seen very extensive urban development and renewal. While there are exceptions, a great deal of this development has been third-rate and is lacking in any 'sense of place'. We have repeated standard housing types and layouts, retail boxes and road layouts so many times, with little or no regard for local context, until we find that now almost everywhere looks like everywhere else'. How many of us have expressed similar sentiments in the past? The point is that things don't have to be this way, and the document gives plenty of examples of outstandingly good developments, which haven't necessarily been vastly expensive, but which have simply required some forethought and the will to produce something both distinctive and appropriate for the locality. This is what our Neighbourhood Plan will at least be aiming to achieve over the next year.

It is hoped that before the end of February, we will arrange another meeting, probably in the Village Hall, to consult with the wider village and get people's opinions on the progress made so far. In the meantime, in December, Drayton 2020 had a stall at the Drayton School Christmas Fayre, and chatted with parents and children about the Neighbourhood Plan, in the process adding a number of new E-mail addresses to our database. Later in January, Daniel Scharf and myself intend to meet with the young people in the DAMASCUS project, who are expected to have an important input into the debate about what recreational facilities the village would like. The existing working groups are continuing to meet and a new Housing Group has now been set up. All the groups, but particularly the latter, would welcome new members, so if you have an interest in joining, please contact the Parish Clerk via the Drayton 2020 website: drayton2020@gmail.com. Steering Group meetings are also open to any Drayton residents, and are held on alternate Friday evenings in the Caudwell Centre in Gravel Lane at 7pm. Seventeen people attended the last meeting, and the discussion was lively and informative. The next meeting is Fri Jan 25th – and it would be great to see you there.

(There is a Transport Sub Group report on Page 3)

DRAYTON MILLENNIUM GREEN FUNDING

Background

In 1996/97 Drayton Parish Council proposed the setting up of a Millennium Green in an effort to preserve the remaining open spaces in the village. The site identified for the green was the 7.41 acre National Trust land off Sutton Wick Lane. As part of the Millennium celebrations the Countryside Commission (with National Lottery Funds) agreed to fund half the costs of its purchase and development. The total cost of the project was £116,000 and the Commission made a grant of £58,000 - the remainder was to be raised by the village. The general blueprint for the design and creation of Millennium Greens specified both green, natural areas and an area suitable for public events. Another requirement of the original sponsors was that they would not provide formal sporting grounds and play equipment, so that no pitches or playground apparatus were to be built.

A further important condition of the grant was that the Green had to be administered as a charity and thus the Drayton Millennium Green Trust was formed with Trustees drawn from the village. The money was duly raised and the construction was completed by the Spring of 2000. The official opening ceremony was on 1st May 2000.

Today

Do you use the Millennium Green? Do you think it is an asset to the village? The Green has matured nicely and is well used by many in the community but it does require care. Whilst some work is done voluntarily, we do have to pay for maintenance. To meet this commitment we dip into our reserves and if it was not for the generous help of the Parish Council and the 'Friends of the Millennium Green', we would have run out of money long ago. However, the Parish Council have many calls on their limited resources and their support is not 'a given' so it is essential that we seek a regular alternative source of funding.

Future

Sometime ago we launched a 'Friend of the Millennium Green' campaign to help us raise money. A few generous members of the Community stepped forward but the response was disappointing for a village of our size and given the number of people who regularly use the Green.

What is a 'Friend'? A 'Friend' is anyone who makes a financial contribution to the upkeep of the Green either with a 'one off' payment or a regular contribution. If enough people make a small commitment (say £10/annum), then our maintenance funding would be secured.

Could you help us ensure our Millennium Green's future? Interested? Then let me know and I will then send you information on how you can become a 'Friend of the Millennium Green'.

*Nick Hamilton,
Chairman, Drayton Millennium Green Trust,
Tel: 01235 559291
email: nickbette.hamilton@ntlworld.com*

Millennium Green Litter Rota

The litter rota for 2013 will be the same as previous years and is shown on Page 3 of this Chronicle. Please contact me if you wish to volunteer or if you are on the Rota and are no longer able to do it. Thank you.

Gwen Price 531205

CHRONICLE INFORMATION

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

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

Distributors: **Eve & Barry Sharp, (526939).**

Deadline for advertisements: **17.00 on Friday, 8 February 2013**

Deadline for other contributions: **17.00 on Mon., 11 February 2013**

Printed copies available: **Friday, 22 February 2013**

Key dates for the subsequent three Chronicles:

Issue for	Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available on:
April	11 March 2013	22 March 2013
May	15 April 2013	26 April 2013
June	13 May 2013	24 May 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.

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 JANUARY LOTTERY

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	395	Mr McDaid, Charles Lodge, Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
£20	1049	Mrs J O'Neill, 87 High Street	Michele Ainscough
£15	2182	Margaret Perris, 8 Eastway Park	Teresa Burnage
£10	744	Richard & Elaine Wade, 44 Henley's Lane	Andrew Bax
£10	239	D Kimber, 9 Corneville Road	Gerald Redman
£10	326	Mr Shepherd, 6A Greenacres	Keith Clough
£10	1691	Mrs Taylor, 25 Lockway	Christine Sadler
£10	2175	Ivor Berry, 7 Eastway Park	Teresa Burnage
£10	1029	B Choles, 69 High Street	Michelle Ainscough
£10	1875	Mrs S Clarke, 29 Whitehorns Way	Trudi Buckner

Winning tickets, from 1879 sold, were randomly drawn by a computer (similar to the Premium Bond Draw)

CHRONICLE NEWS

We would like to extend heartfelt thanks to Jackie and Robert Walker who have been Chronicle agents for the mid-section of Steventon Road for 25 years. They have decided to step down and so we would be really pleased to hear from anyone who would consider taking on this role. It would involve delivering chronicles each month and, if possible, selling lottery tickets.

