

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Tony Holmes

Volume 36 No. 3

April 2013

Parish Council – Chairman's Letter

It would be great to see you all at the Annual Village Meeting (15th April at the village hall) but, in case you cannot make it, there are a few matters which I would **draw to your attention**.

The most important is the Neighbourhood Development Plan. Following its launch last year, we are approaching a stage where everybody will have a chance to express their views on how the village could or should develop over the next 15 years or so.

The Housing Policy Guidance adopted by the Parish Council in advance of the NDP is on the village web site. There are 15 policies designed to apply to the housing applications expected in the coming months, all designed to encourage developments to comply with National planning guidance and, specifically, to be more 'sustainable'. For example, there are policies supporting 'co-housing' (investigate through Google) and 'self-building'. If these concepts (one of the developers preparing an application as you read this has been involved in a co-housing scheme) or the future development of the village is of interest, then I, the PC or Drayton 2020 would be **pleased to hear from you**.

Although the Plan is being organised by Drayton 2020, the Parish Council is fundamental to its formal completion and adoption. **That is where you might come in**. The PC is at little more than half strength and going down. This, at a time when 'localism' means that more power is, at least in theory, being passed up to parish councils. There has never been a better time to sit on a parish council and it must be preferable if more people (there are **4 vacancies**) are responsible for the important decisions that will need to be made on behalf of the people in the village.

If you can't make April 15th we meet next on May 13th in the Caudwell Day Centre.

Daniel Scharf

Please also see the Parish Council report on page 9, and the Drayton 2020 notes on page 10 which contain more info.

DRAYTON Twinning

We are looking for families who are willing to host our French Guests over the August Bank Holiday.

If you feel at all interested then please phone us (see below) or come to our meeting on April 23rd at 7:30 Caudwell Day Centre

Michael Bell - 531388 Stephen Fearnley - 531347

Volunteers Key to Locks

Volunteer Lock Keepers (assistants) work alongside paid lock keepers. They help boats pass through the lock safely: taking ropes, directing traffic, and operating sluices and lock gates. They help maintain the site:- painting, tidying and gardening, and also provide information to visitors, to enhance their time on the river.

The Environment Agency, (navigation authority for the Thames), is now recruiting for this season and are looking for **volunteers** who can commit to assisting at least one day a week between May and the end of September. Volunteers can agree their hours with lock keepers but need to be available at least from 11 to 5, they're especially needed between Reading and Lechlade. It's a great way to meet people and discover more about the river, its history, wildlife and management, and volunteers know they're doing **something worthwhile and really appreciated**.

All applicants are invited to a local assessment, to have the role explained and be shown what it involves. They'll also be assessed to decide which site may be most appropriate, and to ensure they have the physical capabilities required. On successful completion of the assessment, they attend an induction course which focuses on safety and preparing them for the lock side.

The volunteers follow a documented training programme before being signed off to take charge of the lock on their own. This is only for short periods, maybe while the paid keeper is at lunch. The volunteers are there to augment the service provided by paid staff rather than to replace them. Volunteers are provided with some uniform and can claim mileage for travel; they also receive a monthly newsletter which keeps them in touch with what is going on along the river and other activities of the Environment Agency.

If you would like to find out more about volunteering on the Thames and to receive an information pack and application form, please contact the Volunteer team on 01491 828360 or email thames.volunteers@environment-agency.gov.uk

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Saturday 11th May 2013

7.30pm to 10pm

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Sue Harris 01235 848361 / Val Cross 01235 535183



The 14th Annual Air & Country Show at Abingdon Airfield (Dalton Barracks)

will be taking place on Sunday 5th May. Once again the Flying Display will contain highlights of both modern and vintage types, as well as a Static display of aircraft. Ground attractions include Tank Rides, Crafts, Williams F1 Car, Farms2ewe, Viv O Gara Irish Dancers, Vintage & Classic vehicles, Vale Islanders, Abbey Brass band, Stalls, Amusements and much more for all the family. Gates open at 10am on Barrow Road

Admission on the gate is Adult £15, OAP £10, 5-15yr olds £5, under 5s Free,

Advance rates :- Adult £12, OAP £8, 5-15yr olds £4, under 5s free, (FREE car parking).

Advance tickets are available at selected local Tourist / Visitor Information Centres, The Warehouse in Abingdon (by Coxeters) or online via our website. For more information, or if you would like to participate, log on to:

www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk

We are again supporting the Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust.

COMING CHRONICLES

The combined **MAY Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Friday April 26th**, from **Shirley Thomas (531626)**, who should be contacted by Agents requiring extra copies.

The Editor will be **David Lee (202699)**. Contributions may be e-mailed (see below, safest is to 'editor@'), or placed in the Chronicle letter box, outside Vickery's store on Drayton Green,

NO LATER than 5.15 pm on Monday, April 15th 2013.

After this deadline, items are given less precedence for inclusion (No guarantees!), and certainly need to reach us by the Wednesday.

STOP PRESS - ADVERTISERS should note that the deadline for ads is **EARLIER, Friday April 12th**, due to their preparation time.

NB :- **Can we politely remind** Contributors that the above **deadlines** are exactly that; there seems to be a trend (with increasing use of e-mail) of sending items later. It should perhaps be realised that the later an item is received, the less precedence it gets.

