

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Tony Holmes

Volume 37 No. 9

October 2014

Drayton's Visit to Lesparre - 2014

Regular readers will know **Twinning visits** between our two communities alternate, this year it was our turn to be hosted in **Lesparre**. Unless people need to bring suitable attire (a posh frock, walking shoes, sun hats, swimsuits or whatever) we rarely know what activities we shall be treated to before a visit. Most of our group knew who their hosts would be and, after 14 years, we still have some new faces on both sides of the Channel.

We arrived on the Thursday evening before the UK August Bank holiday to meet our many friends. To our great delight some folk who had not been with us for a while turned out to greet us. Some of the *children* we knew are now adults and we appreciated them joining us. After a very friendly reception at the 'Mairie' (Town Hall), a **great welcome from the civic side of Lesparre**, we were taken to enjoy an evening with our hosts and settle in.

Just as well as we re-assembled at 07:30 on Friday to take the coach to Le Verdon and cross La Gironde via the ferry to Royan and on to Rochefort. In December 1665, Rochefort was chosen by Jean-Baptiste Colbert as a place of "*refuge, defence and supply*" for the French Navy. This Arsenal and very attractive city served as a naval base and dockyard until it closed in 1926.

If you have ever wondered how long a Royal Rope Factory, (which looks like a magnificent Chateau), is, I will leave you to investigate at <http://www.corderie-royale.com>.

Before visiting this we were welcomed aboard the 'new' - L'Hermione - originally a 12-pounder Concorde class frigate of the French Navy. She became famous when she ferried General Lafayette to the United States in 1780 to allow him to re-join the American side in the American Revolutionary War.



It has been twenty years since a small group met to discuss the idea of reconstructing an exact replica of the Hermione. Now it is almost completed - originally one of the most authentically built Tall Ships ever. Many of you will have seen her maiden test voyage as it has attracted much attention in the UK. The Hermione's first voyage will take her across the Atlantic - voyage 2015. Following <http://www.hermione2015.com> will take you to the English website

After an evening with hosts and friends we had a gentle walk to look forward to on Saturday morning as we spent a most enjoyable day in Saint-Germain-d'Esteuil. During the walk we stopped at a superb old farm - straight out of a Thomas Hardy movie - to see an 'Éolienne Bollée' - an unusual wind turbine, unique for having a stator and a rotor, as a water turbine. Not many have survived and only a few are still working. The walk ended with a tutored tour of the Roman Archaeological site at Biron - where we had a picnic lunch followed by a tour of the local museum. That evening we dined together and were entertained by a local dance group.

On Sunday we had a 'free' day so each family made their own arrangements before meeting for a Murder Mystery supper. This was very skilfully orchestrated by Catherine Desnarves to include teams using both languages with intriguing plots that lasted throughout the evening. Very well done.

Monday started with a tour of the Vineyards close to UniMedoc with an excellently illustrated talk about the lives of those who carefully tend the vines. 300 vine-growers cultivate 1,230 ha of vineyards, on family estates committed to sustainable practices and eco preservation, using the most up-to-date technology to obtain the best grape quality. So we went on to see how the wine is made before tasting during our picnic lunch amongst the barrels.

The new (2006) bottling line copes with 6,000 bottles per hour where the warehouse has a 3 million bottle capacity! They are proud to own the biggest wine storehouse of barrels in Medoc area with 3,600 oak barrels, 1/3 is renewed each year respecting the Medocan maturing tradition.

After our picnic lunch we visited the Tour d'honneur Museum in Lesparre with an English guide before going home to change for a dinner dance. DO come to our reunion to hear more!

You will find us to be a very friendly bunch **keen to welcome all Draytonians** to share in the enjoyment to be had in getting to know equally friendly people from Lesparre. Do call me, Michael Bell (531388), Stephen (531347) or Bob (531388) for more info.

Chronicle Team Welcome to our new lottery manager, Carol Arnold. And once again grateful thanks to Jean Barton for her years of service. We DO still need more Agents, as the lottery tickets are an important source of funding, or even if you can just deliver some Chronicles, that would help our village distribution.

Gareth Davies (Chronicle Co-ordinator on 529510)

STOP PRESS!! on a more serious note : I've been asked by a couple of residents to include some news about the rape incident, by the A34 on Sept 4th. Det Insp Ailsa Kent (TVP) said: "Offences of this nature are very rare, however additional resources have been put in the area to both reassure and work with the community to gather information relating to the offence. There has been a good response from the public, but we are still keen to speak to anyone who was in the Kiln Lane area of Drayton or on the footpaths running parallel to the A34 between 8pm & 9pm on Thurs Sept 4th. Anyone with any relevant information should contact us via 101 (non-emergency number)."

In This Issue :- Ladies - Pamper evening! (p7/8), Trying to GIVE some money away! (p10), Parish Council notes (p9), Did YOU win? (p2), Wit & Wisdom QUIZ (p3/7), Harvest Festival (p4), Childcare Qualified? (p7), 70s & 80s Night! (p8), Don't get Distracted (p12), Come, Give us a Try? (p5 & 15), Archie Meads (p13), Get on a Roll (p6)

COMING CHRONICLES

The **NOVEMBER Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Friday October 31st**.

