

DRAUTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Dave Lee

Volume 37, No.11

December 2014

CHRISTMAS 1914

Recent issues of the Chronicle have carried articles commemorating the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War in 1914 and as Christmas approaches in 2014, we think of Christmas 1914, the first Christmas of that war. This was remarkable because popular opinion in the early part of the war was that "it will all be over by Christmas", it wasn't! There would be four Christmases and most of 1918 before "it was all over".

This Christmas was also remarkable for the "Christmas Truce". This was an unofficial event that occurred in local areas of the front line. On Christmas Day, British soldiers heard sounds of carols being sung in the German trenches so they joined in. Individual soldiers then tentatively left the relative safety of their trenches to walk over to the enemy. There, they shook hands, exchanged cigarettes and some even played football! This Christmas spirit was short lived, they soon returned to their trenches to carry on the business of war.

This was not repeated in later Christmases because the higher command frowned upon such fraternisation plus the fact that the horrors of war soon hardened attitudes to the enemy.

The July Chronicle listed the names and the dates of death of the young men of Drayton who died in that war using material supplied by John Roberts. It is our intention, over the next four years, to remember each of these soldiers in the month of the 100th anniversary of their deaths using John's list.

There are no recorded deaths of Drayton soldiers in December but the November issue carried the names of Guardsman Frank Bunce and Private Thomas Burgess who were both killed in the first battle of Ypres in November. Thomas Burgess is buried in Boulogne Eastern Cemetery and below there is an article by Richard Talbot that makes an interesting footnote to that story.

"Further to your article in the November Chronicle about Private Thomas Burgess I would just like to say that on Saturday 15th November I found myself in a very damp Boulogne. My hotel was just down the road from the Boulogne Eastern Cemetery. I thought as a Draytonian myself, I would like to find his grave. As I walked in the wet grass I thought to myself, do I really want to be here with my feet getting damper by the minute? Then I thought about what Thomas, a fellow Draytonian, must have gone through in the trenches, standing in water and mud, with rats for company for days on end. My damp feet seemed a small price to pay compared to Thomas who had made the ultimate sacrifice in order that I was able to visit him. A truly humbling experience." *Richard Talbot*

CHRISTMAS 2014



Poppies at the Tower of London – Photograph by Derek Pooley

Candlelight Carol Service



**Drayton Hall at 7.30pm
Sunday 7th December**

Music by Abingdon Town Band,
With Wallingford Hand Bell Ringers,
and Drayton Community Choir
Free mince pies, tea and coffee
Come and join us!

Free admission Collection for Action for Children



The Chronicle Team
wishes all our readers a
joyful Christmas and a
very happy New Year

CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The next **Chronicle** will be the **Jan/Feb** issue:
 Editor: **Derek Pooley, 11 Halls Close (559454)**.
 Deadline for advertisements: **17.00 on Friday, 16 January 2015**
 Deadline for other contributions: **17.00 on Mon., 19 Jan. 2015**
 Printed copies available: **Friday, 30 January 2015**

Key dates for the subsequent two Chronicles:

Issue for	Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available on:
March	16 February 2015	27 February 2015
April	16 March 2015	27 March 2015
May	13 April 2015	24 April 2015

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

NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ADVERTISING RATES

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

	---- Number of Inserts ----			
Advertiser Category:	1	3	6	12
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Double-size adverts are charged at **twice** the above rates.

All advertising MUST be paid for up-front, either in cash or via a cheque made payable to 'The Drayton Chronicle' and placed in the box at or sent to Vickery's.

If you wish to discuss your requirements please phone **Stephen Fearnley**, the Chronicle's Advertising Manager, on 531347 or email him at **advertising@draytonchronicle.net**.

CHRONICLE LOTTERY

Carol Arnold, Hon Promoter

RESULTS OF THE NOVEMBER LOTTERY

CASH

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
£25	1948	B Cassingham 143 Drayton Road	Claire Soper
£20	85	Mrs Bennett 63 Abingdon Road	Jayne Henderson
£15	653	Aqua 94 Abingdon Road	Daniel Scharfe
£10	1451	P Faulkner 12 Binning Close	Cathy Norris
£10	897	Sue & Ian Brooks 8 Church Lane	Susan Brooks
£10	1723	Mr Woodhouse 144 Whitehorns Way	Mirja Boyd
£10	381	Mrs A Mitchell 41 Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
£10	1338	Mr D Owen 14 Steventon Road	Judy Henman
£10	1516	J Perris 38 Lockway	Sue Ash
£10	1094	Mrs S Middleton 59 High Street	Michelle Ainsclough

BOTTLES OF WINE

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
	1635	Mr Mace 15 Lockway	Christine Sadler
	946	K Attwood Windrush Church Lane	Susan Brooks
	646	Mrs Griffiths 98 Abingdon Road	Daniel Scharfe
	1245	Clare Wargui 3 High Street	Ali Bone
	17	Mr Greenland 9 Abingdon Road	Jayne Henderson
	1429	C Turley 18 Binnings Close	Cathy Norris
	315	Jean Caudle 46 Church Lane	Jean Caudle
	974	S & R Evangelisti Foxhollow Church Lane	Susan Brooks
	1964	K Burrows 129 Drayton Road	Claire Soper
	1638	Mr Mace 15 Lockway	Christine Sadler

BOXES OF BISCUITS

Prize	Ticket	Winner	Agent
	517	Mrs Cook 43 Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
	1445	Val Cross 32 Binning Close	Cathy Norris
	252	Mr & Mrs Turner 27 Cornville Road	Ellen Winter
	167	Mrs Stirling 107 Abingdon Road	Julie Brown
	1654	Mrs Taylor 25 Lockway	Christine Sadler
	705	D Scharfe 122 Abingdon Road	Daniel Scharfe
	369	Mr Rowlands 35a Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
	422	Mrs Gray 18c Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
	1474	R Berry 28 Binnings Close	Cathy Norris
	77	Mr & Mrs Morris 59 Abingdon Road	Jayne Henderson

Winning tickets, from 1779 sold, were randomly drawn by a computer (similar to the Premium Bond Draw)

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

A warm welcome to Carol and Ernie Mitchell who have moved into Eastway Mobile Home Park. We hope that they will be happy joining our small community.