The box is checked a little before the deadline. It is a great help if items can be left a few days before the closing date. Thank you.

NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

All contributions to the Chronicle are most welcome. Be sure to include the name, address and (in case clarification is necessary) telephone number of the author. Contributions can be made :-

1. If you've Internet access, by **email** to the relevant editor (and please use a **meaningful title**, we get a lot called Chronicle!)

to reach the next editor ==>	editor@draytonchronicle.net
Derek Pooley >>>	derek_pooley@talk21.com
David Lee >>>	david_r.lee@ntlworld.com
Tony Holmes >>>	tony-holmes@ntlworld.com

Please remember to check that you soon get a confirmation reply. We do occasionally have emails sent that just don't arrive!

2. An email attachment, in WORD please.
3. A good, **black typescript** on white A4 paper or smaller. Or perhaps hand-written, either way, NAMES in CAPITALS please!
4. IF in any doubt, ASK the EDITOR!

THE FOLLOWING TWO MONTHS		
Issue for	Copy for publication by Mondays (nb Agents Lottery Packs Fri before)	Chronicle published and available for distribution on Fridays:-
June	13 May	24 May
July	17 June	28 June

ADVERTISING RATES				
For Block Advert (about 1/12 th page)				
	----- 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

Half-size block adverts, normally for one or two inserts, are charged at half the above rates.

All requests must be accompanied by cash or a cheque made payable to 'Drayton Chronicle'.

They may be placed in the Chronicle Letter Box, outside Vickery's Hardware Store, Drayton Green, in shopping hours, OR send your requirements :- advertising@draytonchronicle.net

Letters to the Editor You may request that your name & address are not shown; but we **MUST** have the details, and phone number.

CHRONICLE LOTTERY

Jean Barton, Hon. Promoter

RESULTS OF THE - MARCH - LOTTERY

Prize	Winner	Agent
£25	D Mann, 41 Whitehorns Way	Mirja Boyd
£20	Mr Biddle, 1 Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
£15	Paula & Peter Harper, 12 Church Lane	Susan Brooks
£10	Mr Brock, 39 Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
£10	Mrs Clark, The Driftway, S'n Wick	Keith Clough
£10	Linda Johnson, 10 Corneville Rd	Gerald Redman
£10	Mrs P Cox, 26 Lockway	Karen Foreman
£10	Mr Mace, 15 Lockway	Christine Sadler
£10	Mr Mayhew-Archer, 66 High Street	Margaret Long
£10	Mr J W Woodley, 41 High Street	Michelle Ainscough


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ALL AROUND

Drayton BOWLS Club

'Roll-Up'

The 'Henry Bunce' handicap pairs was played on 24th February and the winners after a fine day's bowling were J. Mitchenson and B. Watts, who beat B. Jones and F. Long in the final.

At the time of writing these notes the afternoon league looks set for a tight finish with 'The Wasps' in top spot, with just three games to play they are 11 points clear, and with a crucial game against 'Stanford Blues' at home on March 19th which will almost certainly decide who wins the league. 'The Rollers' and 'Hammers' have both lost their way a little and are now out of contention. 'The Dynamoes' in the evening league have also had poor results in the second half of the season, and will do well to avoid relegation.

We welcome Barry and Janice to the bowls club, and hope they have a long and happy time with us. (NB **the club are still looking for new members** and anyone thinking of joining should call in at one of our sessions, held Mondays and Thursdays, afternoons 2 to 5, and Wednesday evenings from 7 to 10. **A warm welcome awaits you and it will cost you nothing**, you may just enjoy it!)

The next internal competition will be 'The Beryl James' triples, on Sunday April 19th, and Jane and Josie will be the organisers.

We close these notes with sad news yet again, former founder member Janet Hendy passed away recently; although Janet hasn't bowled for a few years, older members will have fond memories of her, and our sympathies are with Arthur and his family at this sad time.

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DRAYTON W.I.

Brenda Malin

It is quite some time since a report has been posted in The Chronicle, rest assured us ladies have not been idle. We enjoyed a Christmas party amongst friends in December and our annual Birthday party was celebrated at the EAT INN, (Steventon Hill), another happy occasion.

Not all meetings however are just meals, although a very pleasant pastime this is, our February meeting was about the Women's Institute grass roots. Our area representative Ruth Webb, with a fellow member from our local head office, gave a marvellous talk on the 'Movers and Shakers' of the embryonic W.I. Many forward thinking women, many who were suffragettes, realised that the lot of rural country women and their families would benefit from education. Not so well known is that this very 'English' institution actually originated in Canada.

It was good to remind ourselves that, we members are part of a very long tradition of progressive ladies, and long may we continue to carry on the tradition.

Forthcoming events for APRIL:-

11th Beatle Drive (7.30pm) Caudwell Day Centre.

27th Coffee Morning (10am - noon) The Bothy, 2 Halls Close.

NB (Ed's note) 'Calendar Girls' is on at the Cornerstone, Didcot, April 25th & 26th, by local Jigsaw Theatre group.

