

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Derek Pooley

Volume 37 No. 6

July 2014

MEMORIES of 1914

Derek Pooley



100 years ago this month, on 28th July 1914, the Austro-Hungarian 'dual monarchy' declared war on Serbia. Like toppling dominoes, three of the 'great powers', Russia, Germany and France, had joined in by the 3rd of August, when Germany declared war on France and invaded neutral Belgium. Britain followed them on 4th August by declaring war on Germany.

World War I had begun!

The root causes were complex and no country was entirely responsible or entirely blameless! Serbia's probable involvement in the assassination of Arch-Duke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the Austrian throne, was the spark that started the conflagration, but the flame spread so rapidly only because Europe was by then a tinder box waiting to explode. Austria/Hungary believed that Serb-sponsored terrorism must be defeated if its tottering empire was to survive - it failed. France was eager to avenge its defeat at the hands of Prussia in 1870/71 and recover Alsace/Lorraine - it succeeded. Russia was keen to exploit the impending collapse of the Ottoman Empire to gain unimpeded access to the Mediterranean - it failed. Germany was anxious to gain a top place in the world commensurate with its industrial and financial strength - it failed. Britain judged, probably correctly, that it could not afford to allow Germany to defeat France and Russia and become dominant in Europe, nor allow France and Russia to defeat Germany without British participation and then dictate the peace - it succeeded.

But for every country the cost in treasure and above all in the lost lives of its young men was colossal!

Some 888,000 British servicemen died and Drayton lost 33. To honour their memory and remind us all that conflict brings terrible costs, the centre pages of this Chronicle recall Drayton's involvement in WWI: the slow realisation of the enormity of the conflict, the enthusiastic volunteers who immediately joined up, the many deaths, the initiative and courage shown, especially by Drayton's son, Edward John Mott VC, sadly shabbily treated later in life by the British military for which he had done so much.



See pages 9 & 10

Also in this issue:

- P3: Joys of supporting Drayton Football Club
- P8 - 11: Remembering Drayton's role in WWI
- P13: New 'Soldiers of Oxfordshire' Museum
- P14: Ways to combat theft and stay safe online
- P17: Benefits of using GOV.UK

VISIONS of 2020

Richard Williams



This Chronicle may or may not reach you in time to remind you of the Drayton 2020 'Great Exhibition' in the Village Hall, from 5.00pm to 9.00pm on Friday 27th June and all day (9.00am to 5.00pm) on Saturday 28th (**Editor's Note:** it was advertised in last month's issue). The exhibition, of the three potential new-housing sites in the village, 'south of the High Street', 'Barrow Road', and 'Manor Farm', is a crucial part of Drayton 2020's vision for the future of our village. The developers will be displaying their project plans, maps, and many other details of all three sites for your information and comments.

For those of you who don't receive this 'reminder' Chronicle until after the event, we hope that you were able to get to the Hall on one of the two days, and enjoyed the exhibition. If you missed it, it's not too late to find out more, and you can catch up by attending the next Drayton 2020 Steering Group meeting. All these meetings are open to the public and the next one, possibly the last before September, is at the Caudwell Day Centre at 7.00pm on Fri 11th July 2014. It would be great to see you there!

The revised version of the draft **Neighbourhood Development Plan** is now available on the website at <http://www.drayton-near-abingdon.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/2014-06-16-Drayton-NDP-Pre-Submission-Consultation-Copy-Revised-for-Publication.pdf>. (**Editor's Note:** If this full address is too complex

to copy to your browser just use www.drayton-near-abingdon.org and click on 'Drayton 2020', then 'consultations' and select from top of the list). Hard copies will be posted in several locations, including the Village Hall, the Caudwell Day Centre, and both pubs. Please do find the time to have a look at the new version of the Draft Plan and let us have your observations, comments and criticisms before the second consultation period of 6 weeks ends on Friday 01 August 2014. The NDP process is unavoidably a lengthy and complicated affair, and even this second draft is not the final version, which means that your input can still feed into changes for the next revision.

A second document, the **Sustainability Appraisal**, is being worked on as I write. It is complementary to the NDP and should also be available on the website by the time you read this.

If you wish to receive reminders of Drayton 2020 meetings and events, please contact the Parish Clerk, David Perrow, via the Drayton 2020 website: draytontwentytwenty@gmail.com.

David can also be contacted at draytonclerk@yahoo.co.uk or by telephone on 07909 176061.

mega makers!
Holiday club programme

Children's Summer Holiday Club

For children aged 5 to 11yrs

at Drayton Community Primary School

on Wednesday 23 & Thursday 24 July 10am - 3pm

Games, craft, singing, video, drama and much, much more.

Cost: £20 per child for both days.

Please bring picnic lunch and drink

Limited to 48 children so book early

Booking forms available from Drayton School Reception (531316) or Drayton Vicarage (531374)

This Holiday Club is being sponsored by All Saints Sutton Courtenay and St Peter's Drayton.

mega makers!
Holiday club programme

CHRONICLE INFORMATION

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

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

Deadline for advertisements: **17.00 on Friday, 11 July 2014**

Deadline for other contributions: **17.00 on Monday, 14 July 2014**

Printed copies available: **Friday, 25 July 2014**

Key dates for the subsequent three Chronicles:

Issue for	Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available on:
September	18 August 2014	29 August 2014
October	15 September 2014	26 September 2014
November	20 October 2014	31 October 2014

NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

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

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

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

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

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

Make sure that the editor or advertising manager acknowledges your email within a few days.

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

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

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

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

ADVERTISING RATES

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

---- Number of Inserts ----

Advertiser Category:	1	3	6	12
Drayton Resident	£6	£16	£31	£60
Non-Drayton Resident	£7	£19	£37	£72

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 Vickery's or sent there (address above).

Requests for advertisements should (preferably) be emailed to **Stephen Fearnley**, the Chronicle's Advertising Manager at **advertising@draytonchronicle.net** or placed in the box at Vickery's. If you wish to discuss your requirements please phone Stephen on 01235 531347

CHRONICLE LOTTERY

Jean Barton, Hon Promoter

RESULTS OF THE JUNE LOTTERY

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	792	Paula Harper, 12 Church Lane	Susan Brooks
£20	428	Mrs Stanbridge, 29 S. W. Lane	Keith Clough
£15	1264	Judy Henman, 20 Steventon Road	Judy Henman
£10	914	Helen Brasington, 1 Chiers Drive	Doreen Mason
£10	1564	Mr Pitts, 27 Lockway	Christine Sadler
£10	1807	D Roberts, Windyridge Court	Claire Soper
£10	1850	B. Cassingham, 143 Drayton Road	Claire Soper
£10	863	Denise Gordan, 14 Church Lane	Susan Brooks
£10	1338	M Weir, 24 Binning Close	Cathy Norris
£10	79	Mr Greenland, 9 Abingdon Road	Jayne Henderson

We no longer use counterfoils. Instead, winning numbers from the 1666 tickets sold last month were generated randomly using a computer, as for national premium bonds and in the national lottery

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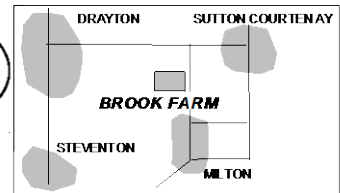


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DISCLAIMER: This Journal is published in good faith and great care is taken in its compilation. The organisers of the DRAYTON CHRONICLE, and its Agents, therefore accept no responsibility for OPINIONS EXPRESSED, nor for the validity of any ADVERTISEMENT,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

YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor

Derek and I have been supporting Drayton football team for many years. They have their ups and downs but this year they have galloped to victory. They have been playing in the North Berks League, division 2 but this year they were in the top three teams along with two big clubs; Wantage town and Abingdon United. Next year they will play in division 1.

