

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Tony Holmes

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August 2014

DRAYTON 2020 – July '14 Update

The main event of last month was the developers' exhibition which took place over 27th/28th June at the Village Hall – Friday evening and all day Saturday. As most readers will be aware, there are three sites in the village where **it is proposed to build new homes**, and details of all three were on display for people to look at, ask questions, and make comment.

Members of Drayton 2020 and representatives of the developers were on hand to field the questions. It should be said again that the site plans shown were indicative rather than definitive and so, for example, some of the criticisms made of the Barrow Road site made by residents living nearby in Abingdon Road, and Barrow Road itself, have been addressed, and a **later version of the site layout** now differs slightly from the one displayed.

It would be wrong to pretend that all of peoples' fears and concerns have been allayed: on a subject as controversial as new housing sites it is not possible to do this.

Everyone is aware of the possible impact on local traffic flows from the number of new houses planned, not just for Drayton but in all our surrounding villages. However, the demand for new houses is real, as is the pressure from central government to meet that demand. The rules of Neighbourhood Plans do not allow them to be used to block development, but Drayton 2020 would argue that the NDP has enabled it very successfully to intervene, monitor, and modify individual sites. →>>>>>>>

STOP PRESS!! Late news from DAMASCUS :

Saturday August 16th, 11am to 3.30pm, they're holding a Community Event, featuring BBQ, Inflatables, tea and cake, Bar, Football and loads of games, "we want to make it a really Special Day for the **whole community**", at Drayton Village Hall, and the rec outside. (Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project, Youth and Community Acting Together). Make a note - and come along!

→>> Despite the natural reservations of some visitors, the feedback from the exhibition indicates that most people found it very informative and professionally presented, and many positive comments, verbal and written were received. The event was very well attended, and it is estimated that over the two days, at least 250 people passed through the doors of the Village Hall.

DEFIBRILLATOR

Although not part of the exhibition directly, the opportunity was also taken to introduce people to **Drayton's new defibrillator**, with two hour-long training sessions on the Friday evening delivered by a volunteer from the Heartbeat Trust.

For those who have not yet seen it, the defibrillator is located on the **north side of the entrance porch to the Village Hall**. The equipment comes with its own instructions, and via recorded voice messages, tells the operator what to do. Although it is obviously helpful to have some first aid knowledge, the defibrillator can be used safely by someone without any training at all.

URGENT Chronicle Team Info - and APPEAL!!

Our lottery manager, Jean Barton, has decided that as she now lives in Harwell it is time for her to step down from her role. We are indebted to her as she has been instrumental in establishing the new lottery system we introduced a year ago. We send her and Peter our heartfelt thanks.

We are now looking for someone to take on this role. Full instruction will be given and Jean will assist in the handover. Trudi Buckner will continue to support the new lottery manager and, as always, I am on hand to give moral support.

I would love to hear from anyone who would like to know more about this. Jean will finish after the August lottery so we would appreciate hearing quickly from anyone who is interested. It provides much needed income to the Chronicle, thus if lost, we would have to make serious adjustments either to how the chronicle is produced or how we raise additional funds.

Gareth Davies (Chronicle Co-ordinator on 529510)

PS Recently a couple of volunteers have stepped forward to act as agents (helping to sell those Lottery tickets), or just to deliver Chronicles, which is still a big help. THANK YOU. But we still have a few gaps, areas of Drayton not covered are presently:- parts of Hilliat Fields, Whitehorns Way, High Street and Steventon Road. A 'round' is usually perhaps 20 to 30 homes; it isn't necessary to live on a round to act as an Agent. **Could YOU help?**

Finally, a reminder that the revised version of the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan, along with its supporting document, the Sustainability Appraisal, is now available on the village website (see below) for a second consultation period of 6 weeks which ends on Friday 1st August. On the website, click on the Drayton 2020 tab and then on 'Consultations'.

Hard copies of both the draft NDP and the Sustainability Appraisal 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 both documents and let us have your comments and criticisms. As mentioned last month, **even this second draft is not the final version**, which means that **your input can still feed into the next revision**.

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. We shall probably take a summer break in August - but meetings will certainly resume in September.