Teresa Burnage

Wishing Margaret Watts a speedy recovery after a recent knee operation.

Teresa Burnage

**St. Peter's Church, Drayton –
Christmas 2014**

MESSY CHURCH – Sunday 7 December 3pm held at
Drayton Community Primary School

CAROL SERVICE – Sunday 14 December 4pm
Tea, Coffee & Mince Pies will be served after the
Service.

CRIB SERVICE – Wednesday 24 December 4pm

MIDNIGHT MASS – Wednesday 24 December 11.30pm

CHRISTMAS DAY – Thursday 25 December

8am **Holy Communion**

10am **Family Eucharist with Carols**

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Sunday 28th December 9:30 am

(said) Holy Communion

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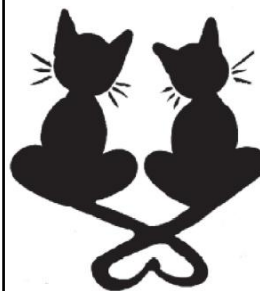
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Priest in Charge	Rev'd Rebecca Peters	531374
Associate Priest	Rev'd Rosie Bruce	525284
Churchwardens	Mrs Alison Bone	202188
	Mrs Linda Johnson	527521
Organist	Vacancy	

REGULAR SERVICES

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

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Wednesday	10.00 am Pebbles (Term Time only)	Church Room
Monday	7.45 pm Bell Ringing Practice	Bell Tower

CHURCH REGISTER

Funerals

30th October	Eileen Cox
13th November	Daphne Lovell

Wedding

8th November	Michael Partridge & Ayelet Melman
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CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER


Tue 2nd	3.00 pm	First Tuesday Connections	Church Room
Sun 7th	3pm	Messy Church	Drayton School
Wed 10th	10am	Pebbles Nativity	Church Room
Sun 14th	4pm	Carol Service	Church
Wed 24th	4pm	Crib Service	Church
Wed 24th	11.30pm	Midnight Mass	Church
Sun 28th	9.30am	Communion by Extension	Church

PLEASE NOTE: No 10 am Service on Sunday 14th December

YOU STAY - WE PRAY, DECEMBER

1st to 6th	Hilliat Fields; Lyford Close, Manor Close, The Green
7th to 13th	High Street, Chiers Drive, Cheers Farm, Halls Close
14th to 27th	Lockway, Whitehorns Way
28th to 31st	Corneville Road; Crabtree Lane; Lesparre Close

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ST PETER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

It was wonderful to gather together many families and people of all ages at the "I've lost my sheep" family service at the school. The company who did the service would love your feedback, positive and negative comments will be appreciated, so please email me, rev.stpetersdrayton@gmail.com and I will pass on the comments.

We are now in the season of Advent, a time of waiting and preparation for Christmas. I don't know about you but patience isn't one of my strong points. As a child I would never have been able to wait to open the presents from under the tree, so I'm glad that in our house they didn't appear until Christmas Eve. Nowadays the most difficult time of waiting seems to do with health, like waiting at the doctor's or hospital waiting room. As soon as you enter a waiting room, you start to feel uncomfortable. There is something about the not-knowing how long you will be there for. And then there's the uncertainty of what the doctor will say when you finally get in. You get fidgety and keep looking at your watch. You make a beeline for the nearest magazine, wanting to distract yourself from the worrying and anxiety. Thankfully the advent season, is a call to wait in hope, looking forward to the coming of Jesus, son of God. It is waiting with joyful expectancy, something good is going to happen, the birth of a Saviour, our Lord and King.

I too am looking forward to celebrating Christmas with many people in the village, Messy Church is on 7th Dec 3pm at the school, the Carol Service is on Sunday 14th Dec 4pm, Crib service 24th Dec 4pm, and in celebrating the birth of Jesus at Midnight mass 11:30pm or on Christmas day 10am.

The Drayton school reception class will be helping with this year's Crib service Christmas Eve 4pm and all are welcome to dress up in as an angel, shepherd or king and join in.

The CCTV has been installed in the church, which is now open during the day, so please do pop in and write a prayer request or have some peace and space to think and prayer. We will again this year be putting up "Stars for Remembrance" in the church.

The stars will be at the back of the church, on the welcomer's table, so if you would like to have a friend or loved one remembered at Christmas please write their names on a star and leave in the basket provided.

God Bless *Rebecca*

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BAPTIST CHURCH

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

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

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

EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME

LOCAL METHODIST WORSHIP

High Street, Milton
Sunday Service: 10.30 am

Local contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409

FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS **Jean Hager**

Are you feeling lonely, isolated or in need of some friendly company? Why not come along to our monthly tea and chat afternoons. They are normally held on the first Tuesday of the month in St Peter's Church Room from 3.00 pm to 4:30 pm and you are invited to drop in during these times. The teapot is always at the ready and you can be sure of a warm welcome. Our next date is 2nd December. If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.

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WESTMINSTER LETTER

Ed Vaizey

We've all noticed in recent years that there seem to be ever more special days and weeks set aside to remind us of particular good causes. I've come across two recently which particularly struck a chord with me.