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Methodist Chapel Sunday Service: 10.30 am
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Local contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409

ST PETER'S CHURCH

Priest in Charge	Revd Rebecca Peters	531374
Curate	Revd Rosie Bruce	525284
Churchwardens	Mrs Val Cross	535183
	Mr Colin Arnold	531923
Organist	Vacancy	

CHURCH NOTICES

REGULAR SERVICES

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

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Monday	7.45 pm	Bellringing Practice	Bell Tower
Weds	10.30 am	Pebbles (term time only)	Church Room

CALENDAR for APRIL

Tues	2nd	3.00 pm	1st Tuesday Connections	Church Room
Sat	15th	10.00 am	Coffee Morning (to 12 noon)	Church Room

PARISH REGISTER

Funeral Feb 21st Jean Ann Mullins

YOU STAY – WE PRAY (April)

Mar 31st to April 6th Steventon Road; Eastway; Eastway MHP

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14th to May 4th Abingdon Road; Oday Hill; Binning Close; Hayward Road



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Letter from St Peter's Church

Dear Friends,

How do we respond to difficult and challenging times? If you are part of a working family, imagine if your partner could no longer work due to ill health or if not then imagine losing part of your support network? What would happen? What would your priorities be, how would you make things work? In life, things happen, hopes become dashed, maybe that is why many people resonate with James Arthur's song, Impossible - a song about dashed hope and an impossible future.

*"Tell them I was happy
And my heart is broken
All my scars are open
Tell them what I hoped would be
Impossible, impossible."*

However, there is someone who can help, who can put the pieces of our lives back together, who can give us a hope and a future. Someone who has been through great pain themselves, unjustly suffered and has overcome death, so that our impossibilities might become possibilities. All that Jesus asks is that we get to know him and walk with him. We all have a hope and a future in Jesus.

Important Church News - Sunday 19th May 3:30pm

St Peter's and You

Currently the church is unsustainable, lack of people and financially. **We need new people to support the church**, to follow God's working in our village and to see how together we can create a positive future for our village. There will be a leaflet posted throughout the village explaining the situation. On **Sunday 19th May 3:30pm** at the Church, there will be a short presentation about current and future church activities, as well as a chance to input your ideas. **All welcome, free afternoon tea and scones.**

God Bless

Revd Rebecca Peters

(NB If you are interested in investigating the Christian faith, asking questions, or finding out more about Jesus, then please do contact Revd Rebecca, email rev.stpetersdrayton@gmail.com or call -01235- 531374).

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(MORE) ALL AROUND

Drayton 1st Brownies

The Brownie pack have been busy raising money for Red Nose Day, this included telling jokes, icing cup cakes with Maltesers and cherries and everyone wore red of course.

Easter celebrations included a fantastic Easter egg raffle, making jumping eggs and painted eggs and the Brownies enjoyed eating yummy eggs.

Preparations are already underway for next term's events which we are all looking forward to and will include carrying out traditional games such as country dancing, clapping songs, and kite flying on the Millenium green.

Sad goodbyes go to Kira and Morgan who have left the pack and we wish them all the best for the future.

A big thank you to Julie Lester who at short notice has come to help out at Brownies when we have been short of adult helpers, "Thank You Julie", we also like to thank the young leaders and parents that have helped during this term.

We hope that everyone has a lovely Easter break and see you all back on the 17th April.

Meetings are held at Drayton Village Hall, on Wednesdays during school term from 6.15 – 7.45, meetings are open to all girls aged between 7 – 10 years old. Further details are available from:-

Ruth Hudson (Brown Owl) on 01235 205111

Esther Deabill (Tawny Owl) on 01235 528502

Annette Mitchell (Barn Owl) on 01235 555216

Ruth Hudson

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Drayton TABLE-TENNIS Club John Gould

A big thank you to all those who came along to the Club's Annual Quiz, which was a great success and enabled us to raise funds for the club. The winning team of Tim Wilde and Jane & John Henderson proved the brains of the event with the narrowest of victories. I would also thank the school for use of their hall.

The table tennis season is drawing to a close and a number of our teams are involved in battles at the top end of their divisions. The A team have a chance of 2nd spot in division 1 and the B team similarly in division 2. The D team are looking good for 2nd in the third tier and our E & F teams are in a contest with each other for runners up in division 4. The H team are clear at the top in division 5 and the young G team have an outside chance of second spot.

In the Handicap Shield our D team have reached the semi final where they could be joined by the C & F teams who both have tough quarter-final draws to overcome.

The club's Bidmead Cup team are also into the semi final to play Abingdon Club. Our team of Matt Davies (A team), Kavan Warrender (F team) & Peter Weir (G team) hope to emulate last year's success when the Cup was brought home by Drayton.

Our Club Championships will take place on 21st April and a full report on that and the final outcome of the above competitions will follow in future scribblings.

Social table tennis is available to all men, women & children (over 9) at the school on Mondays. From 6.30pm, under 16s attend a coaching session and from 7.30 pm adults and juniors mix to play 'social' table tennis. We have some 'newbys' this season that seem to enjoy the exercise. It'd be good to see some more adult players. The cost is £2.50p per session. Hope to see you one Monday soon.