Their skill on the field is awesome and so is their team spirit. We do not pay, but we see really good matches and are welcomed by committee members and players alike. Please come along too and watch Drayton play. You will be impressed and made welcome. Hot drinks are available. Details of dates will be in the Herald or online.

Yours sincerely

Judy and Derek Henman

Dear Editor

On behalf of my family, I would like to thank everyone from St Peters Church for making my grandson's wedding ceremony memorable; from the visiting vicar, Ernest Adley, the organist, the choir and Valerie Cross, not forgetting Sally who helped out with the flower arrangement. They also made our many French guests very welcome. It was fantastic - unlike the reception venue, the Village Hall, which was very disappointing.

Margaret Cox

Dear Editor,

Thankyou for letting me respond to Mrs Cox's comment about the Hall. When we spoke at the end of that evening (she may not recall this as it was at the end of a long and doubtless wearing day), she emphasised what a great time the guests had been having, sentiments others in the party also expressed. I know she had an issue with a particular aspect of the bar service, which we also spoke about and we agreed that times have greatly changed (re lifestyle and entertainment habits, especially affecting the licensed trade), since she worked in the Hall bar many years ago.

Mrs Cox has also written to the Hall Committee and we will send her a detailed reply. However, I should add that when I saw her grandson and his lovely bride, during the evening, they also expressed how well their celebration had been going, and I wish them all the best for the future.

Yours sincerely

Tony Holmes

Dear Editor

Just a letter regarding the grass edges on Steventon Road!

There is a bench on Steventon Road that you cannot now sit on. You cannot reach the dog-waste bins and halfway down, by the garage that was, there are brambles that are so big that our son had his arm cut cycling past.

Our neighbours had a letter asking them to cut their hedge back as it was too far across the path, but you almost cannot find the path because of the height of the grass and how far it is coming across the verges.

We don't want to moan but we are not the only ones concerned.

Yours sincerely

C and D Annells

Dear Editor

Please, please, whatever has happened to our graveyard? It is a disgrace. In Julian Cook's time, it was a pleasure to go to; grass always cut and gravestones cleaned free from grass cuttings. Now, when it is cut, it takes a lot of cleaning to remove the dried on grass cuttings from the gravestones. This is one place we feel should be well looked after, in respect of the dead.

Yours sincerely

Sylvia Bond, Beryl Dawson and Tony Scaysbrook

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Ring Glenn or Janet on

01235 531457 or visit

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THE RED LION

MISSED OUT ON YOUR CHRONICLE?

If by any chance your Area Agent is unable to deliver your Chronicle one month you can collect a copy from Vickery's shop in the week after normal delivery time. Lawrence has very kindly agreed to keep a small stock for us each month.

ST PETER'S CHURCH

Priest in Charge Rev'd Rebecca Peters.....531374
Associate Priest Rev'd Rosie Bruce525284
Churchwardens Mrs Alison Bone202188
 Mrs Linda Johnson527521
Organist Vacancy

REGULAR SERVICES

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

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Mon. 7.45 pm Bell Ringing Practice *Bell Tower*
 First Tues 3.00 pm First Tuesday Connections *Church Room*
 Wed 10.30 am Pebbles (term time only) *Church Room*

CHURCH REGISTER:

Baptism:

8th June Jasper Hoyle

Wedding:

31st May Alec Cox & Aurore Sage

Funerals:

29th May Richard Thouless
 5th June Doreen Smallwood
 19th June Anthony Price
 20th June Hilary Lymer

YOU STAY WE PRAY JULY

29 June to 5 July: Corneville Road, Crabtree Lane, Lesparre Close - 6 to 12 July: Drayton Road, Milton Road, New Cut Mill; Fisher Close, Marcham Road, Meads Close, Rippington Court, Stone Hill - 13 to 26 July: Steventon Road, Eastway, Eastway MHP - 27 to 2 Aug: Church Lane, Henleys Lane, Caudwell Close, Gravel Lane



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Letter from the St Peter's Youth Group

First, we would like to welcome Rebecca back after her maternity leave.

Secondly, and to celebrate our first anniversary, St Peter's Youth Group (aka the 'Bible Busters') decided to launch its first community venture – the St Peter's Bake-Off, all proceeds in aid of the Children's Society (our chosen charity for 2014).

Whilst eating cup-cakes baked by one of our group, our discussions turned to our own culinary exploits. Apart from me, it turns out that the rest of the group are all great bakers, or can at least pull something out of the oven that isn't burnt to a crisp or collapsed. Given all this hidden talent in Drayton, it was decided to hold a competition, open to everyone. It will be held on Saturday 13th September so you have all summer to practise! Judging will commence at St Peter's at 1pm, before which the entries should be delivered to the church, with the winners declared later that afternoon. There will be three categories; up to 12 years, 12-18 and 18+ with prizes for each category.

Everyone can have a go – even if it's your first bake. Even if you are more of an eater than a baker please come along and join in by sampling the entries after the judging has taken place. Keep an eye open, for more details of how to enter, in future newsletters.

The Bible Busters would love to see some new faces, so if you are aged 11-18 then feel free to come along to our meetings, held on the first Thursday of each month during term time. The next meeting will be held in the Church Room on 4th September from 7:30pm to around 9:00pm.

Finally, whilst I'm writing, I've been asked to mention another community event at the Church. On 4th August, the Church will be open to remember the outbreak of the First World War. Please use it as a place for prayer and quiet reflection and light a candle for those that gave their lives in that terrible conflict.

Will Johnson

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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 afterwards. They are held on the first Tuesday of the month in St Peter's Church Room from 3.00 pm to 4:30 pm and you are invited to drop in during these times. The teapot is always at the ready and you can be sure of a warm welcome. Our next two dates are **01 July** and **05 August**. If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.



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BAPTIST CHURCH

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

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

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

EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME

LOCAL METHODIST WORSHIP

High Street, Milton
Sunday Service: 10.30 am

Local contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409



NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

The Chronicle Team offers a warm welcome to:

- Sharon and Chris Rosher now in the High Street
- Bertie and Caeli Jacobs now in Steventon Road
- Ellie Appleton & Ross Butler now in Steventon Road
- Kate Brooks, Fred Faust and son Oscar, now in Sutton Wick Lane
- Ricky, Emily and baby Sienna now in Lockway
- Sophie, Martin and son Archie in Whitehorns Way

Sarah's Carers

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enquiries@homehelperscare.co.uk www.homehelperscare.co.uk

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I CAN BE THE FRIENDLY FACE YOU NEED

IF YOU JUST WANT TO CHAT

PLEASE GIVE CARRIE A CALL

01235 848853 OR 07778 036707

References available

The Beauty Spot

12 High Street Steventon

OX13 6RS

01235 833277

Email: gemma@thebeautyspot.info

www.thebeautyspot.info

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½ price Waxing Wednesday and £16 Tans on a Thursday.

Hairdressing available - see below

Contact Alice at the salon for more information
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Professional hairstylist in ladies, gents and children cuts, colours.

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ALL AROUND

DRAYTON PRESCHOOL

Laura Hughes

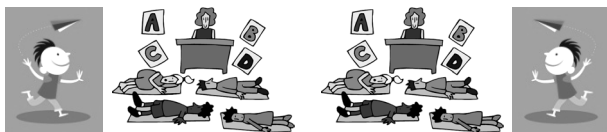
This month the children have been enjoying having their dads visit for 'Donuts with Dad', celebrating Fathers Day and giving the gifts they have made. They have also enjoyed a trip to Farmer Gows, where they fed lambs and goats, held goslings and played on the giant hay bale, complete with spooky tunnel!

The children (and some adults!) took part in Hikes for Trikes, a sponsored fun run around the school field. Some of them even managed 14 laps, about 2 miles! We raised enough to buy a new bike and scooter, as well as other outdoor equipment. A big thank you to all who sponsored the children, and to school for letting us use the field.

