

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Tony Holmes

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March 2016

Neighbourhood Plan – True Picture

In last month's Chronicle, a letter urged the Drayton 2020 Steering Group to 're-think' its Neighbourhood Plan. The letter was highly critical of Drayton 2020, and by association, Drayton Parish Council, who are ultimately responsible for the Plan.

Well, no one is above criticism, but, if it is to be taken seriously, criticism should at least be founded on fact. Unfortunately, the letter in question relies on a series of assumptions which are mostly plain wrong. To avoid other readers being misled, I am (on behalf of Drayton 2020), responding to the points raised.

Firstly, the letter writers seem to be under the impression that Drayton 2020 is not only responsible for the new developments currently taking place in the village, but actually also initiated them. This isn't how the system works. The people that normally initiate development, apart from developers, are landowners.

There is a powerful incentive for landowners to put forward their land for development, because land with planning permission for houses is worth vastly more than that for agriculture – in the Vale, currently around £2.7 million per hectare, as opposed to £20K.

The planning system exists partly to prevent a free-for-all in the sale of land. It directs housing, new industry or job opportunities to the places deemed appropriate, while development may be discouraged or prohibited altogether in other areas. Even so, if it were possible to increase the value of one's assets by a hundred-fold without actually doing a lot, many people would be at least tempted. All that needed to happen was for the Vale to relax the restriction on numbers of houses which could be built in rural areas. As explained later, this is exactly what the Vale did in 2012. Drayton 2020 didn't then have to encourage or promote new housing in our village: **the landowners made that decision all on their own!** It's perfectly true that Drayton 2020 didn't oppose all development. It believed that some new growth might actually benefit the village and provide new recreational facilities and open space. But note, **some** new growth, **and not on any site**.

Since the change of government in 2010, the planning landscape has changed substantially. In 2012, Govt planning regulations were drastically simplified, with a view to speeding up the house-building process. Yet building starts still lagged way behind schedule, especially on large 'strategic' sites – in the Vale, sites like Great Western Park in Didcot, Grove Airfield, and so on. This was for many reasons, but the fact is, huge sites require considerable investment in new roads, new schools, community centres, shops etc, which tends to slow the whole process down.

Still in 2012, and under pressure from Central Govt to move things along, the Vale decided that smaller sites, that use mainly existing infrastructure, might be more quickly developed. So it dropped its policy of allowing a maximum of 15 new dwellings on any one site in a village, and invited 'screening applications' from landowners to assess their level of interest in development. It quickly became clear that if 'expressions of interest' were converted into formal planning applications, the result could have been 550 new homes for Drayton – more, at the time, than in any other village in the Vale.

(** NB This article is CONTINUED on page 7)

It is against this background, and precisely to **prevent** this scale of development in our village, that the Parish Council decided to work to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. This was uncharted territory, Neighbourhood Plans being a creation of the new Localism Act, 2011.

The Vale should not be blamed for changing its policy, it had little choice. The new Government regulations dictate that every local planning authority must maintain a 5 year land supply of 'specific, deliverable sites'. This is a rolling target, which moves forward yearly. Partly because 'Science Vale' has been earmarked for major economic expansion, independent consultants have determined that by 2031, the Vale will require 20,560 new homes. This equates to the staggering figure of around **1370 new homes a year** between now and then.

If you wish to know why there is such pressure to build new housing all over this area, look no further. The figures have been challenged, but the Vale says they are 'evidence-based' and for the foreseeable future, we are stuck with them.

The Localism Act clearly states that Neighbourhood Plans cannot be used to block development – so **not** a NIMBY's charter. What an NP **can** do is what the planning system more generally does, identify the places where development would be acceptable and those where it would not. The decisions on site selection cannot be arbitrary; they have to be based on reasonably objective criteria, and at all stages, there has to be consultation with the residents of the village. It is not possible to please everyone, but the aim is to arrive at the best achievable compromise.

There are 3 'allocated' sites in Drayton's Neighbourhood Plan. What would have happened if Drayton had decided not to go for a Plan? Would it have prevented development on those 3 sites? The answer is **emphatically no, it would not**: the landowners would have put in planning applications anyway. None of the sites have insurmountable technical problems, so they would have been granted planning permission by the Vale, only much earlier than is now the case. The reason why the developers delayed so long in putting in applications is because they elected instead to work with Drayton residents.

We have had extended negotiations, involving many meetings with the developers of all three sites, and the views of the village on different types of houses, building materials, design and site layout have all been fed in, so that the sites to be built are much improved from the initial raw proposals in the early stages.

