

# DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Derek Pooley

Volume 36 No. 5

June 2013

## DRAYTON 2020

-

## LOOKING at OPTIONS

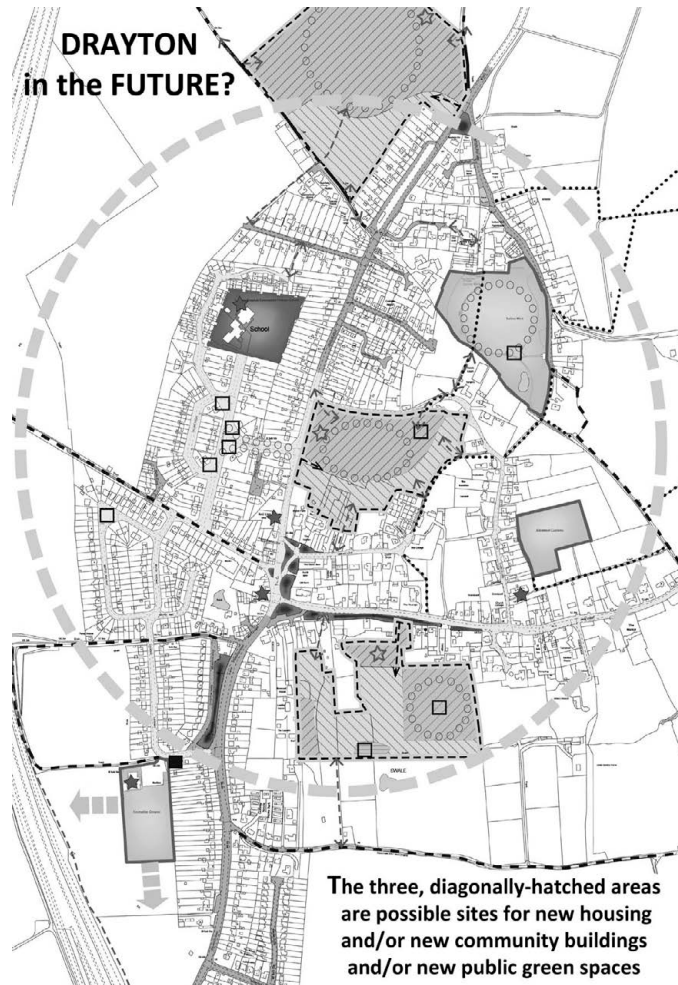
**Editor's Note:** In the school hall on Sunday, 12 May, the Drayton 2020 team presented to some 90 villagers many of their ideas for the **Drayton Neighbourhood Plan**. They answered questions, asked for feedback and looked for guidance on how the various options for developing the village might be evaluated.

**Parish Councillor Richard William's report** on this valuable meeting starts below and continues on pages 10 & 11:

'The purposes of the 12 May meeting were twofold:

First, for the Drayton 2020 team to report back to the village on the progress made by the Steering Group and various working groups on our Neighbourhood Plan since its launch in the Village Hall last September. In the main, the ideas we have been working on are those that Drayton residents themselves raised at that time – all the comments made verbally and on the various village maps were collated, and used as guidance to the areas we should be concentrating on.

Secondly, to get feedback from the village, not just..... ➔



➔ .....not just in the form of people's opinions on what we've done so far, but to listen to their views on where we should be headed next.

It is tremendously encouraging to be able to report that around 90 Drayton residents gave up their Sunday afternoon to come along to the school and take part in the meeting. Sat around work tables to facilitate discussion, they pretty much filled the school hall, as the accompanying photographs in this issue will hopefully demonstrate.

The Drayton 2020 High Tea Committee were responsible for providing an impressive range of home-made cakes and scones, and hot drinks to wash them all down with. Our thanks go to all who contributed to this excellent catering effort.

Andrew Bax, Chair of the Steering Group, introduced the main part of the proceedings, giving an outline of what has been achieved since last September. He highlighted the fact that we have received training and advice from, .....continued on page 10 ➔



### Also in this issue:

p4 – The rhythm of life

p8 – Dibley (or Drayton) PC

p12 – Number 1 table tennis player

p3 – The joys of kite flying

p6 – The IW in WWII

p9 – Music for St Peter's

p13 – Vale in best 20 for crime

p3 – The WI in WWII

p7 – What lies beneath

p10 – More 2020

p15 – Working to make us feel better

# CHRONICLE INFORMATION

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

Editor: **Tony Holmes, 53 Whitehorns Way (531180).**

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

Deadline for advertisements: **17.00 on Friday, 14 June 2013**

Deadline for other contributions: **17.00 on Monday, 17 June 2013**

Printed copies available: **Friday, 28 June 2013**

## Key dates for the subsequent three Chronicles:

Issue for	Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available on:
Aug	15 July 2013	26 July 2013
Sept	12 Aug 2013	23 Aug 2013
Oct	16 Sept 2013	27 Sept 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 to achieve this.

A contribution or advertising request can be sent to us in one of three ways:

1. The best is by **email** to **editor@draytonchronicle.net**. Your contributions should either be embedded in your email as **plain text** or attached as a **rich-text** or **Microsoft Word** document!

Requests for advertisements should not be emailed to the editor but to **advertising@draytonchronicle.net**. Please note that they eventually need to be in Word format, 9cms wide and, for a single block advert, about 4.5cms high

Please head your email and label any attachments with a name distinctive to you, not just 'Chronicle'. Also, make sure the editor or advertising manager acknowledges your email within a few days.

2. If you cannot send your contribution by email, send us a **good quality paper version**, using fairly large, **simple** black typescript, without underlining on white paper, A4 or smaller.

3. Finally, we do accept **hand-written items**. However, in this case **please write the names of people and places in capital letters**. This does save a lot of mistakes.

Paper contributions should either be placed in the Chronicle letter box (outside Vickery's shop on Drayton Green) or posted to Vickery's at 5 The Green, Drayton, Abingdon, OX14 4JA.