We also need to thank Mace Store for kindly giving us enough tubes of Smarties for all the children to enjoy and then fill with 20 pence pieces. It turns out you can fit quite a lot in! Many thanks from all the children.

We are also delighted to report that at our unannounced OFSTED inspection in May, preschool was rated 'Good'. This is a tremendous achievement and all the staff and committee are very proud. As parents we know our children are happy and safe at preschool but it is lovely to get recognition from outside. As ever there are areas we can work on and this is already in hand, well done everyone.

We are currently recruiting for a part-time (16+ hours) childcare qualified staff member, ideally with SEN experience. There is the possibility of increased hours depending upon the children's needs. Please email chairdraytonps@btconnect.com for a full job description and more details.



DRAYTON WIVES

Vesna Brock

The speaker at our May meeting was Colin Fox, who was one of the volunteer divers to the Mary Rose ship which sank off Portsmouth harbour in 1545 after 33 years service in several wars. The condition of the wreck and its contents were preserved under metres of silt which had accumulated over hundreds of years. The surviving section of the ship and thousands of recovered artefacts are on display in the recently opened purpose built museum in Portsmouth, where we are going for our June outing. Thank you, Colin for a very interesting talk.

Coming up:

Wed 30th July 2.00 pm - Alix Booth, on the history of Punch and Judy;

Tuesday 26th August 12.00 noon – Bring and share lunch.

These meetings are held at Drayton Hall and visitors/new members are always welcome. We also hold monthly coffee mornings, whist, craft meetings and walks.

ART & STUFF

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

TEL: 01235 533906 / 07415 855890 www.artandstuffgallery.co.uk



SOUTH AND VALE CARERS

Tori Bigge

Do you Care? So do we ...

- Do you provide unpaid help to a family member, friend or neighbour, to help them with everyday living?
- Do you look after someone who has a long-term illness or disability or who is elderly or frail?
- Do you have a child with special needs?
- Do you help a relative or friend who is about to be discharged from hospital?
- Are you under 18 and caring for or helping to care for someone in your family, who has a long-term illness or is disabled?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you would benefit from contacting South and Vale Carers.

South and Vale Carers is a specialist charity, set up in 1994, that supports unpaid carers living in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Council areas. South and Vale Carers provides a personal, professional and confidential service offering a wide range of advice, information, and practical and emotional support, visiting you in your own home at a time to suit you.

South and Vale Carers can help you with:

- Emotional support and practical advice to help you with your caring role
- Help in claiming Allowances and Benefits for you and the person you care for
- Completing a Benefits Check to make sure you and your family are maximising the family income
- Knowing your rights, including at work
- Help with Appeals and Representation at Tribunals
- Advice on your entitlement to services
- Advice on choosing and paying for care
- Trips and activities to give you a break – you deserve one!

Last year we helped over 1,000 carers and supported carers in achieving in excess of £920,000 in benefits and allowances for carers. If you would like to know how we could help you, please call South and Vale Carers on 01235 510 212 or visit our website (www.svcarers.org.uk)

As an independent charity we do not receive any statutory funding. If you would like to support our work, please get in touch, your donation would make a difference.

We support unpaid carers in your local community

Registered charity no.1042708



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Opening hours Tuesday-Thursday 10am – 4pm, email carers@svcarers.org.uk
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www.svcarers.org.uk

Suzy Willis & Associates

MCSP HPC

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Old Lodge, Henleys Lane

Drayton, OX14 4HU

Tel 01235 531269

Please ring for an appointment

VILLAGE HALL



Tony Holmes

We're currently revisiting the assorted quotes (obtained some time ago) re kitchen revamp, plus new hall windows & fire doors. Now we have

grant funding finally approved, we need to verify precise costings and make a schedule to do the assorted works.

We're also talking to architects re a much bigger revamp of the whole hall, which the 2020 group hope to be driving forward in the next few years. As this issue goes to press, the exhibition is being planned for the end of June re new housing possibilities in Drayton. By the time you read this, hopefully many of you came to see the exhibits, and with an expected upping of the Drayton population, the hall (now about 40 years old) needs some changes to help offer suitable facilities.

Bookings are holding up quite well, with December dates being snapped up for functions. We also have plenty of children's parties in the coming weeks, and a couple of firms' 'fun days' booked for the summer months, when of course it would be good if the weather played ball so they can use the rec's green spaces.

Speaking of which, one more reminder here – especially for residents of Lockway, and those of Steventon Road whose gardens back onto the rec – we have a 'Briard' dog show booked for the weekend of July 18/19/20th, when we expect a small amount of camping on the rec. This dog club isn't that big (the dogs themselves are quite large!) but the members are scattered round the UK, so as we are fairly central we've gained this booking. Some of those living a long way off are helped by being able to camp for a couple of nights, but I expect the bulk of visitors will just appear for the Saturday, the main show day. If the weather is ok, a part of the rec is intended to be used as a show ring, but I think it's more of a fun show than Crufts! Here I should add grateful thanks to the Football Club, as they've offered their facilities to the camping element. What camping there is, a mixture of tents and a few caravans, we plan for them to be right over on the A34 side, and near the back door of the hall.

TABLE TENNIS CLUB

John Gould

The Club's AGM took place on 10th June. Kevin Davies, the Club Chairman, gave his review of the 2013-14 season which was one of our most successful ever. He thanked all our members for their efforts in ensuring we retained our status as the area's top club. Kevin also congratulated Peter Weir on being awarded the Didcot League's Dave Hawkins Cup. This is given to the junior player who not only has a good table tennis playing record but also plays the game in the right manner with respect to opponents, win or lose. Peter sets a fine example to others and is a valued member of our club.

The meeting also saw the presentation of the Alan Bachrach Trophy to our Club person of the season. This time it was shared by Gareth Cox and Graham Stephenson who were the Captain's of our two division-5 teams. They both did a great job running their respective teams who for the most part consisted of players new to competitive table tennis. The honour was well earned.

We also said goodbye to several players who are leaving the club for various reasons. We wish them all well and will welcome them back should they ever get the opportunity to return. Of course there are always new players joining and our numbers will be almost unaltered in total.

We've now reached the closed season but planning must start for the 2014-15 season and with that in mind we will be picking our teams next month.

Table tennis will resume at the school on Monday 8th September 2014.

Have a good summer.



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GARD UPDATE

Nick Thompson

At our AGM in April the present Executive Committee members were re-elected and after seven years as Vice Chairman Michael Robson handed over to Dr Derek Stork. We are grateful for all Michael has done. He will carry on his Web Site responsibilities.

The period of calm has continued while Thames Water finally get their plan for 2014 to 2019 signed off by the Department for Rural Affairs and Agriculture which will happen this month. The plan says that the demand for water during this period will be met by treating and re-using waste water. Somewhat to Thames Water's surprise the public reaction to this has not been one of disgust, probably because the good people of London thought that their present supply of drinking water had already passed through several kidneys! It could be that recycling processes will be successfully developed in the period to enable this source of water to be increased much further. Thames Water also hope to reduce per capita consumption of water by compulsory metering and public education

If re-cycling is unable to be expanded after 2019 there is a different story, with all options opening up again, so it behoves GARD to ensure that the option of water transfer from the Severn, via a connection over the Cotswolds to the Thames, is properly researched and the costs established by unbiased experts as soon as possible. This is what our consultant will be mainly focusing on.

Although far less likely now than it was in 2010, the threat of a reservoir rearing its head again remains real. Despite the existence of PV solar farms and development proposals for a garden city the site is still earmarked by Thames Water. During the next five years the picture will become far clearer and GARD still has the funding to fight against the construction of a massive reservoir and will continue to do so.