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01235 531457 or visit
www.theredliondrayton.co.uk

DRAYTON WIVES

Gwen Price

On the 1st of March we had our annual lunch at the Village Hall. It was provided and served by committee members who made curry, chillies, baked potatoes and salads. The meal ended with delicious desserts from Millets Farm.

Everyone enjoyed it and the committee must be thanked for their hard work.

DATES for April:-

MON 8th	COFFEE	Jac, Ann, Irma
MON 15th	WHIST	Barbara
FRI 26th	A.G.M.	and tea

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BAPTIST CHURCH

Church Secretary:- Mrs Jayne Henderson..... 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)

Come and join us every Sunday – we look forward to seeing you. **EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME**

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

We welcome to the village Steven Minter, Nina Ramskill and their son Harry, who have moved into Greenacres.

*Margaret welcomes you to Sabina's
for your next hair appointment*

40 ABINGDON ROAD - DRAYTON - Tel. (01235) 531140

Mondays & Tuesdays & Saturdays

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Wednesday closed all day

Thursdays and Fridays

9.00am to 1.00 pm and 2.00pm to 6.00pm

Men now welcome at any time - so why not call in?

Special rates for Pensioners and Free Car Parking



(EVEN MORE) ALL AROUND

Drayton TWINNING Michael Bell/Stephen Fearnley

Since the beginning of the year we have been planning to host Drayton's French Guests from Lesparre during the August Bank Holiday weekend.

As usual we hope to have a varied programme so that our guests learn about our locality, the Countryside in our Region and UK culture/history in general – whilst having a sociable time with their hosts. We are hoping that **our main trip will be to Portsmouth**.

Existing Twinning members already know how enjoyable these occasions can be; we sometimes help out other towns. However, we are keen to **share the experience with like-minded people** from Drayton. Naturally we hope they will consider joining in with our other activities during the year and hosts can expect to be made very welcome during future visits to Lesparre.

Our next meeting will be the AGM at the Caudwell Day Centre at 7:30 on Tuesday April 23rd and **you are welcome to attend** to see what we are planning. We can be contacted on 01235 531388 (Michael) or 01235 531347 (Stephen).

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WESTMINSTER VIEW

Ed Vaizey's column (Wantage & Didcot MP, also he's Minister of Culture, Communications and Creative Industries)

Many of you will know that water bills are going up this year. In the constituency, we are all served by Thames Water, (Editor's note – 'served'?!) and Ofwat, the water regulator, has determined that they will be allowed to increase water bills by 3.5% in April. That's an average increase of £18 per household (varies for individual homes), around £2.60 for improvements to the service and the rest to allow for inflation. Although unwelcome, the bills will help to pay for the largest ever investment programme for water and sewerage. We often take both a clean water supply and our sewage being taken away very much for granted, so it is helpful to be reminded that it doesn't all happen by accident.

I heard recently that in January, a milestone was reached – the one millionth blood stem cell transplant. This achievement was unimaginable 39 years ago, but then, Shirley Nolan had only just created the world's first **bone marrow register**. Registering is easy, and as at least 2 former Mayors of Wallingford have found out, if you are chosen to donate, it's a fantastic thing to be able to do. So, if you'd like to do something remarkable, why not contact the Antony Nolan Trust at www.anthonynolan.org and join the register too?

The Government has recently announced measures to tackle welfare and irresponsible dog ownership, following consultation last year. Measures will include requirement that dogs are microchipped with details of the owner (which was supported by 96% of respondents to the consultation) and a change in the Dangerous Dogs Act to extend the offence of a dog being dangerously out of control to all places, including private property.

The Dogs Trust are giving very generous support to the measures which means a free microchip will be available for all unchipped dogs throughout England. The Government is working with the Dogs Trust to ensure that free microchips will be offered to local authorities, housing associations and veterinary surgeries. Some other animal welfare charities are offering free microchipping at their centres including Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, and Blue Cross. This will mean that the measure can be introduced in 2016 without a cost to dog owners who might struggle to pay for it.

Finally, this month my mailbox has been dominated by two campaigns. The campaign for an amendment to the Energy Bill, (to outline a clean electricity target), and the campaign about competition regulations in the NHS. Between them these campaigns account for almost 300 individual letters and emails. I've also received almost 50 emails from members of the fair fuel campaign who wish to lower fuel duty, 20 or so on the Justice and Security Bill and another 20 from people concerned about the level of duty on alcohol.

If you need to get in touch with me, telephone 020 7219 6350, write to me, c/o House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA, or you can e-mail me on vaizeye@parliament.uk; the Website is www.vaizey.com with up to date news and surgery details (next May 10th, King Alfred Drive Community Centre, Didcot 5.30pm)

YOUR LETTERS

2 x "Thank You" from Marie Curie

Dear Sir, 47 Sutton Wick Lane

Very many thanks to all the people in Sutton Wick Lane who gave so generously to the collection in January, which raised £121 – BRILLIANT!!

Daphne Pointer

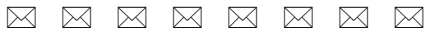


Dear Sir, 93 Abingdon Road

May I say a big 'Thank You' to the residents, friends and neighbours of Abingdon Road (nos 86 to 140) for their kind and generous donations in the recent house-to-house collection.