After the deadlines listed at the top of this page, only urgent items will be considered for inclusion and then only if emailed or delivered directly to the **Editor's** house by the Wednesday following the Monday deadline.

## ADVERTISING RATES

Charge for a single Block Advert (about 9cms x 4.5cms)

---- Number of Inserts ----

Advertiser Category:	1	3	6	12
Drayton Resident	£5.00	£14.00	£25.50	£48.00
Non-Drayton Resident	£6.00	£17.00	£31.50	£60.00

**Double-size** adverts are charged at **twice** the above rates.

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

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

# CHRONICLE LOTTERY

Jean Barton, Hon Promoter

## RESULTS OF THE MAY LOTTERY

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	704	Simon & Margaret Inger, Church Lane	Susan Brooks
£20	1660	Mrs S Clarke, 29 Whitehorns Way	Trudi Buckner
£15	1741	M Howard Crook, 54 Lyford Close	Thomas Wilson
£10	344	Mr McDaid, Sutton Wick Lane	Geoff Clough
£10	675	Gareth Davies, 6 Church Lane	Susan Brooks
£10	1269	P Holigan, Steventon Road	Julie Lonsdale
£10	443	Mr Beacroft, Sutton Wick Lane	Geoff Clough
£10	151	Carol Arnold, 95 Abingdon Road	Carol Arnold
£10	1626	Mr & Mrs Elms, 11 Whitehorns Way	Trudi Buckner
£10	116	Mrs Booth, 87 Abingdon Road	Carol Arnold

We no longer use counterfoils. Instead, winning numbers from the 1618 tickets sold last month were generated randomly using a computer, as for national premium bonds and in the national lottery

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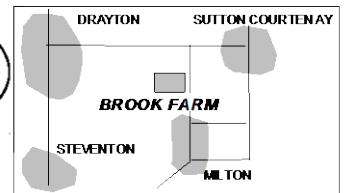


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**DISCLAIMER:** This Journal is published in good faith and great care is taken in its compilation. The organisers of the DRAYTON CHRONICLE, and its Agents, therefore accept no responsibility for OPINIONS EXPRESSED, nor for the validity of any ADVERTISEMENT, nor for any EFFECTS ARISING WHATSOEVER from the publication.

## YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor

What a lovely sight on the Millennium Green it was to see the Brownies trying to fly their kites, some for the first time. Their laughter and squeals of delight were great to hear. Unfortunately rain stopped play so I do hope they have another chance. The Drayton Brownies are lucky to have such wonderful group of dedicated people who give up their time willingly and work very hard to provide fun and interesting things for their group to do.



Incidentally if I am right, when the Green was launched the symbol chosen was a kite.

*Gwen Price*

**Editor's Note:** Gwen correctly remembers a kite logo, sometimes used by the Drayton Community Trust. The DCT played a pivotal role in starting the Chronicle, establishing the Millennium Green and setting up the village web-site – and is now co-leading, with the Parish Council, the Drayton 2020 neighbourhood planning project. If you read this note in time, why not find out more about the Community Trust by coming along to its AGM at 19.30 at the Caudwell Day Centre on Tuesday 04 June.

Dear Editor,

We would like to thank all our many neighbours and friends who have welcomed us since we moved to Corneville Road 16 plus years ago.

We are now moving into Abingdon and 'down-sizing', as the phrase goes. By the time you read this our lovely bungalow and large garden will have been replaced by an apartment, with a balcony overlooking the Ock river.

We both hope all the hard work that is going into Drayton 2020 will be rewarded and we wish you all well.

*Ron and June Etheridge*

Dear Editor

Could I pass my sincere thanks on to all the Drayton folk and their friends who kindly supported the Jazz & Swing Concert at St Peter's Church on Saturday 11th May. (**Ed's Note:** see page 9)

The event raised £1856 (£1556 after expenses)

*Brian Thompson*

Dear Editor

May I send thanks to the people of Binning Close, Haywards Road, Lockway, Steventon Road and Whitehorns Way who kindly contributed to the Children's Society Collection in April. Some £122.00 was raised for the Children's Society.

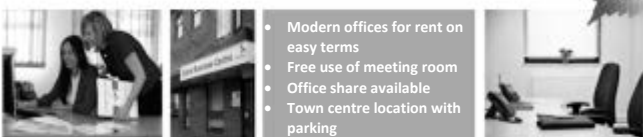
*Doreen Bourne*

Dear Editor

Margaret and family wish to thank all our friends and relatives for their kind messages of sympathy, and for the donations received for Sobell House hospice, in memory of Terry. Your love and support has been much appreciated.

*Margaret Perris*

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**Letters to the Editor** are accepted on the understanding that opinions expressed are strictly those of the correspondent. The Editor reserves the right to shorten, clarify or reject them. Each letter must bear a legible name and address (and telephone number if possible) so that the correspondent may be contacted if necessary. The correspondent's name will be published unless the Editor is specifically requested in writing not to do so.

## NOTICE BOARD

**An unusual key** has been found along the Abingdon Road, Drayton, on a key ring which reads 'Golf and Turf Equipment'. Please call Ellie on 01235 531377

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**Jambusters** is the latest book by best-selling author Julie Summers.

It's the story of the WI and how they ran the countryside during WWII. The book is full of humour and wonderful stories of how the women of rural Britain made things tick even in impossible circumstances.

### Explore Wittenham Clumps with the Earth Trust:

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**Sunday 23rd June, 3-5pm. Wittenham Clumps: A Walk Through History.** Explore the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman settlements that once thrived on the Clumps. Back at the Earth Trust we'll look at excavated artefacts and images of the evolving landscape through time.

Booking is essential, by phoning 01865 407792 or emailing [admin@earthtrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@earthtrust.org.uk). Adults £5, children £2 for either event

# 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 (Common Worship - Traditional)
	10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (CW), except this month on Mothering Sunday, 10th March, when there is a non-Eucharistic Praise Service
Thurs	9.30 am	Holy Communion (CW) in Lady Chapel.

