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DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Tony Holmes

Volume 37 No. 1

Jan/Feb 2014

Former MG Workers Enjoy Reunion

OVER 70 former MG factory workers attended the MG Car Club's second annual Christmas reunion party at Kimber House, Abingdon. After the success of the reunion party last December, organisers **John Sheppard** (who sent us this report) and **Vito Orlando** gladly hosted this year's party for the former MG employees to catch up with friends and recall stories of their time together building the classic cars we know and love.

33 years after the MG factory closed its gates, visitors gathered around John Watson's '64 MGB Roadster & Richard Harrington's 2013 Frontline Developments MG LE50 Plus, a modern-day version of the classic MGB GT.

Amongst the former workers attending the reunion party were Ray Mooren and Tony Mullins. Ray and Tony both began as apprentices working on early T-Types before WW2; when that war ended they returned home, and back to the factory they loved.

Also attending the gathering was Chris Merritt, whose father worked at the Pavlova Leather factory, which rented the factory grounds to MG. Chris and his family lived in Kimber House during the 1950s and his father owned the prototype MG Y Type featured in the photograph of workers leaving the factory in 1948 which is proudly displayed at Kimber House.

Members of the Abingdon Works Centre, the MG Car Club's local regional Centre, came along to help serve food and drink to the visitors and shared their experiences of driving and owning the cars built here in Abingdon. As they left, each visitor was presented with a group photo from the day, a copy of the MG Car Club's monthly magazine, a postcard of the Royal Mail's MGB stamp released this August and a can of Old Speckled Hen.





BEWARE!!

We featured this SCAM in an issue last year, but our PCSO Sandra Syphas tells me that it's still going on, so here are the details again. If YOU know anyone who could be vulnerable, especially if elderly, PLEASE do warn them. It is such a shrewdly designed con that it catches people who thought they were aware!

A new surprisingly **sophisticated card fraud** is on the rise, where customers are duped into revealing their PIN and handing over their card to a fake courier. The scam sounds simple, but it's deceived many who were aware of attempts to gain bank details.

In this sting, the criminals phone the customer claiming to be someone from the bank, they say that the debit or credit card needs to be collected and replaced following a fraud on their account. **The new twist** is that the caller suggests that the customer hangs up and calls the bank back to check the call is genuine. But in fact the caller stays on the line, using special phone technology and tricking the customer into <u>thinking</u> they are calling their bank.

In the next stage of the scam (the customer sure they are talking to their bank), the caller asks the victim to key in their PIN number, before sending an innocent courier round to collect the card, which is then used together with the PIN to withdraw funds.

The specialist police unit that tackles such card fraud say "If you have friends or relatives who may be vulnerable, especially elderly ones, **please help them to be more aware of the potential risks**".

<u>Never</u> hand over your card. <u>Never</u> share your PIN: your bank will never ask you to enter your PIN into the phone. Always speak to the bank securely, make sure you can hear the dial tone and only ever call your bank on an advertised number.

Chronicle Team Latest News

Those of you who buy lottery tickets will have seen how we have modernised the process over the last year. It now much more closely resembles other lottery schemes with the winning numbers being randomly selected by computer. **Jean Barton** has done a wonderful job of implementing the changes but as she no longer lives in Drayton has decided that it is time for her to step down.

We are therefore looking for someone to take on this role. <u>Full</u> <u>support will be given</u> and Trudy Buckner (who has ably assisted Jean) will continue, for which we are very grateful as this will help with the changeover. Being computer literate is helpful, but we'll be pleased to support anyone who needs a little more confidence in this area. If you would like to know more then please ring me on <u>529510</u>. The lottery generates a significant amount of the Chronicle income so we would be very sad to see it stop.

On another matter, Judy Henman is the agent for the north end of Steventon Road and has been helped by Katie Mansfield who is now stepping down. Judy would like to have someone to help her deliver Chronicles and possibly sell lottery tickets so please ring me if this is something you would like to do. <u>Many thanks go to Katie</u> for her help with this round. In fact, we could always do with a couple more agents, or just deliverers, so if you could, please call!! <u>Many thanks and a Happy New Year to you all</u>.

Gareth Davies (529510) Chronicle Co-ordinator

In This Issue :- The Drayton 2020 plan has reached the draft stage – they WANT YOUR comments! (pages 9, 13 & 14) – plus there's a chance to grab some funding (p10 & 15), Letters (p8/9), & Could YOU help to prevent flooding? (p10)

COMING CHRONICLES

The **MARCH Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Friday February 28th**.

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

NO LATER than 5.15 pm on Monday, February 17th 2014.

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

STOP PRESS - **ADVERTISERS should note** that the deadline for ads is <u>EARLIER</u>, Friday Feb 14th, due to their preparation time.

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

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

NOTES for <u>CONTRIBUTORS</u>

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

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

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

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

2. An email attachment, in WORD please.

3. A good, **black typescript** on white A4 paper or smaller. Or perhaps hand-written, either way, NAMES in CAPITALS please!

4. IF in any doubt, ASK the EDITOR!

THE FOLLOWING TWO MONTHS		
Issue for Copy for publication by Mondays (nb Agents Lottery Packs Fri before)		Chronicle published and available for distribution on Fridays:-
April 17 March		28 March
May	14 April	25 April

NB Please note that Ad rates have been increased in 2014 – they'd been held since 2006, but sadly costs keep rising.

