

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Dave Lee

Volume 37 No. 2

March 2014

Drayton2020 OUR CHANCE TO PLAN OUR OWN FUTURE

February 2014 Update Richard Williams

By the time this Chronicle is published, the closing date (Fri 21st February) for comments on the 'Pre-Submission Consultation Copy' of the Neighbourhood Development Plan will have passed. However, as indicated in the Parish Council report elsewhere in this issue, the Plan will still be available to read on the village website and paper copies should continue to be held in the Village Hall, Caudwell Day Centre and all shops and pubs in the village. The drafting committee now have the task of collating all the comments made by residents, or in some cases by statutory bodies that we were obliged to consult, and where possible, incorporating them into the next version of the Plan.

A number of readers have noted that the Plan has not been very specific on housing numbers and this is largely due to uncertainties that lie outside Drayton 2020's control. Firstly, the Vale are still in the process of drawing up their Local Plan, to which ours is supposed to broadly conform. Secondly, we cannot be sure how many houses are planned for our neighbouring villages, and this includes the development in South Abingdon which, we are told, cannot go ahead before two new pedestrian crossings are installed – one in Ock Street, and one in Marcham Road. Oxfordshire County Council have been holding a public consultation on the likely effectiveness of these measures, and the

results are not yet known. Obviously, the cumulative effect of all these developments on the road network will have a bearing on what is possible or sensible in Drayton. Thirdly, central government is said (not just by the Vale, but by local authorities everywhere) to be continually moving goalposts which make it more difficult to complete their Local Plan. Fourthly, the District Council have been carrying out an exercise called the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (or SHMA) which, it is rumoured, may propose higher numbers of housing in the Vale's large villages than anyone had reasonably anticipated. All of these factors complicate matters, and we await the outcome of the SHMA with some concern. Drayton 2020 understands that the SHMA results should be available towards the end of February, but as this date has already been put back several times, we can only hope that there are no further delays.

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 Fri 7th March 2014. 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 the Drayton 2020 website: draytontwentytwenty@gmail.com

Alternatively, David can be contacted via E-mail at draytonclerk@yahoo.co.uk or by telephone on 07909 176061. 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: www.drayton-near-abingdon.org

FIVE GENERATIONS CELEBRATE A NOTABLE BIRTHDAY



There was a notable birthday on 12th January when former Drayton resident, great great grandmother Pansy Smith, celebrated her 99th birthday along with members of her family at a special birthday party at St Katherine's Nursing Home, Wantage. The picture shows five generations of Pansy's family including her latest great great grand daughter Jessica along with Pansy's son Douglas Smith, grandson Adrian Smith, great grand daughter Rachel Thomas and Jessica who celebrated her first birthday on February 3rd. Pansy's extended family includes Drayton resident Douglas, two daughters Mavis and Avril and their spouses along with twelve grandchildren; twenty six great grandchildren and amazingly ten great great grandchildren ranging in age from one through to nine years old.

CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The next **Chronicle** will be the April issue:
 Editor: **Derek Pooley, 11 Halls Close (559454)**.
 Deadline for advertisements: **17.00 on Friday, 14 March. 2014**
 Deadline for other contributions: **17.00 on Mon., 17 March. 2014**
 Printed copies available: **Friday, 28 March 2014**

Key dates for the subsequent two Chronicles:

Issue for	Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available on:
May	14 April 2014	25 April 2014
June	19 May 2014	30 May 2014

Archive copies of the Chronicle are available on the Drayton website: www.drayton-near-abingdon.org. The current copy will be available on or near the same date that printed copies are distributed.

NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

Contributions to and advertisements in the Chronicle are most welcome. Please be sure **always to include your name**, address and (in case clarification is necessary) telephone number. Without names we will usually not print an item at all.

However, please also note that the editor has to ensure that each Chronicle fits exactly into an even number of printed pages. The editor therefore reserves the right to place, edit, shorten or even reject contributions as required.

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

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

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

Please head your email and label any attachments with a name distinctive to you, not just 'Chronicle'. Also, make sure the editor or advertising manager acknowledges your email within 2 or 3 days.

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

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

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

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

ADVERTISING RATES

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

	- - - Number of Inserts - - -			
Advertiser Category:	1	3	6	12
Drayton Resident	£6.00	£16.00	£31.00	£60.00
Non-Drayton Resident	£7.00	£19.00	£37.00	£72.00

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 FEBRUARY LOTTERY

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	1069	Margaret Jones 1 Halls Close	Ali Bone
£20	436	Mr Dawson 25 Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
£15	901	B Richards 2 Chiers Drive	Margaret Long
£10	160	Mrs Booth 87 Abingdon Road	Carol Arnold
£10	268	D Kimber 9 Corneville Road	Ellen Winter
£10	1333	K Johnson 21 Binning Close	Cathy Norris
£10	404	Mr Law Sutton Wick Farm House	Keith Clough
£10	997	Mrs L Butler 57 High Street	Michelle Ainscough
£10	141	Mrs Booth 86 Abingdon Road	Carol Arnold
£10	2010	Elizabeth Morgan 6 Eastway	Teresa Burnage

Winning tickets, from 1645 sold, were randomly drawn by a computer (similar to the Premium Bond Draw)

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.