The other rounds still needing an agent are:

Whitehorns Way (nos 40-80)

Hilliat Fields (nos 17-36)

High Street (west) inc. Conifer Drive.

Please let me know if you might be interested, I would be pleased to chat to you.

Many thanks to Kate Forrest who has taken on delivering the Chronicle & selling lottery tickets to the North end of Abingdon Road & Meads Close. *Gareth Davies (Chronicle co-ordinator)*

529510

HALL VACANCY

Jane Pimm, who recently took over the post of Booking Secretary for Drayton Hall, has unfortunately found that she is unable to carry on with the task because of health issues. We therefore need a new booking secretary to take over from Jane. Is there anyone out there who can help us run the Hall? As I have said before, it is a very interesting job that does require commitment, tact, some free time and a pleasant personality. If you are that person please consider taking over this post. You will meet people on many happy occasions, planning a very important event in their lives to a one off event that may never happen again.

For more information please ring 01235 531418. We need you!

Ann Webb

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Drayton2020 UPDATE

Transport Sub Group - Keith Clough

Bus Service for Drayton

The topics discussed at the recent meetings of the Transport Working Group for Drayton 2020 included the local bus services and it was agreed that our thoughts should be shared with a wider audience before any suggestions are submitted to the relevant bus companies.

It was thought that "45 minutes" is not a particularly passenger friendly interval between busses and that many passengers going to Oxford have to change busses along the route to go either to the John Radcliffe Hospital or to Oxford Station.

If the X2 service could be integrated with the X3 and X13 services there could be an half-hourly service from Drayton to Abingdon and one bus per hour from Drayton going through Abingdon to Oxford Station and one each hour to the JR Hospital. This would also improve the services from Drayton to Steventon and Didcot and might even reduce the number of vehicles needed to service the three routes.

If such full integration were not possible, a half-hourly service between Drayton and Abingdon could be provided by introducing an hourly circular bus through Drayton, Sutton Courtenay, Culham and Abingdon and reducing the frequency of the X2 service to hourly. This could still be integrated with either the X3 or the X13. Although it would provide a link to Sutton Courtenay and Culham, it would reduce the frequency to Steventon and Didcot.

If you have any suggestions or comments, please send them to draytontwentytwenty@gmail.com or Richard Webber on 534001 or to me, Keith Clough, at krc@inf.co.uk.

MILLENNIUM GREEN WARDENS ROTA 2013

JANUARY

1st-15th - Tom Shebbeare
16th-31st - Jane MacWhirter

FEBRUARY

1st-15th - Keith Clough
16th-28th - Terry Morgan

MARCH

1st-15th - Sue Brookes
16th-31st - Beryl Dawson

APRIL

1st-16th - Donald Bruce
17th-30th - Jackie Walker

MAY

1st-14th - Andrew Bax
15th-31st - Angela Edgington

JUNE

1st-16th - Steve Clarke
16th-30th - David Mitchell

JULY

1st-15th - Sandra Goldblatt
16th-31st - Keith Clough

AUGUST

1st-16th - Andrew Bax
17th-31st - Steve Penney

SEPTEMBER

1st-15th - Rosie Bruce
15th-30th - Tom Shebbeare

OCTOBER

1st-16th - Christine West
16th-31st - Terry Morgan

NOVEMBER

1st-15th - Donald Bruce
16th-30th - Fran Adams

DECEMBER

1st-16th - Gwen Price
17th-31st - Derek Pooley

DRAYTON TABLE TENNIS CLUB

FUN QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 22nd February 2013

at Drayton C P School.

Quiz starts 7.30p.m

Doors open 7.00pm

Entry £12 per team (max 4 persons):

Table nibbles provided

Donation Bar & Raffle.

Ring 531328 for details & an entry form.

CALLING BUSINESSES UNDER THE AGE OF TWO!

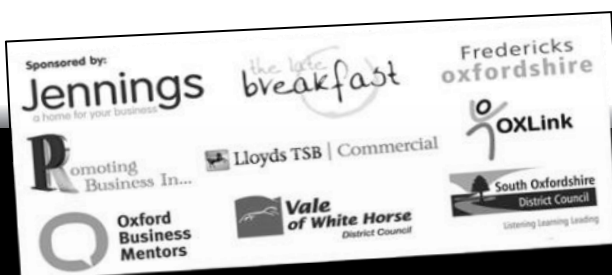
This is a great opportunity to raise your business profile and take it to the next level, by entering the Southern Oxfordshire New Business Competition.

You could win a FREE furnished office for a whole year!
PLUS receive a cutting edge Business Advice Package, and there's a range of business support prizes for anyone who enters.