The Editor will be **Derek Pooley (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, October 20th 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 Oct 17th**, 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:-
December	17 Nov	28 Nov
Jan/Feb	19 Jan	30 Jan

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

Carol Arnold, Hon. Promoter

RESULTS OF THE - SEPTEMBER - LOTTERY

Prize	Winner	Agent
£25	Kath Quatermain 2 East Way	Teresa Burnage
£20	Mrs Brook 51 Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
£15	Robert Mathews 5 High Street	Ali Bone
£10	Mrs McWhirter 140 Abingdon Road	Keith Clough
£10	Mrs A Brummitt 36 Whitehorns Way	Pat Percival
£10	Mr M Wilkinson 18 Whitehorns Way	Pat Percival
£10	Graham Reeves 6 Corneville Road	Ellen Winter
£10	Rachel Seamark 42 Abingdon Road	Jennie Stevens
£10	Mrs Bennett 63 Abingdon Road	Jayne Henderson
£10	S Woodley 25 Binning Close	Cathy Norris

Winning tickets, from 1710 sold, were randomly drawn via computer (similar to Premium Bonds). Could YOU be an agent? - even if you could just deliver some Chronicles, that would help.

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ALL AROUND

Drayton W.I. Brenda Malin

Our September meeting opened with a tribute to Joan Sinclair, a loyal member of our W.I. for many years a past president, and known by many participants for her delicious coleslaw at our annual quiz.

After a break for the summer, our autumn program was off to a good start with "**What did you do in the War Granny**"? We'd assumed this was WW2, how wrong we were. Our speaker is a member of the 'Victorian Military Society', the war was WW1, and we were shown a series of photos of serious looking ladies and told of their wartime roles.

The British Army at the time would not contemplate women in the forces, but these ladies were members of the suffragettes, and a few generals were not about to defeat them. They formed the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, bought their own uniforms, and paid subs to join! Undaunted by the Army's refusal of their offers to help, they shipped themselves to France and found some armies that did want their help, principally nursing wounded French & Belgians.

The Army finally conceded that perhaps women did have a place in war, and allowed them to work abroad, freeing up men to go to the front and replace the huge numbers of casualties. Following the success of the WAACs, the 'FANYs' were formed (ie First Aid Nursing Yeomanry). They were followed by the Womens' Legion, who transported food for men and horses.

Some grannies did amazing things like delivering planes from the factories to airfields, in most cases flying blind, using the landscape below as their 'Sat-Nav' of the day! Almost all did some kind of war work either in factories, fields ('Land Girls'), canals or 'Lumber Jills' as the girls who worked in the forests were called, and occasionally a grannie of today, then a young girl, would be dropped by parachute into France to help the Resistance. Even Mums with children were not exempt and frequently had evacuees billeted with them. Certainly this was an eye opener for country meets city!

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 the tea and biscuits are on tap. NEXT MEETING :- **October 9th:- 'Leprosy in Uganda' (by Josie Midwinter)**. **ALSO, do please note, it's our famous Annual 'WIT & WISDOM' QUIZ, Nov 14th (see ad page 7)**

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Please contact:- Jean Hager (531558), Sally Dixon (531547), Ros Blogg (535589) or Margaret Watts (527145).

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Drayton 1st Brownies Annette Mitchell

We would like to welcome to our Brownie pack Isabella, Grace, Mia, Jess, Keira, Elizabeth, Julia, Evie and Scarlett.

Our first meeting was about getting to know each other and forming friendships. We created a friendship web with a ball of string and we all connected with each other! We threw a ball with various questions on across and around our circle so we learnt a bit more about each other.

This term we are concentrating on the Craft badge and First Aid badge.

We have had a fairy themed evening with decorating fairy cakes and making spoon fairies and this week we are tie-dyeing t-shirts!

Next week Sarah Senior is very kindly visiting our pack to share some of her nursing knowledge and teaching the Brownies some first aid basics.

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! See www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved - OR you can email us on drayton1stbrownies@live.co.uk

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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	10.00 am	Pebbles (term time only)	Church Room

CALENDAR for OCTOBER

Sun	5th	10.00 am	Harvest Festival Service	
Tues	7th	3.00 pm	1st Tuesday Connections	Church Room
Sun	12th	3.00 pm	Messy Church	Drayton School

PARISH REGISTER

Funeral	Sept 12th	Percival Ronald Ball
Wedding	Aug 30th	Ben Hibbins & Joanne Deacon

YOU STAY – WE PRAY (October)

1st to 4th	Corneville Road; Crabtree Lane; Lesparre Close
5th to 11th	Drayton Road; Milton Road; New Cut Mill; Fisher Close; Marcham Road; Meads Close; Rippington Court; Stone Hill
12th to 25th	Steventon Road; Eastway; Eastway MHP
27th to 31st	Church Lane, Henleys Lane; Caudwell Close; Gravel Lane

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Letter from St Peter's – Inner Peace & Belonging

Dear Friends,

The autumn colours are beginning to tinge the trees and hedgerows – a sure sign that the year is turning. Christmas decorations and cards are already in the shops and Ruth has already made it quite clear what she wants for Christmas. However as we look around at the country side, the regular pattern of the seasons give me a sense of reassurance. Whilst so much in life is fast-moving and in a constant state of pressure, the seasons of nature are more gentle, and the pace of change more manageable.