The first was SUDEP Awareness Day on 23rd October. This day was set up by SUDEP Action, a charity which was set up by Jane Hanna OBE and which is based in Wantage. SUDEP Action campaigns to raise awareness and understanding of the risk of Sudden Death in Epilepsy. I was very pleased indeed to be invited to become President of SUDEP Action and to host an event at the House of Commons on 23rd October which helped MPs to understand both the risk of sudden death for those with epilepsy, and the relatively simple steps that can be taken to reduce that risk quite significantly. It was sobering to hear from families who had been bereaved through sudden death in epilepsy and inspiring to see how determined they are to help others learn from their very sad experience.

If you, or someone you know, has epilepsy even in a very mild form, please do take a look at the website www.sudep.org and spread the word about this important but little-discussed issue.

Adoption brings challenges, immense rewards and can make a huge, positive difference to the lives of children and those who adopt them. National Adoption Week, which took place from 3 – 9 November, made all of those points and more.

This is particularly important for children who often wait the longest to be adopted – sibling groups, children with disabilities, children aged 5 and over and children from some black and minority ethnic backgrounds. The campaign encouraged us all to think about, and hopefully come forward, to adopt these children and give them a loving home. As you'd expect, there's a website for this week too where you can find more information about adoption - www.nationaladoptionweek.org.uk/adoption. If you've ever wondered if this might be something to consider, why not take a look at that too.

It seems that every day or week now has a special label or significance. Not all are relevant to many of us, but some really do bring an opportunity to highlight an important issue and make a real difference.

As ever please feel free to contact me on any matter at the House of Commons, SW1A 0AA, 020 7219 6350 or vaizeye@parliament.uk. Email is the quickest and most reliable way to get in touch, as I keep a very close eye on my emails and can reply very quickly. I also send out occasional general interest emails about developments in the Wantage and Didcot Constituency. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please do email me at vaizeye@parliament.uk or sign up at www.vaizey.com. Surgery details can be found at www.vaizey.com.

And finally, as the festive season approaches, may I wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous new year.

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YOUR LETTERS

In this Month of Remembrance

Having unloaded my rubbish at the Council tip and about to drive off, I noticed that I had a puncture.

Now the cars of today don't come with a spare wheel, instead they give you a kit to pump solvent into the offending hole. Not having any idea of what to do I asked one of the Council assistants if he could help and he quickly ran away! After asking a couple more men for assistance and drawing a blank, a young man came over to see if he could help. It wasn't until he was well under way repairing the puncture that I became aware that he had a prosthetic leg. I took my samaritan's details and the following morning delivered a bottle of wine as a "thank you". He wasn't at home but one of his neighbours came out to tell me that he goes to Marlow every morning to row. This young Lance Corporal from the Paras lost his leg in 2012 as a result of an IED. As part of his rehab he took up rowing and was spotted by a talent coach, he then went on to become one of the team to row in the Invictus Games this summer where he won an astonishing three gold medals.

It is not only the fallen we should remember but also those injured who have to pick up their lives.

I feel very humble to have been helped by such an inspirational young man who did not run away.

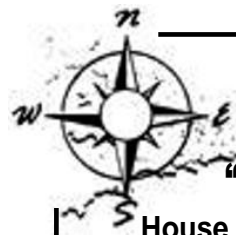
A story worth sharing.

Shirley Thomas



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YOUR LETTERS CONTINUED

Dear Editor,

Firstly I would like to thank you and your team for all the hard work you all put in producing the chronicle.

Secondly I consider that the space allocated to the County Council should not become a soapbox for the LibDems and their beloved and corrupt EU. Nearly half a page was taken up by this issue, [see Ryder Cup article], and only six lines concerning local issues!!

Don Osborne

Dear Editor

Neighbourhood and Local Plans

At the time of writing I have no idea what progress would have been made by the Neighbourhood Plan since the end of its consultation period. However, having read and objected to many parts of the Plan, I thought that I would explain my position. Last year I resigned from the Parish Council when I became aware that my contributions to the Plan and comments on the process were seen as unhelpful. Since then I have continued to make the same argument about the need to ensure that developments carried out in accordance with the Plan would be 'sustainable'; being able to demonstrate that they would, in the words of a planning inspector, 'consume their own smoke'. I have also been suggesting ways to draft clear and unambiguous policies so that the Plan could achieve what it set out to achieve. If there was room for doubt I suggested that the draft plan be put through a 'health check' from a qualified professional before being placed on deposit for formal examination. I have been concerned that the consideration of planning applications on any land within the village, including the sites now being 'preferred', should not be prejudiced by any discussions that have taken place with prospective developers, until the Plan is finally adopted through due process. Finally, I have been arguing that the Plan should address the demand for self-building (145), co-housing (50) and smallholding (200) expressed through the village questionnaire. Although none of these suggestions have been taken into account by the current plan, I believe that Drayton would be better off with a properly drafted neighbourhood plan that would contribute effectively to the achievement of sustainable development. The Inspector might recommend minor changes or decide that the Plan should not proceed because it does not meet the Basic Conditions (or it subsequently fails the village Referendum). Given this possibility, we should all be looking to the Local Plan now placed on deposit by the District Council to seek to ensure that this would do the job of securing the right kind of (sustainable) village development and in the right kind of places.

Daniel Scharf

Dear Editor

We would like to thank the Rev. Josie Midwinter for the lovely service at St Peter's and everyone for their messages of sympathy and cards on the recent death of my husband, Graham Lacey

Pam Lacey and Family.

Dear Editor

A personal tribute to June Etheridge

As many of you will know, June and Ron Etheridge lived at No. 3 Corneville Road for sixteen years until May 2013 when they decided to downsize and moved to an apartment in Abingdon.