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DRAYTON ENTERS WWI

Albert Sandys

Editor's Note: *Albert F Sandys was headmaster of Drayton school (then in the building below, now a private house) when WWI began. He became head in September 1895 and retired in December 1916. His log book, which all head teachers were required to complete at that time, provides a wonderful insight into Drayton's concerns then and how the war only slowly intruded onto them - he doesn't mention the war at all until the end of September and never mentions the assassination of Arch-Duke Franz Ferdinand which triggered it.*

*I am much indebted to **THERESA TAYLOR**, of the former Drayton history group, for pointing me to Mr Sandys log book and lending me her copy of it.*

*I have printed only a small selection of the entries in the years leading up to 1914 and afterwards, but **all entries** for the summer and autumn of that year.*

Sadly, there is no record of the end of WWI because Mr Sandys' successor, Horace C G Taylor, died in October 1918 aged only 27, in the so-called 'Spanish Flu' pandemic which swept the world, killing 250,000 in Britain alone. Thus there was no head teacher at Drayton school at the time fighting ended.



1896: Oct 2: Scarlet Fever has smitten down one of our scholars, Louisa Didcock & her sister Bessie came to see her on Sunday from Boars Hill & was taken with the fever & is now being carried to the Churchyard for burial this afternoon

1897: Jan 21: The good Queen's Diamond Jubilee will be commemorated this week. Holidays everywhere!

1899: June 9: Wm Bennett played truant - an unusual thing indeed in this school

1900: May 21: News of the relief of Mafeking arrived here about 10 on Friday night. Today we took all the children to the cross and gave cheers for the garrison, for BP (*Baden Powell*) for Lord Roberts and our soldiers and sang 'Praise God from whom all blessings flow', 'God Save the Queen' and 'Rule Britannia'.

1901: Jan 22: It is with profound sorrow we record the death of our beloved Queen. It is little short of a calamity to all the English speaking races. The whole civilised world appears to share our grief and, although the sorrow is from the heart, still it is a great question whether anyone can realise (*appreciate?*) our loss

1910: May 6: It is with the profoundest grief we have to record the death of our beloved sovereign King Edward VII, the 'Peacemaker'. All the nations of the world are uniting with us in sorrow. Perhaps the demise of no king ever provoked such and outburst of sympathy. God bless King George and the Queen Mother.

Editor's note: *King Edward VII is credited with playing a pivotal role in Britain's reaching the 'Entente Cordiale' with France in 1904, setting aside centuries of animosity and ensuring France and Britain fought side by side in WWI.*

1913: Feb 7: Dorothy Fisher, who has been away through ill health for one week, died this morning. R.I.P.

1914: May 22: Flag unfurled for Ascension Day

June 22: Coronation anniversary of King George

July 10: Ethie Brooks and her brother away with measles

Sept 18: Re-admitted Lizzie Taylor

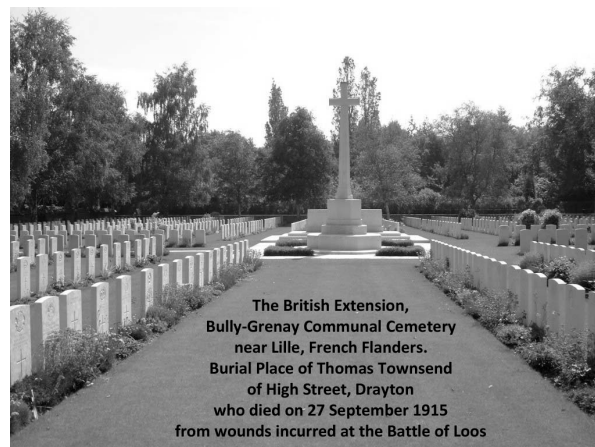
Sept 25: The Armageddon began on August 1st. Western Europe has experienced a terrible series of battles, mostly in Belgium, which has been the battlefield of European quarrels for centuries. Whole towns, including many architectural treasures of Europe have been wantonly destroyed - Louvain, Rheims cathedral etc. 30 Drayton former scholars are now serving in the army.

Nov 6: List of old Drayton School boys now serving their country in the army:

James Buckle	Richard Buckle	Thomas Clarke
Abbot Clarke	Thomas Denton	Joseph Belcher
Thomas Belcher	Stephen Pike	Heber Jones
George Parker (wounded at Mons)		Bert Parker
Fred Jones (prisoner of war)		Thomas Webb
John Webb	Jesse Buxcey	Reginald Buxcey
Henry Woodley	Henry Cornish	Percy Brewer
Henry Pike	Fred Didcock	Thomas Caladine
Bert Hall	Benjamin Wittington	Horace Jones
Frank Bunce	Richard Buckle	Charles Thomas
Eli Dunsden	Ernest Stone	Arthur Beckett
Wilfrid Dunsden	Thomas Townsend	Jesse Buckle
William Belcher	Cecil Denton	Oliver Bunce
Fred Barrett	Arthur Barrett	Frank Smith
Frank Prior	Mornington Prior	

Dec 23: Miss Fidler, after 6 years of labour in this school, is leaving today to be married

Editor's Note: *This list of almost-immediate volunteers from Drayton is exactly as Mr Sandys wrote it, i.e. not in alphabetical order and with the possible duplication of Richard Buckle. The heavy-type emphasis is mine, to highlight the names of men who eventually lost their lives. Some 8 of the 42 on the list were killed, a rather higher proportion (19%) than for the UK as a whole over the war as a whole (which was 12%) but probably typical of early volunteers everywhere, whose lives were at risk for longer than later volunteers or conscripts.*



1915: Jan 15: Bert Parker, formerly scholar here, has died of pneumonia on what is understood to be the field of honour viz:- the battlefield in France. May he rest in Peace

Jan 30: The scholars sent 6s/4d to the fund for wounded & sick soldiers - part of the £12,000 collected in the schools all over the country

Feb 5: Another of our old boys has been killed at the front; Fred Barrett (**Editor's Note:** *This appears to have been false news since Fred Barrett's death is not formally recorded*)

Mar 5: Henry Woodley (corporal) was killed on Jan 26 near Givenchy in N France. R.I.P.

1916: June 6: News received that Lord Kitchener this week went down in the Hampshire as the result of striking a mine. So ends the work of a great soldier. R.I.P.

Dec 22: My last entry - Albert Sandys

DRAYTON'S SACRIFICE

John Roberts

Editor's Note: *The Chronicle is very grateful to John Roberts (pictured) for giving us access to all his research on the young men from Drayton who gave their lives fighting in WWI. Most of their names appear on the memorial plaque over the lychgate at St Peter's church (overleaf) but John's research has often detailed where they lived in Drayton, when and where they died and where they were buried.*



100 years on from WWI his research is summarised on these centre pages as a tribute to their sacrifice of their lives for King and Country. With each entry in his full tribute, John included the regimental badge and a photograph of the cemetery/memorial. I have included the badge the first time the regiment appears, the memorial thereafter. More details of each soldier can usually be found at <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead.aspx> but a pdf of John's detailed research is also available by emailing the Chronicle at editor@draytonchronicle.net

John himself was born in Portsmouth in March 1940 but in September his parents moved the family to Drayton. He spent all his early years here, was educated in Drayton school, then at what is now Carswell in Abingdon and later at St Birinus in Didcot. Many of his oldest friends are still here! John was in the RAF for 15 years, serving in Aden and Cyprus before leaving in 1970 to work as an engineer in the civil aviation industry until his retirement in 2005. He is now back living in Portsmouth but sees himself as a Drayton boy and comes back to see family and friends a few times each year. Thank you John!