More hours could be available, excellent hourly rate.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

We welcome to the village Lizzie Slack and Stuart Davenport, who have recently moved into Sutton Wick Lane. They have come from Baldock in Hertfordshire with their dog, Tavish, and their two cats, Weasel and Teasel.

Keith Clough



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W: www.ovenwizards.com

YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor

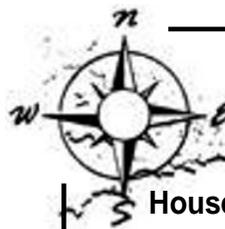
May I, through the Chronicle, thank two Guardian Angels who came to my rescue on Valentine's evening during very high winds and a deluge of rain. One retrieved my bins from almost blowing into the main road and maybe causing an accident. The other, a lady, a stranger to me, saw me outside my door and got out of her car and came to see if I was alright. Thank you both for caring.

(Name and address supplied but withheld on request. Ed.)

Dear Editor,

Applications are invited from any Youth Organisation in Drayton wishing to apply for financial assistance from the DRAYTON YOUTH CENTRE CHARITY. To request an application form please email karen.tinson1@ntlworld.com or telephone 01235 531596. Applications must be received by 31st March 2014.

Karen Tinson



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Appointments available Mondays to Fridays

ST PETER'S CHURCH

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

REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday	8.00 am	Holy Communion (CW Traditional)
	10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (CW), except 3rd Sunday when there is a non-Eucharistic All Age Service.
Thurs	9.30 am	Holy Communion (CW) in Lady Chapel.
Ash	7.30 pm	Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion
Wednesday		

Please note that the 3rd Sunday this month will be a Damascus Group Service at 10 am and there will not be an 8 am service.

The Non Eucharist Praise at Ten will be on 30th March for Mothering Sunday

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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

CHURCH REGISTER

Internment of Ashes

4th February Reginald Thomas Joseph Perris

Baptism

16th February Hannah Frances Peters

CALENDAR FOR MARCH

Tue 4th 3.00 pm First Tuesday Connections Church Room

YOU STAY - WE PRAY, MARCH

2nd to 8th Hilliat Fields; Lyford Close, Manor Close, The Green
 9th to 15th High Street, Chiers Drive, Cheers Farm, Halls Close
 16th to 29th Lockway, Whitehorns Way

ST PETER'S CHURCH LENT COURSE 2014

St Peter's Church will be holding a series of evenings during Lent that is open to anyone seeking to further explore and deepen their Christian faith.

Each evening will begin by sharing a frugal supper, when donations can be given for the Lent charity this year, similar to the Lent lunches given in the past.

Place : St Peter's Church Room **Time :** 7.00pm – 8.30pm

10th March FACING GOD: Living Faithfully <i>Ploughman's Supper</i>	17th March FACING MYSELF: Living Gracefully <i>Soup Supper</i>
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24th March FACING the WORLD: Working Faithfully <i>Quiche Supper</i>	31st March FACING OTHERS: Sharing Faith <i>Jacket Potato Supper</i>
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If you would like to attend one of these evenings, please contact Val Cross, phone no. 535183, preferably by the Friday before so that the caterers know how many to cater for

There are lists at the back of church.

Come to as many evenings as you wish, no minimum or maximum

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REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

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

EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME

LOCAL METHODIST WORSHIP

High Street, Milton
Sunday Service: 10.30 am

Local contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409

FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS Jean Hager

Are you feeling lonely, isolated or in need of some friendly company? Why not come along to our monthly tea and chat afternoons. They are normally held on the first Tuesday of the month in St Peter's Church Room from 3.00 pm to 4:30 pm and you are invited to drop in during these times. The teapot is always at the ready and you can be sure of a warm welcome. Our next two dates are 4th March, and 1st April. If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.

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Why baby sign? Because Children have so much to say!



WESTMINSTER LETTER

Ed Vaizey

As regular readers of my newsletter will know, as an MP I receive many interesting snippets of news about the Didcot and Wantage Constituency. I recently heard from the National Lottery that they have given grants totalling more than £500,000 in the last year to good causes across the constituency. The recipients were hugely varied, with two rewards of just under £1,000 to individuals under the 'Heroes Return' programme that helps veterans of World War II to take part in commemorative visits at one end of the scale and £365,000 going to Circles South East, whose aim is to reduce the harm caused by sexual abuse in our communities. In all there were 18 projects across the Constituency supported by the National Lottery: you can see more about lottery-funded projects here: www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/

Quite apart from the good news about funding, each of those 18 projects represents a huge amount of effort from volunteers and campaigners across the Constituency. Applying for a lottery grant is never easy, and each application in itself is the result of many hours of work gathering the right information and presenting it in the right way. Behind that effort, is the work each group or organization does day to day, providing services, facilities, activities or support for many other individuals and groups in our communities – a network of effort and help for others. As your MP I am able to meet many of these fantastic people, and see and hear about the work they do and I am constantly amazed by the dedication of the people I meet.