We raised a total of £52-50p for Marie Curie Cancer Care. And a big 'thank you' also goes to Emily and Helen for counting and verifying the amount.

Julie Brown



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Gwen Samuels

Dear Sir, Church Lane

Sadly my Mother Gwen Samuels died on February 20th. She lived happily in the village for nearly 20 years and was pleased to call it home, although the last few years were difficult for her as she contracted Alzheimer's.

Many thanks to neighbours and friends for their help and condolences.

Susan & Ian Brooks

PS Sadly Eric, the hound-dog, died five days after Gwen and he will also be missed, especially by fellow dog walkers.

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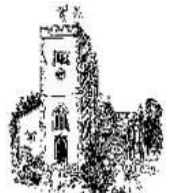
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YOUR LETTERS (extra)

Funds for OASIS (no, this Group!) – QUICK!

Dear Sir,

34 Church Lane

My youngest son (Arthur) was diagnosed with Autism last August (aged 3), and so on Good Friday (March 29th) I am taking part in the Radley College Good Fri Tri (triathlon) to raise money for OASIS (Oxfordshire Autistic Society Information & Support). **I will be swimming 200m, cycling 11km and running 3km!**

OASIS are a local, friendly charity run by parent volunteers for those bringing up children and young adults on the Autistic Spectrum and can cater for all aspects of the spectrum. This includes classic Autism, Asperger's Syndrome and other related conditions (eg Sensory Processing Disorder and Developmental Delay). OASIS aims to create a **supportive community** through family events, informal coffee and chat groups, evening speaker meetings, regular updates on our website of county-wide events and information that will be useful to all. Their work is making a real difference to many Oxfordshire families who find life very hard on a daily basis.

I would really appreciate anything you can spare no matter how small and so there are **sponsorship forms and collection boxes** in Vickerys and the Mace store, or you can **donate online** by visiting www.justgiving.com/karen-sharman.

Many thanks,

Karen Sharman

{Ed's note :- this follows a brief mention in the March Chronicle; as this issue is a little early this month, (due to Easter), I hope we're in time for you to reward Karen for her very tough day!}

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UPDATE FROM GARD - AGM

The 2013 AGM of GARD will take place on Tuesday April 23rd at Stocks Lane Farm (Steventon – just over the level-crossing) at 7.30pm. **All are welcome to attend.**

The Hon Chairman will give a brief report on the current state of play regarding the threat of reservoir construction to the 4 villages closest to the proposed site.

The Thames Water draft Water Resources Management Plan covering the 25 years 2015-2040 has to be submitted to Defra by 31 March, but will not be available for public consultation until early May.

The AGM to be followed by an Executive Committee Meeting.

Nick Thompson (Hon Chairman GARD)

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VoWHDC Neighbourhood Planning - Coming to Drayton

Following a six week consultation period, the Drayton Neighbourhood Plan Area has been approved by the Vale of White Horse District Council. The approval follows a cabinet meeting that was held in February, where the consultation and original application were reviewed. The consultation yielded no contentious issues and the Head of Planning for the district council recommended that the area should be approved.

Now that the application has been given the green light, Drayton Parish Council can move forward with confidence in developing their neighbourhood plan. A neighbourhood plan being a key tool in empowering local communities in shaping how their local area develops and grows in the future.

For further info about this and other neighbourhood plans, please visit www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplans

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PARISH COUNCIL (March 4th)

Our County Councillor Mike Badcock reported that OCC has decided to increase its Council tax rate by 1.99% this year, despite the fact that central government would prefer to see the rate frozen, and had written to the Council to express its disapproval. Obviously, an increase in tax is not in itself a cause for celebration, but the alternative was to see further serious cuts in spending on local services, often those that help protect the most needy and vulnerable. The PC felt that the decision was the right one in the circumstances, and that they should be commended for acting to defend vital services. It was resolved to send a letter to OCC, supporting them and approving their 2013/14 budget.

It was noted that the Vale have proposed that Abingdon should have a two-kilometre southern bypass running between the A415 at Culham and Marcham Road just east of the A34 (i.e. at the Tesco Roundabout) if any major new housing developments are accepted. This isn't the first time such a project has been suggested – before the recent headline it was previously featured in the Abingdon Herald about 5 years ago, but such are the number and scale of developments either already on stream, or now being put forward in the Vale area, that the need for radical infrastructure improvements becomes more pressing by the month. Most people appreciate the need for new housing, but clearly there is a problem if it's built without providing for the consequences.

Whilst on this subject, the PC received from Dr Sheila Worsley a letter written on behalf of 'Keep Sutton Courtenay Rural', a group of local residents campaigning against large scale housing development there, regarding two planning applications recently submitted to the Vale, by Pye Homes (ref P13/V0233/FUL) and Redrow Homes (ref P13/V0401/O), both viewable on the VoWH website. The letter explained how their residents object strongly to both these applications for a number of reasons, not least the impact of the additional traffic they will generate on local roads, and the fact that the Pye Homes site encroaches onto the open space separating Sutton Courtenay from Drayton parish. The PC has responded with a letter recommending that a better bus service and new cycle paths should be supported and agreed before these applications are approved. The PC met last month with other surrounding parish councils to discuss matters of mutual interest, and given the level of concern about the cumulative impact of new housing developments, it was agreed to organise a series of follow-up meetings on relevant topics. The next meeting will be on April 8th, to discuss neighbourhood planning issues. →>>

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The Parish Council also received an update on the activities of the Drayton 2020 steering group, some of whose members have recently met with the local landowners who so far have declared a definite intention to develop sites within Drayton. Further details of these meetings may be seen in the Drayton 2020 column (p10).