For further details and an entry form:

visit www.sonbc.co.uk or call 01865 893200

Deadline for entries: 28 Feb 2013



BEETLE DRIVE

Caudwell Day Centre

Sunday 24th February at 2.30pm

Homemade cakes with a cup of tea and a Raffle

Family fun for everyone

Tickets £3 for an adult £1.50 for a child under 14

Tickets available from Vickery's

and Val Cross 535183 or Sally Dixon 531547

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Priest in Charge	Rev'd Rebecca Peters	531374
Associate Priest	Rev'd Rosie Bruce	525284
Churchwardens	Mrs Val Cross	535183
	Mr Colin Arnold	531923
Organist	Vacancy	

REGULAR SERVICES

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

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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

CHURCH REGISTER

Baptism

16th December Harley Ralston Dennis Wilkes

Funerals

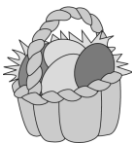
19th November Barbara Popplestone
 30th November Leslie Horace Thomas (Phil)
 19th December Freda Elizabeth Belcher

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

Tue 5th	3.00 pm	First Tuesday Connections	Church Room
Sun 24th		Beetle Drive	Caudwell Day Centre (see advert)
Sun 3rd March	3.00 pm	Messy Church	School

YOU STAY - WE PRAY, FEBRUARY

27th Jan. to 2nd Feb. Sutton Wick Lane; Greenacres; Newman Lane; Conifer Drive
 3rd to 16th Hilliat Fields; Lyford Close; Manor Close; The Green
 17th to 23rd. High Street; Chiers Drive; Cheers Farm; Hall's Close
 24th to 2nd March. Lockway; Whitehorns Way



Messy Church Easter Egg Hunt

- Collect a sheet, available from School or Church from 4th February.
- Find the special eggs in the village shops
- Decorate eggs and stick on sheet
- Bring completed sheet to Messy Church to collect prize.

Messy Church

Drayton Primary School

Sunday 3rd March 3-4:30pm

Fun for all the family. Craft and building activities, games, stories, informal worship and refreshments.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.



LETTER FROM ST PETER'S

Dear Friends,

"Let's go and explore tomorrow. You might find anything in a place like this," said Peter to Susan, Edmund and Lucy. "And that was how the adventures began," writes CS Lewis in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. The house was full of unexpected, interesting places. Yet, seeing a nearly bare room, Peter quickly concluded: "Nothing there!" so they all trooped out again.

All except Lucy. And it's actually with her that the adventures really begin. A girl whose exploration of the known becomes the route into the unknown. Gently feeling her way forward, expecting her fingertips to bump into the back of the wardrobe, Lucy's curiosity is the way out of a smaller, diminished world. Her wondering causes her to wander into Narnia.

Although this is a story, there are many Christian reflections in CS Lewis's books. Many people think they know what Christians are about, they see the bare room or the church building and think that is all there is. Some are happy with the church traditions, but scared and prefer the comfort of the known daren't venture along the Christian journey outside of their pews. Others are inquisitive like Lucy and try going further on the adventure. And as such start to see what the amazing journey with Christ is all about.

Living the Christian adventure is very different to reading the book, or doing the traditions, it is an adventure walking with an amazing God, who is living powerful and active. God is not predictable and boring but he wants us to see life differently and to experience a relationship with him for ourselves, which opens us up to the Christian adventure. To find out more, to talk about faith and ask questions contact Rebecca on 01235 531374, or email rev.stpetersdrayton@gmail.com. God Bless
 Rebecca

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

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

- 11.15 am Presently only one morning service per month. This is the Family Service, and is on the first Sunday of each month
- 6.00 pm Evening Service. A traditional form of service frequently with guest speakers. Communion every second Sunday of the month

EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME

LOCAL METHODIST WORSHIP

High Street, Milton
Sunday Service: 10.30 am

Local contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409

FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS **Jean Hager**

Are you feeling lonely, isolated or in need of some friendly company? Why not come along to our monthly tea and chat afternoons. They are 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 5th February, and 5th March. If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.

Christmas Party: The following generously contributed to our Christmas Party which greatly added to the enjoyment of the occasion: The Wheatsheaf, Vickery's Store, The Red Lion, Post Office, Mace Store, and Sabina's Hair Salon. Many thanks to all concerned.

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www.thebeautyspot.info

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NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

A very warm welcome to:

Paul & Gill Nutt and their two children Georgina 13 and Imogen 8 who have moved into Church Lane from Oxford and Thomas & Jeanette Knight who have moved into Church Lane from Sutton Wick.

Susan Brooks, Agent 10

NEW BABY SIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES for 0-2 year-olds in Drayton Village Hall on Mondays, 1.15-2.15p.m. Spring Term 2013 starts on 7th January for 13 weeks.

JOIN AT ANY POINT IN THE TERM.

Come along and sign, sing and socialise over a cuppa!

For more details, call Chris (07927 339102),

email her (chrisl@tinytalk.co.uk) or visit

www.tinytalk.co.uk/chrisl

Why baby sign?

Because babies have so much to say!



NEW TERM MUSICAL THEATRE CLASSES FOR CHILDREN AGED 4 TO 16 YEARS IN DRAYTON VILLAGE HALL, SATURDAY MORNINGS

This is Term 2 for the new wing of the long established Henley Children's Theatre Group. All children perform in 2 productions per year, with Saturday morning classes of singing, acting and dancing. No previous experience necessary, just energy and enthusiasm!