So much of this voluntary work is unsung, and can pass unnoticed, so I'd like to take a small opportunity to say 'thank you' to all those who work for others, in any way at all. We are all grateful!



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This month's postbag has been a real mix of domestic and international affairs, with issues such as autism, blasphemy laws in Pakistan, transparency in politics, wildlife crime and animal rights in South Korea featuring frequently plus, of course, Syria.

As ever please feel free to contact me at the House of Commons, SW1A 0AA, 020 7219 6350 or vaizeye@parliament.uk. Surgery details can be found at www.vaizey.com.



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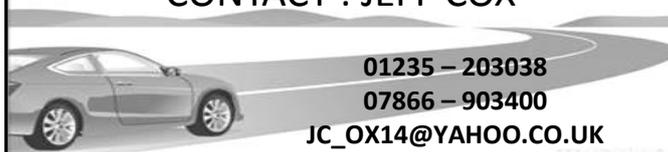
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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Williams

Report of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 3rd February 2014

Three members of the public attended the meeting in addition to the Councillors. Tony Croucher reported to the Parish Council that he was having difficulties in accessing a copy of the Pre-Consultation NDP report and had tried several times to communicate via the Village website without success. Tony said that he had also spoken to six Drayton residents, and five out of the six had no knowledge of the document or the consultation. It was pointed out that the consultation had been publicised in the following places: Drayton2020 email list; Drayton2020 website, Village public notice boards and the Drayton Chronicle, and that posters and copies were available in the Village Hall, Caudwell Day Centre and all shops and pubs in the village. Secretaries/Conveners of all Drayton clubs and societies had been contacted and offered printed copies.

It was confirmed that the 6 week public consultation period for the Pre-Submission Consultation copy of the Drayton Neighbourhood Plan began on 9th January 2014 and would close on Friday 21st February 2014. It was subsequently found, on checking the Clerk's records, that Mr Croucher was sent a copy of the Draft NDP on 9th January, and that his computer had acknowledged this with transmission of a read receipt on 15th January. A second E-mail notification had also been sent on 23rd January, still allowing a response time of 4 weeks. It was accepted that the E-mail system is not foolproof, but the Parish Clerk was confident that it was generally working well, as demonstrated by the fact that several residents and statutory consultees had responded immediately. Stuart Davenport, who recently moved to Drayton, explained that he had been very impressed by the Village website, and particularly by the amount of information provided under the Parish Council and Drayton 2020 headings. It was this that had encouraged him to attend the Parish Council meeting, and he expressed an interest in possibly joining the Council at a later date when he was more settled in the village.

Although the closing date for comments will have passed by the time this Chronicle is published, inspection copies of the Neighbourhood Plan will continue to be available on the Village website, and in Village meeting places, shops and pubs. Any Drayton resident may also request a copy from the Parish Clerk by post, telephone (07909176061) or email. It is also important to stress that the Plan will be revised in the light of comments received and that the present 'Pre-Submission' copy is not the final document.

Andrew Bax, the Chairman of Drayton2020, asked the Parish Council to consider advancing some of the grant money that will be available from 1st April 2014 for Drayton2020 feasibility studies/implementation. This will allow Drayton2020 to start exploring the feasibility of some of the community aspirations that were highlighted in the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan, including ideas for the Manor Farm site and refurbishment of Drayton Village Hall. An advance of £3000 was approved.

The provision of a defibrillator for the village was again discussed. In a previous meeting the Parish Council had felt that the local service from paramedics was so prompt that a public defibrillator was not really necessary. However, Laurence Zipson had researched the matter and explained the benefits. There were also some concerns among the councillors that traffic through the village is sometimes so bad, e.g. when the A34 has been closed due to an accident and vehicles diverted through Drayton, or as recently, when floods have resulted in road closures on various access routes – that this might impede the arrival of an ambulance or paramedic help. It was therefore decided to support the project, and the Village Hall was suggested as the most convenient location of the equipment. This has yet to be discussed with the Village Hall committee, but the defibrillator would be stored

externally in a locked metal box. Access to the box is via a code entered on a key pad. The location of the defibrillator is registered with the ambulance service and the code (held by them) is only obtainable by dialling 999 – thus ensuring that if the equipment is used, professional backup will also be on the way. There are training courses available, but it is understood the equipment is so simple and safe to operate, that anyone could use it, trained or not.

It was noted that some cars have been regularly parking next to the Millennium Green (the main Sutton Wick entrance) late at night with lights on. The Parish Clerk undertook to notify the Police of this. Members of the public are not advised to investigate, but to be aware of the situation and perhaps report any related instances of unusual or untoward activity.