I enjoy watching the subtle ways in which the seasons develop: the changing hues of the landscape, the different intensities of light and shade, the unfolding cycles of nature all around us. The writer of the Psalms in the Bible includes the following: "Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and shield." [Psalm 34:20]

I'm not very good at waiting, but it is, as we wait in trust and faith, for God to unfold the next steps in our journey of life, that his presence and a sense of peace can enfold us. To know that our lives are in his care and keeping – at one with him and the creation around us – brings an inner peace and sense of belonging. I long that you might know that peace for yourselves.

This is a season of deepening prayer for our Church community. We are joining together in a rhythm of daily prayer, to seek God in our daily lives, so that we might listen to him more carefully.

Please do contact us, if you are in need or would like us to pray for you or your family at this time.

God Bless

Rebecca



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(MORE) ALL AROUND

Drayton Football Club Richard Seamark

Drayton's first team started this season's campaign at home to Crowmarsh on August 30th. Crowmarsh went ahead after 30 minutes but Drayton's hard work and determination were rewarded by a goal from Harry Routledge, the game finished at 1-1.

The following Saturday saw the reserve team's first game of the season. They hosted visitors Ardington who went on to win 7 -3. Drayton's goals came from Patrick Woodley & Ricky Fletcher (2).

That same Saturday the first team visited Watlington, who went ahead just 30 seconds from the kick-off. They then scored another but a splendid half volley from Iain Oram just before the break gave Drayton the confidence to come out fighting for the second half and Richard Chilvers' goal for Drayton secured the point.

The first team had no game on Saturday Sept 13th, but the reserves travelled to Kennington, whose confidence was shaken by a goal from Ryan Seamark some 35 minutes into the first half. Drayton ran the game and frustrated their opponents but despite this, 2 goals from Kennington in the second half meant that the reserves are yet to gain any points.

Please check the websites <http://www.nbfl.co.uk/> (North Berks League) OR <http://full-time.thefa.com/> for fixtures, or call in to the club on Wednesday evenings when we train to find out when we next play.

AND - If YOU think you would like to help, in however small a way, **please do let us know** (Richard Seamark 07565 421637).

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

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For more information
Ring Glenn or Janet on
01235 531457 or visit
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ARE YOU IN THE DARK ? If your streetlight isn't working, or wastes resources by being on in the daytime, then PLEASE report it on the County Council hotline (free) 0800 317802 - help them by giving the town, road, and if possible the number on the post, or failing that the nearest house.

Suzy Willis & Associates
MCSP HPC
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Drayton, OX14 4HU
Tel 01235 531269
Please ring for an appointment

Drayton TABLE-TENNIS Club John Gould

The new season is now up and running (although not as I wrote this script). The Didcot League will continue with 5 divisions, go to <http://ddtta.org.uk/> for details.

Our seven teams will all start with hopes and dreams of glory. Last season was an unparalleled success for the club winning 3 of the 5 Divisions in the Didcot League and a clean sweep in the knock-out competitions. It will be hard to emulate those achievements but I know our teams will do their very best. We have retained most of our players but had to say goodbye to a few and we wish them well. We all have welcomed some new players to the club.

Club practice and social table tennis sessions have restarted at the school on **Monday nights** and I hope some villagers will take up **this opportunity to have a go!**

If you are 9 or over you will be most **welcome to come along** – there is no upper age limit and our adults and children all mix well. There will be regular coaching sessions throughout the season. So if you wish to find out more, please ring 01235 531328.

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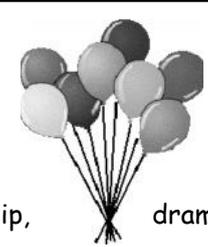


Volunteer Entertainers?

The Alzheimers Day Support unit in Abingdon are looking for volunteers who can sing, and/or play an instrument. For more info please contact Helen Little (day support mgr) on 01235 531989 or her email helen.little@alzheimers.org.uk

The Celebration

New family service
Drayton Primary School
Sunday 16th November
3-4:30pm Games, crafts, worship,
& story. Followed by cake & refreshments. Children must be with an adult.



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)

Come and join us every Sunday – we look forward to seeing you. **EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME**



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WESTMINSTER VIEW

Ed Vaizey's column (Wantage & Didcot MP, also he's Minister of State for Culture, & the Digital Economy)

Over the summer there were many events both across my Constituency, in the UK and across Europe which marked the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. Each was quite different – from the names on the war memorial being read out in Wallingford to the unveiling of the Memorial Arch in Folkestone where I was deeply moved to see a parade, which was a stark reminder of the men who marched off to serve their country a century ago. For me, perhaps the most moving event of all was when people all over the country put their lights out and we all paused to remember the courage and dignity of the millions who fought for freedom and democracy, so many of whom never came home.

It's so important that we don't just remember for a day or a week, but that we really do try to learn the lessons of what became known as the Great War, which so sadly was not, as so many hoped, the war to end all wars. In particular, getting young people today to engage with the real impact of the First World War is a challenge. I was therefore delighted to come across an imaginative and effective way to do just that, set up by one of my constituents - a **Facebook page of a soldier-to-be** (if only that platform had been available 100 years ago).

I know that young people are already checking out the Facebook page to see the latest information, and I'm sure that the numbers will continue to grow over the summer. You can see the page at www.facebook.com/WW1SoldiersTale. Not only does the page recount the events in one life, but sets it all in the context of a family and friends, and all the other events – local and national – happening at the time. Not least among those events is the campaign for votes for women: it is still less than a century since any women at all were allowed to vote and it was only in 1924 – within living memory - that women were finally able to vote on the same basis as men.