J	,		L	9
ADVERTISING RATES				
For Block A	Advert (about 1/1	2 th page)	
		Numbe	r of Inserts	
Advertiser Category	1	3	6	12
Drayton Resident	£6.00	£16.00	£31.00	£60.00
Non-Drayton Resident	£7.00	£19.00	£37.00	£72.00
Half-size block adverts,	normal	ly for on	e or two	inserts, are
charged at half the above	rates.			
All as an esta must he		noniad h		

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

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

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

CHRONICLE LOTTERY

Jean Barton, Hon. Promoter

RI	RESULTS OF THE - JANUARY - LOTTERY				
Prize	Winner	Agent			
£25	S.Cox 93 Drayton Rd	Claire Soper			
£20	Mr and Ms Talbot 31 Lockway	Christine Sadler			
£15	£15 S Wilson Peewitt Farm Claire Soper				
£10	Mrs Wells High Street	Margaret Long			
£10	Margaret Perris 8 Eastway Park	Teresa Burnage			
£10	Mrs Darling Stone Barn S'n Wick	Keith Clough			
£10	Kay Davies 6 Church Lane	Susan Brooks			
£10	Norman Denton 31 Lesparre Close	Amanda Drysdale			
£10	Mrs Bradbury Middle Barn S'n Wick	Keith Clough			
£10	A. Bartlett 20 Binning Close	Cathy Norris			

Winning tickets, from 1690 sold, were randomly drawn via computer (similar to Premium Bonds). Do please see our appeal for more agents (page 1) – even if you only deliver some Chronicles, that would help.

M. S. Lally

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ALL AROUND

Drayton W.I. Brenda Malin

A Christmas party was enjoyed by our members in December, preparing us all for the jollifications to come. January saw us again assembled to celebrate our birthday.

Now the festive season is behind us, we intend to carry on enjoying ourselves but together finding out more about the world around us, behind us, before us, and how to do!

We have a varied and interesting program ahead for this year. <u>Our February meeting</u> will have us all pulling on our wellies for 'Vegetable Growing, Composting and Sustainability'.

Believe me we have had Robert Longstaff talk to us before and he is a mine of information, so even if you are not the digger in your household you will at least be competent to issue the orders after this meeting!

We meet on the second Thursday in the month at Caudwell Day Centre (7.30pm). <u>All are welcome</u> and tea and biscuits are on tap.

THE WHEATSHEAF

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Letters to the Editor

We welcome articles and letters on a variety of subjects. However, the Editors reserve the right to shorten, clarify or reject any letter or text. If something is rejected, or held over to the next issue (this for space reasons) then the sender will usually be suitably advised.



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DRAYTON WIVES

Gwen Price

In November our talk was given by two of our members, Ann Hutchings and Margaret Long. They recently had a hectic, cultural week in St Petersburg. They had some wonderful experiences seeing splendid buildings of yellow, white, blue and gold with interiors just as spectacular with their domes, chandeliers and much gold adorning.

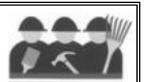
They experienced Russian food and found there was free vodka everywhere they went. It is a good job they didn't really like the drink! St Petersburg was a city like no other.

DATES for February:-

Mon10thCOFFEE: Josie, Jackie WMon17thCRAFTSMon17thWHIST: CathyWed26thBirthday Lunch - Four Pillars12.30 for 1.00pm

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ST PETER'S CHURCH

Priest in Charge	Revd Rebecca Peters	531374
(on maternity leave)		
Associate Priest	Revd Rosie Bruce	525284
Churchwardens	Mrs Val Cross	535183
	Mr Colin Arnold	531923
Organist	Vacancy	

CHURCH NOTICES

REGULAR SERVICES

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

Monday7.45 pmBellringing PracticeBell TowerWeds10.30 amPebbles (term time only)Church Room

CALENDAR for FEBRUARY

Tues 4th 3.00 pm 1st Tuesday Connections Church Room

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms	Nov 24th Dec 28th	Eva Grace Barnes Lottie Catherine Holton
Marriage Blessing	Dec 1st	Richard Booth and Gillian Purrot-Booth
Funerals	Nov 29th Dec 12th	Arfor Jones Sheila Nellie Clarke
Interment of Ashes	Nov 23rd Dec 12th	Josephine Hanks Betty Kathleen Krason

<u>YOU STAY – WE PRAY (February)</u>

Jan 26th to Feb 1st Church Lane; Henleys Lane; Caudwell Close; Gravel Lane

Feb 2nd to 15th Abingdon Road; Oday Hill; Binning Close; Haywards Road

Feb 16^{th} to 22^{nd} Sutton Wick Lane; Greenacres; Newman Lane; Conifer Drive

Feb 23rd to March 1st Hilliat Fields; Lyford Close; Manor Close; The Green



6 The Square, Abingdon OX14 5AR (by War Memorial) New shop in Abingdon, selling modern and traditional watercolours and oil paintings, limited edition prints, antiques, collectables and loads of quirky stuff! Opening times: Weds, Thurs and Sat 10.30am to 4pm Friday 12.30pm to 4pm

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Letter from St Peter's Church

Dear Friends,

A Happy New Year to you all despite the very wet start to 2014!

This is the time of year when many people make resolutions for example: start a diet, take more exercise, go without alcohol, the list is endless. I'm afraid that I gave up making New Year's resolutions years ago as I usually managed to break one by January 2^{nd} at the latest!

However, there is one New Year's resolution which I'd like to urge you to consider......<u>to</u> support <u>St</u> <u>Peter's</u> <u>Church</u>. The building itself has stood in Drayton for hundreds of years and in that time I imagine that thousands of people have passed through its doors to worship, pray, attend weddings, funerals and baptisms.

It continues to provide all those services but also many other activities. Did you know that we have a Bible study group which meets on alternate Mondays, or First Tuesday Connections which meets once a month and caters for people who are feeling lonely or isolated? There is Messy Church which is aimed at children and their parents and takes place in the school (usually once a term), Pebbles, our parent and toddler group, meets in the Church room every Wednesday in term time and we have a youth group which meets once a month also in the Church room.

On Tuesday Jan 28th, an Alpha course starts, to be held in the Vicarage (with a crèche for children). This is an <u>introduction</u> to the Christian Faith as well as for <u>anyone wanting to return</u>.