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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

## CALENDAR FOR JUNE

Tue	4th	3.00 pm	First Tuesday Connections
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## CHURCH REGISTER:

### Funerals:

22nd April Jillian Ann Matthews

### Internment of Ashes:

4th May Emmeline Rose Payne



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## LETTER FROM REV. REBECCA PETERS

Dear Friends,

'As with so many things, the quality of the lives we live is shaped not so much by *what* we do but *how* we do it. It is so easy to trudge through life, simply missing the gems and wonder of everyday existence, not because they are absent but because we don't notice them.' Extract from 'Everyday God' by Paula Gooder.



It is so easy to become consumed by doing things, the work deadline looming, the baby up all night crying, looking after sick relatives, our daily routine. We can often be left to feel that life is passing us by. How do you learn to take time out, to turn aside to God and to regain a sense of his presence and wonder in all you do? For some people silence and reflection work well, for others long prayer walks in the countryside, for others listening to music and for others being in a place of busyness such as a shopping centre or coffee shop. Learning to still our hearts and turning to God can be done anywhere, in the midst of the ordinariness of life, while driving, walking or commuting to work, or doing the washing up. Simply inviting God to be with us, and thanking him for all his goodness to us can change our perspective on life and how we live. How we incorporate that into a daily routine is called a rhythm of life and this varies depending on our personality and our different life stages. What is your rhythm of life?

My own rhythm of life is about to change again, as I will be on maternity leave from 30th June. I will continue to live at the vicarage in Drayton, but while on maternity leave all responsibility for the oversight of the Church will go to the church wardens, Valerie Cross (535183) and Colin Arnold (531923). A team of local priests have agreed to cover services, as well as baptisms, weddings and funerals, all organised by the Church wardens.

God Bless

Rebecca

PS A huge thank you for all the support the village has shown the church recently. The response to the St Peter's and You afternoon was a great encouragement.

## YOU STAY - WE PRAY: JUNE

2nd to 15th; Lockway, Whitehorns Way: 16th to 22nd; Corneville Road, Crabtree Lane, Lesparre Close: 23rd to 29th; Drayton Road, Milton Road, New Cut Mill, Fisher Close, Marcham Road, Meads Close, Rippington Court, Stone Hill.

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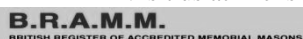


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## BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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11.15 am Presently only one morning service per month.  
A Family service on the first Sunday  
6.00 pm Evening Service. Traditional format.

**EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME**

## LOCAL METHODIST WORSHIP

High Street, Milton  
Sunday Service: 10.30 am

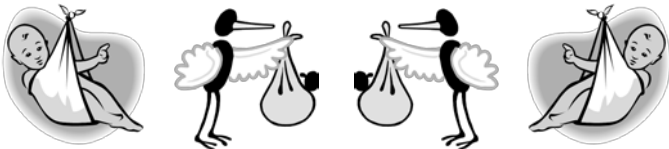
**Local contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409**

## 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 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 **04 June** and **02 July**. If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

Congratulations and very best wishes to Shona & Neil Ware on the birth of their baby girl Darcey on the 17th April, weighing 6lb 14oz.



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

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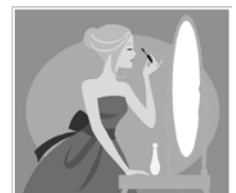
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THE RED LION

### W.I.

### Brenda Malin

Our May meeting was about yet another aspect of war work which was certainly unknown to almost everyone at the meeting, and I am not too sure that many people when asked who the I.W. Ladies were would know, probably the ladies who make jam and sing Jerusalem.

Barbara Hately-Broad gave us a fascinating talk on the I.W. No, not the W.I! I.W. stands for Inland Water Ways. Although most of us are familiar with the Land Army, it is not so well known that ladies were called upon to man, if you will forgive the expression, the barges and keep vital supplies moving along the canals. The ladies/girls were issued with just a badge with the I.W. insignia, no official uniform, to denote their calling. They were always known as trainees and laughingly called the 'Idle Women' by the men they replaced. Soon however these ladies proved their worth. Sadly it was not until 2008 that a plaque dedicated to these 'Idle Women' was un-veiled nearby the Grand Union Canal

During the month another successful and enjoyable coffee morning was held at a member's home.

Next Meeting June 13th - A talk on Ethiopia. All are welcome 7.20pm at Caudwell Day Centre the second Thursday in the month.

### DRAYTON WIVES

### Gwen Price

Our meeting in May was the A.G.M. Two committee members retired and we have three new volunteers. We have had a very successful year with interesting speakers and enjoyable social events. We finished with cake and tea. Josie produced a very good photograph competition of twenty different parts of Drayton and we had to guess where they were. It caused a lot of fun and maybe will make us look more carefully at places in our village. There is no meeting in June as there is an outing to the Chelsea Pensioner Barracks on 26th June.

June dates:

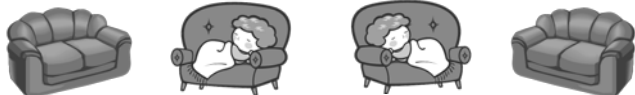
Fri 7th: Walk to BBont site near Aston.  
Mon 10th Coffee: Jean, Daphne B, Trudi  
Mon 17th: Whist: Pam

### POST OFFICE Drayton Post Office

Mon - Fri 9 - 5.30 Sat 9 - 12.30

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## DRAYTON 1ST BROWNIES **Annette Mitchell**

Welcome to Loren who has joined our busy pack!

We had a very enjoyable evening playing board games, card games, Twister and an extra large Jenga!

Kite flying on the Millennium Green was a success even though it was cut short by a rain storm!

We were all on our very best behaviour when we were lucky enough to have a guided tour of Abingdon Police Station; many thanks to PCSO Sandra Syphas for organising it for us.

We rounded the term off with a game of rounders at Drayton School.