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 by phone on 07909 176061, or via E-mail at draytonclerk@yahoo.co.uk

In addition, all 2020 documents, minutes, agendas, etc are now available on:- www.drayton-near-abingdon.org that's the village website, also holds back copies of the Chronicle.

In This Issue :- Letters (p7), Richard Webber's County & District Council info (p10), New Bowlers PLEASE (p5),

Parish Council notes (p9), Mums (maybe dads too!) try out the Boogie Beat with your little ones? (p13), Did YOU win? (p2), You may be too old or injured to play, BUT, can you help the Football Club? (p5)

COMING CHRONICLES

The **SEPTEMBER Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Friday August 29th**.

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

NO LATER than 5.15 pm on Monday, August 18th 2014.

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

STOP PRESS - ADVERTISERS should note that the deadline for ads is **EARLIER, Friday Aug 15th**, due to their preparation time.

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

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

NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

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

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

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

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

2. An email attachment, in WORD please.
3. A good, **black typescript** on white A4 paper or smaller. Or perhaps hand-written, either way, NAMES in CAPITALS please!
4. IF in any doubt, ASK the EDITOR!

THE FOLLOWING TWO MONTHS		
Issue for	Copy for publication by Mondays (nb Agents Lottery Packs Fri before)	Chronicle published and available for distribution on Fridays:-
October	15 Sept	26 Oct
November	20 Oct	31 Oct

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

ADVERTISING RATES

For Block Advert (about 1/12th page)

----- 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

Half-size block adverts, normally for one or two inserts, are charged at half the above rates.

All requests **must** be accompanied by **cash or a cheque** made payable to 'Drayton Chronicle'.

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

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

CHRONICLE LOTTERY

Jean Barton, Hon. Promoter

RESULTS OF THE - JULY - LOTTERY

Prize	Winner	Agent
£25	Duncan and Venessa Denton, 9 Lesparre Close	Amanda Drysdale
£20	Mrs Bruce, 4 Greenways	Keith Clough
£15	Mrs A Brummit, 36 Whitehorns Way	Pat Percival
£10	Mrs Alsworth, 35 Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
£10	Mr J.W. Woodley, 41 High Street	Michelle Ainscough
£10	Mrs Fincham, 29 Lockway	Christine Sadler
£10	Mrs M Smith, 37 High Street	Michelle Ainscough
£10	Mrs Brock, 39 Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
£10	Mary-Ann McMahon, 16 Lesparre	Amanda Drysdale
£10	J Hughes, 29 Binning Close	Cathy Norris

Winning tickets, from 1637 sold, were randomly drawn via computer (similar to Premium Bonds). Do please see our appeal for more agents (page 1) - even if you only deliver some Chronicles, that would help.

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ALL AROUND

Drayton W.I. Brenda Malin

In June and July, we have been privileged to have had two very amazing lady speakers, both very tough ladies, both very different.

Our June speaker, Norma Blamires, a spritely lady with bus pass, (here I must point out I was describing her youth, not how she paid for the trip), recounted her travel through the Grand Canyon by raft. She was in the company of 10 other 'Seniors' and two leaders, who by the way, were not seniors, but were fantastic cooks, providing three cooked meals a day eaten at portable tables, by the side of the river. The toilet facilities were a little less pastoral but they did have ladies and gents - **but not as we know them!**

Norma showed us some wonderful slides of the amazing scenery, but she did not get any enquiries as to when the next expedition was leaving. Salter's from Abingdon to Oxford is more the W.I.'s cup of tea.

Our July speaker would have been most at home on a raft swirling down the Grand Canyon, but, surprisingly enough, despite being a retired army officer, is the author of romantic books. She was very quick to point out that her books were not of the Mills & Boon variety.

Kate Lace, an author of romantic books, gave us the insight of how she became an author. From head girl, destined for Oxbridge, to army officer, influenced by the man/woman ratio of the army at the time, to successful author. She is a very amusing speaker. One of her first books, 'Gum Boots and Pearls', a take on army wives, is hilarious. Kate also writes under the names Fiona Field and Catherine Jones

We enjoyed a lovely sunny coffee morning at a member's house in June.

July 23rd a lunch has been arranged, at a local farm shop.