Gunner Henry Alston,

Royal Field Artillery
Killed in Action - 29th April 1918 - age 39
Husband of G Alston of Wayside Cottages
Buried in the Perth Cemetery (China Wall), Ypres, Belgium



Private Arthur Bailey

Hampshire Regiment
Died of wounds - 30th May 1916 - age 23
Son of Mr and Mrs Bailey of Abingdon
Arthur lived in Sutton Wick
Buried in the Bethune Town Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France



Private Henry Belcher

Royal Berkshire Regiment
Died - 22nd August 1917 - age 22
3rd Battle of Ypres - (Passchendaele)
Son of William & Annie Belcher, Crab Tree Lane
Remembered at the Tyne Cot Memorial, Roeselare, Belgium



L/Corporal George Bennett

Royal Berkshire Regiment
Killed - 12th October 1917 - age 27
1st Battle of Passchendaele
Son of Joseph and Elizabeth Bennett, Steventon Road
Buried at Poelcapelle British Cemetery, Belgium



Private William Bennett

Royal Berkshire Regiment
Killed - 25th September 1915 - age 27
Battle of Loos, France.
Son of Joseph and Elizabeth Bennett, Steventon Road
Buried at Loos Memorial Cemetery, France



Private Albert Buck

Border Regiment
Killed in Action - 1st July 1916 - age 28
Battle of the Somme
Husband of Martha Alice Buck of Steventon Road
Buried in Hawthorn Ridge Cemetery, Auchonvillers, France



Private Charles Bunce

Oxfordshire and Bucks Light Infantry
Died - 12th January 1917 - age 21
Baghdad - Iraq
Son of Albert and Kate Bunce, Sutton Wick
Buried in Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery



Guardsman Frank Bunce

Grenadier Guards
Killed in Action - 7th November 1914 - age 34
1st Battle of Ypres, Belgium
Remembered at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial
Son of George & Priscilla Bunce, Crab Tree Lane



Private Thomas Burgess

Oxfordshire and Bucks Light Infantry.
Died - 6th November 1914 - age 28
1st Battle of Ypres, Belgium
Son of Enos and Emily Burgess
Buried at Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, France



Corporal Frederick Buxcey

Royal Berkshire Regiment
Killed - 25th Sept. 1915 - age 25
In action at Bois Grenier - (Loos)
Son of Henry and Hannah Buxcey
Remembered at Ploegstreert Memorial, Belgium



Private Reginald Buxcey

Royal Berkshire Regiment
Killed - 25th September 1915 - age 20
In action at Bois Grenier - (Loos)
Son of Henry and Hannah Buxcey
Remembered at Ploegstreert Memorial, Belgium



Private Charles Chainey

Devonshire Regiment
Died - 23rd November 1918 - age 18
Son of Charles and Cecilia Chainey
Buried in Drayton Churchyard Extension



Private Thomas Danby

Royal Marine Light Infantry
Died of wounds - 28th Oct. 1917 - age 19
After the 2nd Battle of Passchendaele
Son of Samuel and Jane Danby, High Street
Buried at Dozinghem Military Cemetery, Belgium



Private Sam Danby

Royal Berkshire Regiment
Died of Wounds - 2nd July 1916 - age 33
After the battle of the Somme
Son of Samuel and Jane Danby, High Street
Remembered at Heilly Station Cemetery, Somme, France



Sergeant Frederick Didcock

Royal Berkshire Regiment
Killed in Action - 23 July 1916 - age 34
Son of William and Sara Didcock, Steventon Road
Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France



Rifleman Jessie Harris

London Regiment, Queens Westminster Rifles
Killed in Action - 28 March 1918 - age 20
Battle of Arras
Son of George and Thirza Harris, Steventon Road
Remembered at Arras Memorial, Arras, France



Lieutenant John Hobson

Machine Gun Corps
Killed in Action - 31 July 1917 - age 23
3rd Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele)
Son of Thomas and Mary Hobson
Remembered at Ypres (Menin Gate), Belgium



Private Arthur Jones

Royal Berkshire Regiment
Killed in Action at Fleurbaix –
8th March 1918 - age 29
Son of Inkerman and Harriet Jones, Church Lane
Buried at Rue-Petillon Cemetery, Fleurbaix, France



Private George Jones

Royal Berkshire Regiment
Died at Home - 17 February 1917 - age 36
Son of Inkerman and Harriet Jones, Church Lane
Buried at Reading Cemetery



Private George Moore

Sherwood Foresters
Killed in action - 10 November 1917 - age 28
3rd Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele)
Lived in Drayton, Son of John and Mary Moore
Remembered at Tyne Cot Memorial, Roeslare, Belgium



Driver Bert Parker

Army Service Corps
Died - 11 January 1915 - age 20
Son of Alfred and Martha Parker, Church Lane
Buried at Bois Guillaume Communal Cemetery, France



L/Corporal Frank Payne

Royal Berkshire Regiment
Killed in Action- 17 February 1917 -age 17
Killed in action at Grandcourt – (Somme)
Son of Thomas and Rose Payne of Gravel Lane
Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France



Private Harry Pike

Oxfordshire and Bucks Light Infantry.
Died - 21 June 1916 - age 27 - in Iraq
Son of Frederick and Ann Pike of High Street
Remembered at the Basra Memorial, Iraq



Private John William Pointer

Royal Berkshire Regiment
Died of Wounds - 30 October 1916 - age 31
Battle of the Somme
Son of William and Emily, husband of Elsie Pointer
Buried at Etaples Military Cemetery, France



Private Ernest Pryer

Welsh Regiment
Died of Wounds - 9 May 1915 - age 20
After the 2nd Battle of Ypres
Son of Louis and Kate Pryer
Buried at Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, France



THIS GATE WAS ERECTED BY THE
PARISHIONERS OF DRAYTON TO THE GLORY
OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF THE MEN WHO FELL
IN THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918.

H ALSTON.	F BUXCEY.	C MOOR.
A BAILEY.	R BUXCEY.	B PARKER.
H BELCHER.	R CARPENTER.	H PIKE.
W BENNETT.	T DANBY.	F PAYNE.
C BENNETT.	S DANBY.	E PRIOR.
A BUCK.	F DIDCOCK.	W POINTER.
C BUNCE.	J HARRIS.	T TOWNSEND.
F BUNCE.	J HOBSON.	H WOODLEY.
T BURCESS.	G JONES.	B WITTINGTON.
C CHAINEY.	A JONES.	R WATTS.

Guardsman Tom Townsend

Grenadier Guards
Died of Wounds - after the Battle of Loos
27 September 1915 - age 25
Son of Thomas and Harriet Townsend, High Street
Remembered at Bully-Grenay Communal Cemetery, France



Private Ben Whittington

Oxfordshire and Bucks Light Infantry.
Died - 25 April 1916 - age 25
Battle of Kut-El-Amara Garrison, Iraq
Son of William and Harriet Whittington, Sutton Wick
Remembered at the Kut War Cemetery, Iraq



L/Corporal Henry Woodley

Royal Sussex Regiment
Killed in Action - at Givenchy, France
26 January 1915 - age 19
Son of William and Annie Woodley, Crab Tree Lane.
Remembered at Le Touret Memorial, France



Editor's Note: *Perceptive readers will have noticed that the plaque on St Peter's lych gate seems to have been made somewhat carelessly, with names mis-spelt and not placed in alphabetical order as intended. Most regrettably, some Drayton men who gave their lives in WWI seem to have been left off completely. John Roberts has identified the following three as coming from or living in Drayton but whose names are missing. The final two names below are on the plaque, but John could not find details of either.*

Private Harry Denton

Royal West Kent Regiment
Killed - 15th September 1916 - age 23
At the battle of the Somme - Attack on Flers
Son of Harry and Ellen Denton of Sutton Wick.
Remembered at the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France



Private Frederick Mott

Royal Berkshire Regiment
Killed in Action -28 October 1916
Son of Joseph and Charlotte Mott
Remembered at the Bancourt British Cemetery, France



Private Tom Woodley

Devonshire Regiment
Died - 29 January 1917 - age 39
Son of Henry and Mary Woodley
Remembered at Allonville Communal Cemetery, France



R Carpenter: *though he may be Francis Reginald Carpenter, born in 1898, who appears in the 1911 census for Drayton. An F Reginald Carpenter is on the plaque inside St Peter's and an R F Carpenter is in the Commonwealth Graves Commission records as being killed in 1915*



R Watts: *No likely records found*

DRAYTON'S WWI HERO

Edward John Mott VC DCM

On the 27th of January 1917, two and a half years into World War I, the first Battalion, the Border Regiment was ordered to attack a German position south of Le Transloy, known as the Landwehr Trench. The attack began well at 5:30 am and by 7.00 am 117 prisoners had been taken with only light casualties. However, as with so many attacks in World War I, consolidation (this time on the left flank) was proving difficult because of the frozen ground,

German shelling and machine-gun fire from a German strong point. The attack would probably have failed but for the dash and courage of Sgt Edward John Mott who, although wounded in the eye, rushed for the machine gun post, overcame the German gunner after a struggle and captured the gun, which now sits proudly in the Border Regiment's Museum in Carlisle.