For approximately fourteen of those years in Drayton, June and I would go for a walk around Drayton, in summer we walked many footpaths and in winter we tended to stay on tarmac! We would meet up with Ron and Dave for coffee at No. 3 or 15 alternating.

When they moved to Abingdon we continued the process, either in Abingdon or in Drayton until June's knee operation stopped us from walking very far. We did, however, continue to visit each other for coffee and a chat which we kept up until the beginning of October 2014.

We should have gone to their home on 6th October but cancelled due to Abingdon Fair. It was planned then for 13th October. However, June was taken poorly on 8th October and by the weekend was admitted to the J.R. for tests. Ron rang us on Sunday 12th to cancel our visit due the following day.

Unfortunately the tests disclosed that June had an aggressive cancer. She was allowed home from the J.R. and put under the care of the Churchill Hospital. She was re-admitted to the J.R. on 27th October but sadly died there on 1st November.

It is difficult to come to terms with such a shock especially as June was such a busy lady, she was involved in Trinity Church, Abingdon Bowls Club and numerous other activities.

Ron has obviously been hit hard by this shock but he has a very supportive family and he knows that we are in the wings if needed. We have agreed to wait for his phone call before visiting him.

Our sincere thoughts and prayers are for him and his family at this sad time.

June will be sorely missed.

Heather Lee

Dear Editor

2014 Poppy Appeal

Thank you to all the collectors in Drayton, and to everyone who donated to the Poppy Collection, which raised the very good total of £2,089.69 this year. Although I do not usually single out any one collection, I must mention Austin and Geraldine Barrett at *The Wheatshaf*, and Ron Pepperell, who – entirely on their own initiative -- arranged three different fund-raising schemes which took in £507.25, in addition to their collecting-tin. Thank you very much indeed for this very generous donation.

This year I broke my elbow at the end of September and I owe many grateful thanks to everyone who responded to my SOS for help. In particular, Colin & Carol & Georgina Arnold took on an amazing load, making-up, delivering and collecting in the various packs all over the village. Thank you also to the individual collectors who came and picked up their packs, and then brought them back for counting.

As usual, I am very grateful to Mark Haffenden, the Sutton Courtenay Poppy Appeal Organiser, who did a wonderful job in helping to count the tons of coins from the Appeal.

It is especially good in this Centenary year of the start of WWI that Drayton's total is over 25% more than last year. Well done everyone!

Diana Hasting

Poppy Appeal Organiser for EHD21 (Steventon & District)

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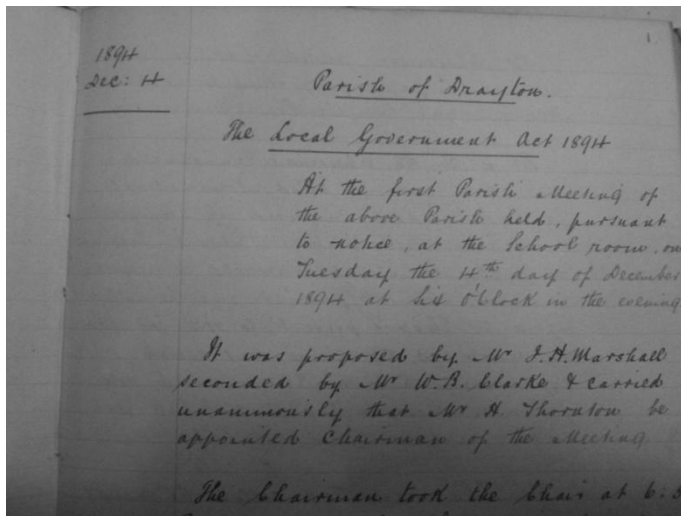
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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Williams

Report of the Parish Council meeting held on Mon 3rd November 2014

As most readers will know, the Parish Council keeps minutes of all its monthly meetings. The most recent of these are posted on notice boards around the village, and then held for a time by the Parish Clerk for reference purposes. The village website maintains an archive of PC minutes which at the time of writing goes back to 2008. However, for long-term safe keeping, all paper documents and associated records are periodically transferred to the county archives in Cowley. Councillors who serve for a period of 20 or 30 years or more are a distinct rarity these days, so that the collective memory of the current Parish Council does not stretch back all that far. Even if it did, from time to time it is useful to search back through the old records, to check for example when a particular decision was first made, or to ascertain the reasons for making it. Earlier this month, the Clerk visited Cowley to investigate a matter which entailed researching right back to the origins of the Parish Council in Drayton. He was intrigued and amused (given the timing) to discover that next month's Parish Council meeting will take place, almost to the day, 120 years after the very first PC meeting in the village. A handwritten entry in the record book states that this meeting took place, 'at the School Room, on Tuesday the 4th day of December 1894 at six o' clock in the evening'. A Mr H Thornton was appointed Chairman.



A snapshot of the minutes of the first ever meeting of the Drayton Parish Council – December 4th 1894

In honour of this anniversary, a minor celebration, most likely involving cake, will take place at the December PC meeting, but a more lasting recognition of the PC's history is planned in the form of a project to scan the whole of the recorded minutes from 1894 to the present day. If this works, it may be feasible to look for entries in even the oldest records using computer word search tools. A number of photographs of old Drayton have also been located, so that a 'Down Memory Lane' article might possibly appear in a future issue of the Chronicle, sometime in the New Year.