We are an extremely busy Brownie group and at the moment we do not have any room until next year. But please put your daughters name down on our waiting list then she will get in sooner rather than later. Don't wait until they turn 7!

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.

### Dates for your diary:

23rd June - Service for Brownies & friends has been postponed until 22nd Sept.

30th June – Brownies performing their Country Dancing at Drayton School Fete.

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

## DRAYTON SCHOOL **Julie Pitts**

A big welcome back to staff and children from the Easter break. The Key stage II children have been very busy making models during this break and bought back some amazing models.

The school topic this term will be "What lies beneath?" This is a topic which has opened the minds of Eagles class, who had to create an imaginative, "World Beneath". The models came back ranging from What lies beneath your bed, to What lies beneath the sea.

Kingfishers' models were of Volcanoes. These came back in all sizes, made from Lego to polystyrene. Kingfishers had lots of fun exploding some of their models with vinegar, baking soda, and food colouring. The explosions were very impressive, with lava overflowing on the tables. The children had great fun doing this.

Red Kites' models were of The Titanic, again some amazing models made by the children. All models are displayed in the class rooms, please take an admiring look of these on a Friday morning. The Titanic models ranged from a full Titanic boat to many Titanics half sunk.

Key stage 1 have taken the topic, 'What lies beneath your drain'. The children in Ravens class will be making and naming drain models during this term and I am sure that they will be as imaginative as the Key stage II models.

Puffins are looking into this topic from four views, What lies beneath... the forest, the ocean, the ground and the desert.

Robins had an amazing start to the term having found some dinosaur eggs in their class play area. They have been very kind and written to the mother dinosaur telling her that they have found them and assure her they will be looking after them until she returns to collect the eggs.

Yet more All Around on page 12 ➔

### MISSED OUT ON YOUR CHRONICLE?

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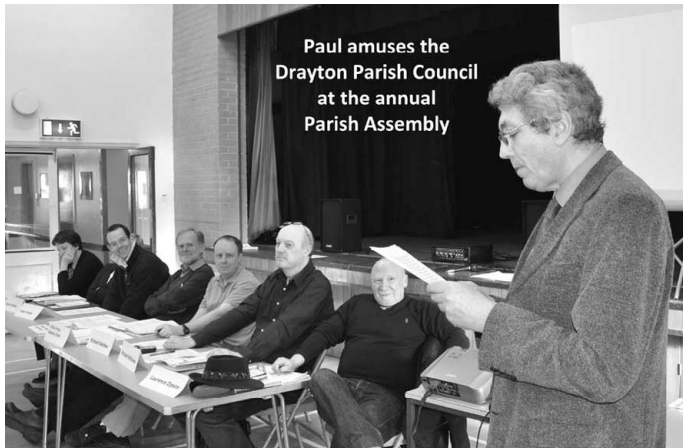
# ON PARISH COUNCILS

Paul Mayhew-Archer

Last month, Drayton Parish Council asked me to speak at their annual Parish Assembly in the hope of attracting more villagers to the event. Forty two villagers had attended in 2012, so, with my help, they hoped to get the number up to at least eighty.

Twenty one turned up. Basically I drove people away. In fact, four literally drove away as I entered the car park.

It reminded me of the time I was in the cast of a musical called *Sleeping Dogs* at the Edinburgh fringe. We had the distinction of outnumbering the audience at every performance. Which was quite an achievement as there were only five of us in the cast. *Sleeping Dogs* was a rather dull title and at one point we did think of tweaking it on all the posters - *Sleeping WITH* dogs we thought. Might attract a bigger crowd.



Paul amuses the Drayton Parish Council at the annual Parish Assembly

Anyway, because I co-wrote the *Vicar of Dibley*, I was asked to say a few words about local councils, and so I took the opportunity to ask the question **"Why do people become parish or town councillors?"**

I had a great aunt who, for years, was on the local Council of a seaside town in Sussex. In fact she was Mayor three times and we often wondered why she devoted so much of her life, so many of her evenings, to the council. Then we found out she was having an affair with the town clerk.

Let's face it, councils are the perfect cover because, although their meetings are open to the public, we never go. They sound so dull.

"Just off to the council meeting, dear"

"Another? That's the third this month"

"I know. You can come if you like"

"Goodness no, sounds ghastly. How long will you be?"

"Well we've got to discuss the street light not working on the corner of Whitehorns Way and Marcham Road AND people putting dog mess in the bins belonging to Vickery's - so it's a packed evening. I could be gone for 3 hours".

And they're off and nobody guesses what's really going on.

Maybe they're all at it. Maybe there aren't any local councils at all, just a network of secret sex clubs calling themselves councils. All run by parish clerks, like our own David Perrow, the orgy organiser of Drayton.

No. Probably not. Though it would explain why would-be councillors are so keen to get through the ordeal of getting elected.

I say ordeal because standing for election involves canvassing - knocking on our doors, begging us for our vote and risking the possibility of being sworn at. My wife Julie, knows this only too well since she's been on Abingdon Town council for 20 years. Indeed she's devoted much of her life, many of her evenings, to the council - which reminds me, I must check out the town clerk.

Anyway she said she canvassed one lady, got her vote and then asked the question "will your husband, the vicar, be voting?" - and as she asked the question she remembered that the Vicar had just

been in the local paper after running off with the pizza delivery boy. "My husband is not here" said the lady and slammed the door.

Sometimes Julie would go with colleagues for moral support. One day she went with two women friends and as they set off she said "it's probably best if we don't introduce ourselves to voters with our full names." Sensible as she was Julie Mayhew-Archer and the other two were Jeanette Rickus-Prosser and Louise Goss-Custard.

And an elderly very proper local councillor called Keith Hasnip, had an unusual encounter whilst canvassing in Abingdon. He got to a top floor flat, rang the doorbell and a middle aged woman dressed only in a see-through negligee came to the door.