To contact any members of the PC, all enquiries should be directed to the Parish Clerk, David Perrow, in the first instance. He may be contacted (email) at draytonclerk@yahoo.co.uk or by telephone on 07909 176061. 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, information on Drayton 2020, and details of other events in the village.

The next meeting will be the **Annual Parish Meeting** on Monday 15th April, at 7.30pm, to be held at Drayton Village Hall, off Lockway. **Please note the change from the usual venue** and also the date, which is later in the month (due to Easter and other commitments) than is customary. Councillors will be giving a report on the Parish Council's activities over the past year, and **all residents of Drayton are warmly invited to attend.**

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FORTHCOMING Police 'Have Your Say' :-

My usual note re these meetings with local PCSO Sandra Syphas has been thwarted because we now come under 'Outer Abingdon', and the nearest meetings are in Botley (?!). But, there IS a Bicycle Security Marking session, in Abingdon's Market Square, Sun April 21st, 10am (to 3). For more info re your local neighbourhood team, call the (new) non-emergency number 101

Drayton 2020 - March Update

In the last few weeks, members of the Steering Group have met with all the local landowners (or their representatives) who have so far declared a definite intention to develop sites within Drayton parish. The sites are:- south of the High St – a meeting with Savills (the land agents) and Bloor Homes; Manor Farm (where planning permission for approx 20 houses has already been granted) – a meeting with representatives of the Earl of Plymouth Estates; and east of the burial ground – a meeting with Paul Caudwell and WYG Group (planners). As indicated, only the Manor Farm site has planning permission (granted some 15 years ago); applications have not yet been put in on the other sites.

The Steering Group is continuing its efforts to contact other landowners who have expressed an interest in development, and in the interests of completeness, those who have not, but who might do so in the future.

It should be stressed that none of these meetings imply approval or disapproval of any particular proposal, because these are not decisions that Drayton 2020 can make: the village will be asked to give its collective opinions in **consultation meetings** later in the spring and summer. They are essentially ‘fact-finding missions’, whereby the Steering Group have been able to explore what landowners and developers had in mind, and on our side, to explain some of the problems of the village, and indicate the sort of facilities we might be looking for in terms of ‘planning gain’.

Nothing is yet resolved, and what the Steering Group has requested is sufficient time to consult with the village, since it is clearly not in the spirit of local control if a developer is allowed to by-pass the Neighbourhood Plan process with a pre-emptive application. As to the Manor Farm site, which could in theory proceed immediately with development, the Steering Group discussed the possibility of a new village centre in this location. The representatives of the EoP Estates were not empowered to give any answers at this stage, but undertook to refer our ideas back to the landowner, and agreed to meet again with Drayton 2020 in April. →>>>

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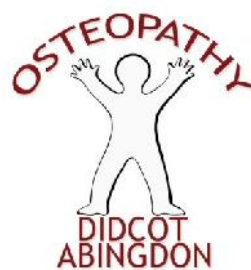
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Letters to the Editor You may request that your name & address are not shown; however we **MUST** have those details, & phone number for verification. NB Please also note that, although we **WELCOME** submissions on a variety of topics, the Editor reserves the right to shorten, clarify or reject any letter or supplied text.



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

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The **Sustainability Group** is still meeting regularly and has the difficult task of producing a Sustainability Appraisal document. We continue to have input on this and other matters from Anton Nath of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC) and we also have some help on design issues from the Design Council, who have seconded one of their officers to us for the equivalent of eight days' work. Two of the Steering Group will be attending a Neighbourhood Planning workshop at the Design Council's HQ in London later this month, and there is much other work ongoing.

Rita Atkinson and two young people, **Luke and Chelsea**, from the **DAMASCUS Group** attended the 8th March meeting. The latter put forward **their ideas for a future meeting** with the members of Drayton 2020, whereby they and other youngsters from Drayton (it is hoped around 20-25 will attend) will do a presentation on their own '**Hopes and Dreams**' for the village. In turn, Drayton 2020 will put some of the results of its working group discussions to the young people for their reactions and comment. This session will take place later in March at the Village Hall.

If you wish to be kept up to date with our progress, contact the Parish Clerk, via our website: draytontwentytwenty@gmail.com; in addition, the agendas and minutes of all Steering Group and working sub-group meetings are available on the village website: www.drayton-near-abingdon.org

Steering Group meetings are open to any Drayton residents, and they are held on alternate Friday evenings in the Caudwell Centre in Gravel Lane at 7pm. The next scheduled meeting after publication of this Chronicle is on Friday 5th April – and it **would be great to see you there**.
Richard Williams



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School news ... There are a good few changes to be seen around school at the moment. The school is benefitting from a new roof, complete with new skylights. Also, lots of the older windows have been replaced making the school a nicer environment for both staff and children alike.