THIS IS A FUN GROUP. CLASSES ARE INFORMAL AND FRIENDLY. CHILDREN GAIN IN CONFIDENCE AND LEARN SKILLS FOR LIFE IN A FUN ENVIRONMENT

Term Starts: Saturday 19 January 2013

Term Ends: with a Summer Show mid-June

PLEASE CONTACT MUFFIN HURST for more information, or visit the website: www.henleychildrenstheatre.co.uk

Muffin@henleychildrenstheatre.co.uk

ABINGDON CHILDREN'S THEATRE GROUP

THE OLD FORGE, PYRTON, WATLINGTON, OXFORDSHIRE, OX49 5AP

www.henleychildrenstheatre.co.uk 01491613991

email: Muffin6000@btinternet.com

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Didcot OX11 7LE

Osteopathy Abingdon

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9 Peachcroft Shopping Centre
Lindsay Drive
Abingdon OX14 2QA



01235 519700 (appointments/enquiries)

jerryrodi@gmail.com

www.osteopathydidcot.co.uk

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

Osteopathy is a pain-free therapy effective in the treatment of headache, neck and back pain, other joint pain, tendinitis and colic amongst other things and is equally suitable for adults, children and babies.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Williams

Report of the Drayton Parish Council meeting held in December 2012 and January 2013.

The December meeting was held on a bitterly cold night and perhaps unsurprisingly, no members of the public ventured out to the Caudwell Centre to add to our numbers. Changes to the local district council's boundaries were discussed, and it was noted that it is proposed by the Local Government Boundary Commission to combine Drayton, Milton, and Sutton Courtenay in a single ward, to be represented by two councillors. Although the Parish Council initially agreed to these proposals, after further discussion it was felt that the information and advice on this matter provided by the Vale had been inadequate to make a proper judgement. Parish Councillors have now written to the Commission stating their view that while Drayton could be sensibly combined with Milton, it should not also be paired with Sutton Courtenay, as the latter village is further away, and the overall area covered would be too large. Secondly, the village should be represented by one councillor and not two, as the lines of responsibility are then much clearer, and thirdly that Drayton should be retained in the name of the ward, which it is not under the Commission's original proposals.

Richard Williams reported on the Design Council workshop in Swindon attended by himself, Andrew Bax, Janet Manning, and the Parish Clerk. This was offered to Drayton following its application to the Design Council for funding for Drayton 2020, the village's Neighbourhood Plan. The number of grants was limited and unfortunately Drayton was not successful in their bid, but along with other parishes from neighbouring counties who had also missed out on funding, we were invited to the workshop to discuss our Neighbourhood Plans with each other and compare notes. There was also input from three very experienced professional speakers (architects and urban designers) and we came away with lots of ideas for promoting Drayton 2020 and for incorporating into our Plan.

Still on the subject of planning, Daniel Scharf was invited to a meeting with the Earl of Plymouth Estates (EoP) in Cardiff to discuss the Manor Farm development. As luck would have it, this meeting had to be abandoned, due to flooding affecting the railway near Bristol, but Daniel spoke to the EoP's agent on the phone and it appeared that they are having a re-think on the Manor Farm development and are negotiating with the OCC County Surveyor to see if road entry to the new housing could be off Abingdon Road, opposite Hilliat Fields. As this is compatible with Drayton 2020's ideas for a new revised layout for the housing development, this could be a way to make progress at last on this much delayed project. At the January meeting it was noted that the EoP have themselves requested a meeting with Parish Councillors, and this should take place either later this month or in February.

It is also hoped to set up a meeting with all the surrounding parish and town councils, probably on a Monday night in February, to discuss Drayton's Neighbourhood Plan and its possible implications for them.

To contact any member 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 meeting will be on Monday 4th February 2013, at 7.30pm, in the Caudwell Day Centre, Gravel Lane, Drayton. As ever, all are invited to attend.

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DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Webber

Having just returned from the holiday of a lifetime, visiting family and friends all round the world, I am feeling refreshed and raring to get involved in Village and District matters. In my absence, leaving others to do the hard work, I really notice where things have changed and where things have made striking progress. Most noticeable and exciting is the numbers of people (now 20-30) who are now involved and are working hard, on behalf of all of us, to develop our Neighbourhood Plan. However, if it is to work, and become a document that helps to determine the future of the Village, two more things, at least, have to happen.

The first is that we need even *more* people to be involved. The conclusions and policies, which will make up the plan, need to reflect as wide a range of opinion, from as large a number of people as possible. Our Neighbourhood Plan is not going to be a document produced by a small group of people imposing their will on the rest of us. If you have an opinion, we need to hear from you either by email (draytontwentytwenty@gmail.com) or better still by joining a working group and telling us face to face. This applies to landowners and developers as much as it does to the most passionate advocates for maintaining the status quo.

Secondly, we need to encourage everyone to understand what is going on. Most of us are now aware that the Neighbourhood Plan involves Housing and Planning. It is a fact that the best teachers of Maths are not necessarily brilliant mathematicians. Indeed, often the teacher who has had problems understanding the subject is best placed to try to explain it to others. Planning, I suspect, is much the same. They have their own language, a large pool of incomprehensible hieroglyphics to drown in, and a pile of documents to refer to, a pile which makes Hansard look like a quick read. Most of us involved with the Neighbourhood Plan are not, and have no wish to be, planning experts. So it is essential that the non-experts help to explain to everyone else. So here goes.