Reading about the fight for the right to vote is a timely reminder that we can, perhaps, take our democracy and our right to participate for granted. Over the next few months, the electoral roll which will be in place for the 2015 General Election will be compiled. **Please do make sure** that you encourage anyone just coming up to 18 both to look at the facebook page above and to get on the **electoral roll** – and do both yourself too!

This month my mailbox was dominated with concerns over the **breeding and sale of puppies and kittens**, where there is believed to be a lack of thought for the health or welfare of the animals. I was pleased that MPs had the opportunity to debate this issue, which is clearly of great importance to many of my constituents.

The debate helped clarify the belief that dog breeders only need a licence if they have a bitch producing five or more litters per year. DEFRA discovered that when the relevant Act came into force under the last Government, the Home Office sent a circular indicating this; it is now writing to councils to stress that **anyone in the business of breeding dogs must be licenced**. Recent Government action shows that much can be achieved without new legislation. That said, I do share concerns about unregulated sales over the internet, so am pleased that the Government has acted to create a voluntary code which has resulted in 100,000 adverts being removed since the start of 2014.

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 (these are on Fridays, 5.30pm to 7pm, & need no appt, a forthcoming surgery is at Cornerstone, Didcot, Oct 3rd).

(EVEN MORE) ALL AROUND

Drayton Pre-School Laura Hughes

A new school year, and we are delighted to welcome so many new children and their families to our friendly and fun preschool! The children have been settling in and learning about their twin pre-kindergarten friends in New York.

The garden has been visited by some kind fairies and elves over the summer and now has a most impressive sandpit, seating and teepees! The children love it and send their thanks.

The committee have also been busy planning events, the next one will be a ladies pamper evening on Friday 17th October at the village hall. Entrance is £5 including a drink and raffle ticket, come along and enjoy a relaxing head massage or manicure and browse the stalls full of gorgeous products, jewellery and gifts.

We have also set up a Facebook group called Family and Friends of Drayton Preschool – please feel free to join for updates on our events. We hope to create a community space where members can advertise their own business, ask for help, buy and sell items or promote other community events.

We are currently recruiting for a part-time (9 hours per week) childcare qualified staff member with SEN experience. If you are interested please email chairdraytonps@btconnect.com for a full job description and more details.



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Come along and say hello... or if you want to know more, we have a Facebook group called Drayton Baby and Toddler Group, Abingdon 2014. It's a great place to meet other local parents and make friends.

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Drayton Neighbourhood Plan - nears Final Hurdle!

(This text from Vale of WHDC) After several months of engagement with their local community Drayton Parish Council has submitted their neighbourhood plan to the district council. The Drayton Neighbourhood Plan has put the local community at the heart of setting planning policies to help shape the future of their area. The plan is underpinned by the ethos of Sustainability and covers four main areas, which are:- look and feel; work and play; transport; housing; along with much more.

The Vale of White Horse District Council is now conducting a six week consultation on their submitted plan. This is a formal requirement, before the plan and all its supporting documentation is submitted for examination. All responses received will be submitted to the examiner for review as part of the examination process. The consultation runs from 17 Sept to 29 Oct 2014.

If YOU would like to tell us your views on the plan, you can do so, by visiting www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplans and clicking on the Drayton link. Alternatively hard copies of the information are available to view in at the Vale of White Horse District Council, Abbey House, Abbey Close, Abingdon, OX14 3JE and Drayton Parish Council. Please be advised that all comments received will be available to the public to view.

(ditto) VoWHDC have carried out a strategic environmental screening of the emerging Drayton Neighbourhood Plan and have identified that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the plan's policies will be required. However, the DNP group had already anticipated this and have developed a wider Sustainability Appraisal report to accompany the plan. This encompasses the environmental, as well as economic and social impacts of the neighbourhood plan policies. You can find out the latest developments of the Drayton Neighbourhood Plan by visiting <http://www.drayton-near-abingdon.org/drayton2020/>

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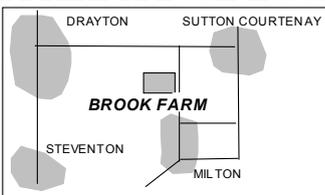


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DRAYTON PARISH COUNCIL Is in Urgent Need of New Councillors



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Letters to the Editor

We welcome articles and letters on a variety of subjects, but WE must have full details of the sender, even if you request the name & address be hidden. 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.

PARISH COUNCIL

Readers will note that in this issue there is a notice advertising **two vacancies for parish councillors**. The full complement of the Parish Council in Drayton is 11 persons, but one long-serving councillor recently stood down and another has moved away from the village.

People have busy lives and other pressing commitments, so that Drayton, in common with many other small communities, struggles to maintain numbers on its Parish Council and experiences a slow but steady turnover of councillors. It is obviously helpful if people can stay for a prolonged period because over time they gain in experience and confidence and provide some continuity. On the other hand, some of the most effective councillors may join us only for a short time, contributing enthusiastically towards getting a particular project off the ground, or pursuing a topic that interests them. In short, the ways in which parish councillors can serve the community are many and various.

The actual term of office is 4 years – the last elections being in May 2011, so that the next election will be in May 2015. The rules state that we can co-opt new councillors (i.e. no election required) only up until 6th October 2014, when the PC has its next monthly meeting. No co-options are allowed after that date until after the May election (7th May 2015). **If you are interested** in becoming a councillor before next May, there is therefore only a short window of opportunity following the publication of this Chronicle. By way of compensation, this would be an excellent way to join the Parish Council without making a long-term commitment, as you would serve only a few months until the election. No formal qualifications are required; all that is needed is an interest in the life of the village and a desire to contribute towards it.