South of High St has significant landscaping built in and the whole site is effectively surrounded by a green buffer zone. This wasn't a given; **it is the result of residents' input**. Drayton 2020 has managed to keep the number of houses to 140 when 2 years ago the Vale insisted this was a 'strategic' site, suitable for 200 or more houses. We argued we could deliver that number, but across the three sites, not on one, and it's the Neighbourhood Plan which enabled us to do this. Incidentally, Drayton Parish Council did **not** recently vote against the South of High Street site. The 'objection' referred to was a technical matter relating only to concerns raised by some residents about drainage and access to the site. These issues now appear to have been resolved and the Parish Council has withdrawn its objection.

Richard Williams

(Drayton PC – chair / and Drayton 2020)

COMING CHRONICLES

The **April Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Thurs March 24th**. (usually a Friday, but 25th is Good Friday!).

The Editor will be **Derek Pooley (559454)**. 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, March 14th 2016.

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 March 11th**, 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 (NOT a PDF file!).
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 to Editor by (nb Agents Lottery Packs Fri before)	Chronicle published and available for distribution on Fridays:-
May	Mon 18 April	29 April
June	Mon 16 May	27 May

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

ADVERTISING RATES				
For Block Advert (about 1/12 th page)				
--- Number of Monthly Inserts ---				
Advertiser Category	1	3	6	12
Drayton Resident	£6.00	£16.00	£31.00	£60.00
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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.

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£10	Mrs Lacey 15 Whitehorns Way	Trudi Buckner
£10	Mr & Mrs Keys 99 Abingdon Road	Julie Brown
£10	Mr & Mrs P Carter c/o Susan Brooks	Susan Brooks
£10	Mr & Mrs Mitchell 50 Abingdon Road	Jenny Stevens
£10	Pat Percival 6 Whitehorns Way	Pat Percival
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ALL AROUND

Millennium Green

Keith Clough

This is a brief report from the four Trustees who were elected last February. It is primarily an update for those of you who have not visited the Green recently. **Please come and see this village asset.**

The priority for 2015 was maintenance with limited development. Some development projects for 2016 are already planned and others are being discussed. There has been some redefinition of the 'meadow' and 'wild flower' areas. The orchard has been made more accessible and is now mown as part of the meadow, as is the area beside the pond. There are two major wild-flower areas, one along the ridge in front of the orchard and the other behind the ridge opposite the pond. Perimeter pathways have been mown along the hedge between the gate and the path to Church Lane, round the back of the pond, and from the Henlys Lane entrance round the back of the orchard to Sutton Wick Lane.

The gravelled paths had become overgrown. Over 80% of these paths have been widened to provide easier access for buggies and wheel chairs, and we hope that the rest will be done in the next few months. The walnut trees have had their crowns lifted (lower branches removed). A lot of the ivy has been stripped from the stone walls and some of the trees but some further clearance work remains to be done.

Other jobs successfully completed include painting the pond railings and bulb planting in various sites. Some of these bulbs are already blooming. A picnic table was provided during the summer months.

A major job in the next few weeks will be pruning the apple trees. Some will also need re-staking and a few may need to be replaced. Further path widening and weeding and wall clearing will also be tackled. **It is planned to organize regular working parties during 2016.** The next maintenance job will then be to tidy up the woodland areas.

It is hoped that there will be a number of development projects during the coming year. These will include additional features to cater for the interests of all ages. They are likely to include a tunnel, bird boxes, at least one more seat and possibly an additional picnic table. **Further suggestions from Drayton's residents** would be welcome.

The possibilities of extending the gravelled path to a full circuit are being explored and the Trustees are bidding for possible funding before this project can be undertaken.

The Trustees would like to thank the many 'Friends' who support the Green in a variety of ways, such as giving a regular donation, joining working parties, litter picking and/or attending Committee meetings. Some have undertaken specific tasks which they could do on their own or with a friend.

Without their help, the Trustees would have an impossible job. **More volunteers are always welcome!!**

Keith Clough
(Vice Chair, Millennium Green Trust krc@imf.co.uk)

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DRAYTON WIVES

Gwen Price

In January we had a talk given by Josie Midwinter, one of our members. Her talk was about her many visits to Uganda, a country which is very special to her. She stayed with families in Rwanda and enjoyed the everyday life.

She taught while she was there in difficult circumstances but she was encouraged by the progress the youngsters made and their keenness to learn. Josie helped and showed them how to make the best of their circumstances and to become resourceful. It was very gratifying for her to meet some of the youngsters when they were grown up and to see and share their success.

Our next meeting, on Wednesday 30th March, will be 'Curiosities of the Cotswolds' given by Alan Copeland.

A reminder that Whist is now held on the second Thursday of the month, in the afternoon at the Day Centre, (at 2pm), and new members are very welcome.