To contact any members of the Parish Council, all enquiries should be directed to the Parish Clerk, David Perrow, in the first instance. David may be contacted via E-mail at draytonclerk@yahoo.co.uk or by telephone on 07909 176061, and he will ensure that any messages are passed on. Any Drayton resident may also ask to be added to the Clerk's E-mailing list, so that they receive prior notice of meetings and any relevant documents. In addition, all Parish Council minutes are now archived on the village website: www.drayton-near-abingdon.org. The latter 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 3rd March 2014, at 7.30pm, in the Caudwell Day Centre in Gravel Lane. As ever, all are welcome to attend.

Coffee Morning St Peter's Church

Saturday 15th March
10am to 12noon

Cards and cakes for sale
And a raffle - proceeds to Children's Society
If you have a Children's Society box
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DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Webber

On “Sustainability”:- For those of us who have been wrestling with planning issues for the past few years, getting our heads around the issue of sustainability has taken up much of the time.

I was lucky enough to study for a degree in Biology in which my final year was spent studying sustainability, what biologists mean by it and how it could be applied to understanding and managing biological systems. In the late 60s, we already knew that North Sea fish stocks were falling fast. Russian freezer trawlers had already severely depleted most of the herring and cod stocks. Traditionally cheap, everyday food for Europeans was going to get expensive. (The British have always eaten much less fish than other Europeans - strange for an island nation). But we were amongst the first to see the need to preserve and protect our fish stocks, if we wanted our children to be able to eat fish. We began to talk about quotas. Who would be allowed to fish what? How much could they fish? And how could such quotas be enforced?

40 years later, there are some fish left. We still have fish and chip shops, and ‘fish n’ chips’ is still just about affordable. As budding environmental managers, we were taught to understand that, for fish stocks to stay constant year on year, you could only remove or catch what reproduction could replace. This was sustainability. We talked about “Maximum Sustainable Yield”. We all understood what we were trying to achieve and that helped us to achieve some of it.

If Biology is an inexact business, it has nothing on Planning.

Without a current Local Plan, Government has determined that all local planning decisions must be based on the “National Planning Policy Framework” – a document produced in April 2012. The purpose of the Framework was to ensure that housebuilding would progress quickly to try to fill the perceived shortfall in houses. The Framework’s basis is, I quote, that ‘there should be a presumption in favour of “Sustainable Development”’.

The problem is that the Planners have not really decided what they mean by “sustainable”. Most seem to think that provided there is room at the school, the roads can cope, there are shops nearby and it doesn’t flood too much, then a development is sustainable. Each planning application must be considered on its own merits, so there is little room for cumulative impact arguments and very little concern for long term future or long term sustainability. Will a proposed development impact on others which are likely to come along? Is the impact on the local, national (let alone global) environment sustainable?

It all depends on how you define “sustainable”. As a biologist, there was a clear definition and I understood it. The Drayton Neighbourhood Plan is stuck with the rules as they are, however. As a passionate enthusiast for a stable, at least carbon neutral, environmentally friendly planning environment, I agree with my good friend, the past Chairman of the PC that our NDP is not ambitious enough. His definition of sustainability is much closer to mine than that embodied in the Framework.

However, we have an acute housing crisis at present and we need more houses. Just as the idea of fishing quotas took 30 years to be accepted and make a real difference, so environmental sustainability is something that will take some years to build into planning thinking. Just as the gradual reduction of our fishing industry down to a sustainable level took some years to achieve, we have to be realistic in our environmental ambitions. Our Neighbourhood Plan cannot solve all the world’s environmental issues. It can however plan for housing where we want it, and in so doing, make our village a better place in which to live. It can also encourage us, and nudge us towards a more sustainable future. It may seem a very lukewarm approach, but it’s realistic and, as a biologist, I try to be realistic.

On Flooding:-In July 2007, we in Drayton were able to look down on Abingdon from the summit of Oday Hill (all 10m of it) at

the devastation caused by the floods. 200 Abingdon residents forced out of their homes, the various authorities – Police, Fire Service, Environment Agency, Local Councils all rushing around doing their best in a well-meaning but hopelessly uncoordinated way. – and the overwhelming feeling of anger. Why had it happened? Why were we not prepared for it? Who was going to pay for it? Who is to blame?

One thing is certain. In an atmosphere of blame and recrimination, it is very difficult to draw sensible conclusions or make sensible plans for how to prevent (or at least reduce the risk of) it happening again. Once we had all calmed down, we could make sensible plans. The authorities could work out how to co-ordinate better, Central Government could work out how much money to spend and where to spend it and local people could do their bit by forming Flood Groups.

In January 2014, here we are again. The authorities are working together much better. We are all much better informed and warned than we were in 2007. The simple act of removing supermarket trolleys and other debris from the rivers has helped enormously. Of course, there have been other problems. My own patio has flooded (it didn’t in 2007) and the pool in Abingdon road has caused one serious accident, but we have had nothing like the Somerset Levels. It seems that it will take an enormous amount of cash to sort out their problems. The traditional solution of dredging worked well when labour was cheap and the process could continue all year round.

The EA have been desperately underfunded for years, so I have some sympathy for Lord Chris Smith as he faces a barrage of anger and abuse for deciding that dredging was not the best way of using his limited budget. I also have little time for senior politicians “apologising” for taking the EA’s advice on dredging.