The British military have a gold-standard way to recognise such tremendous courage and daring, the Victoria Cross. Intrinsically almost worthless, the 3 ounce bronze cross is cast in a rather solid, somewhat-inlegant Victorian style with the simple words 'for valour'. But it is rarely given and therefore highly prized. When it is given, the form is the same for all ranks, from private soldiers to field commanders, which caused King Edward VIII to say it was 'the most democratic and at the same time the most exclusive of all the orders of chivalry' He called it 'the most enviable order of the Victoria Cross'.



From the
Second Supplement
of the London Gazette
Friday 9th March 2017

No. 9887 Sjt. Edward John Mott, Border R.

For most conspicuous gallantry and initiative when, in an attack, the company to which he belonged was held up at a strong point by machine-gun fire.

Although severely wounded in the eye, Serjeant Mott made a rush for the gun, and after a fierce struggle seized the gunner and took him prisoner, capturing the gun.

It was due to the dash and initiative of this non-commissioned officer that the left flank attack succeeded.

Street, and the council school in Abingdon (now Carswell). He left school at 14 to work with his father on a Shippon Manor Farm but at the end of 1910, aged 17, he enlisted with the Border Regiment, who happened then to be recruiting in North Berks, The regiment was posted to Burma, where Edward was stationed when World War I began.

However, in December 1914 the regiment was brought back to England to prepare to land at Gallipoli. There, at the end of April, Edward landed with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force and, during the subsequent fighting, showed the conspicuous bravery and good service which won him the Distinguished Conduct Medal then (DCM - in prestige second only to the VC in the military pecking order), the VC two years later and caused his being 'Mentioned in Dispatches' in between.

Edward John Mott had been born at 21 Church Street, Drayton on 4 July 1893, the oldest son of John Mott and Lydia Woodley. It was a second marriage for both parents, whose earlier spouses had died, and Edward had many half brothers and sisters. By the time of the 1901 census the family had moved to Sutton Wick, with Edward attending both the Drayton Primary School, then in the High

When the award of the VC was announced, a subscription was started in Abingdon by the town council, Sgt Mott being the first recipient of the VC in the Abingdon district. In his presentation the Mayor said 'As you are all aware, some time ago his Majesty the King conferred on Sgt Mott the highest distinction any soldier can achieve in battle, and when the news reached this town we felt that something ought to be done in recognition of the gallantry of our neighbour. Sgt Mott, it is my privilege to extend to you a cordial welcome to our town and to offer you our hearty congratulations on the high honour which has been conferred upon you. At the same time we ask you to accept a sum of £25 2s 7d, as a mark of appreciation by this town of your gallant conduct. We trust you may be spared to see the successful conclusion of this war, with the satisfaction that you have done something to help on the consummation we all long for'. Three hearty cheers were then given for Sgt Mott.

He did survive the war. He even found time to get married whilst on leave from the front in September 1918, to Evelyn Maud Hopgood from Hampshire, with whom he eventually had 8 children. After his discharge from the Army in 1919, Mr. Mott was a commissionaire at Selfridge's until 1926, when he returned to this area to become a security guard at an RAF supply depot at Milton. Sadly it was here in 1940 that the military establishment treated him very badly, in what seems to have been an analogue of the recent Andrew Mitchell 'pleb-gate' incident.

He gave his account of events to a reporter:

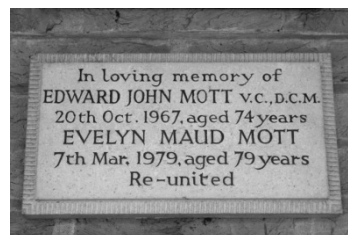
'I was ordered to do a special duty at the depot on 21st of September and it was to stop all personnel, especially officers, and ask for their identification cards. I tried to stop a new officer I had never seen before but he ignored my signal. He was also smoking which is an offence and this I pointed out to him. My inspector then relieved me off the gates, took me to his office and the officer told him to tell all warders to salute and 'sir' officers and, turning to me, he said 'you are suspended from duty'. I asked why but he told me to get out of the office. I told him I had not committed any offence and only had only tried to do my duty'.

'On the following Monday I saw the C.O. who suggested to me that I should resign but my reply was that I should do nothing of the sort! On the Tuesday I was sent a letter indicating they had no further use for my services at the depot'. His unfair dismissal cost him not only his job but also his home.

But the family moved to a house in Milton and he was later employed by Esso Petroleum at Milton Hill, until his retirement in 1958. Probably the highlight of his later years was attending the centenary of the institution of the Victoria Cross in June 1956, when living VCs assembled for a special service at Westminster Abbey (where the Prime Minister gave Mr Mott his autograph) and the following day at Wellington barracks, from where they were all driven to Hyde Park to be reviewed by the Queen in perfect weather. Her Majesty stopped and chatted to Mr. Mott for some time.



Sergt. EDWARD JOHN MOTT, V.C.
Photo: Central Press



*In loving memory of
EDWARD JOHN MOTT V.C., D.C.M.
20th Oct. 1967, aged 74 years
EVELYN MAUD MOTT
7th Mar. 1979, aged 79 years
Re-united*

On 20 October 1967 Edward John Mott VC DCM died aged 74. His wife died 12 years later - the plaque reminding us of them is at Oxford Crematorium.

Editor's Note: Much of Edward Mott's life is on

public record but I am indebted to John Roberts and Brian Bray for allowing me to use in this Chronicle their collections of the information on Edward Mott's life.

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ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Al Costley

In this 100th anniversary year of the outbreak of the First World War, it is perhaps worth recalling that since 1914, there has only been one year, 1968, in which a British Soldier has not been killed on operations somewhere in the world.

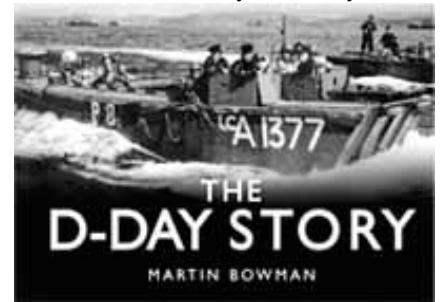


With many veterans now older, and in greater need of support, and a growing band of young veterans from current and recent conflicts, the work of the Royal British Legion remains as relevant and as important as ever.

The Steventon and District Branch of the Royal British Legion is therefore delighted to announce that following some concerns that there was insufficient support to maintain a full committee, the future of the Branch is now secure for the foreseeable future. The Committee is also very conscious that we cover Steventon and District, notably including Sutton Courtney and Drayton, and are very keen to see new members from across the wider area.

The Branch is planning a fuller calendar of events for this forthcoming year, notable for being both the 100th Anniversary of the First World War, and the 70th Anniversary of D-Day. This

will be starting with a stall at the forthcoming Steventon Village Fete on the 5th of July, with an opportunity to purchase memorabilia to support the Poppy Appeal – a fund raising initiative which runs 365 days a year, not only during the November period of Remembrance. This will be followed by a barbecue, drinks and an ‘Aunt Sally’ competition at the Steventon Sports and Social Club, and all are very welcome, again particularly new members from across the District.



