

# DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Dave Lee

Volume 36 No. 4

May 2013

## Drayton2020

OUR CHANCE TO PLAN OUR OWN FUTURE

Drayton 2020, the initiative set up by The Parish Council and Drayton Community Trust (the charity behind the Chronicle and the Millennium Green), is holding its second consultation on Sunday, May 12th at Drayton Community School. The event begins at 4 o'clock, (see ad below). The May 12th consultation will report back on Drayton 2020's discussions with the six Drayton landowners who have been asked to clarify their plans. "It is notable, and probably significant, that none of these six have yet applied for planning permission from the Vale" says Andrew Bax, Chairman of Drayton 2020, "so this may be evidence that our strategy of engaging with landowners will produce a more considered, long term, result".

Drayton 2020 has established working groups on 'Sustainability', 'Transport', 'Work & Play', 'Housing' and 'Look and Feel' each of which have taken an in depth look at how different aspects of the village might develop. Over thirty volunteers have been involved in these, with up to twenty also attending the fortnightly meetings of the initiative's Steering Group. Representatives of the Vale and of the County Council have joined meetings for items that directly affect them. "It has been a hive of constructive activity," says one.

Charitable donations have also enabled Drayton 2020 to commission professional advice from the Sutton Courtenay-based architects Adams Habermehl. These same landscape designers were responsible for the Millennium Green created in 2000. The resulting plans for a greener Drayton with a new Village 'Centre' will be presented for the first time on May 12th.

So come along on May 12th and see the result of the working groups' suggestions and as the advert says, "What do you think?"

*Tom Shebbeare*

*(Editor's note: there is a further report on Drayton 2020 on page 8 that stresses the "legal" requirements for this process and the importance of your opinion)*

## Drayton2020

OUR CHANCE TO PLAN OUR OWN FUTURE

**What do you think?**

**Sunday MAY 12th**

**4 o'clock**

**Drayton Community  
School**

**Tea & Cake**

## APPEAL PUBLIC INQUIRY

The public inquiry concerning the erection of 160 residential dwellings on land East of Drayton Road is to be heard on 21st May 2013 in the Abbey Hall

You can attend the inquiry and, at the Inspector's discretion, speak if you wish.

Written statements already submitted are available on the Vale of White Horse District Council website under the application reference P12/V2266/FUL. They can also be seen at the council offices, ring 01491 823270.

## DRAYTON COMMUNITY TRUST and DRAYTON MILLENNIUM GREEN TRUST

The Annual General Meetings of these charities will be held in Caudwell Day Centre on Tuesday 4th June. The AGM of Drayton Community Trust will begin at 7.30pm and of Drayton Millennium Green Trust at 8.00pm.

These meetings are open to the public and anyone interested in the charities' work and who might want to question the trustees is welcome to attend.

## Drayton Art Group Annual Exhibition

**Sunday 2nd June  
at**

**Caudwell Day Centre  
2.00 till 4.00pm**

## **Messy Church**

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# CHRONICLE INFORMATION

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

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

Distributors: **Brenda Malin, (524429).**

Deadline for advertisements: **17.00 on Friday, 10 May 2013**

Deadline for other contributions: **17.00 on Mon., 13 May 2013**

Printed copies available: **Friday, 24 May 2013**

## Key dates for the subsequent three Chronicles:

Issue for	Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available on:
July	17 June 2013	28 June 2013
August	15 July 2013	26 July 2013
September	12 August 2013	23 August 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
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**Double-size** adverts are charged at **twice** the above rates.

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

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

# CHRONICLE LOTTERY

**Jean Barton, Hon Promoter**

## RESULTS OF THE APRIL LOTTERY

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	414	Mr Bruce, 16a, Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
£20	1409	Pat Alhaus, 1, Steventon Rd	Julie Lonsdale
£15	1759	Mr and Mrs Lacey, 15 Whitehorns Way	Trudi Buckner
£10	2195	Duncan & Vanessa Denton, 9 Lesparre Close	Amanda Drysdale
£10	1327	A. Bartlett, 20 Binning Close	Cathy Norris
£10	931	Mrs M. Smith, 37 High Street	Michele Ainsclough
£10	2114	Caroline White, 2a Eastway	Teresa Burnage
£10	83	Mr Dix, Harvest Cottage Abingdon Road	Carol Arnold
£10	1356	R Berry, 28 Binning Close	Cathy Norris
£10	786	Kay Davies, 6 Church Lane	Susan Brooks

Winning tickets, from 1677 sold, were randomly drawn by a computer (similar to the Premium Bond Draw)

## CHRONICLE NEWS

Many thanks to Gerald Redman, who has been an agent for 20 years and who has delivered the Chronicle to Corneville Road, and previously to Stonehill & Oday as well, has had to retire due to ill health.

We now need an agent to deliver in Corneville Road (only), so if anyone living in that area can help, we would be pleased to hear from them.

Please contact Gareth (Chronicle co-ordinator) 529510

## NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

### Welcome

Welcome to Emma Cox and her children Isaac, Joel and Poppy-Jade who moved into Lyford Close in April 2013 from Wootton.