If you would like to get a feel of 'US', please do come to the Caudwell Day Centre, usually on the second Thurs in the month (7.30pm). **All are welcome** and tea and biscuits are on tap. BUT, please note, there is no August meeting, and so our **next one is September 11th:- What did you do in the War Granny?**

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Drayton 1st Brownies

Annette Mitchell

Brownies had a BBB challenge to find the most unusual object to use as a plant pot! We had a wellington boot, slipper sock, teapot, saucepan, cup and saucer to name but a few. They planted them all up with Nasturtium seeds and some grew really well and we delivered them to the people living in the Almshouses and hope they will get pleasure from them.

After our walk to the Almshouses we went on the Millennium Green for a Teddy Bears Picnic and a couple of games. Previous to our walk we did learn about the Countryside Code and some very important things we needed to think about when out in the Country. We took our litter home with us and closed all the gates behind us!

We had a very interesting meeting talking about what the Brownies would like to be when they grew up, they all went home and looked into what they had to do in order to pursue their chosen career. Many wanted to be a teacher, actress, singer, vet and athlete.

Loom bands took over a meeting; we spent an evening making loom bands and friendships bands and gave them to our friends.

We finished the term with a party at Willowbrook with an inflatable obstacle course and party food afterwards. We were also very sad to say a few goodbyes but wish them all luck and we wish all our Brownies a lovely summer holiday and look forward to **seeing you back on Wednesday 10th September.**

We will have spaces in September - if you would like your daughter to come along for a taster session please get in touch.

Meetings are held at Drayton Village Hall, on Wednesdays during school term from 6.15 - 7.45, meetings are open to all girls aged between 7 - 10 years old. Further details are available from:-

Ruth Hudson (Brown Owl) on 01235 205111

Esther Deabill (Tawny Owl) on 01235 528502

Annette Mitchell (Barn Owl) on 01235 555216

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

ST PETER'S CHURCH

Priest in Charge	Revd Rebecca Peters	531374
Associate Priest	Revd Rosie Bruce	525284
Churchwardens	Mrs Alison Bone	202188
	Mrs Linda Johnson	527521
Organist	Vacancy	

CHURCH NOTICES

REGULAR SERVICES

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

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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

CALENDAR for AUGUST

Mon	4th	10.00 am	Commemoration of WWI (to 8pm)
Tues	5th	3.00 pm	1st Tuesday Connections Church Room

PARISH REGISTER

Funeral June 24th Doris Hurley

YOU STAY – WE PRAY (August)

3rd to 16th Abingdon Road; Oday Hill; Binning Close; Haywards Road

17th to 23rd Sutton Wick Lane; Greenacres; Newman Lane; Conifer Drive

24th to 30th Hilliat Fields; Lyford Close; Manor Close; The Green

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Letter from St Peter's – Lay Aside Our Distractions

Dear Friends,

During my maternity leave I enjoyed making new friendships and having the time to adjust to being a bigger family and coping with the demands of a new baby. In many ways I spent more time in Drayton, walking around and talking to people than when I'm officially working!

It made me realise that as a village community it can be difficult for people of different ages to even meet each other. People tend to have friendships with people of a similar age or similar situation in life. Young families meet up with other families or their relations, rarely do young families mix with the retired community and vice versa.

In such a fragmented world with families separated by long distances, I think this is rather sad because there is a lot of joy to be had when friendships are made across the generations. When I was growing up I had a number of so-called 'Aunties' and 'Uncles', who brought enjoyment and wisdom to our family.

Similarly teenagers and children can teach us a lot about how life is changing. Wisdom can also be found in the mouths of children. If only we would learn to spend time together and truly listen to each other. Listening to God is similar, we tend to pigeon-hole God as someone who just listens to our prayer lists, but God is actually wanting us to spend time listening to him, that he might guide us in paths of righteousness (Psalm 23:3). It isn't easy to lay aside all our distractions and learn to listen, but the reward is awesome.

We have the privilege of hearing the Lord of the universe speak to us. He wants to be involved in our lives, not just side-lined, he wants to help us, to love us, to direct us, and his help is unconditional. This means it doesn't matter if we aren't good enough, or don't go to church or aren't religious. If we are willing to come to God with open hearts, he will meet with us. The Church community are going to start a season of listening to God and looking for God's way forward for St Peter's. We hope that by submitting to Jesus as Lord of the church he might direct our path.

I hope that over this summer season that you would know God's blessing, his joy and his strength.