There is a 'thing' some people call a Local Plan (produced by VWHDC), which says *what* housing can happen and *where* in the District. Their present plan is out of date, and the new one won't be ready for another eighteen months at least, so we are able to develop our Neighbourhood Plan alongside the VWHDC Local Plan. For the first time ever, our plan gives us the opportunity to put some detail onto the Local Plan, detail based on our knowledge of and aspirations for our own Village. When applications for development come to VWHDC Planning Committee, they will have to take account of both Plans when making decisions.

I am proud to come from a village, which has had the courage and the energy to grasp the opportunity, which our Neighbourhood Plan gives us. We are the first large village in this District to be developing such a Plan. Other villages are already interested in following us. So please, if you haven't already considered it, come and join us!

Recycling

As a result of the efforts of everyone in the Vale, this District is now in the top two or three best recycling Councils in the country (out of more than 250). The trouble with being near the top is that there is only one direction we can now go. However, I am hopeful that in the near future we will be able to increase our recycling rates a further 2% by finding a way of recycling nappies. There is a cost implication, but having just said goodbye to our 2 year old grandson and his family and noticed the effect on the landfill bin, I would say the cost is worth it.

Centre of Abingdon

Much to the frustration of those who think we do not need more coffee shops, every time a new one opens in Abingdon, it is soon full of customers. Having suffered the grubby, dated and ugly 'Precinct' since we arrived in 1975, the new Abingdon Shopping

Centre seems a massive improvement – bright, light, varied and yet much more in keeping with our ancient market town. The renovation and cleaning of the old County Hall/Museum building has done wonders to the sense of self-esteem which the town now exudes. Hopefully, the new units will soon be filled and someone will get Bill Bryson back to agree.

I can be contacted at richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or 01235 534001



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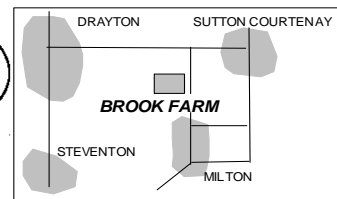
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WESTMINSTER LETTER

Ed Vaizey

The start of the year always is a time to look for new opportunities, so I'd like to let musicians and small venues in the Wantage and Didcot Constituency to enter Rock the House 2013, Parliament's biggest competition which celebrates up-and-coming British artists and the live music venues that support them. Rock the House is a great opportunity for aspiring artists of any age looking to find a way into the industry. The competition is backed by Brian May, Queen guitarist and songwriter.

Applications will close on March 1st 2013, and the competition is open to all music lovers who fall into the following categories: solo artist, band, under 19 solo artist, under 19 band, and best small live music venue. This year Rock the House has teamed up with BandApp to make submissions easier and better. For any artists involved this means they'll get a great tool to promote them and their music. Any music lovers wishing to enter the competition need to head to www.rockthehousehoc.com to create the BandApp.

As ever please feel free to contact me at the House of Commons, SW1A 0AA, 020 7219 6350 or vaizeye@parliament.uk. Surgery details are shown at www.vaizey.com. The next two are:

1st February - Wantage, Civic Hall, OX12 9BX

1st March - Didcot, King Alfred Drive Community Centre,
OX11 7NU

All surgeries are on a Friday between 5.30pm and 7pm. There is no need to book an appointment.

(Editor's note: Ed Vaizey's column has been reduced in size this month for space reasons)

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YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor,

I was interested to read in the *Drayton Chronicle* about the plaque put on the Cross on the Green to remind people that it commemorated Queen Victoria's 1897 Diamond Jubilee and a plaque has now been added for the present Queen's Diamond Jubilee. When I was doing work on Drayton School Log Books I came across several mentions of the Cross as a focal point for patriotic celebrations. For example:

Monday June 2nd 1902. Yesterday 'The Glorious First of June', the news came that the Boer delegates in S. Africa had signed the conditions of Peace on Saturday. We all sang the doxology, "Now thank we all our God", and the National Anthem at the "Cross" today.

May 26th 1911. On Wednesday (Empire Day), we took the children to the Cross trees & sang Empire songs. "Flag of Britain" & "Now pray we for our country" & The National anthem. Many persons gathered to hear them.

It is interesting though, that there is no mention of the Cross being erected in 1897 as this entry below shows:-

June 21st 1897. The good Queen's Diamond Jubilee will be commemorated this week. Holidays everywhere. (On 19th the children learned God save the Queen for the occasion)

Other events of village importance are mentioned, so this lends weight to the suggestion that the Cross was already there, perhaps for the accession of the Queen in 1837 if that date is on the Cross.

Josie Midwinter

Dear Editor,

In April this year I will be taking part in the London Marathon and will be trying to raise as much money as I can for the Sobell House Hospice Charity.

There are several different ways that you can make a contribution:

through my Virgin Money Giving webpage: (<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/RichardsRunning>)

via sign-up sheets and collection boxes at Vickery's store on the Green and the Mace Shop on Abingdon Rd.

To make it more interesting why not try to guess my finishing time. I'll give a bottle of champagne to the person who gets closest.

All donations, however small will be very welcome and will help to continue the support that Sobell House provides to so many from our community.