"Are you my 6 o'clock?" she said

"No madam I am not" said Keith in his most dignified and serious voice

"Though I could come back at 7" he added. (Actually he didn't. I'm just being silly)

And then once you're on a council, life doesn't get any easier. Now you have to deal with 'the public' - Like the chap who goes to a local cemetery and shouts "don't let the council bury you, they'll stick you in the wrong grave" Or the man who keeps pleading to be moved to the top of the housing list as he desperately needs a second bedroom for his train set. Or the man who kept phoning a councillor we know, leaving messages demanding "Ring me back as soon as you get in".

Finally that councillor snapped. He waited up till 3 in the morning and rang the man. "I've just got in" he said.

So, as I say, why do people become local councillors? Is it because their home lives are simply ghastly?

After all, if you're given the choice of spending the evening at home with your family or spending the evening discussing dog mess and allotment provision, what sort of person goes "Ooh yes. Dog mess and allotments for me please."

And here's an interesting thing. The Scrutiny committee of the Vale of White Horse District Council met recently. On Valentine's Day! There are 12 councillors on that committee and how many turned up on the most romantic night of the year? Fourteen. Two more came just for the fun of it.

And yet all the councillors I know are happily married.

So maybe they join the council because they're dim and don't know what they're letting themselves in for. The parish councillors in Dibley were a deeply dim lot. For example you'd think that the agenda item "apologies" would be a formality. Not in Dibley.

DAVID - Right we've got a lot to get through so let's not waste any time. Item one. Apologies for absence

JIM - No, no, no, no, no, yes. I have an apology for absence.

DAVID - Who from, Jim?

JIM - Me.

DAVID - But you're here.

JIM - No no no yes. I am here now. But I'm not here at the next meeting.

DAVID - Then you don't need to apologise until the next meeting.

JIM - But I'm not here at the next meeting.

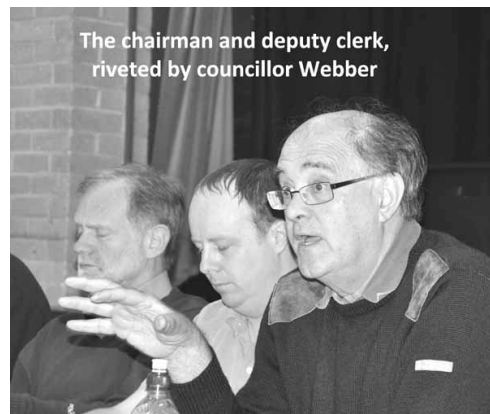
DAVID - Yes. I know. So you send your apologies before the next meeting.

JIM - That's what I'm doing.

I'm often asked if Dibley is based on Abingdon or

Drayton councils and I always say no.

No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, yes.



The chairman and deputy clerk, riveted by councillor Webber





⇒ In fact, this year's Annual meeting in Drayton had the odd Dibley-esque moment. There was, for instance, item 5 - "Minutes from the previous meeting on April 2nd 2012." There is something intrinsically funny in the idea of discussing the minutes of a meeting that happened over a year ago.

"Did we really agree to send the parish clerk on a fact-finding, all expenses paid trip to the Seychelles?"

"I suppose we must have, it's in his minutes".

But our local councillors aren't dim. So maybe they're after power. The power to pass laws. Here are some genuine laws passed by councillors in the past that have never been repealed.

In Oxfordshire it is still against the law to eat a mince pie on Christmas Day. Unless you're trying for a baby.

If you are successful in trying for a baby and you become pregnant then you are allowed to urinate anywhere including in a policeman's helmet.

In the city of York, it is quite legal to murder a Scotsman if he is carrying a bow and arrow. But not on a Sunday.

If you need to murder someone on a Sunday you have to go to Hereford where you can shoot a Welsh person all day, but only with a Longbow.

And in Liverpool it is still illegal for a woman to be topless unless she works in a tropical fish store

Frankly, I'd be tempted to become a parish councillor if I thought it allowed me to pass laws like that. But sadly parish councillors no longer have that sort of power.

So what makes intelligent, happily married people go through the ordeal of elections in order to be criticised by difficult parishioners and join a committee that meets on Valentine's Day or attend meetings about litter bins, dog poo and bus shelters that can go on for 3 hours and for which you don't get paid? Did I mention that? Parish councillors don't even get paid!

Are they perhaps bonkers? There are certainly a few bonkers parish councillors in England. I read in the papers recently about two councillors, both over 60, who embarked on a bizarre feud. She was chair of the parish council but when he replaced her as chair she resigned in disgust, attended every meeting as a member of the public, bombarded him with Freedom of Information requests and made 70 complaints about him to the standards board. In revenge he signed the 65 year old lady up to three dating agencies - including one called sexy singles - so she'd be plagued by unwanted correspondence. He's now under a court restraining order for harassment and she is dating "Foxy from Oxfordshire" - as our parish clerk is sometimes known.

But I've met our local councillors and they're not bonkers. I'm married to one and she doesn't need to be sectioned.

So I'm left with two conclusions. People either become local councillors because they simply and genuinely want to help the local community.



**Or the parish council really is a secret sex club!!**

You'll probably only know for sure if you join the council. I understand the village needs some new councillors, so sign up and find out what you're in for.



Rebecca explains her concerns for St Peter's

## ON EASY LISTENING

Barry Sharp

On Saturday 11th May a packed audience at St Peter's church was treated to another great concert by Boulevard Swing. This sextet,

with delightful vocals from Pat Giles, filled the church with their skilful performances of classics such as A Train (the band's signature tune), I Can't Give You Anything But Love, Blue



Skies, and many more. A favourite was one of Brian Thompson's own compositions, My Latin Boy, atmospherically sung by Pat.

Mike Wills, a newcomer to most of us, appeared as a replacement for Chuck, the band's saxophonist, and greatly impressed us with his professional style on a variety of sax and clarinet instruments. Teaming up, as did Chuck, with trombonist Clive, they seemed to have been playing together for years.