God Bless

Rebecca

(MORE) ALL AROUND

Drayton BOWLS Club 'Roll-Up'

We start these notes by catching up with the internal competitions that have taken place recently, first 'The Doreen Jones never won' singles, the final will be contested between Barry Davis and Olive Brown. 'The Don Alexander' triples was well supported with 24 members taking part and going through to play the final on finals day (December 14th) will be Nick Carter, Jane Pimm & Tony Mullins, to play Olive Brown, Barry Davis & Pat Mitchenson.

The A G M was held on the 2nd July with around 30 members in attendance, **Chairperson Val Locke** opened the meeting thanking the committee for all the hard work they had put in to making it a very enjoyable year, congratulating 'The Wasps' for winning the afternoon league for the 5th time, 'The Hammers' also doing well finishing in mid table.

The club will be entering 2 teams again in the league this winter. **Treasurer Cyril Carter** stated the club was stable and over the year had broken even, and fees would stay unchanged for the coming year; he also stated there was a need to try and get new members especially on Wednesday evenings where numbers were falling short.

Pam Lacey (secretary) congratulated all the winners of the internal competitions, and Val and Pam were re-elected to their posts for the next 2 years.

We close these notes congratulating June and Bryn on a recent bowling holiday in Torquay, Bryn won the singles, and June, Norman (from Burford) and Bryn winning the triple competition.

If you'd like to give Bowls a try, DO pop down to the village hall for any session, it's a very friendly group and they'll be delighted to see you, Monday or Thursday afternoons, or a Weds evening. It's an easy game to pick up the rudiments, and the members will happily advise anyone wanting to have a go.

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Letters to the Editor

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

Drayton Football Club Richard Seamark

DRAYTON FOOTBALL CLUB NEEDS YOUR HELP! It's a long established club which has 2 youth teams, and a first and reserves mens' team, affiliated to the North Berks Football League.

As with many clubs Drayton FC is run by a small group of volunteers, they not only run the club at a committee level but also give support in cutting the grass and opening the club house, and the many other jobs that need to be done on match days.

The support of these volunteers has ensured that the club has a friendly atmosphere and that people can play football and represent our village. However more help is desperately needed.

We need help both behind the scenes such as marking the pitch and preparing it for games, as well as the equally important jobs involved when the teams play, for example acting as a linesman, filling water bottles or tidying things away after a game.

If YOU think you would like to help, in however small a way, **please do let one of the committee know** (contact details below).

Drayton FC is currently a vibrant club with a good future, however this can only be achieved if more people get involved.

Committee Members:- Alan Alston (07990 550941), Paul Evans (07922 128266), & Richard Seamark (07565 421637).



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BAPTIST CHURCH

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

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

11.15 am Presently only one morning service per month; this is the Family Service, and is on the first Sunday of each month.

6.00 pm Evening Service. A traditional form of service, frequently with guest speakers.
(Communion every second Sunday)

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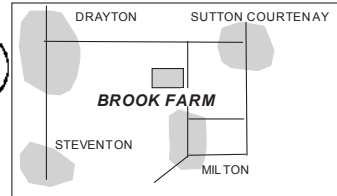


NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

We say goodbye to Julie, Steve, Samantha and Freddie Pitts (we think from Lockway) and wish them well in their new home.

A belated welcome to John and Emma Todd and their new baby Jack who live in Steventon Road.

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WESTMINSTER VIEW

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

As readers will have heard from news reports, there have been problems with passport applications recently. Over the past month I have been contacted by a number of constituents worried about passport applications for themselves and loved ones. I have been informed that over 99% of straightforward passport applications are being processed within four weeks, and the Passport Office is operating seven days a week and couriers are delivering passports within 24 hours of being produced. I would encourage anybody concerned about the status of their application to contact me well in advance of their date of travel, and I will do all I can to assist.

I have heard from constituents who are concerned that HMRC could sell anonymised taxpayers' data. A public consultation last year suggested removing the legal restrictions limiting HMRC's ability to share anonymised individual level data for the purpose of research and analysis. The Government has been clear that HMRC would only share data where this would generate clear public benefits, and where there are robust safeguards in place.