Richard Wade

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ALL AROUND

1st DRAYTON BROWNIES

Esther Deabill

Christmas may be a forgotten memory but the Brownies celebrated in style with a Christmas party, the raffle raised £140.00 towards our funds, thank you to all who supported us by giving prizes and buying tickets. Christmas eve was a wonderful start to the festivities with our 'pack' providing the Nativity play for the church crib service, thank you to Jessica, Eilish, Frankie, Rebecca, Neve, Sophie, Elise and Lottie S for taking part, also we must thank Hannah, Holly, Caroline, Sam, Andrew and Toby for joining in and helping us. The leaders are really proud of you.

This term – amongst other activities - we will be focusing on our Stargazer badge and celebrating Chinese New Year. Also, Shrove Tuesday celebrations will be moved to a Wednesday just for us!

Finally, Della, Jordan and Leia have now left Brownies and we wish them luck for the future.

Brownies meet every Wednesday evening in the Village Hall (6.15 – 7.45)

Brown Owl (Ruth Hudson – 01235 205111)

Tawny Owl (Esther Deabill – 01235 528502)

Barn Owl (Annette Mitchel – 01235 555216)

DRAYTON TWINNING

Michael Bell

Twinning is for everyone and continues to grow in popularity with its aim of linking two communities from different Countries. It allows people in one country to see how people in another really live, work and play. This year we look forward to welcoming our Medocain friends to Drayton again.→

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→Meeting new people is always fun; combine that with interesting visits and an opportunity to share time with your friends, neighbours as well as our visitors. Perhaps you would like to learn first hand what fun hosting can be?

Arrangements for this year are at an early stage and the most likely dates for the visit will be towards the end of August. Details of previous visits and events are recorded on DVD, have been exhibited around the village on community days and printed in the Chronicle. Naturally we always want to show off our region to best advantage and usually we include a mixture of local trips with some further afield. Likewise when we are in France they take us to places away from the usual tourist venues.

What could be better than enjoying the company of friends in a relaxed atmosphere?

Obviously it helps if you can speak a word or two of French but part of the fun is finding a way to communicate with each other – ask any of our members; none is fluent in French.

For the benefit of new residents, since 2000 Drayton has been twinned with Lesparre, a town in the world-famous Mèdoc wine-growing region with English connections dating back to 1154.

We hope you would like to find out more and you can do this by calling Michael Bell (531388) or Stephen Fearnley (531347) who will be delighted to tell you more.

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NOTICE BOARD

Helicopter found

We found a toy remote control helicopter whilst walking in the village between Christmas and New Year.

Contact Dawn and Phil - 01235 550514

Small Grants Programme - Sport England

The Sport England Small Grants Programme uses Lottery funding to make awards of between £300 and £10,000 to not-for-profit organisations to help more young people (aged 14+) and adults to take up and keep a sporting habit for life.. Details from:

http://www.sportengland.org/funding/small_grants.aspx

Affordable Warmth

The Oxfordshire Affordable Warmth Network offers support to those residents who struggle to afford adequate heating within their home. Oxfordshire County Council has been awarded £152,000 through the 'Warm Homes, Healthy People' project from the Department of Health, which enables us to offer much more support on the helpline to residents this winter, including fuel vouchers for those residents who struggle to afford enough heat, and practical refurbishment grants.

The Freephone helpline that operates across Oxon is 0800 107 0044, website: www.usea.org.uk/AffordableWarmth

Make Time for Winter

Make time for winter is the Highways Agency's campaign helping to provide advice to all drivers to ensure that they and their vehicles are well equipped for the journey.

Be prepared - is your vehicle ready for winter?

Be informed - have you checked the latest traffic and weather conditions? The web site is *Make time for winter*.

Police Message

Several churches in the South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse area have been broken into recently. Police are asking us to be extra vigilant and if you see anyone acting suspiciously in or around churches or see any suspicious looking vehicles in the area, please call the police on 101 or 999 for crime in progress.

Wood Fuel

The Oxfordshire Woodfuel Programme now has a website which provides lots of advice on growing, cutting, storing and burning woodfuel: www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk.

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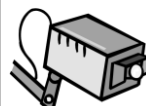
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MORE ALL AROUND

DRAYTON WIVES

Gwen Price

At our November meeting we had an interesting talk from a very enthusiastic bee keeper, Steve Moll. He delighted us by telling us of the very wonderful life of the bee.

In December we had our Christmas party. Instead of a beetle drive we had a reindeer drive which was great fun. This was followed by the reading of a modern version of the building of the Ark and the second reading was the making of a Christmas cake while swigging whisky. Both were enjoyed by the audience and caused much laughter. We had lovely cakes and mince pies to eat and a very happy afternoon finished with the singing of carols.

FEBRUARY DATES

Mon 11th COFFEE: Brenda, Christine, Janice

Friday 8th WALK: Little Wittenham

Mon 18th WHIST: Rosemary

Friday 1st March: Lunch in Village Hall
(note the change of day)

DRAYTON YOUTH CENTRE CHARITY

Karen Tinson

Applications are invited from any Youth Organisation in Drayton wishing to apply for financial assistance from the above charity.

To request an application form please send an email to karen.tinson1@ntlworld.com or telephone 01235 531596.

Applications must be received by 31st March 2013.

All applications will be considered at the Charity's meeting to be held in April (date to be confirmed).

FRIDAY CLUB

Sylvia Bond

The time of year has come for Sylvia and Beryle to thank the cooks, drivers and helpers who have been so supportive throughout 2012. A special thank you to Sally and Shirley for cooking such a wonderful Christmas Lunch, Margaret for the trifles and table decorations and Brian for entertaining us on the guitar. Happy New Year to you all.