Councillors heard that later this month, Drayton, along with all other Town and Parish Councils in Oxfordshire, has been invited to a meeting which will discuss the setting up of Community Emergency Plans in all areas, with an emphasis on 'getting ready for the winter'. Currently, 50% of Oxfordshire parishes have developed a community emergency plan and the county is aiming to increase this number before the New Year. One of the lessons that emerged from last winter's terrible floods is that emergency relief can be much better organised if local volunteers co-ordinate

the response in each village or community, down to the level of individual streets. The idea is that if the County's Emergency Planning Dept has to field hundreds of phone calls from different households, all asking for assistance, and each requesting, say, a dozen or so sandbags, this is immensely time-consuming and wasteful of effort. If a street co-ordinator can put in a single phone call requesting three hundred sandbags, and organise the local distribution, that is potentially much more efficient – plus local knowledge means that the volunteers are more able to identify those who are especially vulnerable or at risk.

The nature of the CEP will obviously depend on the type of risk the village is liable to. Drayton has not suffered significantly from flooding in the past, although this is no cause for complacency as flash flooding could occur just about anywhere. Volunteers could clear snow from the paths and driveways of those who might struggle to manage the job themselves, and plenty of other similar tasks come to mind. Drayton does not yet have a Plan in place, and while the Parish Council is happy to take the lead on this, it needs a lot more volunteers to come forward if the plan is to be put into practice when required. Age doesn't really matter as long as you have a reasonable level of physical fitness. If you think you would be interested in joining a Community Emergency team, please contact the Parish Clerk (see below) in the first instance who we will keep a record of people's names. If the winter is mild, then of course it may not be necessary to activate the Plan at all, but it would be good to make contingency arrangements.

To contact any members of the Parish Council, all enquiries should be directed to the Parish Clerk, David Perrow, in the first instance. David may be contacted via E-mail at draytonclerk@yahoo.co.uk or by telephone on 07909 176061, and he will ensure that any messages are passed on. Any Drayton resident may also ask to be added to the Clerk's E-mailing list, so that they receive prior notice of meetings and any relevant documents. In addition, all Parish Council minutes are now archived on the village website: www.drayton-near-abingdon.org. The latter also carries back copies of the Drayton Chronicle, information on Drayton 2020, and details of other events in the village.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 1st December 2014, at 7.30pm, in the Caudwell Day Centre in Gravel Lane. As ever, all are welcome to attend.



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COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT Richard Webber

TO FRACK OR NOT TO FRACK

The trouble with so many of today's issues – Europe, Immigration, the Environment and so on, is that there is an ocean of misinformation out there. I am one of those attempting to sail a boat across this ocean in an effort to reach an island where sensible, achievable, evidence-based solutions are found. Solutions on which I can base my opinion. Solutions I can support with my vote.

The County Council held a full meeting dedicated to the subject of "Fracking" in general and "Fracking in Oxfordshire" in particular. Having waded my way through a flotilla of placards (I may as well stick to my metaphor) demanding "No to "Fracking", we then heard a number of speeches demanding "say No to Nuclear" "say No to destroying our countryside" and even "say No to wind farms". It seemed the easiest thing in the world is to say "No" to something.

However, there is an undeniable fact that in the next 10-20 years we, particularly in the UK, will be facing an "energy gap". If we wish to keep the lights on, we have to fill this gap. We are told that additional Nuclear power takes too long to happen, that renewable energy technology is growing too slowly, and that traditional gas and oil supplies are running out. We are told that here is a looming threat of the UK being forced to rely on energy from politically unstable parts of the world. Saying "No" to anything which might offer a solution, or even part of a solution is simply not an option.

So in this ocean of misinformation, sensible people are looking earnestly for a few "islands" of certainty. Islands where "real, undeniable facts" are to be found. For what it is worth (and to stimulate urgent debate) here are the 5 "islands" I have found, on which I will be developing my opinion on "Fracking".

1. The latest UN report on Global warming and its causes I find utterly compelling. Even for those who wish to argue that global warming is not man-made, to do nothing about it is a risk I would not wish the world to take. If we do not cut world carbon emissions to zero by 2100 it will be too late. I do not want our great, great grandchildren to blame us for doing nothing about it now.
2. A bit of good news (lost in all the current "anti-EU" rhetoric). Under the leadership of the UK Department of Energy and Climate Change, all EU nations have just signed up to an agreement to cut their Carbon emissions by 40% by 2030. Still a long way to go, no doubt, but an initiative which will encourage/shame other nations to follow suit.
3. Say "No" to coal. Not here, not in Europe, not anywhere. The impact on carbon emissions alone of coal burning are unacceptable and make the current targets unachievable. It is possible that carbon capture and storage technology will advance to make coal burning an option in the future – but certainly not in time to do anything about the energy gap.
4. Fracking has much less impact on C emissions than coal. Given the shortage of options, it should certainly be considered in the mix. Unfortunately UK geology is nothing like US geology and the amount of gas which could be economically gained in the UK could only be a small part of the solution to the energy gap. In Oxfordshire, it is likely that there are only a small handful of sites which would be suitable.
5. For the UK at least, the answer lies in a short term mix of energy sources – some of which will make the emission targets harder to achieve but we have to keep the lights on.
6. We need to keep up the pressure to develop renewables of all types – wind (offshore and onshore), solar, tidal and others.

Anything or anyone who impedes this is, in my view being irresponsible.

If Drayton is concerned about extra houses, spare a thought for Sutton Courtenay. That village has Didcot B, FCC recycling, an extra 500+ houses (at the last count), and now the prospect of the country's largest warehouse/distribution centre right on its doorstep. If ever there is an argument for the need to consider the cumulative impact of growth on communities, it is in Sutton Courtenay. Work on the new "hamburger" interchange at Milton is about to start. With the additional commercial and housing growth, we all need to cross our fingers that the new interchange is going to cope.