However, during the year there are many other things which take place which need your support, e.g. the plant sale which is usually held in May. All these activities are for <u>the whole village to</u> <u>participate in</u>, not just the 'church folk'. St Peter's is <u>your</u> church and if we are to see it stand in Drayton for another few hundred years it needs people!

Sue Harris

(NB If you are interested in investigating the Christian faith, or finding out more about Jesus, then please do contact our associate priest or the wardens as described above).

(MORE) ALL AROUND

Drayton TABLE-TENNIS Club John Gould

The Didcot League season is now at the halfway stage with our teams faring well for the most part. At the time of writing this, the A team are in a title race in Division 1 and having recruited Greg Boone on his return from overseas have strengthened the squad for the remainder.

Our B team head Division 2 justifying the decision to go with 3 players for the season – captain Steve Gardner plus Geoff Cherrill & David Hudson. The C & D teams are in mid table but the division is so tight there is no indication of where they are likely to finish. The D team is in mid table in division 3 and the E team top Division 4 in what looks to be a 4-way contest.

The 'newbys' in division 5 see our G & H team faring well and again either could come through in the second half to gain honours. The Handicap Shield Competition is now underway. 5 of our teams have played their first ties and each will play 2 more by mid February to try and progress to the knockout stages.

<u>A reminder</u> :- we are holding our annual Quiz Night on 28^{th} February at the School, 7.30 pm start. Teams of up to 4 persons at a cost of £12 per team are invited to enter, details/entry on 531328.

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<u>ARE YOU IN THE DARK ?</u> If your streetlight isn't working, or wastes resources by being on in the daytime, then PLEASE report it on the County Council hotline (free) 0800 317802 - help them by giving the town, road, and if possible the number on the post, or failing that the nearest house.

Suzy Willis & Associates MCSP HPC CHARTERED PHYSIOTHERAPISTS Old Lodge, Henleys Lane Drayton, OX14 4HU Tel 01235 531269 Please ring for an appointment

Drayton 1st Brownies

Georgina Arnold

Brownies started back on January 15th and have a busy term ahead. We all enjoyed the Christmas pantomime of Robin Hood at the Playhouse. This term we are going to be busy completing the 'number fun' and 'healthy heart' badges. We shall also be taking part in a special thinking day activity.

<u>Meetings are held</u> 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. <u>Further details are available</u> from:-

Ruth Hudson (Brown Owl) on 01235 205111

Esther Deabill (Tawny Owl) on 01235 528502

Annette Mitchell (Barn Owl) on 01235 555216

You can register your interest on the Girl Guiding Website; Join Us! Or you can email us on <u>drayton1stbrownies@live.co.uk</u>

SIGNING & LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT CLASSES FOR BABIES (0-2) & TODDLERS (18 mths – 3 yrs)

Come along and sign, sing and socialise over a cuppa! Mondays in **St Peters Church Hall** (9.45-10.45am) & **Drayton Village Hall** (1.15-2.15pm).

JOIN AT ANY POINT IN THE TERM. For more

details and Book a FREE TRIAL, contact Chris:

or visit our website: <u>www.tinytalk.co.uk/chrisl</u> Why baby sign? Because Children have so much to say!



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BAPTIST CHURCH

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

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

Come and join us every Sunday – we look forward to seeing you. <u>EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME</u>

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

<u>With Great Sadness</u> we have to announce that Beryl Bray passed away on Monday 6th January;

<u>But a Warm Welcome</u> to Julie, Charlie and Molly, who have moved into Binning Close from Abingdon;

<u>And Greetings also to</u> Annie & Michael, who've just moved into Abingdon Road.

May your stays here be long & happy!

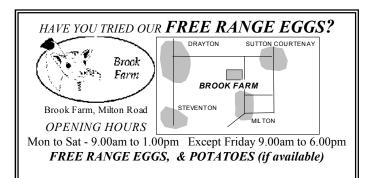
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WESTMINSTER VIEW

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

Firstly, a very happy New Year to you all: I hope not too late!

Like many others, I am working on improving my fitness at the moment, so I was very pleased to learn that the Govt is making changes to make life easier for our local sports clubs. The taxman had received lots of complaints that the rules for these clubs were unclear, causing confusion, so there will be a new set of simple rules. I very much hope that the changes - to include tax benefits and allowing clubs to generate more income - will make life easier for them, and so help to encourage all of us not just to take up sport as a new year resolution, but to stick with it all year.

Besides gym visits, my mailbag has included issues such as care in the NHS, the forthcoming Scottish independence referendum, and Save the Children's 'No Child Born to Die' campaign, which focuses on reducing newborn mortalities in developing countries.

The largest number of messages I've had (by far) has been about the planned electrification of the main railway line. Although the improvement has been welcomed, there are some very serious concerns about the consequences of the work, because it involves changes to a lot of bridges, many of which date back to the time of Brunel. The biggest outcry came with the proposed closure of the A338 at Grove, as well as the continuing impact around Fulscot Bridge. I'll continue to do all that I can to ensure that the needs of Constituents are protected as far as they possibly can be.

I also received emails and letters from members of the farming community about the changes to farm subsidies. Basically, it was about the balance between funding for measures that enhance the environment compared with those which directly support farming – some things do both of course. Having written to the Environment Secretary expressing their concerns, I was pleased that, following an extensive consultation, Ministers listened to the concerns and decided on a less drastic change, with the intention of reviewing this in 2016. This will benefit farmers who take great care of our environment.

If you need to get in touch with me, telephone 020 7219 6350, write to me, c/o House of Commons, London SW1A OAA, or you can e-mail me on vaizey@parliament.uk; the Website is <u>www.vaizey.com</u> with up to date news and surgery details (Fridays at 5.30, next is Feb 7th, Faringdon Pump Rooms)



Even More All Around!