I've also received a number of emails and letters concerned about organised crime targeting endangered wildlife. I'm pleased we have continued to back the elephant ivory trade ban, as well as making poaching and wildlife trafficking "serious crimes" under the relevant UN Convention and strengthening cross-border co-ordination. I'll continue to support this very important work.

If you need to get in touch with me, telephone 020 7219 6350, write, c/o House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA, or you can e-mail me (quickest) on vaizeye@parliament.uk; the Website is www.vaizey.com with up to date news and surgery details.

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YOUR LETTERS

Billy the Labrador

Dear Sir, Steventon Road

We would like to say a really big thank you to the kind gentleman and his daughter who found and returned our Labrador, Billy, on Sunday 6th July. He'd run off from the ground near Lockway.

He has never run off before, we are so happy he was returned home safely.

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GRASS!

Dear Editor, Marcham Road

Delighted to read about the graveyard grass, another complaint by so many people. The village green too, and all grass cuttings everywhere! Julian Cook took pride and left it all very tidy – a true Draytonian.

'Cheaper' is not always best – Council take note!

Yours sincerely Gill Akers



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Drayton History – Well Done

Dear Sir, via email

I would like to congratulate the editorial team of the Drayton Chronicle for putting together such interesting and poignant articles relating to Drayton and the First World War.

It is fascinating to see how much history has been recorded about the village and I am glad we have someone like Theresa Taylor to preserve it.

Yours Sincerely

Andrew Bax

(Ed's note:- Thanks to Andrew for taking the time to say that – but this editor should say that it was Derek Pooley who invested masses of time putting that substantial issue together, so definitely it should be him that gets the well-deserved plaudits!)

KEYMINDERS

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Michael ('Joe') King

Dear Editor, Marcham Road

On behalf of our families, we would like to say a HUGE THANK YOU to all who attended Michael's funeral and wake; also for all the cards, flowers and generous donations.

We are truly overwhelmed by the love and support that has been given by all.

Please accept this as a personal thank you.

Yours sincerely

Linda Gill

Letters to the Editor

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

PACE - Cake, Tea & Dickie Bows

A wonderful tea party was held for residents of Drayton on Wednesday 9th July, by Judy Henman and Rosemary Barlow.

A delightful array of sandwiches and yummy cakes was on offer, all served with fine china, dickie bows and fancy hats, and thoroughly enjoyed by 40 attendees.

The tea party was held at the Caudwell Day Centre and raised a superb **£428.00 for PACE**, with £148 raised on the day from donated raffle items from the local community.

Judy held her Great PACE tea party in aid of PACE, a charity transforming the lives of children with disabilities such as cerebral palsy. PACE supports Judy's granddaughter Natasha who is 15 years old.

Judy Said: 'Everyone really enjoyed themselves and said how we should do it again next year. We held the tea party to support Natasha who has cerebral palsy. She has low tone throughout her body which means that she finds it very hard to keep a stable position and to process information that she receives through her senses and body. Natasha adores schools and gets so much support. She talks about school and particularly swimming on Fridays. Natasha's language is developing well and we spend an hour on the phone every day. Natasha has a great sense of humour and says the funniest things; she told me to put toothpaste in Granddad's tea and then roars with laughter'

Judy has raised more than £11,000 for PACE, from giving out quizzes and collecting tins in the local community, to holding tea parties, making contacts for donations and prizes for raffles and auctions.

Raising money for PACE not only supports Natasha, but has benefitted the next generation of children, to organise your own Tea Party or events for PACE, please contact the fundraising team Victoria.martin@thepacecentre.org. 01296 616974. Or visit www.thepacecentre.org



Pictured right:

Judy and Derek Henman, Rosemary and Alan Barlow – cutting cake in the kitchen, and some of our local supporters of the charity, enjoying that tea & cakes! (Thank You).

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Re PACE :- PACE is a ground-breaking children's charity that transforms the lives of children and young people with physical disabilities. Fundamental to our approach is a belief in every child's ability to learn and make progress, whatever the physical or sensory challenges they face. Our overriding goal is to help children and young people with physical disabilities to achieve their full potential and to be as independent as possible in their current and future lives.

In addition to our work with children, we work closely with families to ensure that they get the day-to-day guidance, counselling and practical help they need to support their children's development. We are committed to providing a voice to children with physical disabilities and their families and to being an advocate on their behalf.