The outdoor play equipment has been surrounded by wood chip, and paths have been improved so that children can enjoy more of the outdoor areas throughout the year. The main playground area has been re-painted with special designs which are allowing the children lots of playground play activities, especially with the help of the play leaders and their imaginations. It's certainly more than just hopscotch!

Classroom updates ...

Robin (Reception) Class learnt about the artist Kandinsky. They learnt that he lived a long time ago (1866) and liked to listen to music by Wagner when he painted. Robins made their own piece of art work in the style of Kandinsky's 'Squares with Concentric Rings' piece.

Puffins (Year 1) Class have become quite expert on the topic of Outer Space. Learning about the history of the moon landings and the life of Neil Armstrong inspired them to create some very descriptive moon poems. Chinese New Year was celebrated in style by writing their names using Chinese symbols and designing their own kites and lion heads for their own dance.

This term, the Pufflings have also developed a love of Traditional Tales. They have explored how they begin and end, different versions of the same story, good and bad characters and how the problems that occur in each tale have been resolved. The favourite tale at the moment is 'Little Red Riding Hood.' Children have role-played the story each taking the turn of being Mr Wolf and have written wanted posters to help find him. Of course, a few games of 'What's the Time Mr Wolf?' had to be played which also help them learn about time!

Ravens (Year 2) Class are still enjoying their Pirates topic. They have found out about famous pirates, what they got up to, and where they sailed. They had a really fun Jamaican afternoon when they all made Jamaican flags, ate coconut, pineapple and mango and danced to Bob Marley. They are now reading and writing pirate adventure stories and making treasure maps.

Red Kites (Year 3) Class have moved on from bread to chocolate! They've already carried out a survey of children in the school to find out what their preferred chocolate types are and are now going to use their experience of making chocolate crackles to design and make chocolates to suit their target market. Later this term they'll be designing wrappers for the chocolates, and producing adverts for TV using the iPads. Hopefully they'll be able to sell their products and make a profit.

Red Kites will be visiting to the Living Rainforest to experience the type of environment where cocoa grows - they've already found all the tropical countries on a world map, and seen some of the process that turns cocoa beans into chocolate. They've learnt all about the history of chocolate, drawing a picture story to help follow all the tricky names and places before using literacy skills to write the story of chocolate (no, that's not a spelling mistake!) : *'Chocolatl' is the Aztec name for a drink consumed by Aztec royalty around the time of first European contact (early 1500s), sometimes thought of as 'hot chocolate' but nothing like the hot chocolate we drink today.*

Kingfishers (Year 4/5) Class are lucky enough to have been on two recent trips. The first, as already reported, was to Whitehorse Hill to look at the white horse cut out of the chalk in the hillside.

The second visit was a little warmer, but not much. Thankfully the children were very enthusiastic about **the visit to The Cotswold Wildlife Park**, and this prevented the cold from dampening their spirits. They were studying the park's approach to conservation, and one of the aspects that the children had to consider was the size of the cages and enclosures that different animals were kept in. The park came out very well for size of enclosure, most of the children thought that the majority of the animals had plenty of room and showed no signs of distress. We split into two groups and each group had a talk and tour by one of the park's conservationists. As always one of the highlights was the visit to the shop! Everyone agreed it was an excellent day. Both of these visits were funded by Mr Mayer's 'wow' factor fund. Thank you very much, Mr Mayer!

Eagles (Year 5/6) Class have had great fun covering the Sasquatch as part of their Curious Critters topic. If you're not familiar with 'Sasquatch', it's another name for a Bigfoot.

They have used this topic in literacy to cover many genres of writing, such as the Sasquatch life cycle, a description, and at present a biography, which the children have embarked upon with great gusto. There are some very interesting displays both in and out of the classroom as well as some models of the Sasquatch displayed in reception. Within this Sasquatch topic the **Eagles have visited the Natural History Museum in London** and had a very memorable day out which was enjoyed by all. They have also created their own NHS Top Trump cards.

The topic the children have chosen for next term will be What Lies Beneath, loosely based on the Minecraft games, which undoubtedly will lead to an exciting and enjoyable term for all involved.



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OR phone 07909 176 061)

District (VofWH) Richard Webber (534001);

& Oxfordshire County Mike & Marilyn Badcock (201810).

LISTINGS

Abingdon Spring Show :- has the latest exhibition of the Oxfordshire Craft Guild from April 11th to 14th, 10am to 5pm, medieval Abbey Buildings, traditional crafts, modern design.

Calling Parents, Cornerstone, Didcot has a mass of Easter Holiday activities for children, print-making, animation, Capoeira (Brazilian martial art/dance fusion) & many more, half day up to 3 days, too many to list here, so call the box office on (01235) 515144, or see website :- www.cornerstone-arts.org.uk

Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock (closed Mons) :- current exhibition (FREE) is the work of Oxfordshire Printmakers, up to April 21st, to illustrate the broad techniques used in printmaking.