*Thom Wilson*

### New school bus service for Drayton

Local campaigners have succeeded in getting a dedicated school bus service, BB1, that runs between Abingdon and Didcot via Drayton. This service starts on May 12th. More details available from: - Diane Dunsden, <mailto:diane.dunsdon@gmail.com>.

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# FAREWELL DIDCOT 'A'

**The Demise of an old friend**

**Gervase Duffield**

The Didcot A coal fired power station is no more. At least it is still standing there, but it will never be used again, though it now has to go through a period of decommissioning, and then finally demolition, so it could easily be five years before it finally disappears, and of course meanwhile there is a gradual run down of staffing levels. (The B station continues to flourish and will be expanding).

I must be one of the few locals who was resident here before the A station was conceived and then built. So readers might be interested in a few facts and salient features. The station was designed in the 1960s and built to open in 1970, and has run pretty well without a serious hold up ever since until this Spring. It took nearly 30,000 tons of steel in its construction, and the main foundations took almost 500,000 tons of concrete. Getting on for four miles of roads were constructed.

By the 1990s the A station was joined by its B sister, a gas fired station and very much smaller which started generating in 1997, and is still going strong. Didcot A survived the miners' strike but had to get special permission to bring in coal by road, since the station had been planned for exclusive rail deliveries. There were some disagreements and misunderstandings about the despatch of spent fuel to Radley lakes, but now happily resolved. There was unauthorised entry and tower climbing by Greenpeace and others, but the police and the station staff dealt with that promptly though these invasions did cost the owners a lot of money which no doubt ended up on all our electricity bills.

I doubt if I am the only one who feels a certain nostalgia about the end of Didcot A which incidentally is overwhelmingly in Sutton Courtenay despite its name. We had all got so used to it there, and you could see it for miles around, but now it is going if not gone, and we have to move on. In conclusion I would like to pay tribute to the staff who were well known in the community, especially local schools, and unlike some other major companies Didcot A was an admirable corporate citizen in the community.

**Goodbye to a large part of our area**

**Ann Webb**

When I arrived in the wilds of North Berks at the tender age of 17, I read in the North Berks Herald that there was to be a power station built at the Didcot end of Milton Depot. The report stated that the towers would be several times higher than the floodlights, that stood up over the trees from here (Milton Road), the chimney however would be much taller. It was something that could not be envisaged at that time but slowly up came the towers followed by the chimney. Then came all the heavy equipment brought in by road skirting Hanney via the A420 and the A338 and down the Hanney Road to Steventon. No bypasses or ring roads then. All the little bridges down the Hanney road had been flattened as much as possible to allow the very large loads to pass without bottoming on the road. We were made aware of what was to arrive and when by a small blackboard and easel standing on the green by the Jubilee cross. We were by this time living on the green. This was put up a few days in advance and as the arrival time approached, people started to gather on the green with their cameras to see these large loads negotiate the corner by the Wheatshaf. We knew it was on its way when the police motorcycle came up and parked on the junction, stopping through traffic. Then the police cars arrived and waited in the High Street, followed by the S.E.B. who lifted the overhead cables to allow the load to pass under. Then the load itself, usually carried by Wynns or Pickfords. These giant loads were guided round the corner on enormous low loaders, it was a wonderful spectacle, watching the men and this giant vehicle being steered round this tight corner. As the police car arrived, the motor cycle made off down the road to move all oncoming traffic over to allow this load to pass. On it went, through Sutton Courtenay, round the Fish corner and into the back gate of the power station by the entrance just past the old Amey offices site.

It was a sad day to see this great building cease to send steam up into the air. It was the most wonderful weather vane anyone could wish for. Seeing it in all its moods, sun shining on the towers, clouds sitting on the towers, the sun and the moon rising behind the towers. It's most remembered sight will be to tired parents, after a long journey home, telling tired children 'look there's the power station, won't be long now'. Good bye Didcot Power Station and thank-you for your hard work over the years.

## St Peter's and You Sunday 19th May 3:30pm

Come and find out more about the Church,  
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Short presentation followed by refreshments.



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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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# ST PETER'S CHURCH

<b>Priest in Charge</b>	Rev'd Rebecca Peters	531374
<b>Associate Priest</b>	Rev'd Rosie Bruce	525284
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Mrs Val Cross	535183
	Mr Colin Arnold	531923
<b>Organist</b>	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.
Thurs 9th May	Ascension Day service at 7.30 pm	

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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

## CHURCH REGISTER

### Funeral

21st March Bill Dewe

### Memorial Service

25th March Bernard Parrott

## CALENDAR FOR MAY

Tue 7th 3.00 pm First Tuesday Connections Church Room

## YOU STAY - WE PRAY, MAY

5th to 11th Sutton Wick Lane; Greenacres; Newman Lane; Conifer Drive  
 12th to 25th Hilliat Fields; Lyford Close; Manor Close; The Green  
 26th to 1st June High Street; Chiers Drive; Cheers Farm; Hall's Close

## LETTER FROM ST PETER'S

Dear Friends,

What do you think about when you hear the word *church*? The Greek word used in the New Testament is *ekklesia*, which is better translated assembly or congregation. The Church is not the building or the services, it is the people. Most people in this village will come into contact with the church at some stage of their life, whether it is for a baptism, wedding, or funeral, or for a specific service like the memorial service, Remembrance or Christmas, but many do not realize the extent to which the Church congregation serves the community. The Church today is really a gathering of people looking to serve God, praying and seeking his kingdom, and serving those locally in the village. We have a number of programmes to help and assist families, children and the elderly.