With the publication of the advert, it seems appropriate to say something about the working of the PC; it meets on the first Monday of every month, at 7.30pm, usually in the Caudwell Day Centre in Gravel Lane. The meetings typically last around two and a half hours, until 10pm. This is the only regular meeting that councillors are expected to attend. Most of the work of the PC between meetings is conducted by sub-committees, these do not meet separately; the councillors just deal with matters either individually, or perhaps together with other members of that committee, depending on the subject.



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The Planning Committee, for example, receives copies of all planning applications affecting Drayton, and these are circulated around to the individual members of the committee for their comments, which are then later collated by the Chair of the committee and forwarded to the Vale.

The Leisure & General Purposes committee has responsibilities which include the allotments, the burial ground and the Lockway playground, and it liaises with the Village Caretaker, Steve Sadler, as to what jobs need doing in a given month. The Rights of Way committee looks after the footpath network around Drayton; the Finance Committee decides how the precept should be spent and fixes the budget for the coming year, and the Public Relations committee maintains the village website, issues press releases and generally manages communications. With a limited number of councillors, this means in practice that everyone is a member of two or three committees, but the workload is seldom onerous, and in any case, is shared around.

Parish Councils are sometimes lampooned for spending their time on issues that are parochial and trivial (that portrayed in The Vicar of Dibley is hard to shift from the mind!). It is true that alongside issues such as international terrorism, infant mortality in the third world, or the current situation in Ukraine, most of the problems that crop up in Drayton are of relatively small weight. However, being involved with local issues does not preclude an interest in the wider scheme of things and the one may be a pathway towards the other.

The PC has been closely involved with our Neighbourhood Development Plan, Drayton 2020, over the past two years. In law, the Parish Council has 'ownership' of the Plan and is therefore ultimately responsible for it. It has not been possible to compile the Plan's extensive documentation without research into issues such as sustainability, housing construction, energy and water resources, biodiversity, traffic management, air pollution, and the cumulative impact of these factors on climate change. Obviously, we are dealing with these matters only at a local level, but even so, they are of global import.

If you are interested in finding out more, please come along to the next meeting, or by all means contact me or the Parish Clerk by E-mail (see the ad). Otherwise, to contact any members of the PC, all enquiries should be directed to the Parish Clerk, David Perrow. David may be contacted by phone on 07909 176061, via email at draytonclerk@yahoo.co.uk and he will ensure that any messages are passed on. Any Drayton resident may also ask to be added to the emailing list, to receive prior notice of meetings and any relevant documents. In addition, all PC minutes are now archived on the village website: www.drayton-near-abingdon.org which also carries back copies of the Drayton Chronicle, Drayton 2020 info, and details of other events in the village.

The **next Parish Council meeting** will be held on Monday Oct 6th, at 7.30pm, in the Caudwell Day Centre in Gravel Lane. As ever, **all are welcome to attend**. **Richard Williams**

Richard Webber

Drayton District & County Council Report

Local Plan We shall soon be hearing how the Council responds to the hundreds of comments from Vale residents on the new Local Plan. Very few people were happy with the suggested way that 20,500 new homes might be allocated around the District. Our major market towns have already taken many houses and are short of infrastructure to support them. Some of the larger villages have already taken many more than they wanted (not so, Drayton). Almost without exception, residents agreed that we needed more houses, but would like them to be somewhere else.

To be fair to VWHDC, they do not have much room for manoeuvre. With so much 'outstanding natural beauty', flood plain and Green Belt, there are not many alternatives. The last consultation suggested that several hundred houses might be put in the Green Belt, upsetting residents in Wootton, Cumnor, Radley and Kennington who see this as the thin end of the wedge.

The Green Belt was established more than 20 years ago in an effort to prevent Oxford City sprawl. The current Oxford Green Belt is certainly in need of revision - there are areas which ought now to be included and others which might be excluded. A wholesale review by the whole County is needed - rather than the piecemeal nibbling that was proposed.

The Local Plan should be in pace by the end of next year. At last, the planners will have something to resist speculative applications. Drayton (referendum-vote-willing) will have its Neighbourhood Plan in place next February. This will carry full planning force and puts this village in an enviable position.

Chairman's Awards A representative sample of the Drayton residents who have been working tirelessly towards our Neighbourhood Plan are due to be publicly thanked next month at the VWHDC Chairman's Awards (more on this next month).

District Grants There are a variety of Grant pots offered by VWHDC towards **Community activities**. Details of these can be obtained by ringing the Vale number on 01235 520202 - or by filling in a form on the Vale's website.

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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Bullfinch and beyond.. When I first joined the County Council, Operation Bullfinch was well underway, a combined, co-ordinated project to understand, learn from, and to ensure that the chances of Child Sex exploitation ever raising its head again in this county would be very small. It took honesty, courage and determination to admit past mistakes and put new, more thorough procedures in place.

Last May it seemed that Oxfordshire might be seen as the 'home' of child sex exploitation. As a result of Operation Bullfinch, I am happy to say that Oxfordshire is now seen as leading the way. CSE is a national problem, needing national solutions - but we can all take heart in our county having come to terms with the problem first.