PACE is a leading specialist centre for children with motor disorders such as cerebral palsy, with a growing reputation both nationally and internationally. Our educational services have consistently been rated as Outstanding by Ofsted. Our innovative combination of different educational and therapeutic approaches is truly unique and is highly effective in meeting the total learning needs of the developing child. We are committed to continuing research in our field and to the dissemination of our practice to other centres across the UK.

All enquiries inc. media: Victoria Martin, Community Fundraiser

Email victoria.martin@thepacecentre.org

Website www.thepacecentre.org Registered Charity 1011133

PACE, 156 Wendover Road, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 5TE

PARISH COUNCIL (Richard Williams)

4 members of the public attended the Parish Council meeting, held on Mon 7th July.

In addition to the councillors. Melvyn Beesley and Christopher Roberts reported that there would be a meeting with Sovereign Housing Association on 10th July to discuss the provision of car parking for the residents of Caudwell Close.

There are at present 12 properties occupied by elderly residents in the Close, and parking spaces are very limited. Carers regularly visit some residents, and there needs to be access for paramedics and/or ambulances in the event of an emergency. The problem of lack of space has now been compounded by the installation of new access gates to the adjoining property at the west side of the car park.

It was noted that on the recent planning application to build a new house in these grounds, the applicant described this access route as 'existing', whereas some ten years previously there had never been any access at all, but simply a blank wall. The house owner then, circa 2004, inserted a wooden gate in the wall, but it is understood he explained this was to provide for occasional access only (i.e. once or twice a year), for a caravan.

Despite this proviso, the planning application appears to have implied a right of unlimited access through the adjacent car park. Although it is evident that such an arrangement would affect parking space for the residents of Caudwell Close, and that this land is the property of a third party (i.e. Sovereign) it is not clear that permission was sought from or approved by Sovereign.

Richard Williams attended the meeting on 10th July in support of the residents' case. At this meeting, attended by 3 officers from Sovereign Housing, it was confirmed that the access issue is being looked into by Sovereign's legal department. Meanwhile, a discussion took place on how best to manage parking on the rest of the site, and whether any additional spaces could be created by using some of the area which is at present grass verge.

Tim Atkins, the **Allotment Warden**, reported malicious damage to a number of plots and several thefts of people's vegetables. Tim agreed to submit a formal police report. It was noted that four plots are overgrown **but there is at present no waiting list for an allotment.**

A number of residents have now expressed concerns about the beech hedge planted on land outside the Stable Barn in Gravel Lane. Oenone Grant reported her further investigations into the matter. It is clear that the residents of the Stable Barn do not own the land outside their property. It is not included in the deeds of the Stable Barn (which was converted from agricultural use to a dwelling only in the mid 70s). In fact by custom and practice, if not in law, the piece of land in question is part of the historic village green. The law on the ownership of commons and village greens is complex, and over hundreds of years, records have been lost and it may be impossible to establish the true owners of a given area of land.

Even so, without some form of protection in place, common land would have been at constant risk of encroachment from nearby properties, and several pieces of legislation, dating back to the early 19th century were put in place to prevent this.

The Commons Registration Act of 1965 allowed the local authority or parish council in whose area an 'ownerless' common was situated to take such steps against unlawful interference as an owner in possession of the land could take. This law has now been superseded by a much more recent Act.

The Parish Council finds it unacceptable that individuals should seek to appropriate public land for their own private and exclusive use, and it intends to formally register this area as village green to prevent this and any further incursions.

To contact any members of the Parish Council, all enquiries should be directed to the Parish Clerk, David Perrow, in the first instance. His contact details are on the front page of this issue.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 4th August, 7.30pm, in the Caudwell Day Centre in Gravel Lane. As ever, all are welcome to attend.



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Richard Webber

Drayton District & County Council Report

Legal advice In these days of targets and key performance indicators, it is very difficult for most people in public service, in private companies and in the professions, to hide mistakes or shortcomings. Most of us can be held to account. Modern society's demands for value for money and ever higher targets have certainly made us a much more efficient and productive society (if perhaps more stressed).

Strange then, that one of the most commonly used, highest charging professions of all does not seem to have fallen in line with most of the rest of society. I am, of course, talking about the legal profession – and I very much hope that there will be solicitors out there who can reassure me that I am wrong.