St Peter's Church is the local parish church, it is your place, your community and we need more people to get involved and to make it 'their church.' There will be a leaflet, to be posted throughout the village, explaining the churches present situation of lack of resources, both people and financial. We are also inviting everyone to come and find out more at the "St Peter's and You" afternoon Sunday 19th May 3:30pm in Church, to discuss how you would like to see the church grow and develop and how you can support. There will be a short presentation, display boards and free tea, coffee and scones.

There are also two Summer fundraising events in Church, the Jazz Concert, Boulevard Swing, on Saturday 11th May 7:30pm, tickets from Vickery's store, and the Plant Sale 10am Saturday 18th May. As well as our normal family services on the third Sunday of the month, there is also Messy Church 3pm Sunday 9th June at Drayton Primary School.

God Bless

Rebecca

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# BAPTIST CHURCH

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 7th May, and 4th June. If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.



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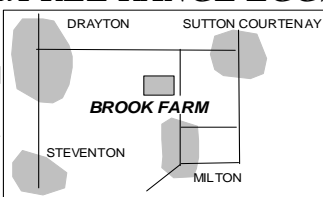


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# YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor

I would like to say a big "THANK YOU" for all the lovely cards, flowers and chocolates I received after my operation.

Trudi Buckner

Ps A big thank you from the Lottery Promoter to Trudi for all she does to help the Lottery Draw run so smoothly. Jean Barton,

Dear Editor,

I write to tell your readers that I shall be standing for election in the County Council Elections to be held on May 2nd. I will be standing for the seat in the Sutton Courtenay and Marcham Division that includes Drayton.

I am already the District Councillor for Sutton Courtenay and Appleford but I want to promote local issues at County level, e.g. District Councillors have to leave traffic issues to the County and I want to tackle such issues more effectively by having a seat on the County Council.

Gervase Duffield 01235 848319  
gervaseduffield@bt internet.com

Dear Editor

I am writing to introduce myself as the Liberal Democrat candidate for our Division of Sutton Courtenay and Marcham that includes Drayton, in the forthcoming County Elections on May 2nd. As your Drayton District Councillor for the past 8 years, and having lived in Drayton for most of the last 35 years, I know many of you, and many know me. Understandably, many people are confused as to who is their councillor and where to seek help and who to blame when things go wrong. Having the same person to represent them on District and County Councils would at least eliminate that confusion!

Richard Webber 01235 53400  
Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com

### Editor's note on the County Council Elections

New Electoral Divisions for Oxfordshire come into force for the forthcoming County Council Elections on May 2nd. We in Drayton come under the Sutton Courtenay and Marcham Division.

Drayton residents will be able to vote for one of the following candidates;

- |                        |                                       |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Gervase Elwes Duffield | The Conservative Party Candidate      |
| Sean McWhinnie         | Labour & Co-operative Party Candidate |
| Chris Parkes           | The UKIP Candidate                    |
| Adam Ramsay            | The Green Party Candidate             |
| Richard John Webber    | The Liberal Democrat Party Candidate  |

Dear Editor,

We are extremely proud and in awe of the efforts of two young ladies from Drayton; Chelsea Dennis and Shanice Gerring, who have organised several fund-raising events in order to make a sky-dive in aid of breast cancer research. At their final event on Saturday 2nd March at a Karaoke evening in the Red Lion, local young men Liam Harris, Harry Latimer, Luke Rutty, Josh Taylor, and Ryan Seamark raised several hundred pounds towards the girl's funds by taking up a challenge and singing a 'One Direction' song. The following day the girls travelled to the airfield with a considerable amount of support from family and friends and with a lot of courage and emotion made the jump successfully. I think we have a fantastic group of youngsters in this village of whom we should all be hugely proud of.

Richard and Rachel Seamark



Chelsea Dennis, (left), and Shanice Gerring just before their jump



The karaoke evening with, left to right, Ryan Seamark, Josh Taylor, Harry Latimer, Luke Rutty and Liam Harris.



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## MORE LETTERS

Dear Editor,

On Good Friday I completed the Radley College Novice triathlon in aid of OASIS (ref my letter in last month's Chronicle) and would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated either online or in the collection pots in Vickery's and the Mace Store. The pots raised a massive £95.58 which is fantastic and this added to my online page, comes to £658 at present - I am totally overwhelmed by everybody's generosity!! To give you an idea of what your money will pay for: £300 will fund the all the support group's hall hire and refreshments for a year, £400 will fund 23 children to have a Day out with Thomas the Tank Engine and Santa, £500 would fund 5 trips away for people with Autism aged 16+. So you see your money will really make a difference to local people's lives. There will be a collection pot in the Mace Store for a few more weeks and my fundraising page [www.justgiving.com/karen-sharman](http://www.justgiving.com/karen-sharman) will be open until 29th June should anyone else like to give. I really enjoyed doing the triathlon and am planning to do a longer one sometime soon. I finished this one in 55mins 13.30 seconds, came 44th out of 117 people and was the 10th woman out of 62. Needless to say I was really pleased to do so well - all that training paid off - thanks James!!!!