A policy of no hope.. About 3 months ago, I heard a County Highways Officer talking about the Council's policy on how to manage road maintenance and improvement in an atmosphere of ever tightened budgets. He talked of a policy of 'managed decline'. I assumed that this was a personal view rather than a council policy. Yet last week, I heard on the evening news, the County Cabinet Member for Highways use the same expression.

'Managed Decline' could be thought a reasonable short-term policy in tough times, but as a long-term plan, it seems a policy of total gloom and doom. Very gradually we will manage our road conditions downwards until potholes fuse and all traffic is at a standstill. Surely, we should have a long term strategy to improve things. OCC has the temporary (2 days a week) use of 2 large machines, that clear out, fill and resurface in one operation, leaving a permanent repair ready to drive over in minutes. The same machines spend 2 days a week on the roads in Essex, where I am told the potholes are like tank traps.

Doubtless the machines are fiendishly expensive to hire or buy. But could a number of counties not get together to get more of them? What about prudential borrowing? At least it's the sort of idea which might fix the problem and offer us a more hopeful policy than one of 'Managed Decline!'

Grants Any **Community Groups** needing small sums of money (£100-£1000) have a possible source in the County Community Grants. Please let me know if you have ideas.

Richard Webber (OCC & VWHDC)

Messy Church

Drayton Community

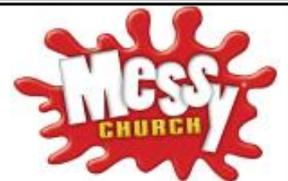
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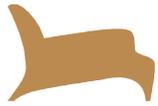


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How to deal with an unexpected caller: Ask to see the caller's ID and if they do not have ID do not let them into the house.

If they have ID which you suspect is not genuine do not let them inside until you have called the organisation they claim to represent. Use the internet or the telephone book for the number.

Do not use the number from their ID card. Genuine officials will be happy to wait while you check. If you are still concerned, ask the trader to make an appointment to call back later, and ensure a friend or member of the family is then with you.

If you have fallen for scams like these, had money stolen or been threatened with physical violence you should report it to the police (their 101 number), or call Trading Standards on 0845 051 0845.

If you receive a letter, telephone call or e-mail which seems too good to be true, it probably is.

Call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline for advice on 03454 040506 (open 9am-5pm Monday to Friday), or report it to the police's Action Fraud, call 0300 123 2040, or use their web site at <http://www.actionfraud.police.uk>.

Call 01235 848694 to contact NAG5 or e-mail neighbourhoodactiongroup5@hotmail.com

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Drayton School Justine Regan

School news ... A warm welcome back to everybody. The children are all settling in well and getting used to school routines. We would also like to wish the previous Year 6 children all the best and good luck in their new schools.

We have a new pirate ship that has been placed in the school grounds, all the children are having great fun exploring on it.

Classroom updates ... Robins Class... Are finding out what makes us all special! The topic is based on the children and allows them to find out about their new friends (and teachers) as well as build confidence by sharing information about themselves. They have been celebrating and learning about the meaning of harvest. In music they have sung the nursery rhyme '5 little ducks', and the children have already created a fantastic display with lots of yellow paint and feathers!

Puffins Class... 'A Little Twist in the Tale!' is the topic for this term. They are entering the land of traditional tales filled with little pigs, wolves and witches. They have set up some cardboard houses in the role-play area which, is helping them to learn even more about the characters and settings of stories and help engage in some valuable speaking and listening with each other. They are investigating different types of buildings and finding out what materials they are made from, all linked to The Three Little Pigs.

Blackbirds Class... Are finding out about Robin Hood. They have drawn, and painted some fantastic characters and trees during art, to add to their wall display, and also had a dress up day, there were lots of great Robin Hoods and Maid Marions, it really helped them to get into character during their drama lesson. Blackbirds have also written character descriptions.

Red Kites Class . . . Have been producing a Class Rights and Responsibility Charter, their literacy and science lessons have been based around 'tall tales within nature'. Their topic for this term is Vikings.

Kingfishers Class... Were welcomed back to this new academic year with Ancient Egyptians. They have been making bendable mummies, square based Egyptians pyramids, and practising singing an Egyptian song to perform at a later date.

Eagles . . . This term year 6 are looking into survival on a remote island through Michael Morpurgo's novel 'Kensuke's Kingdom'. They are following Michael's journey with his family, plotting his journey on a map and exploring the places they visit until both Michael is found stranded on a desert island. They have already written a short piece of suspense writing about what Michael encounters on the island.

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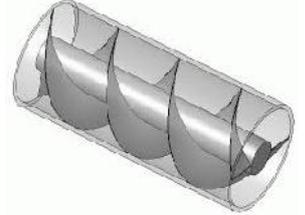
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See more info on the website:- www.abingdonhydro.org.uk where you can register to receive updates on the project and share offer. Or you can email info@abingdonhydro.org.uk or write to Abingdon Hydro, P.O.Box 627 Abingdon Delivery Office, Ock Street Abingdon OX14 5AD.

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Drayton 2020 - Latest Update

As a result of a marathon effort by the Parish Clerk and various members of the Steering Group, a huge amount of documentation for the **Neighbourhood Development Plan** has been completed and submitted to the Vale. There are references on several other pages in this issue. All of this material is now available for consultation on the Vale's website, for a 6 week period, Wed 17th September to Wed 27th October, closing on that day at 5pm precisely. As there is no more activity to report for now, this month seems a good opportunity month to say something about the NDP process. At the same time I will try to address one or two of the feedback comments received so far.