I have become painfully aware over the past few years of poor or inadequate legal advice given to residents I represent – particularly in the area of house conveyancing. The number of homeowners whose solicitors do not seem to have made them aware (or aware enough) of not having a “right to a view”, the possibility of new developments around the home they wish to buy and the implications of living on unadopted roads, are just a few of the issues that I, a mere unqualified and non-expert politician, have had to explain to people (I am not answerable for, but then I don't charge for the advice I give). It is disappointing that the resident who has received poor or inadequate and relatively expensive legal advice has few realistic options. To be fair, there is so much housing and infrastructure development going on in our area at present, it is quite a challenge to keep up with it all. But that is what we pay our hefty conveyancing bills for, and it is surely reasonable to demand some answerability.

Area Stewardship Grants Well done, the hard-pressed, hard up County Council for managing to find the resources to fund these Grants for another year. If anyone has ideas on how £200-£2000 could be spent in or around their village on a “Highways” project – please get in touch.

BINGO SESSIONS

are held in the Caudwell Day Centre, Gravel Lane, Drayton
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Some notices for General Interest

In the next few weeks, work will begin on Road Surface Dressing on the Sutton Courtenay to Appleford Road and on the Milton Road, Drayton.

Work begins in October on the long awaited ‘Hamburger’ roundabout on the A34 Milton interchange – there is bound to be disruption while this lengthy project is undertaken. (Ed's note – Could Network Rail be waiting for this period to start altering the railway bridges in the area? Anyone checked?!)

The 3 Northern Towers of the Didcot A Power station are, as I write, due for “Blowdown” between 3am and 5am on Sunday 27th July. The old central chimney and remaining 3 towers are due for demolition in 2015 and 2016.

Between 10 and 11pm on Monday August 4th, to commemorate the 100 years since the outbreak of WW1, **we are all encouraged** to turn off all our house lights bar 1 or light a single candle.

Reduce traffic on Drayton Road – use the new free cash machine at Milton Park – it's slightly closer and a lot easier to get to than any in Abingdon – ensuring that it is heavily used will increase the chances of keeping it!

Car Parking in Villages As the number of cars in our villages rapidly approaches the number of residents, how and where we park is becoming an ever more common theme in local councillor casework. It seems that the law is not very helpful on this issue. In law, I am told that No-one has a ‘right’ to park on the public highway, however, if the parking is clearly causing an obstruction, then the police can take action. As we all know, an obstruction is a very difficult thing to define. Developers of new housing are required to provide 2 parking spaces per home and 1 per flat. Many of us now have more vehicles than that. It seems, therefore, that the only way to address the issue in our ever-more crowded villages is to appeal to everyone's sense of reason and fair play.

A) **Please be aware** of your neighbour's need to access his/her own house/driveway.

B) If you own more than 2 cars in your household, please think carefully where you are parking the extra cars and be prepared to park the extras a little farther from your house than might seem convenient, particularly if your road is very full of parked cars.

C) If you believe someone is causing an obstruction by the way they park, please try speaking to them first. (Once the authorities get involved, it becomes an issue that takes a long time to go away!).

D) If C) doesn't work, **please let me know** and I will discuss it with the police. **Richard Webber** (OCC & VWHDC)

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



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PCSO Sandra Syphas, with NAG5 representatives, is continuing her visits to households with information about **Smartwater** kits for use in the home, available through Thames Valley Police at a hugely discounted price of £15 (normally £60). Visit the Smartwater web site at <http://www.smartwater.com>, or call them on 0800 521 669. Please call the non-emergency police number 101 if you would like to purchase a kit.

Scams The following are **common scams**: **Lottery and prize draw** scams: victims are told they've won a large cash prize but they have to send a fee to release it. **Banks and Building Society** scams: authentic looking mail or e-mails claiming to be from banks and building societies, asking for information and/or cash. **Debt recovery** scams: letters or telephone calls claiming to have bought a debt with their name on it from a reputable company or utility supplier and threatening court action if the fictitious bill or fine isn't paid quickly.

Courier scams: a scammer telephones, claiming to be from the victim's bank to say their debit or credit card needs replacing. The scammer instructs the victim to hang up and call their bank to verify that the call is genuine. But unknown to the victim the fraudster stays on the line; tricking the person into thinking they're calling the bank. The victim's then asked to disclose their pin number before a 'courier' comes to pick up the card to take it to the bank to be changed. The scammer keeps the card, using it to buy goods or take money from the victim's account.