Drayton Pre-School Playgroup Laura Hughes

Happy New Year from all the children and staff at preschool! After all the excitement of Christmas it's nice to have some time to recharge the batteries and welcome everyone back for the new term with lots of energy – and all the rain has created some puddles which have allowed the children to burn off a lot of that energy too! The pleasure that they get from jumping in the puddles, followed by the sight of a lovely rainbow, makes even the darkest day that bit brighter.

WATCH THIS SPACE! By popular demand we will be hosting a <u>**Baby and Child Nearly New Sale</u>** towards the end of March (possibly 29th). Tables will be £10, if you would like to register your interest please email <u>chairdraytonps@btconnect.com</u> and as soon as details are finalised you will be the first to know!</u>

We are **currently recruiting** for NVQ qualified part-time 'bank' staff and a Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator. There is the possibility of increased or permanent hours depending upon the children's needs. Please email <u>chairdraytonps@btconnect.com</u> if you are interested for a <u>full job description and more details</u>.

Our **next intake** will be in April 2014. If you have a child aged between 2-4 years and would like to arrange a visit, please contact Nadine on 01235 536094 or email as above. Preschool has a website <u>http://www.draytonpreschool.co.uk/</u> which has lots of useful information, and we also have a Facebook page which is regularly updated so please visit and 'like' us for the latest news.

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Drayton BOWLS Club

'Roll-Up'

With the club celebrating 25 years since its formation it was fitting that around forty members attended <u>finals day</u>, held on December 15th. The day ended with a buffet supper and a big thank you to Val and all the ladies who laid this on, and thanks to June who organized the raffle which was a great success.

9 finals were played for on the day, full list of competitions held in 2013 and winners is as follows:-

<u>Friendly Fours</u> (Inter club competition) Drayton; Team: Olive Brown, Carol Smith, Eileen Long, Graham Lacey.

<u>'The Attwood cup'</u> Bryn Jones. <u>'Henry Bunce Pairs'</u> Jack Mitchenson & Barbara Watts.

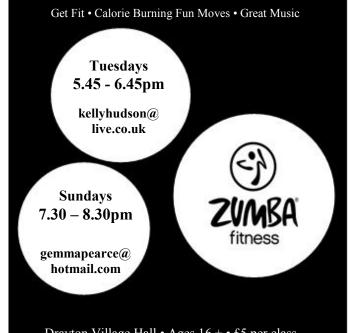
<u>'John Berry Fours League'</u> Pat Mitchenson, Pam Smith, Avril Holmes, Bryn Jones. <u>'Rose Bowl triples League'</u> Len Smith, Marjorie Strachan, Bryn Jones.

<u>'Wally Weightman triples'</u> Olive Brown, June Hyde & Val Locke. <u>'Don Alexander Two wood triple'</u> Pat Mitchenson, Ian Norris, Bryn Jones. <u>'Beryl James triples'</u> Jane Pimm, Marjorie Strachan, Bryn Jones. <u>'Doreen Jones never won singles'</u> Ian Norris. <u>'Jean Mullins Gents Singles'</u> Tony Wright. <u>'Didcot</u> <u>Windows Open singles'</u> Jack Mitchenson.

In the Oxford county afternoon league things are going really well with 'The Wasps' in second place, and 'The Hammers' in 4th spot, looks like being a tight finish between at least 5 teams!

The internal competitions are underway for 2014 with 'The John Berry' Leagues on Monday and Wednesday about to start, and 'The Wally Weightman' triples will have been played on Jan 26th.

Finally, it's the sad news of the death of a former member, Brian Lewis, our thoughts and condolences are with his family.



Drayton Village Hall • Ages 16 + • £5 per class

YOUR LETTERS

FRIDAY CLUB

Lockway

Dear Sir,

It's that time of the year again, when we thank all those who've cooked and driven for us through the past 12 months.

Once again Sally cooked a wonderful Christmas lunch which was enjoyed by all.

We should also like to thank the new volunteers, who are to cook and drive for us during 2014.

A very Happy New Year to you all.

Sylvia (Bond) & Beryl



Have you seen the Signs?!

Dear Sir,

Hilliat Fields

I am a member of the Parish Council and I am asking for the villagers' assistance. One of the many roles of the PC is to request the updating of street signs as required. Many villagers will have seen the new signs for <u>Whitehorns Way</u> at the end of Lockway.

We are not happy with the position and layout of the numbers on the sign on the left hand side (when coming from the village hall). It appears to point in the wrong direction and contains too many different number ranges, one range also goes the other way to the others! Unfortunately the Vale (Council) have viewed the sign and don't feel there is anything wrong. The PC cannot use funds to get it changed or adjusted so the village is stuck with it unless enough people complain, and only then will it be replaced.

So, if you agree the sign is confusing and wish it to be changed can you please email your complaint to bissnn@southoxon.gov.uk?

Thanks

Naomi Broomfield

<u>Carols – grateful thanks</u>

Dear Sir, via email It's a while back to the annual Carols Concert at the Hall (just after the last Chronicle appeared) – but thanks to all those who attended and helped us raise £242.25 for Action for Children.

That's up from last year's £200 and I am sure everyone enjoyed things from the comments received, see you again in December! Kind Regards Geoff Caudle

<image>

Mind What You Find

Dear Sir,

Lyford Close

I often walk my dogs through the church grounds. Back in December I found 15 discarded miniature gas canisters (the type used in catering to whip and bulk up fresh cream) along with a couple of balloons and a notice-board pin. Apart from their normal use these canisters are used by drug addicts, containing nitrous oxide, (laughing gas to many), they are pricked open with the pin and the escaping gas caught in a balloon. This gas is then inhaled from the balloon giving the user a cheap high. Unfortunately the canisters are cheaply and readily available via the internet with little question asked about their intended use.