Thank you again to everyone who donated.

*Karen and Arthur Sharman*

Dear Editor,

I am a former resident of High Street, Drayton, with my family going back some generations in the village. (My father was the late Herban Thomas, formerly of Thomas and Jarvis Builders and Undertakers.)

In going through my late parents' things, I have come across some notelets printed from old village photographs by the Drayton Amenity Society. I wondered if the originals were in an archive somewhere? Of particular interest is one taken outside the Red Lion pub where my grandmother, Maud Thomas (nee King) was born. Her father was James King, the proprietor for a while.

I would be very pleased to hear any information about the photographs.

Although I have lived away for a long while now, family still live nearby and Drayton is still very much "home".

*Catherine Vincer (nee Thomas)*

Dear Editor,

On Thursday 11th April we had our yearly coffee morning and sale on behalf of the Pace Centre. From the very start there was a buzz and the feeling of "Good Will" was tremendous. We would like to thank the kind people who generously supported us.

We are pleased that our great supporter, Marge, from Caudwell Close won the Jubilee Plate that she wanted!

We made £466.60 on the day, amazing!!! Since then we have had a further £55 in donations so our total for PACE is £521.60!

Special thanks go to Rosemary Barlow, without whom the sale wouldn't have happened, and to Jill Harvey, Ann Gibson, Judith Dunster, Daphne Pointer and tea and coffee men, Alan & Derek.

Next year we are considering an afternoon tea party so watch this space.

*Judy and Derek Henman*

Dear Editor,

Tony and Debbie Mullins would like to thank all their relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness and help during Jean's long fight against cancer and for so many of you attending Jean's funeral. You will be pleased to know that over £750 was given to the Jane Ashley Unit at the Churchill Hospital in Oxford in Jean's memory.

*Tony Mullins*

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# DRAYTON 2020 UPDATE

## Richard Williams

The Steering Group met again with representatives of the Earl of Plymouth Estates on April 10th to discuss the Manor Farm development. Drawings were presented to us which showed that the landowners had taken on board the idea of a new village centre, and Drayton 2020's vision of combining this with a new village green; but it was clear that the EoP's conception did not quite match what the Steering Group had in mind. It was agreed that further meetings should take place with a view to redesigning the plans so that both sides move closer together. It is important to reassure Drayton residents that all we are trying to do so far is agree on the shape of a proposition that will then be put to the village to assess whether it has general support, or otherwise. For purely logistical reasons – i.e. making sure there are enough people around, and not on holiday etc. to get publicity in place, displays in order, and so on, we have had to put back the date of the next public consultation meeting, but this has now been fixed for Sunday 12th May, at 4pm at Drayton School (note the venue and see ad on the front page).

Although all Steering Group meetings and working group meetings have been open for any Drayton resident to attend, it is the case that most of the work so far has been carried out by a central core of about 20 people. That being so, there is always the possibility of suspicion that deals are being arranged behind closed doors, that particular outcomes are being sought in advance, and that wider consultation with the village might be purely cosmetic. It is true that, under the terms of the Localism Act 2011, the neighbourhood development plan offers, unlike any previous type of community plan, a degree of control over planning issues. It is therefore potentially a powerful tool in the hands of local communities.

For this reason, the government have ensured that there are a number of hurdles that we have to surmount before any plan can be approved: these are, in effect, safeguards specifically designed to prevent any small clique hi-jacking the agenda for its own ends or pet projects. Firstly, the Plan has to be 'in general conformity' with the Vale's Local Plan (or Core Strategy) and also with national guidance – the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework). If it is not, the Plan will not be accepted by the District Council. A detailed Sustainability Appraisal document must be drawn up to show that the Plan meets the NPPF's presumption of sustainable development. If the Vale is satisfied that the Plan is in line with its own strategic requirements, the Plan must then be scrutinised by an Independent Examiner, who can order changes to be made if he or she is not happy with it. At examination, the Plan must demonstrate adequate consultation with local people and produce a convincing evidence base. Finally, the Plan has to be put to a referendum of all Drayton residents and secure more than 50% of the vote. There would be little point in spending time on a Plan which does not have broad support across the village, as it simply would not pass its referendum.