BOWLS Club

Roll Up

There are plenty of good things to talk about in these notes. Firstly, finals day was a great success with thirtyfive members present to watch or play in the nine finals decided on the day. The winners of the competitions held during the year and on finals day were as follows:

Friendly Fours inter club - Drayton

Wally Weightman Triples - Maurice Bartlett, Eileen Long, Bryn Jones

Henry Bounce handicap pairs - June Hyde, Jack Mitchenson.

Beryl James Triples - Pam Lacey, Val Locke, Tony Wright.

Rose Bowl Triple league - Eileen Long, Chris Bramwell, Jim Bray

Don Alexander Triples. - Pat Mitchenson, June Hyde, Bryn Jones.

John Berry Fours league. - Eileen Long, David Pimm, Derek Harrison, Cyril Carter.

The Attwood Cup. - Ian Norris.

Doreen Jones Never Won. - To be played for on a date to be decided.

Gents Singles. - Bryn Jones.

Ladies Singles. - To be played for on a date to be decided.

Didcot Windows Open Singles. - Bryn Jones.

The day was completed with a buffet supper provided by Val and her band of lady helpers, it rounded off what was a very pleasant day.

The teams playing in the afternoon league are all doing very well with 'The Wasps' in top spot, and 'The Rollers' in second place, and 'The Hammers' well placed in mid table, but it is all very close and with ten matches still to come, it would be difficult

to predict the outcome. 'The Dynamos' in the evening league are near the bottom but are hoping to improve in the second half of the season.

Talking of success, four members of the club recently went on a bowling break to Hayling Island, with June and Bryn winning the pairs, and playing with Josie and Cyril, won the mixed fours.

I would also would like to report that we have two new members who have joined the club, Dennis and Nancy, we wish them a long and happy stay with us.

Please make a note in your dairies to keep 19th June this year free as the club will be celebrating 25 years with a special day out, more details will follow later.

In closing, it is with great sadness that we report the death of former member Albert (Watts). Our sympathy and thoughts are with Barbara and family at this sad time.

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YET MORE ALL AROUND

TABLE TENNIS CLUB

John Gould

A happy New Year to all who are reading this article. The Table Tennis Club enters 2013 in good health with eight teams and over forty members. We have several adults and juniors who restrict themselves to social play but the majority represent the club and thereby the village in the Didcot League. Formed in 1984 in a late member's garage, the club fortunes have ebbed and flowed over nearly thirty years but currently we are the largest table tennis club in the Didcot League. Bearing in mind that there are clubs based in Didcot, Abingdon, Grove & Wallingford it is surprising those clubs are smaller. However it doesn't mean we are better just bigger. That in itself brings problems including organising League & Cup ties and juggling players to fit in the eight teams we currently run. Finance is of course a major headache and this season we have had to increase our fees to ensure costs are covered and to safeguard for capital equipment purchases.

So we are shortly holding our ANNUAL FUN QUIZ. This will be at Drayton School on Friday 22nd February with a 7.30 pm start. We invite you to enter a team or teams of up to four persons at a cost of £12 per team. Ring 531328 for more details or an entry form.

Those of you who have Sky TV may well have seen their coverage of a new concept sport that they have called the 'World Championships of Ping Pong'. This is slightly different from the game we play locally. Each player used the old style sandpaper bats with no sponge or rubber thus making it much more difficult to spin and chop the ball. These bats also make it a much slower game and easier to follow on TV according to Barry Hearn who is the man behind it all. Sixty-four of the world's best ping pong players were trying to earn their share of a \$100,000 (£61,000) prize fund amid the dazzle of flashing lights and thumping music in front of a potential global TV audience of 700 million - a far cry from the action played out around the tables at this summer's Olympics. Most of us mere mortals have trouble with our normal game but I did find the event very interesting viewing. Sky is hoping it catches on as a regular sporting item on their schedules. Only time will tell.

We hope to see plenty of you at our quiz and hope you all have a very good 2013.

DRAYTON SCHOOL

Dawn Waddup

School News

The children are settling back into the new term and are excited about starting their new topics. Here's what's happening in the classrooms: -

Robins (Reception – Ms Spencer)

Robins' topic is 'To Infinity and Beyond!' - learning about space, planets, space travel and more. They started the term off with a visit from the Explorer Space Dome. Inside, they looked at images of planets, the milky way, shooting stars, astronauts and constellations. They heard the story of Orion and how the ancient Greeks believed that the three stars in a line beneath the moon were the diamonds from Orion's belt.

The children will be creating rockets using various materials, learning and making their own space songs, using mathematical language to describe position and direction of travel for a space beebot, and completing science experiments to learn about explosions, melting and travel.

Puffins (Year 1 – Miss Bowerman)

Puffins are travelling to 'Destination Outer Space.' They have also spent time in the Space Dome, where they learned about space exploration, the planets and the solar system.

The children are reading a variety of texts linked to the topic and will write instructions for making a rocket. They will also be

learning about money e.g. buying objects to take to space. Learning about time will be linked to a 'moon watch' and data will be collected on favourite planets. They will be exploring space sound through music and dance sessions.