Branch meetings remain at 8.00pm on the third Monday of every month; June's being the 16th, and July's being the 21st. Please note that the venue has now changed to meeting at the Steventon Sports and Social Club from 7.30pm on for a pre meeting drink, before the committee meeting itself at 8.00pm.



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SOLDIERS OF OXFORDSHIRE Kate Burrows

The Soldiers of Oxfordshire (SOFO) Museum opened to the public on June 15th. From now on it is open from Tuesday-Saturday 10am-5pm and Sundays 2-5pm.

The Museum houses the collections from the Oxfordshire Yeomanry and the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and will offer a Research Centre, a modern archive and collections store and Galleries in which the stories of the Soldiers of Oxfordshire will be told.

The imaginative concept of building the new Museum in the grounds of the existing Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock was that of Oxfordshire County Council. In accepting the Council's invitation, SOFO has raised the money to build, mainly from private donors, a substantial asset which will, in due course, become public property. It is a vital resource for all interested in local and family history, and aims to be integral to the County's education system. From the outset, a functional modern design was called for and the result is now settling well into its ancient setting.



The displays in the Galleries will be a fantastic resource for families, young children, school visits, life-long learners and the keen social and military researchers who want to learn more about how conflict has affected the county. Conflict continues to affect the County today with the presence of several military installations and units, at bases such as the large logistic installation at Bicester, Dalton & Vauxhall Barracks and the RAF at Brize Norton and Benson. By placing key moments from history alongside current military actions, the museum will keep this important heritage alive, telling the stories of not only the county regiments but 'all' soldiers of Oxfordshire.



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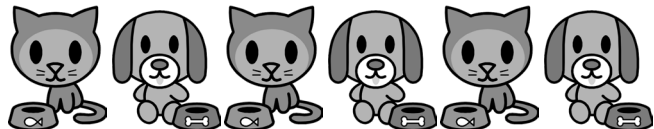
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NAG5 SAFETY CORNER

Bridget Haffenden

Neighbourhood Action Group 5 covers the villages of Appleford, Drayton and Sutton Courtenay and a new regular column in the village newspapers aims to provide useful information for village residents, plus news and updates on NAG5 activities. For those with access to the internet, relevant links are provided.

However, in this age of increasing electronic communications the very people who may be amongst the most vulnerable to rogue traders, telephone scams etc. may well be those who do not use the internet. Hence our concern and desire to ensure they are made aware through village newsletters. We are also working with Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators to ensure that, when required, information is speedily transmitted by e-mail or word of mouth.

In this issue we aim to raise awareness on two topical areas.

Scams:

People caught out by a scam can sometimes feel too embarrassed or ashamed to report it. Please encourage friends, relatives and neighbours to report them by calling 0300 123 2040 or by visiting <http://www.actionfraud.police.co.uk>.

'Think Jessica' is a charity which provides anti-scam resources for the elderly and vulnerable. Criminals often target such people, who often live alone and have no access to the internet, by bombarding them with letters or telephone calls, posing as officials or offering large prizes. Free information packs can be obtained by writing to Think Jessica, PO Box 4442, Chesterfield, S44 9AS enclosing a loose 2nd class stamp, or visit the web site at <http://www.thinkjessica.com> for more information. We are ordering some packs and will keep you posted.

For information about staying safe online please visit <http://www.getsafeonline.org> or <http://www.cyberstreetwise.com>.

Smartwater:

Smartwater is a brand of forensic marking fluid containing millions of microscopic particles that make up an individual property identification code. The liquid is invisible to the naked eye, but glows green under UV light. It can be used to mark valuable items (e.g. laptops, MP3 players, televisions, mobile phones, cameras, antiques, jewellery and bicycles). Thames Valley Police have kits for use in the home available at a greatly reduced price of £15 each (normally £60).



Over the past couple of months PCSO Sandra Syphas, with NAG5 representatives, has visited households in Appleford and Sutton Courtenay with kits and information about Smartwater, and had a very positive response. Appleford is now a designated 'Smartwater zone' and it's hoped that Sutton Courtenay will shortly follow suit. Householders in Drayton will be visited over the next few weeks. ➔

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➔ The hope is that all three NAG5 villages will become designated Smartwater zones. More information can be found on the Smartwater web site at <http://www.smartwater.com>, by calling Smartwater on 0800 521 669, or call the police on the non-emergency number 101.

Contact NAG5 at neighbourhoodactiongroup5@hotmail.com or by calling 01235 848694.

Editor's Note: The Parish Clerk has told the Chronicle that Drayton was free of crime last month, not surprising since we live in a low-crime part of the country, but that we still need people to volunteer to become Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators

ROAD SURFACE DRESSING

Mark Kemp

The Oxfordshire County Council 2014 surface dressing programme is scheduled for the whole month of July 2014.

At each location the council will use its powers temporarily to prohibit the use of and waiting on the highway by all motor vehicles, also to impose temporary speed restrictions and 10mph convoy working. Work at each site should take no more than 5 consecutive days to complete and limited access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and to frontages within the closed sections of roads, subject to the progress of the works.



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PARISH COUNCIL

Richard Williams

Report of the meeting held on Mon 2nd June 2014



The Parish Clerk reported that Julian Fowler had written declaring his resignation from the Parish Council with immediate effect. The Council now has 10 councillors, so there is one vacancy to be filled. If you feel this might be for you, please come along to the next meeting to see how the Council works. No qualifications needed, other than an interest in the life of Drayton village.

Melvyn Beesley presented a written testimony from Peter Purbrick, stating that the wall at the west end of the Caudwell Day Centre car park was knocked through circa 2004. This was to provide for occasional access only for a caravan, but prior to this date, obviously, there was no access at all, and presumably no 'right' to access either. Sovereign Housing Association has confirmed it has not granted permission for access across their land, but they have since met with two resident representatives from Caudwell Close to discuss options for improving the parking arrangements, and have promised to work with the residents in preparing a suitable parking scheme.

Terry Mason expressed an interest in the recent safety assessment of the trees on The Green, following the recent incident where a large branch of one of the horse-chestnut trees broke off and fell close to the bus shelter (no one was hurt, and no damage was caused, other than to the tree!). The Clerk reported that he has obtained three quotations for the work. John Henderson expressed an interest in the new beech hedge that has been planted near to the wall of the Stable Barn on The Green. The land is not registered and is thought to be public land. It was agreed to contact OCC Highways Department to check if they owned the land, but Highways have now replied to confirm that they do not. There is however no indication from the Land Registry that the land belongs to the owners of the Stable Barn, nor does the original planning application for the conversion of the Barn from agricultural to residential use suggest that this area is other than public land. The Clerk has written to the owners of the Stable Barn asking them to confirm that the land is legally theirs.

Margaret Knight had concerns about the mini roundabout by The Green. Heavy goods vehicles are driving over the top of the roundabout causing vibrations that are damaging the foundations of her property. Richard Williams reported that Drayton 2020 is looking at traffic management in the area and if the proposed integrated scheme for the High Street and Abingdon Road proves viable, this roundabout could be removed. Margaret also expressed concern about the height of the hedge bordering the properties at nos. 13 and 14 The Green and pointed out that planning permission for the hedge was granted only on condition that its height should not exceed 18 inches. The Deputy Clerk undertook to investigate and locate the planning application. Whilst on this subject the Parish Council would repeat its request to all householders who own trees or shrubs that border public paths to keep any overhanging branches or growth regularly trimmed. In some instances, the foliage has become very overgrown, and this can make passage along the footpaths very awkward, particularly for parents with young children in pushchairs, or anyone with mobility problems. Finally, on a slightly related topic, it is great that the village noticeboards are well used by people publicising a wide range of local events. However, after the event is over, could you please remember to remove your out-of-date notices, so as to leave room for new ones. It is quite frustrating to discover there is not a single bit of free space on the noticeboard where you intended to pin your jazzy new flyer, especially when you realise

that half the contents of the board relate to events that took place weeks ago. Please help, and make life easier for everyone.