The Local Plan for consultation

We now know that Milton Heights has been spared the prospect of expanding by 1400 homes from its present 200. Milton's gain is at the expense of north Abingdon and the Green Belt. The AONB area (area of outstanding natural beauty) around Harwell is also under severe threat. VWHDC is accepting the entire SHMA (Strategic Housing Market Assessment) figures in an effort to get its Local Plan accepted more quickly. This they argue will protect us from future speculative planning applications. The County Highways department have said that the road network can cope. We need to hope that they are right!

It is a moot point whether or not the damage will already have been done before the Local Plan is in place.

Joining the 21st Century.

For those that have still not had enough, I am now the proud owner (is that the right word?) of a "Blog" which you can follow on: clrrichardwebber@wordpress.com.

I can also be contacted on 01235 534001 or Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP (NAG5)

Smartwater update

PCSO Sandra Syphas and a member of NAG5 have visited houses in Gravel Lane and the High Street in Drayton, and visits will continue to other households in the village. Appleford village is now a designated Smartwater zone, with signs at the entry and exit points and we congratulate Sandra and the Appleford NHW Coordinator on achieving this. Houses using Smartwater in Sutton Courtenay continue to increase with Church Street, The Green and Churchmere Road the latest to have been visited.

More information can be found on the Smartwater web site at <http://www.smartwater.com>, by calling Smartwater on 0800 521 669, or call the police on the non-emergency number 101. Alternatively contact NAG5 using the contact details below.

Good Neighbours Stop Rogue Traders!

This is a campaign run by Oxfordshire Trading Standards which focuses on preventing doorstep crime by encouraging neighbours, family and friends to look out for those at risk in their communities. Anyone who feels vulnerable can choose to be 'buddied' with a nominated neighbour, whom they can trust and call, if they're unsure of someone who 'cold calls' at their door.

A 'nominated neighbour' card and other doorstep crime prevention leaflets will be provided to those who wish to participate in this initiative. The idea is that the name and address or telephone number of the buddy should be written clearly on the card which can then be held up at the window or pushed through the letterbox if a cold caller arrives on the doorstep. The card says 'I DO NOT RECOGNISE YOU! We do not answer the door to strangers. Please go to or call [buddy details inserted] who is my NOMINATED NEIGHBOUR. They will CHECK your identity and return with you.'



Local NAGs and Neighbourhood Watch groups are considering participating in this campaign. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in joining this initiative we would very much like to hear from you. Please use the NAG5 contact information below.

Further details are available from Oxfordshire Trading Standards on 01865 815000, or visit their web site at <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/node/181251>.



Cycle checks

Members of the public have, once again, reported cyclists using the footpath over Culham Bridge, some of whom have been cycling dangerously fast. Cycling on a footpath is not permitted, and the police can issue an on-the-spot fine in such circumstances. Anyone who feels they do not have sufficient time to cycle across the bridge before the lights change should get off their bike and walk with it, on the footpath. A police check on cyclists using Culham Bridge will take place during the next few weeks.

Heavy Goods Vehicles

Despite the HGV restriction signs, residents are still concerned about the number of lorries driving through Sutton Courtenay. Some vehicles may need to come through the village for access. Members of the public are reminded that they are entitled to stop vehicles and enquire about their destination.

NAG5 can be contacted by calling 01235 848694 or email at neighbourhoodactiongroup5@hotmail.com.

Bridget Haffenden

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ALL AROUND

FOR BROWNIE REPORT – SEE PAGE 16

DRAYTON SCHOOL

Justine Regan

School news:

After being Head Teacher of our school for just over 6 years, Mr Mayer has announced that he will be leaving Drayton School at Christmas and has taken up a post in a school in Wiltshire. We would like to wish him the best of luck in his new role!

A quote from Mr Mayer:

“I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Drayton and will continue to do so until the end of term (Christmas is my favourite time at school). I don't think I have ever been prouder than when the school finally got the “good” grading it deserved from Ofsted. The staff and children worked so hard for it. I think a new Head Teacher with a fresh pair of eyes will be the best thing to lead the school to being outstanding.”

The children of Eagles class and some kind helpers delivered 33 parcels to nominated households, from donations that we received from parents/carers of Drayton School during our Harvest assembly.

Classroom updates:

Robins Class

Have been celebrating Diwali, they made mehndi and rangoli patterns and diva lamps. They are continuing on their topic of celebrations and will be learning about winter and Christmas.

Puffins Class

Remember, Remember the 5th November...they have been learning about Guy Fawkes and made some fantastic fireworks, by painting tubes and decorating them with glitter!

Blackbirds Class

Created a dance routine linked to Robin Hood, they perfected their dance over many weeks and then invited some of the KS2 children to come and watch, afterwards they received a huge cheer from the audience.

Red Kites Class

Vikings are the topic at the moment. They have started writing their own Viking legend and learning a song called Viking Rock, as well as learning a Viking dance. They have also been working on animal poetry too.

Kingfishers Class

Have been busy making electrical circuits, drawing and making clay canopic jars, lots of their work can be seen displayed in the main school entrance. They have also been learning their times tables, using some interesting methods, to music and movement.

Eagles

Are learning to play brass instruments, some are learning the trombone, hornet and baritone; they even get the instruments to take home and practice!

During art they have done some perspective drawing - they laid on the woodland floor, then drew what they could see when they opened their eyes.

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DRAYTON-LESPARRE TWINNING

Stephen Fearnley

After the euphoria of our August visit to Lesparre, the Twinners have no plans for further events this side of Christmas. We would again like to invite village residents who have any interest in visiting France or making French friends to get in touch. You may have children who are learning French and want them to enjoy the benefit of using their French in real life? There are opportunities for individuals, groups and schools to link up with our twinned town of Lesparre in the Medoc. You might want to know more about the World famous wines that are lovingly produced in “our” region?