I can’t wait for the anger to die down, so that sensible conclusions can be drawn and sensible decisions taken.

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COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Webber

40mph Limit

The consultation period for the proposed new 40mph stretch of road between Drayton and Milton is about to begin. The funding is in place, the will is there indeed, the only thing which could derail the process is if a large number of the public and authorities object. I urge all those interested (and in particular those in favour!) to respond.

Warehouse Proposal.

I am unclear as to how the developers expected the residents of Sutton Courtenay and surrounding villages to react to their new proposal to reduce the area from 1 million square feet to 950,000 square feet. Or indeed, if they expected local residents to be reassured by plans to institute, monitor and police HGV restrictions when current HGV restrictions go unmonitored and far too often abused.

I find it hard to see how a plan to offer an employment site to 2000 people on close to minimum wage in an area short of affordable housing and already suffering severe transport congestion is even remotely compatible with ambitions to make this area a focus for Hi-Tech / Bio-Tech industry.

Are there not parts of the country (even in the South East) crying out for employment?

I will continue to argue this wherever and whenever possible.

Budget

Later this month the county's budget will be set and we will be able to see where cuts are to be made. Home to school transport is going to be a major area of contention. So are large parts of the Social Service budget. We are incredibly lucky that much of our Youth support service does not depend on OCC funding. In the villages of Appleford, Sutton Courtenay, Milton, Drayton and Steventon the Damascus Youth Project has been doing its excellent work for many years now. Based in its new premises in Milton Park (once again many thanks to MEPC for their generosity), I was delighted to steer the last of the Big Society Fund their way. I hope this will allow them to purchase their much needed vehicle. Other smaller grants were made to Evergreens towards transport costs, Sutton Courtenay Primary School for computing equipment, a Defibrillator for Drayton, and equipment for the Wootton and Dry Sandford Youth Club.

X1 Bus Service

There have been a number (a large number) of complaints about the new X1 Bus service through Sutton Courtenay and Drayton. Buses late, buses not appearing, poor customer care compared with the now defunct 32 service through Sutton Courtenay. Thames Travel has been made aware of all these concerns and will be producing a new (and hopefully more meaningful) timetable within the next month. In the meantime, Sutton Courtenay residents should be aware that the bus arrives at the triangle and turns to Drayton. Residents of Drayton should be aware that unlike Sutton Courtenay, they also enjoy the benefit of the X2 service. I am aware that people living at the Appleford end of Sutton Courtenay have a long way to walk to catch the bus and that many of them are elderly. I am asking Thames Travel if they could look at this issue, in the meantime a regular and reliable service of any kind would be nice.

Richard can be contacted at Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com and 01235 534001

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BUDDING DRAYTON AUTHOR?

Judy Henman recently entered a story writing competition and although she didn't win, she was highly commended. Her story:

Metamorphosis

I was walking through Market Square in Bicester last week (playing truant again) smoking a cigarette (I look older than fifteen) and thinking of calling in a caff for a coke (it had begun to rain). I hadn't got a mac myself, not like the bloke walking in front of me who quickly put on the coat he'd been carrying - without noticing that something had dropped out of one of its pockets. I meant to give him a shout but then I saw what it was - a black leather wallet that was bulging with, well, something. So I bent down pretending to tie up a shoelace and slipped the wallet into my pocket. I didn't think anybody saw me.

I ran back the way I'd come, dodging into a tight lane between two grey stonewalls. I was gripping the wallet in my left hand, whatever was in it moved as I squeezed it. My heart was beating hard against my rib cage and I was panting when I stopped. I looked around. I was alone. Sliding onto my bottom I pulled the wallet from my pocket. My hand was shaking I could still feel movement within. I hesitated for a moment and then opened it.

A weird creature crawled out, slithering on to my bent-knees. I gagged and choked on a scream, as it looked up at me.

I could feel the blood draining from my face and I froze into immobility. Why had I picked up the wallet? What a dumb thing to do. Its eyes were cold hollows of sadness in a head and body of murky grey jelly that slopped across my knees, changing shape all the while. I felt sick - my mind was speeding above my static body. I'd bunked off school, I should be free, having fun, but I was mesmerized by this ... this ... monster.

My soaking wet hair was dripping down my face. Mini rivulets of water ran down my jacket. All at once I shivered and the thing slid to the ground by my foot. Freed from my trance I stood up but I panicked as the creature wrapped its slippery tail around my leg. I shouted as I shook my leg frantically. Nothing happened except that the creature was making its way up my body. I screamed, but no sound came - where were all the people? I noticed that the sun was making speckled patterns on the path. They flickered as the breeze danced in the branches of an apple tree overhanging the stone wall. I looked up at the delicate blossom.

Everything seemed normal but it wasn't. I dared to look down. The thing was looking at me again. I ran my tongue over my dry lips- "I'll take you back where I found you," I whispered. The creature stared, it was looking right through me. I shook uncontrollably. I was more frightened that I had been in my whole life. "Oh for a fag." How I wished I were at school, it was safe there. I tried to move but I couldn't, not a muscle. I was not aware of time or space. I could not hear anything; my whole being was focussed on this thing.