Sad for us, we had to say goodbye to the group's base player Nigel Pearce who is planning to retire to France. Many thanks Nigel for all your fine accompaniments - and solos - over the last 10 years. We

wish you a very happy retirement and good luck in showing those guys across the channel how to play bass.

At the beginning of the interval we were thrilled by a surprise appearance by an unaccompanied choir of 10 called 'Crescendo'



who performed three barber-shop-style numbers. Their talent and infectious enthusiasm were great to see and hear. They will certainly be welcome to sing in Drayton anytime, preferably soon.

All in all a thoroughly successful evening which, in addition to ticket sales, raised £200 for the Church from the raffle proceeds. More information about Boulevard Swing can be found at [www.Boulevardswingjazz.com](http://www.Boulevardswingjazz.com).

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# 2020 FEEDBACK MEETING

Richard Williams

⇒ continued from page 1

.....and advice from a variety of sources: the CPRE (Campaign for the Protection of Rural England), ORCC (Oxfordshire Rural Community Council), the Design Council and CABE (the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment), and planners at the Vale, amongst others. He also described the meetings we have had with developers, and although naturally enough most of these have been in relation to land where the landowner has clearly expressed an interest in development, Andrew explained that we have made attempts to contact all of the known landowners in and around Drayton, although not all have responded. The point was made that there may well be more sites in Drayton suitable for housing than the ones discussed in this meeting, but ultimately it is the responsibility of the landowner to put them forward if that is the case. The Neighbourhood Plan is at present considering, or negotiating around, three sites – but this does not preclude other sites from entering the equation if circumstances change.

Tom Shebbeare continued with a presentation on some of the main features of the Neighbourhood Plan so far, in particular its 'vision' of a new village centre, based around the Manor Farm site. A number of maps had been made available on each table, and people were encouraged to examine these. One showed details of the existing green spaces, tree planting, hedges etc around the village, plus Drayton 2020's proposals for new planting. Another showed the proposed new sites for housing, but it was emphasised that no decisions have yet been made, and that at this stage, unlike in most of the villages surrounding Drayton, no developer has yet made a formal planning application. It should be noted that both these maps were produced by Mike Habermehl, a local landscape architect and planning consultant, who some years ago designed the layout of our Millennium Green. Mike has been assisting Drayton 2020 from the outset and we are very grateful for his professional help which has given clarity to our plans and enabled us to visualise what a Drayton of the future could look like. As to those planning applications, no assumptions are being made as to how long we can hold them off, but it does appear that our Neighbourhood Plan has bought us breathing space, and time to consider alternatives, a luxury that hasn't been afforded to, for example, Marcham, Kingston Bagpuize, Milton or Sutton Courtenay, to name but four of our neighbours



An important point, raised by one questioner from the floor was, why do we have to negotiate with the three developers who have currently got plans 'on the table' if we feel that enough houses to meet Drayton's needs could be built on two of the sites, or even one? The answer to this is that in theory the village could choose to favour say, a single site. However, the chances are that this

would not stop the other two developers from putting in planning applications, except that they would no longer feel an obligation to negotiate with us, so might increase the number of houses applied for, ignore our observations on size and type of house, and so on. No one is being complacent about the difficulties entailed in dealing with developers, especially several at once - canny businessmen as they obviously are - but it does seem that balancing the provision offered by one against another would be the best way to achieve a compromise which keeps everyone onside. No one developer is likely to get all they want (and neither will the village), but the hope is that everyone will get enough of what they want to feel that the end result is acceptable.

The last session was introduced by Janet Manning and John



Scott. Janet described the work of the 'Look and Feel' working group which she convened, and explained that we don't wish, through the Neighbourhood Plan, to simply end up with one or more 'identikit' housing estates that don't enhance the appearance of the village, or express any of Drayton's particular sense of place or identity. There is much good advice available on building codes and features distinctive to the Vale of the White Horse, and in fact the District Council has produced an admirable Residential Design Guide (available free online and well worth a look). In this document Drayton fits into the category of 'Lowland villages' and Drayton 2020 will be consulting the guide as to what design features are considered appropriate for us. It will then consult with the wider village as to what features they would like to see incorporated into new-build housing. There are indications that developers are willing to support us on this, one even suggesting that what we should be aiming for is a new Conservation Area of the future. John followed this up by listing some of the criteria which could be used to assess sites, and residents were asked to comment on these or add in their own ideas.

Those attending took part in two workshop/discussion sessions. The first followed on from Tom Shebbeare's presentation and asked people for their views on the various issues raised by Mike Habermehl's 'all-village' map – proposals on the village centre, traffic management, environmental improvement, the existing village hall, and so on. The second followed Janet Manning and John Scott's presentation, and, as indicated, asked people to consider appropriate criteria for deciding where housing should be located. Although conveners on each table have done their best to collate the comments made and gauge the range of opinions expressed, this was inevitably not a precise exercise, but the round-table discussions more than anything were intended as an opportunity for people to air their concerns, ask lots of questions, and familiarise themselves with what has been happening in the process to date.

The next stage of consultation will be the issue of a questionnaire to every household in Drayton, which will allow residents to respond to all aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan in more detail. Most Chronicle readers will recall that Drayton carried out its own Housing Needs Survey a couple of years ago, and the information provided by this has been invaluable. Nevertheless, the HNS was intended primarily to establish the need for affordable housing, which it did very effectively. But the picture is incomplete, and we need to know more about people's needs for all types of housing – do they intend to move to a larger house in the foreseeable future, or downsize to a smaller one?

continued ⇒

⇒ Do these different needs balance each other out, or do they tell us something else? We will be asking only for information which is useful in developing the Neighbourhood Plan, but it is important that the Plan be 'evidence-based', and the questionnaire will be a crucial element in making sure that it is. It will also offer plenty of opportunity for people to give their opinions not just on Housing but on all the other issues covered in the Plan. The probable timetable is that the questionnaire will go out in late June to be returned by the end of July. Please watch this space, and in the meantime, the organisers of the May 12th event would like to say thank you to all those Drayton residents who made the effort to attend. Please also put out the word to others in the village, and remember, if you have not so far participated in the process but would like to do so, we would be delighted to hear from you.