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 held on Monday 7th July 2014, at 7.30pm, in the Caudwell Day Centre in Gravel Lane. As ever, all are welcome to attend.

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DISTRICT & COUNTY

Richard Webber

One of the problems of living in an area with high employment and predicted high growth is that we need a "shedload" of extra houses if we are to house our children and grandchildren, and if they are ever to afford to live in the area. Precisely how big is the "shed" was the problem supposedly addressed by the 'SHMA' – the Strategic Housing Market Assessment. A group of apparently-very-high-powered sociologists and economists concluded that we need in excess of 20,500 more houses in the Vale between now and 2031.



The figure is strongly disputed. The reliability of the SHMA figures was first questioned when the experts announced that agricultural employment would increase from 2000 to 4000 between now and 2031. This reminded me of a very famous world computer study of the 1970s, which predicted a dire catastrophe caused by pollution by the middle of the 21st century. When someone asked for the programme to be run backwards to see if it reflected what had happened in the past, the programme came to the conclusion that the human race must have started in 1711. Clearly, we should be very wary of expert predictions.

The fact remains that we almost certainly need at least 15,000 extra homes by 2031 in the Vale. If you wish to argue that we are full up – you should see Hong Kong! However, we have never managed to deliver homes at that rate, and there is considerable doubt that we have the bricks, the bricklayers or the builders to deliver. Successive governments over at least 30 years have failed to build enough houses. Is it realistic to think we can solve the problem in 10 years as the Local Plan consultation proposes?

Where can all these houses be added?

1. To our towns (Abingdon, Wantage, Grove, Faringdon and Didcot), or
2. As the Plan suggests, many could be added to our larger villages (including Drayton), or
3. We could start afresh with new towns (probably a better term than "garden cities"), or
4. Some combination of 1, 2 and 3

I am not sure I see a solution that does not involve a major component of no. 3 above. New communities can be built to 21st century standards with 21st century infrastructure.

True, new towns will take longer to solve the problem, and we would still have an enormous problem of how to help our children, but at least our grandchildren could look forward to being able to afford to live and work in the Vale. Those of us who think our towns have had enough, who wish to protect our historic villages and who are worried about villages and towns "merging" need to talk about it now, not in another 10 or 20 years.

Cllr Richard Webber

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WESTMINSTER

Ed Vaizey



As you may have read in the press or seen on TV in recent months, there have been many web sites springing up which claim to offer government services. While these sites are not illegal, it is hard to see why they are necessary. These “third-party sites” charge for services that people can get for free, or at a lower cost, through GOV.UK websites – the official government sites. The third party sites usually exaggerate the benefits of their

additional services, don't tell you what you can get through GOV.UK, or imply an affiliation with government, and the sites can be very convincing.

The services most affected have been:

- Booking Driving Tests (theory and practical)
- Driving licence applications (including the free service for over-70s)
- Passport Applications (and bookings for emergency appointments which are actually provided for free)
- European Health Insurance Cards (EHICs) applications which are also provided free by the Government.

The Government has been working with a range of organisations, such as Which and the National Trading Standards Board, to try to combat the problem and has had some success, with increasing numbers of users going straight to the Government sites, but there is still some way to go. I hope readers won't mind my using my article this month to add to the efforts to publicise the best way to avoid being caught out.

If you need a government service, then the best way to find it on-line is to go to www.gov.uk, where you'll see the very wide range of ways you can access government services on-line. If you go straight to www.gov.uk, you will always get the real service, directly from the right department and at the lowest possible cost. More and more services are now accessible on line and it is the quickest way to get all sorts of things you may need like vehicle tax discs and advice on visas.

More widely, in my mailbox this month, a number of constituents have contacted me with their concerns about modern slavery and supply chains. I abhor slavery in all its forms. It is an affront to the dignity and humanity of us all. I therefore welcome the Government's Modern Slavery Bill, which will disrupt and imprison the organised criminal gangs behind much of the modern slave trade. It is the responsibility of us all to help stamp out slavery, and the private sector has to play its part. Firms must ensure that they do not do business with suppliers involved in trafficking, and the Home Office will continue to work with businesses and the Gangmasters' Licensing Authority to prevent the exploitation of workers.

Other issues featuring in this month's mailbox include live animal exports, making the school run safer and the human rights situation in the Central African Republic. ➔

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DRAYTON DIARY

FOR JULY

Regular Events are listed opposite

All events are at Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

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Mon	7	7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
Fri	11	7.30 pm	Drayton 2020 Steering Group	<i>CDC</i>
Mon	14	9.15 am	Chronicle Lottery deadline	<i>Vickery's</i>
		5.00 pm	Chronicle copy deadline	<i>Vickery's box</i>
Fri	18		Dog Show - Briard	
			Also Sat 19 and Sunday 20	

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8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
10.30 am	Pilates Class. Tel: 814299	
1.15 pm	Baby Sign Language Classes (in Term)	
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
5.45 pm	Beavers (Boys/ girls, 6-8 yrs, Tel. 512834)	<i>Steventon Hall</i>
6.30 pm	Novice Table Tennis Coaching	<i>School</i>
7.00 pm	Scouts (Boys/girls, 8-10 yrs, Tel. 512834)	<i>Steventon Hall</i>
7.15 pm	Drayton Wives Whist (3rd Monday)	<i>Caudwell DC</i>
7.30 pm	Junior and Adult Table Tennis	<i>School</i>
8.00 pm	Ladies Badminton (call 01865 340462 to join)	

TUESDAYS

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
1.45 pm	Drayton Art Group (until 4 pm)	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
3.00 pm	First Tuesday Connections (1st Tuesday)	<i>Church Room</i>
3.00 pm	Junior Netball (for 1 hour)	<i>School</i>
6.00 pm	Ladies' Netball (for 1 hour)	<i>School</i>
7.00 pm	Pilates Class – also at 8.00 pm - call 814299	
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	Pebbles (Babies & Toddlers – in Term)	<i>Church Room</i>
11.00 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 15 min)	<i>Haywards Rd</i>
11.20 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	<i>The Cross</i>
11.45 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 15 min)	<i>Lyford Close</i>
1.15 pm	More Life: call 01865 487216	
1.45 pm	Whist – now each week	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
2.00 pm	Drayton Wives (last Wednesday)	
2.15 pm	Badminton	
6.15 pm	Brownies	
6.15 pm	Cubs (Boys/ girls, 8-9 yrs, Tel. 512834)	<i>Steventon Hall</i>
7.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
7.30 pm	Junior Table Tennis, age 9+	<i>School</i>
7.30 pm	Bingo Session	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>

THURSDAYS

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
9.00 am	Foot Clinic (First Thursday)	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
9.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>St Peter's Lady Chapel</i>
9.30 am	Parent & Toddler Group (in Term)	
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
7.30 pm	W.I. (2nd Thursday)	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
7.30 pm	Sequence Dancing. Tel: 531701	

FRIDAYS

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

SUNDAYS

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

If you want an entry placed in this column, or changed, please email editor@draytonchronicle.net. You **must** include your name and telephone number as well; otherwise we will take no action.

DRAYTON VILLAGE WEB-SITE

Don't forget that you can find the latest Chronicle, and past issues back to 2004, by visiting www.drayton-near-abingdon.org, the village web-site. You can also use the site to look up Parish Council minutes, contact the Parish Clerk and see details of the Drayton 2020 Neighbourhood Development Plan project.

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