Cats Rescue, Newbury :- has their OPEN DAY to raise funds on May 11th, at the Adoption Centre, 1pm to 4pm, admission 50p. Please come and visit the cats, browse our stalls and maybe win a fabulous prize in the raffle or tombola! They're at Curridge, (Hermitage), just north of Newbury, email: newbury@cats.org.uk or call (01635) 200111 for more info.

A BODEN Party! :- fundraising for St Michael's Primary School, Steventon, it's on **Thursday 2nd May** 7.30-10pm, at the School Hall, The Causeway, Steventon. **Huge selection** of clothes to try on, 20% off everything, free delivery & returns.

Companion DOG Show :- with pedigree and novelty classes, April 7th, 10am to 1pm, at the National Animal Welfare Trust, (Wantage Road, just north of Great Shefford), oh, and there's a Barn Sale too! For more info call (01488) 638584.

Adoption/Fostering Oxford charity PACT has an information evening to encourage more families to consider adopting or becoming a foster carer. It's on Tues 16th April, 7-8.30pm, West Oxford Community Centre, Botley Road, Oxford, with a short talk by an adopter and time to ask questions and find out more about adoption or dual approval (fostering with a view to adopt). More details contact Francesca.fogell@pactcharity.org or visit pactcharity.org

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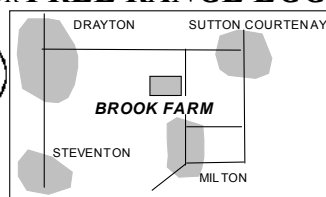
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DRAYTON DIARIES

DIARY FOR APRIL

All events held in Drayton Hall unless otherwise stated

To book Drayton Hall call Jane Pimm on (01235) 531597

Mon	1	Dog Show!	
Fri	5	Drayton 2020 – Steering Group (p10)	
Sat	6	Private Party	
Sun	7	Bowls Comp (all day - see p3)	
Sat	13	Private Party	
Sun	14	Griffon (like Crufts winner) Dog Show!	
Mon	15	Chronicle Deadline (p2) – Ads 12th	
Mon	15	7.30pm Annual Parish Meeting (p9)	
Fri	19	Drayton 2020 – Steering Group (p10)	
Sun	21	Oxford Drama Club	
Tue	23	7.30pm Twinning AGM (p6)	<i>Caudwell DC</i>
May	19	3.30pm St Peter's & YOU (see p4)	<i>Church</i>

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REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

MONDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
10.30 am	Pilates (& 11.30)	
1.15 pm	Baby sign-language classes (1 hr – 07927 339102)	
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
5.45 pm	Beavers (Boys / girls, 6–8 yrs, Tel. 512834)	<i>Steventon Hall</i>
6.30 pm	Youth Zone (to 7.30 except Bank Hols)	
6.30 pm	Table Tennis (New Players)	<i>School</i>
7.00 pm	Scouts (Boys / girls, 8–10 yrs, Tel. 512834)	<i>Steventon Hall</i>
7.15 pm	Drayton Wives Whist (3rd Monday)	<i>Caudwell DC</i>
7.30 pm	Parish Council (1st Monday)	<i>Caudwell DC</i>
7.30 pm	Table Tennis (Senior practice + playing 2 hrs)	<i>School</i>
7.45 pm	Bell-ringing (for 1½ hours)	<i>St Peter's</i>
7.45 pm	Drayton Drop-In (to 8.45, except Bank Hols)	
8.30 pm	Badminton (Private Group)	

TUESDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
1.45 pm	Drayton Art Group (until 4 pm)	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
3.00 pm	First Tuesday Connections (1st Tuesday)	<i>Church Room</i>
3.00 pm	Junior Netball (for 1 hour)	<i>School</i>
5.45 pm	Zumba Fitness	
6.00 pm	Ladies' Netball (for 1 hour)	<i>School</i>
7.00 pm	Pilates (& 8.00)	
7.30 pm	League Table Tennis (now every night to Fri)	<i>School</i>

WEDNESDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
10.30 am	Pebbles (Baby, Toddler, Carer gp – p4)	<i>Church Room</i>
11.00 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	<i>Haywards Rd</i>
11.20 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	<i>The Green Car Pk</i>
1.45 pm	Whist – now each week	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
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)	<i>Steventon Hall</i>
7.00 pm	Junior Table Tennis, Age 9+ (for 1 hour)	<i>School</i>
7.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
7.30 pm	Bingo Session	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>

THURSDAYS

9.00 am	Foot Clinic (1st Thurs)	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
9.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>St Peter's Lady Chapel</i>
9.30 am	Parent & Toddler Group (NB Term-time ONLY)	
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
7.30 pm	Women's Institute Meeting (2nd Thurs)	<i>Caudwell DC</i>
7.30 pm	Sequence Dancing. Tel: 531701	

FRIDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>Sch'l Ground Bldg</i>
11.00 am	The Friday Club (fortnightly) 202466	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
7.00 pm	Whist Drive (ACHLoFriends)	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>

SUNDAYS

8.00 am	Holy Communion	<i>St Peter's</i>
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (Family Service 2nd Sunday)	<i>St Peter's</i>
11.15 am	Family Time (1st Sun)	<i>Baptist Church</i>
6.00 pm	Evening Service	<i>Baptist Church</i>
7.30 pm	Zumba Fitness	

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