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



Andrew Bax explains the process

Steering Group meetings are open to any Drayton residents, and to date they have been held on alternate Friday evenings in the Caudwell Centre in Gravel Lane at 7pm, although this fortnightly schedule probably will not be maintained throughout the summer.

The next meeting after publication of this Chronicle should be on Fri 14th June, but you are advised to check the village website or contact the Parish Clerk at: draytonclerk@yahoo.co.uk to make sure. We look forward to seeing you there – familiar faces or new ones equally welcome.

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# YET MORE ALL AROUND

## TABLE TENNIS

**John Gould**

The Didcot League season is now over. For our eight teams there has been plenty of success. The A team finished a creditable third and Karl Bushell was the number 1 player in the League finishing on 98%. The B & C teams finished 4th & 5th in Division 2 and the C team reached the Handicap Shield Semi-Final. Our D team were runners up in Division 3 and have earned promotion. What was expected to be a season of struggle with Captain Shaun Collins suffering a bad injury before the season started, causing him to miss the whole campaign, turned into a very good finale. Also reaching the final of the Handicap Shield the team played Grove A. In a fantastic match over 40 individual games the Drayton D team won by a margin of 3 points. The players were Captain Matt Wicks, Andi Cudden & Alex Rodman.

Also gaining promotion was Drayton F team who finished second in Division 4 just piping our own E team who finished 3rd. The F team also reached the Handicap Shield semi-final. Kavan Warrender (a regular for the county team) finished on 93% and together with Peter Weir of the G team was the club's top junior. The boys shared the Geoff Hoyland Shield for their efforts. The aforementioned G team – our youngest squad finished an excellent 3<sup>rd</sup> in Division 5. The H team made up of new players strolled away with the Division 5 Championship to gain promotion at the first attempt. Keith Jepson was the Division's star finishing with 33 wins in 33 matches for a 100% record. Keith wins the Club Player of the season award for his efforts.

The Club retained the Bidmead Cup. Our team of Matt Davies, Alex Rodman & Kavan Warrender beat Upton in a close final. This is the 4th time in 5 seasons that Drayton have won this event.

In the Club's 21st Closed Championships the winner of the John Prior Cup is Mark Kay. Mark has become the club Champion for 2103 at his first attempt. He defeated Luke Hunt in a close final. Doubles winners were Andrew Cudden & Alex Rodman who beat Kevin Davies & Matt Wicks in the final. Plate winner Geoff Cherrill overcame Andrew Cudden in their final.

Finally our main award winner was Alec Winton – on your right in the photograph. He was presented with the Alan Bachrach Cup as our club person of the season. Alec was pressed into captaining the H team and took it on so well that as reported above they won their Division. Alec also supported club events and is a great and much valued asset to our membership.



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## DRAYTON TWINNING

**Stephen Fearnley**

The Drayton Twinning Society held its AGM on the 23rd May at the Caudwell day Centre. There were 15 members present and one new recruit. We looked back at various activities of the past year during which we held 5 main meetings and a number of informal ones. An 'entente cordiale' in February was very successful and was attended by over 80 villagers. Fundraising events included the entente cordiale, teas at Lime Close, coffee mornings; we planned a car boot sale cake sale and we hope to hold a Halloween Party.

We also planned the schedule for our French Twinners' visit in late August. This will include a visit to Portsmouth; a train ride and walk between Tackley and Lower Heyford; and a visit to Avebury. We are also hoping for two BBQs and some good weather! Anyone at all interested in twinning is encouraged to contact Michael Bell (531388), Stephen Fearnley (531347) or Bob Matthews (531204).



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## WESTMINSTER

Ed Vaizey

I frequently receive information from public bodies that may be useful for constituents, and there have been several things recently that readers may like to know about.



First, the **General Medical Council** has published a new guide to what patients can expect from their doctor. The guide is at <http://www.gmc-uk.org/guidance/patients.asp>. But you can also call 0161 923 6602 if you don't have access to the internet. Patients deserve the highest standards of care and the GMC is committed to ensuring that they understand what these are. They have therefore produced this guide, which underlines the importance of dignity, mutual respect and partnership between patients and their doctor. It also sets out the duties of the doctor and that all doctors need to be honest and open if things go wrong, and to make the care of patients their first concern.

I've also received information from **Thames Valley Police** about how they have been performing locally: it's good news. Across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of the White Horse, violent crime has reduced by 15.6%. Detection rates are going up: for dwelling burglary by 27.5%, for serious sexual offences by 30.3% and for violence against the person with injury by 47.4%, and overall crime is at its lowest level for 15 years.

We are lucky to live in a part of the country with relatively low crime rates (the Vale of the White Horse was recently reported as one of the 20 most peaceful areas in the UK) but every crime committed has a huge impact on its victims, while every crime solved reassures us all about the efforts of our police force. I am very pleased indeed to see these results, which are part of a pattern of reducing crime levels over a number of years.

The **Heritage Lottery Fund** has contacted me with information about Heritage Enterprise, a new £125million grant programme specifically designed to stimulate local economic growth, generate new commercial income along with new jobs and skills by unlocking the latent commercial potential of unused historic buildings and sites across the UK. There are grants available from £100,000 to £5m. You can find out more about how your community could benefit from Heritage Enterprise by visiting their website; HLF is also offering start-up grants between £3,000 and £10,000. These grants will enable groups to create the organisational structures needed to deliver projects and to help with the associated costs, such as obtaining professional and legal advice.