I cleared them away, but my main concern is that where this is going on, injected drugs often go hand in hand. Please anyone who walks through the churchyard, especially with young inquisitive children or indeed pets, <u>be vigilant</u> in case of discarded needles. Don't pick anything up yourself, call the police or the council, they have the correct safety gear to deal with this.

Unfortunately also it may go hand in hand with the thefts from the church, so report anyone acting suspiciously too.

Regards

Thom Wilson

YOUR LETTERS (extra)

Daniel Scharf - resignation

Dear Sir,

via email

In the absence of a January Chronicle the explanation of my resignation from the Parish Council has been delayed. My resignation was due to the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) and the delay has made it possible for readers to relate my comments to the draft plan on which I would encourage comments to be made (see elsewhere in the Chronicle for details).

I am very grateful for having had the opportunity to serve on the Parish Council (for about ten years, mostly as Chairman), and would hope that residents from all parts of the village will consider taking their turn or at least attend the monthly meetings.

So what is it with the draft NDP that required my resignation? Basically, the proposals fell so far short of my expectations as a village resident (and professional planner for nearly 40 years) that I needed to be free of PC responsibilities to express my opinions on how the plan could 'contribute to the achievement of sustainable development' – a condition that will have to be satisfied for the plan to be adopted and make all the effort worthwhile.

Briefly, I don't think that the transport policies will be effective in reducing car traffic, the relative merits of potential locations for new housing have not been accurately assessed, the attempts to encourage energy efficient housing, self-building and co-housing are welcome but policies need re-wording, the position on what if any new buildings for 'community' purposes is insufficiently clear for the public to provide useful comments (the village is lucky to have 7 such buildings - and two pubs - and a further 2 might not be desirable or sustainable). A re-building of the village hall might be more feasible.

More games pitches are urgently required in the right location (ie adjacent to the recreation ground), but I am sceptical about more public open space, implying more maintenance costs. The fact that about 10% of the respondents to the village survey expressed an interest in being involved in growing 'local food' seems to have fallen on stony ground. With the food supply chain being responsible for between 30% and 50% of carbon emissions and causing substantial environmental damage, it is very difficult to understand why or how an NDP could or should be adopted when no attempt is being made to realise the potential for developing smallholdings (and local processing and distribution) and, in doing so, address the high level of public demand. The NDP notes the level of under-occupancy of village housing, but the draft policies would not rectify the imbalance between the size of households and houses. →>>>>>>

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In summary, having decided to produce an NDP and spent about £20,000 in the process, I believe that the NDP should recognise planetary boundaries (in terms of resources, food, water, biodiversity and pollution) and our own county's carbon reduction targets. I hope that, with the encouragement of the residents, Drayton's plan can be amended so that it harnesses the undoubted potential of the land, buildings and people.

I am always happy to discuss these matters, which also appear at <u>www.dantheplan.blogspot.com</u>. **Daniel Scharf**

(former member and Chair of the Parish Council - 531107)



NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN Influen Your <u>Last Chance</u> to Comment (& please see p

ENT PLAN Influencing Village Development to 2029 ment (& please see pages 13 & 14 in this issue)

The draft of the Drayton NDP (2014 – 2029) is out now for public consultation until **5pm on Friday Feb 21st 2014**

- Inspection copies are available at village meeting places, shops and pubs in the village
- Ask your Drayton society/group chairman or secretary to look at their inspection copy
- Drayton2020 website is at <u>http://www.drayton-near-abingdon.org/drayton2020/</u>
- Request access to/to be emailed a copy from the Parish Clerk by phone (07909 176061) or email as below
- Please send your comments by Friday 21st February 2014 : By Email to: <u>draytonclerk@yahoo.co.uk</u>
- or by Post to: Drayton (Abingdon) Parish Clerk, 12 Loddon Close, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 3TB

Richard Webber

County Council Report

Transport to School As I write, we are about to hear the result of the consultation on the Transport to School proposals. We all hope that reason will prevail, and that a sensible, consistent policy is arrived at that allows Drayton parents to choose their children's secondary school in Abingdon without penalty. Recent figures suggest that the amount the County will save if it takes a more draconian approach is very small.

<u>Some good news</u>:- After many months of concern that our excellent youth provision, the Damascus Youth Project, might be without a home, we have now had a very generous offer from MEPC (Milton Park management) of the use, without charge, of a new premises. Many thanks to MEPC for their continued support for the outstanding work of the DYP.

As a result of protracted negotiations with Drayton PC, Milton PC, MEPC and the County's own Area Stewardship fund, we now have sufficient funds to change the Milton Road speed limit from 'derestricted' to 40mph between Milton and Drayton. All of us hope that this will reduce the risk of any more fatalities on this road. <u>Many thanks to all involved</u> for their financial and moral support. Work should begin in the near future.

<u>Area Stewardship Fund</u>:- In March, work will begin on weed clearance of the kerbs throughout the village, to be paid for by the Area Stewardship Fund. Regrettably, budgetary pressures at OCC mean that this will be the last year of this fund

<u>Community Grants</u>:- There is a small pot, available for <u>this</u> year only, with a <u>closing date</u> for applications of mid-February, for any voluntary community organisation needing a grant of £100-£500. <u>Please contact me directly</u> if you are interested, I am <u>advertising this for the last time</u>. I am hoping that any residue from the pot will go to the Damascus Youth Project.

If you have feeling on this, or any other County or District issue you would like me to hear, **please contact me** on 01235 534001 or <u>Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com</u>

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District Councillor

I am delighted that OCC funds have been able to support the Damascus Youth Project – particularly as the future funding, by the County, of many social services is under extreme pressure.

As a result of the large number of houses being given planning permission, the District Council finds itself better off than it has been for years. This is the result of planning fees and the Government's 'New Homes Bonus'. It seems that the service obligations, and the financial ability to meet them are in different places at present. I am hoping to persuade VWHDC to fill some of the gaps being left by inadequate County funding.