We can't tell you much in the space allowed here but for now we would like to take this opportunity to wish all readers a *Joyeux Noël et meilleurs voeux pour la nouvelle année.*

Learn more from Stephen Fearnley (01235 531347) and Michael Bell (01235 531388).



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MORE ALL AROUND

BOWLS CLUB

Roll Up

These will be our last notes for this year, and it's been a mixed year in many ways, with success on the rinks with 'The Wasps' winning the afternoon league, new members joining (that's always good news) and some members leaving through ill health, and sadly recently two of our very keen members, Neville Ferris, and Graham Lacey, lost their battles with illness. They will be sorely missed, and our thoughts are with their families at this sad time. Finals day this year will be on December 14th and there will be 9 finals to be played for, we will be starting at 10 am and around 5 in the afternoon the ladies are laying on a buffet, and would appeal to all members old and new to come and join us. There will be a Christmas raffle with many prizes.

'The Wasps' are again top of the afternoon league, with 'The Hammers' well placed in 3rd spot coming up to the half way point.

The friendly fours was again a very successful day with teams from, Harwell, Benson, and Stanford taking part, and again it was a Drayton team coming out as winners, Bryn, Barry, June, Chris, beating another Drayton team, Tony Wright, Carol, Josie, and Pam in the final. Our thanks go to Jane and June for organising a great day. Wishing all our members old and new a very happy Christmas and a healthy new year.

DRAYTON WI

Brenda Malin

Our November meeting was a creative meeting. Some of our talented and artistic members taught some less talented members to make Christmas tree baubles and cards. The finished products were beautiful and very professional. It was a lovely satisfying evening, with plenty of laughter.

Our Annual quiz was held on Friday 14th. It was well attended and although some lesser brains were very challenged, the evening, including a tasty ploughman's supper, was a great success. The raffle raised **£124.00** and the proceeds were donated to **The Anthony Nolan Trust**. Earlier this year, one of our member's family was lucky enough, to be able to make a donation of bone marrow, and we hope this will raise awareness and encourage others to participate in the scheme.

Dates:

December 11th Christmas Party
January 8th Birthday Meal at the Pack Horse.

DRAYTON WIVES

Vesna Brock

The speaker at our October meeting was Irene Tyack who is the artist and creator of The Yellow Hat Tribe. She lives and works on her husband's ostrich farm near Chipping Norton.

The whole talk was a funny and entertaining summary of her life, from leaving home penniless at the age of fifteen, through two marriages and six children, to painting charming colourful scenes with people wearing yellow hats. She brought lots of her work for us to look at and purchase. There is also a very interesting website where you can see her collection and buy online.

Coming up – Mon 8th December 2.0-4.0 pm at the Day Centre - Christmas Tea with fun and games.

Main meetings are held at Drayton Hall on the third Wednesday of the month at 2 pm and visitors/new members are always welcome. We also hold monthly coffee mornings, whist, craft meetings and walks.

DRAYTON FOOTBALL CLUB

HELP!

Drayton Football Club is a long established club which has two youth teams and a first and reserves mens' team.

We are affiliated to the North Berks Football League.

As with many clubs Drayton FC is run by a small group of volunteers.

These volunteers 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 enabling people to 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 running the line as a linesman, filling water bottles or tidying up after a game.

If you think you would like to help in however small a way, please 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.

Drayton FC Committee Members;
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Paul Evans 07922128266
Richard Seamark 07565421637

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HALL REPORT

Tony Holmes

Firstly has anyone lost a pair of what look like house keys, on a ring with a certain tag? If so, let me know (531180).

Now a note for all our usual groups and hirers, we recently signed up with new insurers, better value, but we're being dragged into the age of Health & Safety.

Accordingly, I'll be asking people to confirm that they have appropriate liability insurance, and for those providing activities for and with children, we have to keep a register ensuring that correct guidelines are being adhered to.

Oh, and though we hope it won't be used, if someone does have an accident in the hall, please make a note in the accident book (usually kept near the first-aid kit in the kitchen).

Speaking of kitchen, the main work of replacement units and worktops is just about finished, with a couple of new gadgets to come (dishwasher & warming cupboard).

And we're just deciding on the best finish for the new walls. Once the kitchen is done, we can claim back the relevant grant funds, and move on to the phase involving new fire doors and replacement windows in the Main Hall.

If anyone has ideas for a new regular class or activity, please do get in touch, we always need to sell a few more Saturday nights, and Friday nights could also do with more bookings. Would anyone perhaps like to start a skittles team (we could invest in a couple of alleys)? One idea that was floated the other day was by a dance teacher, suggesting they could run classes and associated practice sessions. This wouldn't be in anything complex like quicksteps, but something easier to pick up like (I'm told!) Salsa or 'American Smooth', perhaps even Merengue or Argentine Tango? (we might have to upgrade the fire extinguishers for that last one?!). IF there is any interest, maybe running something on occasional Sunday afternoons would be an option, as in a Tea Dance? I expect we could do some tea & cake. I'd like to hear some feedback on this topic, so if you might be a customer, let me know, number as above or bookings@draytonvh.co.uk.

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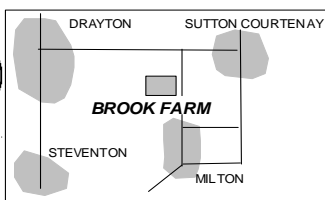
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LIVE SPORTS

HALL DATES FOR DECEMBER

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Mon 1st - 7.30pm - **Parish Council Meeting - Caudwell DC**

Sat 6th - Private Function Sun 7th - 11am - Private children's party

Sun 7th - 7.30pm - Carol Concert Sat 13th - 1pm - Private children's party

Sun 14th - Bowls Club Finals - all day Fri 19th - 6pm - Private Function

Sat 20th - 2pm - Private children's party Wed 31st - Private Function

DRAYTON 2020

Richard Williams

November 2014 Update

Not much to add this month. Our Neighbourhood Development Plan is currently being scrutinised by the Independent Examiner, and we understand that the results of the examination should be available on or soon after 28th November. We have been told that the Plan's 6 week consultation period on the Vale's website produced some 90 responses from the public, but no detail as to the nature of the comments or the balance of people's opinions has so far been forthcoming. Obviously, Drayton 2020's ideal would be that the Plan is passed without need for further amendment, but we have to be prepared for all possible outcomes.