My mind was still working, GCSE's next week and I hadn't revised, I didn't care! I'd bunked off school; I'd pinched a few things and pleased myself. Life was for living but at whose expense?

Suddenly the light dawned on me. This was my punishment! I'd made my parent's lives a misery - shouting, cursing, hating. They tried, why didn't I? I wasn't a being who existed unloved and unwanted. I had everything but I threw it back in their faces. I cared about no one.

I looked down on the creature his eyes had changed; they were full of light and laughter. His body shone.

I eased him back into the wallet and gently carried him to the seat in Bicester Market Square near where I'd picked him up. The sun was shining. I felt drained.

I walked slowly home and into the bathroom for a shower. I tingled all over and felt light headed. I crawled into bed and slept until my Mother came home from work. I bounced out of bed and called a greeting to my Mum, instead of the usual grunt. Running downstairs I laid the table for tea. We chatted and she asked me about school - I apologised about my behaviour and asked for a

new start. She looked as if a weight had been lifted from her shoulders and pulled me into her arms. That was last week. Was I dreaming? What happened?

I've grown up; I'm myself. I feel, I see, I hear and smell life and its chances. I'm ready to live, learn and be happy and most of all to love and give to others - I've changed.

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ALL AROUND

DRAYTON WIVES

Gwen Price

Our meeting in January was given by Mary Greenham a retired teacher. She obviously loved her career and during her talk she spoke individually of five of her previous pupils, all with various problems. She spoke with love, care and humour about her time in school, and we all enjoyed her talk.

MARCH DATES

Mon 10th, COFFEE: Pam, Rosemary, Joyce

Mon 17th, CRAFTS:

Mon 17th, WHIST: Helen

Wed 26th, MEETING: Ticia Lever - textiles.

DRAYTON SCHOOL

Justine Regan

Classroom updates:-Robins Class

Robins this term have been deciding if Dragons are dangerous or delightful? They started by looking at the picture of Saint George and the Dragon, the children discussed what they thought was happening in the picture, then found out more. They have created a fantastic large scale 'modroc' dragon, the class worked collaboratively 'as a team', whilst getting extremely mucky, which is always fun! They have also taken a trip to China, and had fun discovering traditions of the Chinese New Year! They learnt about the significance of the dragon in China, found out where China is, created a dragon dance and experimented with making music to accompany their dance.

Puffins Class:- Puffins topic is 'Puffins go Walkabout.' They have taken a tour of Australia and have been learning all about kangaroos, koalas, wombats, possums, crocodiles etc. They went on a fictional jeep ride which helped them to learn about the outback. They were then led on a mystical journey into the world of Aboriginal Dreamtime, delving deep inside caves and all the artwork they contain. They enjoyed listening to some Australian Didgeridoo music, which inspired them to make their own, decorating them with dot patterns and pictures.

Blackbirds Class:- Blackbirds have been finding out about Africa, looking at the continent of Africa; exploring village life, city life, school life, the traditional Maasai, wildlife and food. They have written an information book on Africa and produced some great fiction writing using the African Plain as a setting. They have explored African music and African drumming, African landscapes and animals. They have learnt how to draw silhouettes, print patterns and produce a 3D effect.

Red Kites Class:- Red Kites are exploring the world of Superheroes and Villains. Already this term they have looked at a print of Superman by Andy Warhol and researched to find out facts about the artist's life and his art work. They had a fantastic Superhero day when they dressed up as superheroes. They have looked at what makes a superhero and have studied a clip of a superhero who could flip over a car! Miss Tranham said he had super strength, but the children did not believe her, as they thought they could also flip over a car! So, they went outside into the car park to see if they could. Unfortunately, Miss Tranham was correct ... they could not flip a car over – even when they tried altogether! So all agreed that the superhero had super strength!

Kingfishers Class:- Kingfishers topic is World War 2. They had a dress up day, they all looked fantastic, and had great fun. The photographs are on display outside their classroom and on the school website. They have made an historical artefacts display and a 'make do and mend' display. They have also produced some amazing charcoal drawings, inspired by Lowry's "The Blitz" painting.

Eagles:- Rise of the Robots is the topic for Eagles this term. They have been looking at the work of Eduardo Paolozzi, and trying out some of his techniques for themselves. They spent time drawing proportional humanoid robots using the proportions of the human body (yes, they measured themselves!). They have also been writing lots, including, instructions on how to produce lino

prints, diary entries of children from different stages of 20th century history, (how did the invention of colour television change their lives?), newspaper reports into events of the Space Race, poetry and stories using The Iron Man by Ted Hughes as inspiration for language and writing tricks.

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MORE ALL AROUND

W.I.