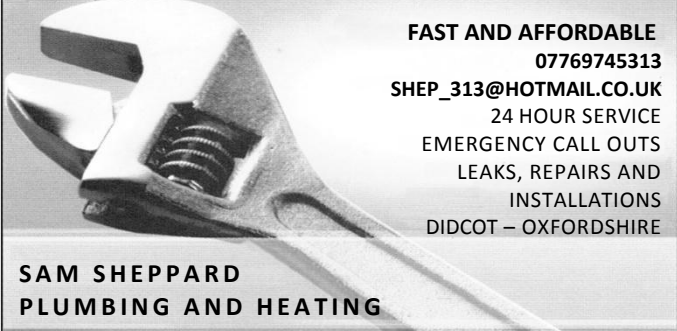
In order not to mislead anyone, it should be appreciated that a neighbourhood development plan is just that: a plan for development. The Localism Act does not permit an NDP to be used to block development. The message that Drayton 2020 would try to get across to everyone is that, should the Plan fail, that will not mean an end to development. The pressure to take development will continue (just look at the other villages surrounding Drayton), but we will lose the opportunity to control the development. Drayton 2020's view is that, if we are going to have development whatever happens, let it be development that we determine, that meets the village's needs.

Most important of all, we want to hear what Drayton thinks – be it positive or negative. Don't sit at home and complain if you have a grievance. Come and air your doubts and worries, or better still, come and join us and have a constructive input into the process. If

you support our ideas, that's great, but if you don't, tell us now so that we don't waste time on things the village doesn't want, and direct our efforts instead to the things it does! Reminder: Consultation meeting – Drayton School, Sunday 12th May, 4pm. Please come.

If you wish to be kept up to date with our progress, please contact the Parish Clerk via the Drayton 2020 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](http://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 Fri 3rd May – and it would be great to see you there.



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## ON BEING A PARISH COUNCILLOR

### Jenny Pooley

The advertisement for the Annual Parish Assembly on the front page of The March Chronicle contained the question "Ever wondered what your Parish Council does?" Those who came to the Parish Assembly on April 15th will have had the chance to find out, but for those who weren't able to be there perhaps it might be useful to explain some of the Council's responsibilities.

Having a Parish Council is very important for a well-functioning village, increasingly so as 'localism' is given more weight, and being a member of it is always interesting, often challenging and just occasionally frustrating. It demands a regular commitment of at least one monthly meeting, usually on the first Monday evening and, for most members, a willingness to sit on at least one committee or working group. Quite often training sessions, exhibitions or meetings of special relevance to Councillors' work are provided by the OCC or the VWHDC, and these are particularly helpful for new Parish Councillors.

Drayton Council has two sub committees and three 'Working Groups'. The former are 'Finance and Personnel' and 'Planning'. The Finance committee is responsible, with the agreement of the whole council, for deciding the amount of the annual precept (financial contribution) we should ask for from the District Council, for paying the clerk and caretaker, deciding how much should be allocated to village organizations, upkeep of amenities (e.g. the village hall, the Millennium green) and new projects, and for making local charitable donations. The Planning Committee considers and comments on all planning applications within the parish and reports back to the VWHDC planning department. If the Parish Council planning committee and the Vale planning officers disagree then the application has to be referred to the whole VWHDC planning committee for final decision.

The 'Working Groups' are 'Leisure and General Purposes', 'Press and Publicity' and 'Rights of Way and Conservation'. The first of these deals with such matters as care of the burial ground, the allotments, the playground and the various amenities in the village. The second group is involved with publicity and maintaining the village website, while the Rights of Way group, in collaboration with the County Council Environment department, tries to maintain footpaths and bridleways, kissing gates and hedgerows in good condition and occasionally plants new trees.

Having been a councillor for ten years I have decided that it is now time for me to stand down. Drayton parish is allowed a maximum of eleven councillors but in my time the maximum we have ever had was nine. With my departure the number will drop to six, which of course will put more pressure on those remaining. My experience in the early stages was that it took a year or two before I really felt I was getting to grips with the job and also beginning to understand the council's past history and decision making. Therefore I think that patience and some determination are required for new Councillors, and if at first some aspects of the work seem bewildering it is well worth persevering.

So if any reader is looking for a new and interesting challenge and also for a way of being part of the "Big Society", may I suggest they think seriously about contributing their particular skills and experience to Drayton's well-being by giving a few years to the Parish Council?

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# PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

## Richard Williams

### Report of the Drayton Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 15th April 2013

Some 25 people attended this combined meeting, which was held in the Village Hall. This year, Paul Mayhew-Archer, Drayton resident, and co-writer of *The Vicar of Dibley*, very kindly agreed to open proceedings as our guest speaker. Paul was the undoubted star of the evening, and his witty and frequently hilarious speech on the theme of 'reasons why people become parish councillors' will surely be remembered by all present for a long time to come. He also addressed a question which may just have crossed the minds of some other Drayton residents over the years, namely: given Paul's connections with Drayton, could the goings on in Dibley Parish Council, as brilliantly portrayed by Dawn French *et al*, have been in any way, shape or form, inspired by observations of a certain other Parish Council, closer to home? Paul's answer was an unequivocal Jim Trott-style 'No' (no, no, no, no, no...Yes). So that's that cleared up then.

This was a hard act to follow, but Daniel Scharf then presented his Chairman's Report on the activities of the Drayton Parish Council over the past year, as did the Chairs of the various sub-committees. Other speakers included Andrew Bax, who gave a brief account of what has been happening with Drayton 2020 – our village neighbourhood development plan – since the launch night last September, and Chris Willis Dixon, who spoke about the Caudwell Day Centre and its remarkably varied programme of activities. Gary Hibbins and Rita Atkinson introduced several young people from the Damascus Project who gave a presentation of the valuable work they have been doing as young leaders, and also an account of how they have contributed to Drayton 2020 at a recent consultation exercise with the young people of the village that was held in the Small Hall last month.