Ock Valley Flood Group and Flooding :- The recent flooding has largely affected the main River Thames. In 2007, it affected the River Ock and Sandford Brook, with the result that more than 200 people had to move out of their homes for between a month and two years. In 2008, the Ock Valley Flood Group (OVFG – I am proud to be Chairman) was set up to try to make the disaster of 2007 less likely to happen again. So far, so good – 2014 included.

OVFG consists of a voluntary group of residents (with an average age the wrong side of 70!) who give up 2 hours one Saturday every other month, to help keep the rivers clear of collapsed trees and shrubs, supermarket trolleys and general rubbish. As a result, the Sandford Brook now runs clean and fast with a visible gravel bed and a fair number of fish. <u>Anyone from Drayton</u> (particularly those between 14 and 70) would be <u>welcome to join us</u> – please let me know if you are interested.

<u>Neighbourhood Development Plan</u> :- As the Plan enters its final phase and the draft is submitted to higher authorities, our attention now turns to 'implementation'. Which of the many village aspirations can we make happen? Which will our children and grandchildren see? <u>Please continue to support</u>, encourage and participate with the many wonderful people who have got us this far. **Richard Webber** (OCC & VWHDC)

ST PETER'S CHURCH HOME-VISITING GROUP will visit anyone who is, or has been, ill or is recently home from hospital, or unable to get out because of a disability, or is in any other circumstances where support would be welcomed. Please contact:- Jean Hager (531558), Sally Dixon (531547), Ros Blogg (535589) or Margaret Watts (527145).

Millennium Green Wardens' Rota 2014

JANUARY	1-15 Tom Shebbeare 16-31 Jane MacWhirter
FEBRUARY	1-15 Keith Clough 16-28 Oona Raines
MARCH	1-15 Sue Brookes 16-31 B & G Dawson
APRIL	1-16 Donald Bruce 17-30 Jackie Walker
MAY	1-14 Andrew Bax 15-31 Angela Edgington
JUNE	1-15 Steve Clarke 16-30 David Mitchell
JULY	1-15 Ann James 16-31 Keith Clough
AUGUST	1-16 Andrew Bax 17-31 Julie Yeates
SEPTEMBER	1-15 Rosie Bruce 16-30 Catherine Webber
OCTOBER	1-16 Christine West 17-31 Alison Dewar
NOVEMBER	1-15 Donald Bruce 16-30 Fran Adams
DECEMBER	1-16 Janet Woolley 17-31 Derek Pooley

Many thanks for offering your help. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. Here are a few pointers to help you with your duties. The wand (litter picker) can be collected and returned at the end of your stint, to the car port at 39A Sutton Wick Lane. Main duties are to litter pick from the whole of the field not just the paths.

Week ends can be especially bad, particularly by the main Sutton Wick entrance. School holidays also need more scrutiny. You may leave your full bags at the top of our drive. If there are any problems or observations please let me know. The rota will not change until further notice. Gwen Price (531205)



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PARISH COUNCIL (Richard Williams)

Report of the PC Meetings held on Dec 2nd & Jan 6th.

Unfortunately, the first business on the agenda in December was to elect a <u>new Chairman</u> of the Parish Council, Daniel Scharf having resigned that position prior to the meeting. Everyone who has had any dealings with the PC in the last few years will be aware of Daniel's huge contribution to its activities. If at any time they have exchanged even a few words with Daniel in person, the chances are he will have tried to co-opt them onto the Council.

It is true that this was partly down to our ongoing struggle to maintain a full complement of councillors, but it is also testimony to Daniel's commitment to the PC, and his enthusiasm for local democracy. He has always tried to persuade Drayton residents of the virtues of active participation in village affairs. For the record, Daniel served for over 10 years on the PC, and as Chairman for the last seven. His local knowledge, and his particular expertise in planning matters, will be sorely missed. The <u>other councillors</u> would like to <u>put on record their grateful thanks to Daniel for all his efforts</u>, and note that he's not leaving us altogether, but has volunteered to carry on as the PC's rep at OCC transport meetings.

Richard Williams, as existing Vice-Chairman, was elected to take Daniel's place until the AGM in May. At the January meeting, Naomi Broomfield was duly elected to be the Vice Chairman, with Richard Webber now Chair of the Planning Committee, and there is <u>one vacancy for a councillor</u>.

Jacqui Cook and Dawn Waddock attended the December meeting and alerted councillors to the fact that the County Council is proposing to review its Home to School transport policy for the second time in two years. The Council's provision of free transport for some schoolchildren, plus concessionary fares for some others, currently costs about £15 million a year. Against a background of severe cuts in government grants to local authorities, OCC are saying that the present policy is unaffordable. This is worrying news for all parents of school-age children, especially as it was hoped, after last year's well-publicised 'walk to school' arranged by Drayton parents, that the message had got home to OCC that the route between Drayton and Abingdon is not a safe walking route. An issue which seemed to have been satisfactorily resolved is now right back on the table. In view of the evident levels of concern across the whole county, OCC extended the period of public consultation until the New Year (Jan 14th), and the PC undertook to make a written response. $\rightarrow >>$

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Readers will recall the problems getting the Highways Dept of OCC to consider introducing a 40mph speed limit along the Milton Road (down through Milton village to the Milton Park estate). Essentially, OCC has no budget left to fund the work. Richard Webber, in his capacity as District and County Councillor, has taken the initiative and canvassed the possibility of raising the necessary funds locally. Richard was pleased to announce that Milton Park has agreed to contribute £2000 towards the cost of signs etc, and he will also contribute £1000 from his own Community budget (see too the Webber column, page 10). Drayton PC resolved to contribute £500 and Milton PC (a smaller council) will give £200. Hopefully, these monies will enable work to begin later in the year.