Brenda Malin

A talk, by Robert Longstaff, of The Oxford Garden Project, on sustainable gardening had all our attention. No digging, no commercial compost, but sunny sited compost bins, even, heaven forbid, weeds, of all kinds included in the compost, some other tips included recycled beer! He delicately blamed this tip on Bob Flowerdew from Gardener's World. Never the less the arguments he put forward for the above methods make complete sense. We even learnt that there are different kinds of worm; the compost worms, that come from no one knows where, and the earth worm that will die if put into the compost bin. The half price seeds on sale will see us putting all Robert's tips into practice. When it stops raining!

Our March meeting is our AGM when we will elect our committee for the next twelve months. After this arduous task we will enjoy a fish and chip supper and prepare for the coming year.

The Women's Institute is a national organisation and as such offers a wide variety of opportunities for women of all class creeds and abilities to broaden their knowledge and learn not only new skills, but most importantly, to gather together and enjoy one another's company.

Drayton W.I. meets every second Thursday in the month at 7.30 in Caudwell Day Centre. All are very welcome.

TABLE TENNIS CLUB

John Gould

The season is entering its final throes and our teams are all trying their very best to either gain honours or retain their status in the Divisions in which they compete. Several of our teams have injury problems; most affected being the E team in Division 3. Luckily Francis Soltane has returned from France to fill the gap and give the team three players for the final few ties. Also, the D team have recruited an experienced player in Darren Jones who should prove a real find for their end of season run in.

Our Bidmead team set out to try and retain the trophy that we have won in 4 of the last 5 seasons with a win versus RAL team. Our side of Matt Davies, Kavan Warrender and Peter Weir will have played a second tie by the time you read this and will hope to have progressed to the knock out stage. In the Handicap the C and E teams are hoping to progress but the F, G & H teams look to have bowed out.

Our Club Championships are being held early this year and reports will follow in future notes.

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EVEN MORE ALL AROUND

GARD AGM

Nick Thompson

The GARD AGM will be held at Stocks Lane Farm Steventon on Tuesday 22nd April 2014 at 7pm followed by a Committee Meeting.

All who wish to be updated are welcome to attend, however there is no immediate plan for a reservoir in the Upper Thames area although it remains one of the three stated options for the 2019 plan. In the meantime the alternative of re-use of waste water is the short term favoured option. GARD continues to monitor very closely the integrity of the work Thames Water is planning and required to do in the next couple of years, and we will report developments.

DRAYTON PRESCHOOL

Laura Hughes.

We are very excited to confirm that Preschool will be hosting a Baby and Child Nearly New Sale at the Village Hall on Saturday 29th March, from 10am – 12 noon. Tables will be £10, if you would like to book your place please email chairdraytonps@btconnect.com and we will get all the information sent to you. There has been a lot of interest in the sale so get signed up now! The money raised will help preschool develop their outdoor facilities as the children seem to spend more time out than in, whatever the weather!

We are currently recruiting for an NVQ qualified part-time Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator. There is the possibility of increased or permanent hours depending upon the children's needs. If you are interested please email chairdraytonps@btconnect.com for a full job description and more details.

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 draytonpreschool@btconnect.com. Preschool has a website <http://www.draytonpreschool.co.uk/> 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.

DRAYTON TWINNING

Stephen Fearnley

Each time you drive home you see "Twinned with Lesparre" - do you know where Lesparre is? You could find out, as this year villagers have been invited to go to France for a long weekend. If you feel tempted to join us then contact one of us for details. All you would have to do is to travel to Lesparre! Before that, on the 2nd of March, Lime Close Gardens will be open to the public and the twinned are planning to provide teas there, as we have done for several years. If you feel like meeting us please come along. After that we shall be holding our AGM and we plan to announce the time and place in the next Chronicle. Please feel free to contact Michael Bell (01235 531388) or Stephen Fearnley (01235 531347). You can discover more about our activities on the Drayton website - just go to:-

<http://www.drayton-near-abingdon.org/> and follow Village Information and Drayton Twinning.

HALL REPORT

Tony Holmes

The January committee meeting was graced by a request from the 2020 group, asking that we put together a "wish-list" for future development. The neighbourhood plan features some planned housing, and the discussions with developers are under way. This should lead to decent funding to benefit the village, so the hall has to plan for future improvements for a year or two down the road. The hall is almost 40 years old, well used, but starting to show its age. With suitable changes, we can get it in shape for another lease of life! A further meeting in February discussed what may be done, (after referring to various user groups), and an architect has been consulted as this goes to press, hopefully leading to some outline sketches and a ballpark costing or two.

Our more imminent development of a kitchen revamp, hall windows and replacement fire doors is still intended to proceed short term, as all need doing, either from a bookings or usage point of view. Another small grant has been obtained (from the Vale) and a major grant application will be decided in March. If that succeeds, work could start quickly after that.

On other matters, it was decided to freshen the internal paintwork, and that is nearly finished, users seem to like the colour scheme. Some gutter clearance has been done, and the front doors amended as the heavy rain was starting to intrude underneath. The waste and dog bin situation has been improved, but it would of course be even better if DOG OWNERS either ensured they use the correct bins, or better still, take their four legged friend's output with them!