One or two questions were fielded from members of the public, and Julian Cook queried the costs of the Neighbourhood Plan. Richard Webber replied on behalf of the Parish Council, and explained that although there obviously are costs attached to the process, some monies are being made available by central government to help with this, and in the meantime, Drayton 2020 has hired in some outside expertise, but has minimised the use of consultants by doing much of the work 'in-house'. We have also had access to a number of free workshops put on by the likes of the Design Council and CPRE – again, their funding has come from central government. The Annual Parish Meeting concluded with tea and biscuits provided by the ladies of the Drayton Short-Mat Bowls Club, to whom we offer our grateful thanks.

After a short interval the normal monthly Parish Council meeting took place, ending at 10 pm. Pat Athawes was co-opted onto the Council as a new member, having responded to our plea for recruits. There are still several vacancies on the Parish Council, and as the next meeting in May is our AGM, when the Chairman, committee chairs and other posts will be elected (or re-elected), there would be no better time to join. As Paul's speech noted, while much of the PC's business is inevitably routine, the Neighbourhood planning process entails a whole different level of involvement and interest, and an opportunity genuinely to have a say in the future of Drayton village.

To contact any members of the Parish Council, all enquiries should be directed to the Parish Clerk, David Perrow, in the first instance. David may be contacted via E-mail at draytonclerk@yahoo.co.uk or by telephone on 07909 176061, and he will ensure that any messages are passed on. Any Drayton resident may also ask to be added to the Clerk's E-mailing list, so that they receive prior notice of meetings and any relevant documents. In addition, all Parish Council minutes are now archived on the village website: [www.drayton-near-abingdon.org](http://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 Parish Council's AGM on Monday 13th May 2013, at 7.30pm, in the usual venue of the Caudwell day Centre in Gravel Lane. As ever, all are welcome to attend.



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# DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

## Richard Webber

### Taking part in Democracy - Elections

There is an argument for having all elections on the same day. There is an argument for making that day a National Bank Holiday. Some would go so far as to say that voting on that day should be compulsory. But none of it looks like happening in the foreseeable future. We are stuck with elections seemingly every year - most people not understanding what they are voting for or what their elected representative will be responsible for. County Council elections seem a rather distant, even tiresome and irrelevant distraction. I am told we can expect in the region of a 25% turnout on May 2nd. If so, at best some 10% of the population will decide who locally is responsible for our roads, our schools, our social services and so on. The same 10% will decide how 40% + of our council tax is spent. (The District Council is responsible for spending a little under 10%!).

It is a sad reflection on the state of our democracy when so few people decide these things. Many of us look back to the people who struggled for the right to vote for all men and women over the past 150 years and wonder how they would feel.

In tough times, we can understand why there are feelings of disinterest and disenchantment around election time. What's the point? Why should I bother? They'll do what they want anyway. The trouble with that attitude is that it changes nothing. At just the time when change may need to happen, nothing changes. The only solution is to vote. On May 2nd you will have a wide choice of candidates. I urge everyone to look at what they have to say. Decide who best represents your views and vote for them. Do not leave it to others. Please vote for someone. And please remember that these are Local elections and should be about *Local issues*. Whoever wins, it would cheer me up no end to see Drayton with the highest turnout in the area.

### Planning and the Neighbourhood Plan

For whatever reason, Drayton is now the only large village in VWHDC not to have received an application to build a large number of houses. For this, we should thank two Groups of people. The first Group is the Drayton landowners who have shown patience and restraint whilst elsewhere their counterparts have been piling in. Under the current Government drive to stimulate housebuilding, Kingston Bagpuize, Shrivenham and Watchfield landowners have been granted permissions for hundreds of houses. Local people have had little or no say. Which brings me to the second Group who deserve our thanks - all those behind our emerging Neighbourhood Plan. In the next few weeks, all of us will be invited to hear and judge how much this Group have achieved so far. They have no power to make decisions without us. Their job is to offer us options. At the end of the process, we will all be able to vote it down or up. If you have strong feelings, I urge you to take part in the process. For a successful Neighbourhood Plan, everyone must have been given the opportunity to express their views, and a majority will decide what happens or doesn't happen at a referendum.

No-one can be sure that the process will work. However, I would like to be part of a community which tries to find a way to keep an overwhelming number of us at least mostly happy (yes, including landowners) by producing a vision of a well-planned, sustainable Drayton in which we are all content to live. The alternative, which so many others are facing, is where local people have no say in what is happening to their communities, and residents are left unhappy and blaming 'them, up there' (as they always have done) for the fact that their villages are randomly distributed, dysfunctional and desperately short of infrastructure.

Whatever your views on the Neighbourhood Plan or Elections, I urge you to get involved and help make democracy work.

Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com  
01235 53400

# ALL AROUND

## BOWLS CLUB

## Roll Up

We start these notes by reminding all members that the coach will leave the village hall car park at 10 am on the 19th of June to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the formation of the club, where they will be taken to Letchlade garden centre, and then on to 'The Windmill' restaurant, Burford, where we hope to enjoy a two course lunch before being driven home. At the time of writing, there will be 52 members going on the trip, and the day will be funded by the club. Just a reminder where it all started, Harry Bisby (Former Chronicle editor), decided to call a meeting to see if there was enough interest to form a short mat bowls club, this was in January 1988. Around 25 people turned up and he was so pleased with the response, he decided to get things moving and work out how to raise the funds to get it off the ground. In April of that year another meeting was held, and people were asked to make an interest free loan to buy equipment. Those in attendance were quite happy to do this and loans ranging from £50 pounds to £5 pounds were forthcoming, this enabled the committee, (which had now been formed) to purchase a mat and all the bits to make a start, and on the 13th of June 1988, 'Drayton Short mat Bowls Club', got off the ground, and to quote an old cliché, the rest is history. Of the 40 founder members on that day 25 years ago, we are proud to say that Jim and Freda Bray, and Sarah Church, are still active members, with Marion Webster, and Kay Attwood associate members.

It is very fitting that the club is still very strong and with a membership of over 50, it is the biggest in the county. We are still recording success with 'The Wasps' winning the afternoon triple league for the fourth time in a row. The team was made up with the following, T. Wright, J. Hyde, B. Watts, J. Carter, C. Carter, O. Brown, B. Jones, D. Rich, J. Pimm, P. Lacey and G. Lacey. 'The Rollers' finished in 3rd spot, and 'The Hammers' in mid table in the evening league. 'The Dynamos' didn't fare so well and finished at the wrong end of the table.

The two internal competitions from last year have been played and the winner of 'The Doreen Jones' never won' singles was Fred Long who beat Chris Bramwell, and in the final of the 'Ladies Singles', Val Locke beat Barbara Watts.

The next internal competition will be 'The Doreen Jones' never won' and will take place on May the 14th.

The club will not be entering teams in the Summer League mainly due to lack of interest.



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## MORE ALL AROUND

### 1st DRAYTON BROWNIES

**Esther Deabill**

Welcome back to all the Brownies after the Easter break, we trust you had a lovely holiday and not too many Easter Eggs! We have a full fun packed term ahead working towards our Traditions badge. Activities will include a traditional games evening, Kite flying on the Millennium Green, Puppet making and show and a Rounders match. Throughout the term we will also be preparing and practicing Country Dancing with a performance to the parents at the end of term. A note for your diary, on the 23rd of June at 4.00 pm, the young leaders of the village are organising a fun service at the church which will involve the Brownies. We hope to see you all there.

*Ruth Hudson (Brown Owl) 01235 205111*

*Esther Deabill (Tawny Owl) 01235 528502*

*Annette Mitchell (Barn Owl) 01235 555216*

### DRAYTON WIVES

**Gwen Price**

Our talk in March was called New Zealand, The Shaky Islands, which was an appropriate title as it is volcanic. Recently there was an earthquake in the Christchurch area which completely destroyed Christchurch Cathedral.

The talk was given by Jill Carey assisted by her husband. They had a two month tour of the North and South islands in a camper van. She fascinated us with her colourful descriptions of the scenery, the gardens, the unique trees, the unusual birds and animals. There were lovely views of the mountains and sea. It has been said that New Zealand is a smaller version of Europe. In many ways it is a good description. We were fascinated by her talk and descriptions and look forward to her next talk.

#### MAY DIARY

*Mon 13th COFFEE: Margaret L, Eve, Ann H.*

*Mon 20th WHIST: Trudi*

*Wed 29th MEETING: From Chorister to Cavalry Officer.  
Talk given by Tony Paddy.*

### HALL REPORT

**Ann Webb**

It is quite a while since I have written a report of the Hall's life, Chronicle publishing and meetings seem to have missed each other. Anyway, those who visit regularly will notice that the porch area has at last got a new floor covering, it looks so much nicer as you enter the door. The panels in the small hall are finally covered and hopefully the echo has decreased. By the time you read this we hope to have decorated the gents cloakroom, it really needed a freshen up for the spring!!! We are also in process of replacing the main hall curtains and a few electrical improvements are in progress. The committee has been asked if it is possible to replace our ageing cooker with a newer model, this is being investigated.

As you may be aware, our booking secretary, who recently took over from me, has had to resign due to personal reasons but thankfully, Mr Tony Holmes has stepped in to fill the post. By the time this is in print he may well be your contact. (*Editor's note: he is, see the back page for the new contact No.*). Most of you will know the name if not the face from your Chronicle because he is one of the editors. We wish him well and we will help him all we can.

Lastly, on a not so nice note, over the last few months we have had some hirers that unfortunately have neither respected our hall nor our neighbours. We are very sorry for the upset which our neighbours have suffered, the hall also has suffered, sometimes it has been left in an unimaginable mess. We are very proud of our hall and when it is abused to this degree we are deeply hurt that a party cares so little about it to leave it in such a mess. On some occasions it has been so bad that following bookings have been lost, and complaints have gone on until the floor has been taken

back to its usual standard. When the hall is booked, the hirer promises, by signing the booking form, to leave the hall in as near a state as it was found, that is a legally binding contract. In view of recent events the committee will discuss upping the damage and extra cleaning deposit to a higher amount. This is a refundable deposit and if all criteria are met with, it is returned in full. It is not an unreasonable request to show the hall and our cleaner the respect they deserve. On that note I will close, and I hope I don't have to write this again.