A criticism voiced by a few residents is that the Drayton 2020 Steering Group does not appear to include anyone with a professional planning qualification, and that we have somehow ignored the advice of those who do have such a background. The first of these observations is correct; the second is certainly not.

It is true that Neighbourhood Planning represents a different way of doing things: the point is precisely to devolve some planning decisions down to local people rather than leave them exclusively in the hands of the professionals. At the heart of the process is the principle that local people are consulted about their views. It is the top-down version of post-war planning that produced the 60s and 70s high-rise tower blocks. Less controversially, but equally the product of a 'this will do' approach, are the thousands of bland, dull housing estates built in towns and cities all over the UK that lack any kind of distinctive identity and could be anywhere. Some form of planning system may be a necessity to avoid a free-for-all, but most people might agree from their own experience that the present system has not been an unqualified success

To be clear, no one who is currently a member of the Steering Group is a professional planner. But arguably, there are other skills which are also essential for putting a Plan together and delivering it to a timetable, and the Steering Group includes several people with considerable experience of project management and report writing. At least two Group members have run their own businesses; and others have extensive experience of running meetings, networking, public speaking, fundraising, teaching, and so on – all useful skills. Where expertise is lacking, as we freely admit to be the case on the planning side, there are perhaps two main ways to make up the shortfall.

One is to attend training workshops given by the relevant bodies. Members of the Steering Group have attended workshops put on by ORCC (Oxfordshire Rural Community Council), CPRE (Campaign for the Preservation of Rural England), NALC (National Association of Local Councils), the Design Council, Oxford Brookes University, and most recently, English Heritage. Attendance at these events does not make people into planners, but it does point them in the right direction and enable them to seek help in the right places. The second step is to engage people who **do** have the requisite experience, to assist and advise.

Drayton 2020 has had a great deal of assistance from professional planners and others with relevant backgrounds, including Meredith Evans, (a consultant from the Design Council), and Mike Habermehl, (landscape architect, knows the village well - helped design the Millennium Green). We've received valuable input from a number of statutory bodies and local sources, e.g. English Heritage (re issues relevant to the Conservation area), and ABNATS (Abingdon Naturalists Society) has carried out detailed biodiversity surveys for us on our main three housing sites. Most of all, we are indebted to the professional planners and advisors at the Vale, who have attended many of our meetings, not only the Steering Group, but also with developers. In particular, we have to thank Katherine Pearce (formerly Macdonald), who has provided us with written feedback on previous versions of the Plan in meticulous detail.

An important thing to remember about planners is that they do not just speak on behalf of the corporate body they happen to work for – they are individuals, with views of their own. This means that they don't necessarily agree with one another. Where the Steering Group has been offered conflicting advice, as it has in a number of areas, its default position has been to listen carefully to what the **Vale planners say**. This is because a key requirement of the NDP is that it must be in 'general conformity' with the Vale's Local Plan. If it is not, it does not meet one of the so-called 'Basic Conditions' and would on those grounds be automatically liable to fail its examination. There is dispute as to the exact meaning of 'general conformity' and some would argue that individual Neighbourhood Plans should 'push the envelope' to try and extend the boundaries of what is acceptable.

In particular, the charge has been levelled that Drayton has been insufficiently ambitious in pursuing a green agenda, and in attempting to reduce carbon emissions to zero. The Steering Group's view is that zero carbon is a laudable aim, but very difficult to enforce without statutory backing, bearing in mind that the Government lags well behind on implementing its own carbon targets: see the following link:-

<http://www.building.co.uk/government-drops-plan-to-bring-in-part-l-changes-in-2013/5058256.article>. Zero carbon houses are also substantially more expensive to build than the current standard, because of their high levels of insulation. The standard most new homes are built to at present is Code 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes. The government's own cost review - see second link:-

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6378/1972728.pdf shows that the higher codes (up to Code 6, which is zero carbon) escalate steeply in construction costs, so much so that the Code has now largely been abandoned, to be replaced instead by 'Allowable Solutions', which are more flexible. The point is that without statutory support, the only way we could persuade developers to incur these additional costs would be by foregoing the other community benefits we hope to secure through Section 106 or the Community Infrastructure Levy, e.g. playing fields, children's play areas etc. It is the Steering Group's view that the residents of Drayton, as expressed in all their feedback from public consultation meetings, **would not support the prioritisation of carbon targets** above the improvement of local facilities.

An issue which affects everyone is the impact on the village of the increased traffic which new housing will bring. I hope to address this important matter in next month's issue, but in the meantime, the sections in the NDP and Sustainability Appraisal on traffic have been substantially revised to take account of people's concerns, and you are requested to take a look at the latest versions now posted on the Vale's website (see below).

The next Steering Group meetings are scheduled for Fri Oct 3rd & (provisionally) Fri Oct 17th. **The meetings are open to any Drayton residents**, and are normally held on alternate Friday evenings in the **Caudwell Centre** in Gravel Lane at 7pm. Please see pages 8 & 9 of this issue for contact details of our Parish Clerk, David Perrow, and for how to view the NDP and submit comments.