Bookings seem to have perked up again since Christmas, quite a few children's parties, and a few adult ones, plus we've had the first confirmation of a date in 2015. THANKS to those user groups who have kindly contributed to our immediate improvements fund, and it's possible that we may augment the new colour scheme by getting some pictures of those users and class leaders for extra decoration.

Do give me a call (531180) if interested in any of the regular user groups or classes. Some have reports in the Chronicle, and one or two have adverts, but there's a wide selection :- Bowls, 'Baby Sign', Brownies, 2 Zumba classes and Pilates on 2 different days, Drayton Wives, 'More Life' (weight loss), 2 badminton groups, the Parent & Toddler group, and Abingdon Young Farmers. Two groups are especially looking for a few new members, one is the ladies' badminton club, who play in the Oxon league (Monday nights here), the other is the Sequence Dance club, who have visitors from all over the county, though not so many local members. They meet on Thursday nights, but call Brian on 531701 for their details.

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Fascias cleaning; Gutters Unblocked & Cleaned out

DRAYTON DIARY

FOR MARCH

All events are at Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise
(To book Drayton Hall call Tony Holmes on 531180)
website address www.draytonvh.co.uk

Sat 1st	1-4pm	Equitable Life Meeting	
Sun 2nd	1-5pm	Private Function	
Mon 3rd	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	<i>Caudwell DC</i>
Sat 8th	11-3pm	Private Function	
Sat 8th	5-12pm	Private Function	
Sun 9th	11-5pm	Private Function	
Sat 15th		Wedding	
Mon 17th	5.00pm	Chronicle Deadline (p2) – Ads 14th	
Fri 21st	5-12pm	Private Function	
Sat 22nd	6-12pm	Sequence Dancing	
Sun 23rd		Bowls Club (all day)	
Fri 28th	7-10pm	Young Farmers Beetle Drive	
Sat 29th	10-12pm	Sale	
Sun 30th	10-5pm	Private Function	

EVERLAST

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TV tuning and programming	New TV Sales
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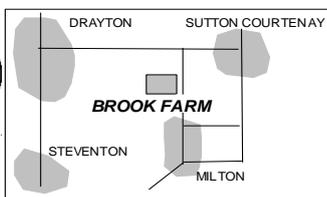
Brook Farm

Brook Farm, Milton Road

OPENING HOURS

Mon to Sat - 9.00am to 1.00pm Except Friday 9.00am to 6.00pm

FREE RANGE EGGS, & POTATOES (if available)



Bee Byes Guest House

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Sue Birchenough Proprietor

Guest House for the discerning visitor.

1 Haywards Road Drayton, Oxon, OX14 4LB

Tel: 01235 553775 Mobile: 07809 345576

E-Mail: susanbirchenough@gmail.com

Web: <http://www.beebyesguesthouse.co.uk/>

REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

MONDAYS

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
10.30 am	Pilates (Call 01235 814299)	
1.15 – 2.15 pm	Baby Sign Language Classes (in Term)	
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
5.45 pm	Beavers (Boys/ girls, 6–8 yrs, Tel. 512834)	<i>Steventon Hall</i>
6.30 – 7.30pm	Table Tennis (Beginners & New players)	<i>School</i>
6.30 – 8.00pm	Damascus youth group	
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 – 10.00 pm	Table Tennis Practice (League juniors & adults)	<i>School</i>
7.30 pm	Parish Council (1st Monday)	<i>Caudwell DC</i>
7.45 – 8.45 pm	Drayton Drop In (Except Bank Holidays)	
7.45 pm	Bell-ringing (for 1½ hours)	<i>St Peter's</i>
8.30 pm	Badminton (Private Group)	

TUESDAYS

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
11.00 am	Dietician	
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>
7.00 pm	Pilates – also at 8 pm	
7.30 pm	League Table Tennis	<i>School</i>

WEDNESDAYS

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
10.30 am	Life diet advice	
10.30–11.30am	Pebbles – Baby, Toddler and Carer group (in Term)	<i>Church Room</i>
11.00 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	<i>Haywards Rd</i>
11.20 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	<i>The Green Car Pk</i>
1.45 pm	Whist – now each week	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
2.00 pm	Drayton Wives (Last Wednesday in the month)	
2.15 pm	Badminton	
6.15 pm	Brownies	
6.15 pm	Cubs (Boys/ girls, 8–9 yrs, Tel. 512834)	<i>Steventon Hall</i>
7.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
7.30 pm	Bingo Session	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
7.30 pm	League Table Tennis	<i>School</i>

THURSDAYS

8.45 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 in Month)	<i>Caudwell DC</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	Women's Institute Meeting (2nd Thursday)	
7.30 pm	Sequence Dancing. Tel: 531701	

FRIDAYS

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
11.00 am	The 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 (All Age Service 3rd Sunday)	<i>St Peter's</i>
11.15 am	Family Time (1st Sunday)	<i>Baptist Church</i>
6.00 pm	Evening Worship	<i>Baptist Church</i>

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

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