The main item on the agenda at the January meeting was the adoption of the public consultation version of Drayton's Neighbourhood Development Plan. Those who have been following the progress of Drayton 2020, whether just in the pages of the Chronicle, or at various public meetings over the last 16 months, will know that this is an important, indeed crucial, stage in the development of the Plan.

More information on the subject will be found elsewhere in this issue, but suffice to say here that the 60 page draft document was adopted unanimously by the Parish Council. It has now been made available for **public comment** to approximately 50 statutory bodies, to local groups and clubs, and to all of Drayton's residents via the village website (see below).

It's appreciated that not everyone has access to a computer - please see the Drayton 2020 column (p14) for further information.

To contact any members of the Parish Council, all enquiries should be directed to the Parish Clerk, David Perrow, in the first instance, via e-mail at draytonclerk@yahoo.co.uk or by phone 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 emailing list, so that they receive prior notice of meetings and any relevant documents. In addition, all PC minutes are now archived on the village website: www.drayton-near-abingdon.org – it also carries back copies of the Drayton Chronicle, information on Drayton 2020, and details of other events in the village.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday Feb 3rd, at 7.30pm, in the Caudwell Day Centre in Gravel Lane. As ever, all are **welcome to attend**.

Drayton 2020 - latest update

The most important development over Christmas and New Year has been the production of the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan, or to give it its full official title, the 'Pre-Submission Consultation Copy' of the NDP. As the words 'draft' and 'consultation' suggest, this is <u>not the document in its final form</u>, but it is the opportunity for a large number of statutory bodies (such as English Heritage and the Environment Agency) to have their say, and <u>more to the point</u>, it is the opportunity for **Drayton residents to read through the Plan and make their comments**.

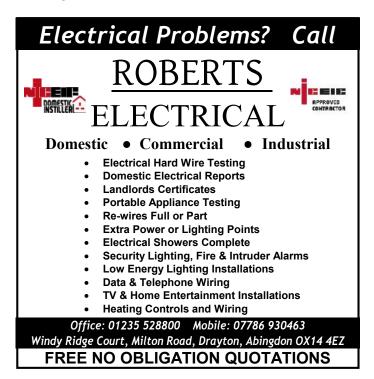
Obviously the Steering Group hope that any criticisms will be constructive, and there should be no big surprises, pleasant or otherwise, because of course, everyone working on the Plan has done their best to reflect local opinion and to take into account the suggestions and ideas put forward at three major public consultation meetings and in last summer's Questionnaire.

As the saying goes, it is impossible to please all of the people all of the time, and sometimes there is a conflict between what might be ideal and what is actually achievable, but hopefully the Plan finds a balance somewhere between these two positions. It has its 'visionary' elements, but the Steering Group would like to think it is also firmly grounded, and based on many discussions we have already had with developers, landowners, and other interested parties. The document, which runs to approx 60 pages, is the result of much hard work by many people, although David Mercer must take the most credit, since he wrote the lion's share of the content, and pulled together the contributions made by others.

The Plan falls roughly into three sections. An introductory section looks at the geography, geology, and past history of Drayton village. The second section, the 'core' of the document, has all the policies devised by the five working groups: Sustainability, Transport, Housing, Look & Feel, Work & Play.

At the Vale's request, we have been asked to distinguish between 'planning' policies (i.e. those which relate directly to planning issues) and 'community aspiration' policies, which cover things like better recreational facilities, and the like.

The third section looks at **possible housing sites** in the village: it describes the sites which have (so far) been under consideration, outlines the criteria which were used to determine which sites should or should not be developed, and hopefully explains the reasoning involved.





Due to the size of the document, it is not proposed to produce more than a few hard copies, and to save on paper, the Plan has been put on the village website instead (see below). There should be more detailed information in this issue (ad page 9) as to how residents can make their comments known. It is recognised that some groups, especially some of the more elderly residents, may not have access to a computer, and we are considering how best to reach all age-groups in the village, including possible visits to groups that meet in the Caudwell Centre and/or Village Hall.

If you do have a computer, please take a look at the Consultation document on the village website and **let us know** your views. We really do want to hear from you, and if the Plan seems not to represent your opinions, please say so loud and clear, and then tell us what it should be saying!!

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 following publication of this issue will be on <u>Fri 7th February</u>. It would be great to see you there.

If you wish to receive reminders of other Drayton 2020 meetings and events, please contact the Parish Clerk, David Perrow, via our website: <u>draytontwentytwenty@gmail.com</u> Alternatively, David can be contacted by telephone on 07909 176061, or via E-mail at <u>draytonclerk@yahoo.co.uk</u>

In addition, the agendas and minutes of all Steering Group and working sub-group meetings and many other documents relating to Drayton 2020, including maps, are now available on the village website: <u>www.drayton-near-abingdon.org</u> *Richard Williams*

NOTICE BOARD

FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS

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. <u>Our next dates</u> are Feb 4th & March 4th.

If you need **transport or further information** please give me (**Jean Hager**) a call on 531558.

After School Help required

We live in Drayton and require home childcare Mon - Thurs, between 4 & 6pm. Our children are aged 12 and 9 and both attend independent schools.

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 YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL CONTACTS :

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 District (VofWH)
 Richard Webber (534001) or

 & Oxfordshire County
 richard.webber77@ntlworld.com



DRAYTON HALL NEWS

The Hall Management Committee held their first meeting of the year in January. We were visited by the Drayton 2020 group, who outlined how the plan was suggesting a new 'community centre' (though quite small) on the Manor Farm site, to give a new home to the Pre-school group as well as some other facilities. The present Hall is open to a substantial revamp or upgrade, so members of the various user groups were asked to make a 'wish-list' of all the changes they'd like (and at present, don't worry about the cost). A further meeting in February will try to itemise these hopes, and then some architectural help will be asked to see how they could be incorporated into and/or onto the Hall.