This month's mailbox has been largely dominated by issues relating to animal welfare. People are concerned over the exports of living animals, and sentencing for those who commit acts of cruelty. Other issues that I have seen in my mailbox include support for Amnesty International's campaign to improve women's rights in Afghanistan, which is still an essential part of the UK's foreign policy priorities, and the Government's reforms to teachers' pay and pensions. ⇨

### DRAYTON ELECTRICAL

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⇨ As ever please feel free to contact me at the House of Commons, SW1A 0AA, by email to [vaizeye@parliament.uk](mailto:vaizeye@parliament.uk) or by phoning 020 7219 6350  
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## DISTRICT COUNCIL

### Richard Webber

At the risk of boring everyone rigid, I am writing this report as well as a County Report (opposite) - and will continue to do so in future months. Well, I got what I asked for and as District and County Councillor for Drayton, I am now to blame for most things. Many thanks for all the support you gave me on May 2nd - it made all the difference.



In the past few weeks, I have had a chance to see some of the problems and challenges of Sutton Courtenay and Marcham. The District issues are very similar - a good waste collection service, very low crime, some good community spirit instigated and fostered by a small group of selfless people - and a common concern about planning (see my County report). Oxford is deemed to be the most rural county in southern England; a higher proportion of its inhabitants live in villages and hamlets than in any other county. Many families have enjoyed this for generations. Many other families have moved to this area to enjoy its rural village life. Preserving the area's quality of life and rural characteristics whilst allowing it to grow and prosper is an enormous challenge for all of us.

Drayton's Neighbourhood Plan (Drayton 2020) is our best opportunity to manage growth whilst preserving the best that village life has to offer. If you are not involved yet, I urge you to get involved. The Neighbourhood Planners need to know what they are doing right, and what they are doing wrong. Right or wrong, future generations will hold us responsible. 01235 534001 richard.webber77@ntlworld.com

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# COUNTY COUNCIL

Richard Webber

I would like to thank all those who took part in the recent County Elections. I am very aware of how close the voting was in our Division and, from painful experience, I do know how it feels to be on the wrong end of a closely fought election. I would like to thank all my fellow candidates for helping to make it a fiercely but honourably fought contest. One certainty in a tight election is that every vote counted. A 31% turnout was rather better than some had forecast, but it is hardly a triumph for the democratic process. If I have one priority over the next four years, it is trying to engage and involve many more people in local issues and decisions.

Despite the widely reported anger and frustration with the state of things, I found the doorstep reception more friendly than in recent elections where expense scandals, electoral systems produced strong feelings. That there is frustration and a sense of resignation cannot be denied.

In this part of the world, immigration and the EU seem rather distant issues and, in my view, are more likely to be symptoms than causes of the frustration. Top of my list of possible causes is planning. Where we put our housing, how much we need, how we keep it affordable, how we conserve our countryside in the face of building, how we cope with the need for energy, for waste disposal, for water and so on, are all helping to produce a sense of helplessness and resentment at what "they" are doing to us. The irony is that, under the Localism Act, we should be feeling more empowered than ever before. For Localism to work two things have to happen. The first is that local people have to believe that they now have powers they have not had before, the second is that 'the powers that be' have to be prepared to hand over some power and trust local people to make sensible decisions.

Second on my list of possible causes of current frustration and depression at the state of things is the weather. We all need a long, hot summer to cheer us up. I cannot do anything about the weather, but if, after four years, I haven't done everything in my power to make people in this division feel better about the state of things and to feel more empowered, and more in control, then I will have failed.

If you have any issues or problems with County issues; Roads, Education, Social Services etc, I can always be contacted at richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or 01235 534001

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# DRAYTON DIARY

## FOR JUNE

All events are at Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise  
(To book Drayton Hall call Tony Holmes on 531180)


**Regular Events are listed opposite**

Mon	03	7.30 pm	Parish Council	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
Mon	17	9.15 am	<b>Chronicle Lottery deadline</b>	<i>Vickery's</i>
		5.00 pm	<b>Chronicle copy deadline</b>	<i>Vickery's box</i>
Sat	15	5.00 pm	Drama Group show (also at 9.00 pm)	
Sun	16	all day	Bowls Competitions	
Sun	30	all day	Dance Competitions	

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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 Class – also at 11.30 am	
1.15 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)	<i>Steventon Hall</i>
6.30 pm	Youth Zone (except Bank Holidays)	
6.30 pm	Novice Table Tennis Coaching	<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	Junior and Adult Table Tennis	<i>School</i>
7.30 pm	Parish Council (1st Monday)	<i>Caudwell DC</i>
7.45 pm	Drayton Drop In (except Bank Holidays)	
7.45 pm	Bell-ringing	<i>St Peter's</i>
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>
6.00 pm	Ladies' Netball (for 1 hour)	<i>School</i>
7.30 pm	Pilates Class – also at 8.30 pm	
7.30 pm	League Table Tennis	<i>School</i>

### WEDNESDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
10.30 am	Pebbles (Babies & Toddlers – in Term)	<i>Church Room</i>
11.00 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 15 min)	<i>Haywards Rd</i>
11.20 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	<i>The Cross</i>
11.45 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 15 min)	<i>Lyford Close</i>
1.45 pm	Whist – now each week	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
2.00 pm	Drayton Wives (last Wednesday)	
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	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
7.30 pm	League Table Tennis	<i>School</i>
7.30 pm	Bingo Session	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>

### THURSDAYS

9.00 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
	followed by lunch club and afternoon session	
9.00 am	Foot Clinic (First Thursday)	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
9.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>St Peter's Lady Chapel</i>
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	<i>School</i>
7.30 pm	W.I. (2nd Thursday)	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
7.30 pm	Sequence Dancing. Tel: 531701	

### FRIDAYS

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

### SUNDAYS

8.00 am	Holy Communion	<i>St Peter's</i>
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (Praise Service 3rd Sunday)	<i>St Peter's</i>
11.15 am	Family Time	<i>Baptist Church</i>
6.00 pm	Evening Worship	<i>Baptist Church</i>

[www.drayton-near-abingdon.org](http://www.drayton-near-abingdon.org):



Don't forget that you can look up Parish Council minutes and past issues of the Chronicle, by visiting the village web-site.

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