Parcel delivery scams: a card is received, claiming that a delivery service was unable to deliver a parcel and that they should contact the service by phone. The card gives a premium rate number to call. When the victim calls a long recorded message is played and all the victim receives is a hefty phone bill.

If you receive a letter, telephone call or e-mail which seems too good to be true, it probably is. To report a scam call 0300 123 2040 or visit <http://www.actionfraud.police.co.uk>.

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The teapot is always at the ready and you can be sure of a warm welcome. Our next dates are Aug 5th & Sept 2nd.

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

YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL CONTACTS :-

Parish (Clerk) David Perrow (draytonclerk@yahoo.co.uk)

OR phone 07909 176 061;

District (VofWH) Richard Webber (534001) or

& Oxfordshire County richard.webber77@ntlworld.com

DRAYTON HALL NEWS

A very short report, space precludes more. Firstly a note re a new hirer, 'Boogie Beat', a pre-school class with music, dance & singing. Vici (07787 121628) is doing a 'taster' session on Aug 19th, 10am (maybe another if a big take-up) so give her a call and book a place.

The recent committee meeting noted that the Hall car-park is being used as an overnight car-park by a few cars, notices will be issued soon asking drivers to return to their own premises.

The Bowls club tell me they've space for a few new members, see their earlier report, a friendly bunch and it's an easy game to get the hang of; the Sequence Dance group (Thurs eves) are also on the lookout for a little new blood, so do consider that for a spot of gentle exercise and a social evening.

The committee considered a recent letter from Mrs Cox, unhappy with certain aspects of a recent function. A reply has been drafted, to the effect that 99% of the evidence doesn't back-up what she was saying.



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DRAYTON DIARIES

DIARY FOR AUGUST

All events held in Drayton Hall unless otherwise stated

NB To book Drayton Hall call Tony Holmes on (01235) 531180 or visit the (improved) website :- www.draytonvh.co.uk

Sat	2	9.00am	Private Function	
Mon	4	10.00am	WW1 Commemoration (p4)	<i>St.Peter's</i>
Mon	4	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting (p9)	<i>Caudwell DC</i>
Sat	9	noon	Private Function (child's party)	
Mon	18	5.00pm	Chronicle Deadline (p2) – Ads 15th	
Tues	19	10.00am	'Boogie Beat' taster session (new hirer)	
Sat	30	noon	Private Function (child's party)	
Sun	31	11.00am	Private Function (child's party)	

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REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

NB PLEASE – if an entry is wrong – tell one of the editors (page 2)

MONDAYS

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
10.30 am	Pilates (1 hr - call 01235 814299)	
1.15 pm	Baby sign-language classes (1 hr – 07927 339102)	
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	Table Tennis (New Players)	<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	Table Tennis (Senior practice + playing 2 hrs)	<i>School</i>
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>
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>
5.45 pm	Zumba Fitness	
6.00 pm	Ladies' Netball (for 1 hour)	<i>School</i>
7.00 pm	Pilates	
7.30 pm	League Table Tennis (now every night to Fri)	<i>School</i>

WEDNESDAYS

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
10.30 am	Pebbles (Baby, Toddler, Carer gp – p4)	<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</i>
11.45 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	<i>Lyford Close</i>
1.15 pm	More-Life (Lifestyle, check dts/times 01865 487216)	
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	Junior Table Tennis, Age 9+ (for 1 hour)	<i>School</i>
7.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
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 (1st Thurs)	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
9.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>St Peter's Lady Chapel</i>
9.30 am	Parent & Toddler Group (NB Term-time ONLY)	
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
7.30 pm	Women's Institute Meeting (2nd Thurs)	<i>Caudwell DC</i>
7.30 pm	Sequence Dancing (01235 531701)	

FRIDAYS

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>Sch'l Ground Bldg</i>
11.00 am	The 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 (Family Service 2nd Sunday)	<i>St Peter's</i>
11.15 am	Family Time (1st Sun)	<i>Baptist Church</i>
6.00 pm	Evening Service	<i>Baptist Church</i>
7.30 pm	Zumba Fitness	

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