**W.I.**

**Brenda Malin**

At our April meeting, a Beetle Drive created an atmosphere reminiscent of Las Vegas. The groans when a six did not materialise, the cheers when a beetle was completed. Fun far outweighed sophistication and did everyone a power of good, everyone went home feeling lighter hearted with a spring in their step.

Our Coffee morning, held earlier in the month, had a wonderful turnout despite the snow; it just shows what a hardy bunch we ladies are.

Our May 9th meeting is a talk on **Women on Britain's Inland Waterways in WW2**. This promises to be an interesting subject and will give a further insight to the role of women during the war. If you feel you would like to join us for this talk, or indeed be interested in joining us as a member, please feel free to come along to the Caudwell Day Centre at 7.20pm on the second Thursday in the month, you will find a friendly and welcoming group of ladies, plus refreshments.

**Next meeting 9th May see above.**



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# NOTICE BOARD

## Have your say Meeting

Thames Valley Police are holding the next "Have Your Say Meeting" on Saturday 11th May between 11 am and 12 pm on The Green, Drayton

*Sandra Syphas (PCSO)*

## Earth Trust Events

The Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham organise a variety of local walks with explanatory talks. In May, topics include an active look at the historic Wittenham Clumps, family plant foraging, bats at Wallingford Castle, birds at Thrupp Lake and family bushcraft at the centre.

For more details see their website at [www.earthtrust.org.uk](http://www.earthtrust.org.uk).

For costs & bookings, call 01865 407792.

## Against Breast Cancer

Against Breast Cancer is holding its Classic Oxfordshire Bike Ride and Family Fun Day on Sunday 5th May. For more information see their website [www.againstbreastcancer.org.uk](http://www.againstbreastcancer.org.uk) or telephone Emily Bush on 01235 534211.

## Are you a Cyclist or a Would-be Cyclist?

It is a sad fact that around Drayton there are not many designated cycle paths that provide safe and enjoyable routes to cycle for recreational purposes, and also for getting to the neighbouring villages.

One of the most useful routes would be an off-road track from Drayton to Milton that would avoid having to negotiate the perils of the Milton Road. This would not only be very helpful for those wishing to cycle to work on Milton Park, but could also provide a more direct route on to Didcot.

It would obviously need the help and support of local people, businesses and landowners, and above all, Oxfordshire County Council, to get it established, but it could be a very beneficial and environmentally friendly asset for the village.

If this is something that you would be interested in, perhaps you could get in touch and let me know, and we could try and investigate the matter further.

I look forward to hearing from you. *Doreen Bourne*  
01235 531761 [alananddoreenbourne@talktalk.net](mailto:alananddoreenbourne@talktalk.net)

## Sobell House Oxford Moonlight Stroll

A nine mile night time sponsored walk through the streets of Oxford.

Sign up at [www.oxfordmoonlightstroll.org](http://www.oxfordmoonlightstroll.org) or call 01865 857007

## Oxfordshire Woodfuel Programme

Woodfuel themed *study visits* will run on 15 April, 1 June and 8 June.

Woodland owners who could use some free help with woodland management, or would like to work outdoors in return for some firewood, please join 'Logs for Labour'.

A quality standard for firewood for Oxfordshire is being developed. 'OxLogs' suppliers will clearly state the volume, type, length and moisture content of their wood.

For more information please see [www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk](http://www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk).

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## 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.

The gates open at 10am on Barrow Road, Admission on the gate is Adult £15, OAP £10, 5-15yr olds £5, under 5s Free, Advance rate are 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. More information or would like to participate, log onto to:

[www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk](http://www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk)

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

# DRAYTON DIARY

## FOR MAY

All events are at Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise  
(To book Drayton Hall call Tony Holmes on 531180)  
website address [www.draytonvh.org.uk](http://www.draytonvh.org.uk)

Regular Events are listed opposite

<b>Fri</b>	<b>10th</b>	<b>5.00 pm</b>	<b>Chronicle Ads deadline</b>	<i>Vickery's box</i>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>12th</b>	<b>4.00 pm</b>	<b>Drayton 2020</b>	<i>School</i>
<b>Mon</b>	<b>13th</b>	<b>7.30 pm</b>	<b>Parish Council AGM</b>	<i>Caudwell DC</i>
<b>Mon</b>	<b>13th</b>	<b>5.00 pm</b>	<b>Chronicle copy deadline</b>	<i>Vickery's box</i>

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## REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

### MONDAYS

- 10.30 and 11.30 am Pilates
- 9.00 am Pre-School Playgroup (in Term) *School Ground Bldg*
- 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*
- 10.30–11.30am 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*
- 1.45 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.

### MISSED OUT ON YOUR CHRONICLE?

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.