By the time this Chronicle is published, the Traffic in Drayton workshop, scheduled for the afternoon of Friday 21st November at the Village Hall, will have taken place, and we hope that it proves to be an interesting and enlightening session. (See below). Several people have pointed out that a Friday afternoon was not the best time to hold such an event, since many of those who wanted to come along will be at work, but unfortunately this was the only time that the experts who kindly agreed to attend were available. Suggestions that we film the event are being explored, but at this stage, it is not clear that we will be able to pursue the idea.

The next Steering Group meeting is scheduled for Fri 28th November. Further dates are unlikely this side of Christmas. Dates for the New Year will be notified in good time to all those on our E-mailing list. The meetings are open to any Drayton resident, and are normally held on Friday evenings in the Caudwell Centre in Gravel Lane at 7pm. If you wish to receive reminders of these and other Drayton 2020 meetings and events, please contact the Parish Clerk, David Perrow, via the Drayton 2020 website: draytontwentytwenty@gmail.com

Alternatively, David can be contacted via E-mail at draytonclerk@yahoo.co.uk or by telephone on 07909 176061. All the documentation relating to the NDP remains available on the Drayton village website at www.drayton-near-abingdon.org Click on the Drayton 2020 tab, then 'Consultations' on the drop-down menu.

(Editor's Note: More on the Traffic Meeting on Page 15)

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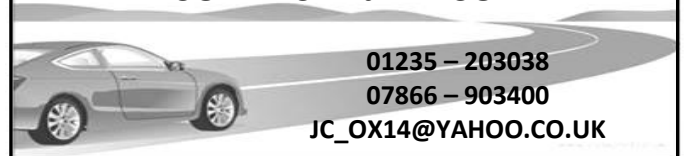
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DRAYTON 2020

DRAYTON'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

Drayton residents attended a meeting at Drayton Village Hall on Friday 21st of November to hear about traffic possibilities for Drayton 2020. Tom Shebbeare welcomed people and invited everybody to partake of a free lunch including home made soup, bread and cheese. Tom explained that there would be talk by Nigel Millington from Phil Jones Associates, transport planning consultants, then there would be time for questions then finally, Paul Fermer from Oxfordshire County Council would be coming to answer questions on behalf of the County Council.

Nigel gave a presentation in which he said that traffic movements are increasing with the increasing population. The obvious solution to this is to build bigger and better roads but this isn't always the answer, with bigger and better routes, people tend to use them more. Like water finding the easiest path.

Is Drayton a place, that provides a through route or should it be a place more suitable for people to live in? He gave examples around the country, in towns and villages, where the roads had been planned to focus on routes for cars and then had their areas changed to give more pleasant pedestrian access to shops and amenities. Nigel showed a picture of the area outside Vickery's and said that it had obviously evolved rather than been planned. He said that this area could be enhanced by improving pedestrian access to the amenities in that area, providing a better bus stop and some organised parking. Focus on the residents rather than making a better through route.

He said we should look upon the planned expansion of Drayton as an opportunity to improve it as a place to live, using money from the developers.

The audience then split into groups to discuss suggestions for Drayton's roads and to think of questions to put to the Oxfordshire County Council representative, Paul Fermer.

Paul answered questions from the audience on a wide range of traffic problems in and around Drayton. The A34 was a common topic. Paul explained that the County Council were aware of the problems and discussions are going on but they didn't have direct responsibility for the A34.

Other more expansive suggestions were made such as a Park and Ride system at Milton Park, a railway station at Steventon. Although these may be in the future, they should be catered for now by, for example, where railway bridges are currently being modified, they should be made wider to make provision for more tracks. Paul said that this was the most cost effective way of proceeding but there was a limited amount of money available now that had to be used for the current work and although not desirable, future work would have to be carried out with money when it does become available.

Paul said that the cost of Drayton's plans would best be met by getting money from developers, the County Council had limited funds.

More information about this meeting will be available on the Village Website soon



Tom announces that lunch is served

1st DRAYTON BROWNIES

Annette Mitchell

We have had a busy few weeks celebrating Halloween and Bonfire Night! The Brownies carved out pumpkins, made chocolate sparklers, made two beautiful collages of a bonfire night and enjoyed some real sparklers followed by hot chocolate with marshmallows!



The Brownies Firework Collages

For Children In Need, the Brownies baked their own cakes at home and brought them in for us all to sample and sell to their family and friends, they came to the meeting dressed as Super Heros and they made a fantastic total of £57!

This week we are busy making and baking Xmas cakes to decorate and take home along with Xmas cards. To end our busy term we are all going to Millets Farm Ice Skating Rink!

So we wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas! And look forward to seeing them all back on Wednesday 14th January 2015.

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. You can register your interest on the girl guiding website and click on

“Join Us!” at www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved or you can email us on drayton1stbrownies@live.co.uk

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



Photo by Barry Winter



Photo by Stephen Fearnley

A hint of things to come? The picture on the left of Drayton in the snow reminds us of the oncoming winter but, the daffodils give us the promise of the spring to follow. Hopefully with more sunrises like the one below.



Photo by Stephen Fearnley

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