Some repainting of doors and corridor will take place soon, and an attempt was made to decide on a new bar colour scheme. Also some rain guards have been fitted to the front doors, as the recent monsoons have highlighted a weakness.

Bookings are holding up quite well, with a surge in childrens' parties since the New Year. One new booking in July is for a dog show, over a weekend, when for two nights a few tents will be sited on the rec, and a couple of motor-homes will be on the car park. This is due to the club members being scattered all round the UK, and Drayton is a central point. Their normal venue is unavailable this year, so we're helping them out. One intrepid dog lover is planning to come down from Orkney!

We have a **special music night**, Feb 28th, with a duo of singersongwriters, <u>Kate Howden & Paul Jones</u>, including us in one of their jaunts down south – part of the 'beautiful music in beautiful places' tour. Their work is original, described in one place as 'barnstorming ribaldry', and in another as having a special magic that captivates audiences with their skill and good humour. Their ad is on page 8, tickets available at Vickery's (thanks Lawrence!).

The various grant applications (for the needed kitchen upgrade and window replacements) are moving very slowly forward, and we heard that the **Bowls Club** have voted for a <u>generous donation</u> of £150 towards that project, joining a number of our regular users who are helping build the fund – many thanks to all of them.

DRAYTON YOUTH CENTRE CHARITY

Applications are invited from <u>any</u> Youth Organisation in Drayton wishing to apply for financial assistance from the above charity. To request an application form please send an email to <u>karen.tinson1@ntlworld.com</u> or telephone 01235 531596.

Applications must be received by 31st March, all applications will be considered at the Charity's meeting to be held in April (precise date to be confirmed).

MOBILE LIBRARY LOCATION & TIMES

Drayton: Haywards Road 11:00 to 11:15, The Green 11:20 to 11:40, and Lyford Close 11:45 to 12:00; Feb & March, 5th & 19th, then alternate Weds from then on. One visit in January was missed due to a mechanical defect, OCC apologises to borrowers!

DRAYTON DIARIES

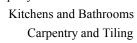
DIARY FOR FEBRUARY

A	ll e	vents held	in Drayton Hall <u>unless otherwise stated</u>
NB [Гo t	ook Drayto	n Hall call Tony Holmes on (01235) 531180
	or v	visit the (imp	proved) website :- www.draytonvh.co.uk
Sun	2	10.00am	Childrens' parties (second at 2.30)
Mon	3	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting (p13) Caudwell DC
Sat	8	11.45am	Private function
Mon	10	7.30pm	Extra Hall Committee meeting
Sat	15	8.00am	Private Function
Sun	16	9.00am	Bowls (all day tournament)
Mon	17	5.00pm	Chronicle Deadline (p2) – Ads 14th
Weds	19	10.00am	Theatre Class (+ Thurs see p1 ad)
Sat	22	9.00am	Private Function (all day)
Sun	23	1.00pm	Private Function
Fri	28	7.30pm	Howden/Jones Music Show (see p8 ad)

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REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise NB <u>PLEASE</u> – if an entry is wrong – tell one of the editors (page 2) MONDAYS 8.45 am Pre-School Playgroup (in Term) School Ground Bldg Pilates (1 hr - call 01235 814299) 10.30 am Baby sign-language classes (1 hr - 07927 339102) 1.15 pm 2.00 pm Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours) 5.45 pm Beavers (Boys/girls, 6-8 yrs, Tel. 512834) Steventon Hall 6.30 pm Table Tennis (New Players) School 7.00 pm Scouts (Boys/girls, 8-10 yrs, Tel. 512834) Steventon Hall Drayton Wives Whist (3rd Monday) 7.15 pm Caudwell DC Table Tennis (Senior practice + playing 2 hrs) School 7.30 pm 7.45 pm Bell-ringing (for 1¹/₂ hours) St Peter's 8.30 pm Badminton (Private Group) TUESDAYS 8.45 am Pre-School Playgroup (in Term) School Ground Bldg 1.45 pm Drayton Art Group (until 4 pm) Caudwell Day Centre First Tuesday Connections (1st Tuesday) Church Room 3.00 pm 3.00 pm Junior Netball (for 1 hour) School 5.45 pm Zumba Fitness 6.00 pm Ladies' Netball (for 1 hour) School 7.00 pm Pilates (& 8.00) 7.30 pm League Table Tennis (now every night to Fri) School WEDNESDAYS 8.45 am Pre-School Playgroup (in Term) School Ground Bldg 10.30 am Pebbles (Baby, Toddler, Carer gp - p4) Church Room 11.00 am Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min) Haywards Rd 11.20 am Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min) The Green Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min) 11.45 am Lyford Close 1.15 pm More-Life (Lifestyle, check dts/times 01865 487216) 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 Junior Table Tennis, Age 9+ (for 1 hour) 7.00 pm School 7.00 pm Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours) 7.30 pm Bingo Session Caudwell Day Centre THURSDAYS 8.45 am Pre-School Playgroup (in Term) School Ground Bldg 9.00 am Foot Clinic (1st Thurs) Caudwell Day Centre 9.30 am St Peter's Lady Chapel Holy Communion Parent & Toddler Group (NB Term-time ONLY) 9.30 am 2.00 pm Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours) 7.30 pm Women's Institute Meeting (2nd Thurs) Caudwell DC Sequence Dancing (01235 531701) 7.30 pm FRIDAYS 8.45 am Pre-School Playgroup (in Term) Sch'l Ground Bldg 11.00 am The Friday Club (fortnightly) 202466 CaudwellDay Centre 7.00 pm Whist Drive (ACHLoFriends) Caudwell Day Centre SUNDAYS 8.00 am Holy Communion St Peter's Sung Eucharist (Family Service 2nd Sunday) St Peter's 10.00 am 11.15 am Family Time (1st Sun) **Baptist** Church Baptist Church 6.00 pm **Evening Service** 7.30 pm Zumba Fitness

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