Richard Williams

FORTHCOMING Police 'Have Your Say'? :-

PCSO Sandra Syphas is hosting the next meeting in Drayton Hall, Weds Oct 29th, between 7 and 8pm, so do come along to raise any concerns. For more info re your local neighbourhood team, OR to report any suspicious activity, DO please call the (new) non-emergency number 101

NOTICE BOARD

FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS

Are you feeling lonely, isolated or in need of some friendly company? Why not come along to our monthly tea and chat afternoons. They are held on the first Tuesday of the month in St Peter's Church Room from 3.00 pm to 4:30 pm and you are invited to drop in during these times.

The teapot is always at the ready and you can be sure of a warm welcome. Our next dates are Oct 7th & Nov 4th.

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 short report, space precludes more. Firstly a note re the new kitchen work, now scheduled to be the last week in October. We'll be talking to our regulars about any items they have in their own cupboards, and arrangements for making teas/coffees, etc.

The **Bowls club** tell me they've space for a few new members, 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 good social evening.

Do please note the **PAMPER evening**, (ad on page 8), for a good cause (the Pre-School), and ladies if you are coming, please do see if you can make a contribution to our Bra-Bank, proceeds to 2 excellent charities, the first batch was sent off a couple of months ago, now we need a few more contributions!

And also please note that our PCSO, Sandra Syphas, is holding a 'Have YOUR Say' session in the Lounge on Weds Oct 29th, 7pm until 8pm, so come along for a chat on any relevant topic.



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LISTINGS

Oxfordshire Museum Store Open Day This is a great chance to see behind the scenes at their Resource Centre, masses of items to see, and a few talks on certain things, restoration, etc. Standlake, Oct 12th (Sunday). 10am until 4, and it's free.

National Animal Welfare Trust are having a BARN SALE to raise funds, Sun Oct 5th, 10am to 12; come grab a bargain, items include clothes, books, DVDs, bric-a-brac, small furniture, children's toys, kitchenware. Trindledown Farm, Wantage Road, GREAT SHEFFORD, Berkshire, RG17 7DQ (01488 638584)

Heritage Skills Taster Session: Natural Dyeing at Riverside Meadows, Wallingford, Saturday 11th October, 1pm-4pm (run by the Earth Trust, 01865 407792, lucy.benyon@earthtrust.org.uk)

Learn the basics of natural dyeing, using plants commonly found in gardens and hedgerows. A free taster session – drop in any time and have a go at learning this traditional skill.



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DRAYTON DIARIES

DIARY FOR OCTOBER

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	4	2.00pm	Private Function (child's party)
Sun	5	9.00am	Griffon Dog Show
Mon	6	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting (p9) Caudwell DC
Fri	10	4.00pm	Private Function (child's party)
Sat	11	6.00pm	Private Function
Sun	12	2.00pm	Private Function (child's party)
Fri	17	7.00pm	PAMPER NIGHT (p8)
Sat	18	9.00am	Private Function
Sun	19	1.00pm	Private Function
Mon	20	5.00pm	Chronicle Deadline (p2) – Ads 17th
Sat	25	noon	Private Function (child's party)
Sun	26	9.00am	Bowls Club (to 5pm)
Weds	29	7.00pm	PCSO Sandra Syphas ('Have YOUR Say')

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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)	School Ground Bldg
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)	
6.30 pm	Table Tennis (New Players)	School
7.15 pm	Drayton Wives Whist (3rd Monday)	Caudwell DC
7.30 pm	Table Tennis (Senior practice + playing 2 hrs)	School
7.45 pm	Bell-ringing (for 1½ hours)	St Peter's
8.30 pm	Badminton (Private Group)	

TUESDAYS

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	School Ground Bldg
9.45 am	'Boogie Beat' (Pre-school music & movement)	
1.45 pm	Drayton Art Group (until 4 pm)	Caudwell Day Centre
3.00 pm	First Tuesday Connections (1st Tuesday)	Church Room
5.45 pm	Zumba Fitness	
7.00 pm	Pilates (1 hr - call 01235 814299)	
7.30 pm	League Table Tennis (now every night to Fri)	School

WEDNESDAYS

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	School Ground Bldg
10.00 am	Pebbles (Baby, Toddler, Carer gp – p4)	Church Room
11.00 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	Haywards Rd
11.20 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	The Green
11.45 am	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	Lyford Close
1.15 pm	More-Life (Lifestyle, check dts/times 01865 487216)	
1.45 pm	Whist – now each week	Caudwell Day Centre
2.00 pm	Drayton Wives (Last Wednesday in the month)	
2.15 pm	Badminton	
6.15 pm	Brownies	
7.00 pm	Junior Table Tennis, Age 9+ (for 1 hour)	School
7.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
7.30 pm	Bingo Session	Caudwell Day Centre

THURSDAYS

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	School Ground Bldg
9.00 am	Foot Clinic (1st Thurs)	Caudwell Day Centre
9.30 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's Lady Chapel
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)	Caudwell DC
7.30 pm	Sequence Dancing (01235 531701)	

FRIDAYS

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	Sch'l Ground Bldg
11.00 am	The Friday Club (fortnightly) 202466	Caudwell Day Centre
7.00 pm	Whist Drive (ACHLoFriends)	Caudwell Day Centre

SUNDAYS

8.00 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (Family Service 2nd Sunday)	St Peter's
11.15 am	Family Time (1st Sun)	Baptist Church
6.00 pm	Evening Service	Baptist Church
7.00 pm	Zumba Fitness	

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