Ravens (Year 2 – Mrs Raven)

Ravens' topic is an exciting one – Pirates! They will be having a Pirate Day, learning how to talk like a pirate, singing pirate chants and songs, walking the plank and tying knots.

They will be researching information about pirates in books and on the internet. Also, finding out about famous pirates and where they sailed, locating the relevant seas and islands on maps, creating pirate pictures and treasure maps using an i-pad app to record a story and making ship's biscuits and grog (non-alcoholic!).

Red Kites (Year 3 – Miss Pope)

Red Kites welcome their new teacher Miss Pope, who is also Assistant Head of the school. This term they are going to be investigating 'Where does our food come from?' They will start by finding out what food crops the Romans brought to our country. They will base their topic on bread for the first half of the term, and then chocolate for the second half of the term. In the middle they will be combining the two and making chocolate bread! Chocolate is an important part of the fairtrade industry, so in geography they will be learning about children's lives in chocolate growing villages. Science will be all around the subject of plants, seeds, the role of insects and water and sunshine in the growth cycle of many of our food crops. A farm visit will combine all of these activities - conservation of bees, the flour producing process and the making of a healthy pizza from scratch. The author focus this term is Roald Dahl.

Kingfishers (Years 4 & 5 – Mrs Middleton and Mrs Kent)

Kingfishers' new topic will be the author Michael Morpurgo, with much of the first term's work based on the novel 'The Butterfly Lion'. They are looking forward to this topic, as most of the class are already hooked on his novels and on him as an author. The first part of 'The Butterfly Lion' is set in Africa, then moves to the First World War, much of the humanities, art, DT and literacy will be related to these.

Eagles (Years 5 & 6 – Mrs Duffy)

Eagles will be starting their 'Charismatic Critters' animal topic for the spring term, with a visit to the Natural History Museum. They will find out about species adaptations and how scientists group living things. They will use their new found knowledge not only in our scientific understanding but also to generate ideas for creative writing, art and DT.

FODSA

Friends of Drayton School Association would like to wish everyone a very happy New Year. As always, we are keen to meet new people who are interested in helping to raise money for the school. Do contact us - <mailto:fodsa@hotmail.co.uk>.



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DRAYTON DIARY

FOR FEBRUARY

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	4th	7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting	Caudwell DC
Fri	8th	5.00 pm	Chronicle Ads deadline	Vickery's box
Mon	11th	5.00 pm	Chronicle copy deadline	Vickery's box
Sat	16th		Party	
Sun	24th		Bowls	All day

THE WHEATSHEAF



Austin & Geraldine
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In Friendly Comfortable Surroundings.

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served Mon - Sat until 8pm

Delicious Home Cooked Roast Lunch:
Sunday 12- 3.30 pm

Senior Citizens Lunchtime Menu
Tuesday to Friday £6.50 including sweet

Bookings :- call Gel or Austin (01235 531485)
Drayton (on the village green)

A J Taylor

General Services

01235 200954 / 07906 849524
adrian.taylor6099@ntworld.com



- All aspects of removals and storage, plus house clearance welcome
- All gardening jobs such as weeding, mowing, hedge trimming, removal of garden waste etc
- Painting and decorating inside and out, including woodwork, fences and sheds.

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*
1.15 – 2.15 pm Baby Sign Language Classes (in Term)
2.00 pm Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)
5.45 pm Beavers (Boys/ girls, 6–8 yrs, Tel. 512834) *Steventon Hall*
6.00 – 7.30 pm Youthzone (Except Bank Holidays)
6.30 – 7.30pm Table Tennis (Beginners & New players) *School*
7.00 pm Scouts (Boys/ girls, 8–10 yrs, Tel. 512834) *Steventon Hall*
7.15 pm Drayton Wives Whist (3rd Monday) *Caudwell DC*
7.30 – 10.00 pm Table Tennis Practice (League juniors & adults) *School*
7.30 pm Parish Council (1st Monday) *Caudwell DC*
7.45 – 8.45 pm Drayton Drop In (Except Bank Holidays)
7.45 pm Bell-ringing (for 1½ hours) *St Peter's*
8.30 pm Badminton (Private Group)

TUESDAYS

- 9.00 am Pre-School Playgroup (in Term) *School Ground Bldg*
1.45 pm Drayton Art Group (until 4 pm) *Caudwell Day Centre*
3.00 pm First Tuesday Connections (1st Tuesday) *Church Room*
3.00 pm Junior Netball (for 1 hour) *School*
6.00 pm Ladies' Netball (for 1 hour) *School*
7.00 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*
10.30–11.30pm Pebbles – Baby, Toddler and Carer group (in Term) *Church Room*
11.00 am Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min) *Haywards Rd*
11.20 am Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min) *The Green Car Pk*
2.00 pm Whist – now each week *Caudwell Day Centre*
2.00 pm Drayton Wives (Last Wednesday in the month)
2.15 pm Badminton
6.15 pm Brownies
6.15 pm Cubs (Boys/ girls, 8–9 yrs, Tel. 512834) *Steventon Hall*
7.00 pm Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)
7.30 pm Bingo Session *Caudwell Day Centre*
7.30 pm League Table Tennis *School*

THURSDAYS

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

FRIDAYS

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

SUNDAYS

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

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.

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If by any chance your Area Agent is unable to deliver your Chronicle one month you can collect a copy from Vickery's shop in the week after normal delivery time. Lawrence has very kindly agreed to keep a small stock for us each month.

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