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Associate Priest	Revd Rosie Bruce	07766 421773
Churchwardens	Mrs Alison Bone	202188
	Mrs Linda Johnson	527521
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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	9.15 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 MARCH

Tues 1st	2.30 pm	1st Tuesday Connections	Church Room
Sun 20th	3.30 pm	The Celebration	Drayton School
Thur 24th	7.30 pm	Maundy Thursday Service	
Fri 25th	10.00 am	Good Friday	
	2.00 pm	Meditations	

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms Feb 14th Willow Edwina Goodway

YOU STAY – WE PRAY (March)

- 1st to 5th Hilliat Fields; Lyford Close; Manor Close; The Green
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Letter from St Peter's

Dear Friends,

There weather so far this year has been so changeable, with spring-like conditions in January, and snowdrops and daffodils blossoming like spring and yet very cold icy weather the next day. On the whole it has been a very different sort of winter, far milder and less wet than usual. The crisp mornings have been wonderful and the promise of spring yet to come brings hope.

Human beings can also be changeable and variable, we have the capacity for immense good, for friendship, kindness, compassion and love, and incredible self-sacrifice on behalf of others. Sadly though, we also have a darker capacity for hatred, evil, greed, unforgiveness, holding grudges, and of inflicting hurt, harm and distress. Our televisions and newspapers so frequently carry stories of people's inhumanity to fellow human beings, of brutality, cruelty and worse. It is disturbing, because we can often recognise this darker side in ourselves and in others, in families, and in community. **However, there is always hope.**

Christ came to celebrate the good in human life and to deal definitively with the bad, dark and destructive side of the human soul. The journey of Holy Week, which concludes with Christ's cruel and undeserved death on a cross, is far more than a human tragedy. Through the death of Jesus, God was doing something truly amazing - he was uncompromisingly dealing with the root of human rebellion and evil and paying the dreadful price that turning our backs on God deserves - His life in exchange for ours.

But why, do we ask, did God have to go to this extreme measure? The answer is simply love. Gods' love for you and for me, and for the whole of creation. He longs to restore us to the privilege of being children of God and beings made in the image of God. From Christ's amazing sacrifice flow the realities of forgiveness, peace, transformation and new life. Evil and death are conquered. Easter guarantees that goodness, hope and life are victorious and resurrection is assured.

Everyone is welcome to join with us in celebrating the journey of Holy Week and the joy of Easter. Please see the advert in this Chronicle for times and further details. **I hope that you, your family and friends have a truly Happy Easter!**

God Bless

Rebecca

(MORE) ALL AROUND

Drayton TWINNING Group

As we wrote last month, it's been a quiet period, with a number of us planning our July trip to Lesparre. As a result of the talk we gave last month we have had another six people showing interest in our trip, July 21st to 26th. **There is still room for more** so please feel free to enquire; it would of course be an excellent opportunity for youngsters to practise their French in friendly surroundings.

It may well be that this issue of the Chronicle will be distributed just before the **Lime Close Open Garden Day** on Sunday Feb 28th, (afternoon) where we plan to be providing tea and cake. **Come and say hello.**

On Tuesday April 19th we shall be holding our **AGM at the Caudwell Day Centre** from around 7:30 pm. You are invited to join us. Anyone interested (or with queries) can get in touch:- Michael Bell (01235 531388), Stephen Fearnley (01235 531347) or Bob Matthews (01235 531204).

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Drayton BOWLS Club 'Roll Up'

A bigger report next time, though I can say that we've won the League! **We are looking for new members**, and if there is anyone who'd like to give it a try, club sessions are Monday and Thursday afternoons, from 2pm, and Weds evenings from 7pm.

Tea, cake, bikkies and a natter (oh, bowls too!), a good crowd, low subs, and a **warm welcome awaits**, what's not to like?!

We look forward to seeing you.

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St Peter's Drayton

Easter 2016



PALM SUNDAY - Sunday 20th March
8am Holy Communion
10am Dramatic Reading of the Passion Story

Messy Church Sunday 20th March 3:30pm - 5pm
at Drayton School

MAUNDY THURSDAY - Thursday 24th March
9:30am Holy Communion
7:30pm Foot/hand washing and Holy Communion

GOOD FRIDAY - Friday 25th March
10am Ecumenical Service: Donkey procession from the Baptist church, round the village, to St Peter's church.
Followed by hot cross buns in Church room.
2pm - 3pm Meditation on the Cross, Church room.

EASTER DAY - Sunday 27th March
8am Holy Communion
10am Family Communion, then Easter Egg Hunt

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

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

Please note:- there is no longer an 11.15am Service.

Family worship can now be enjoyed at Drayton School (first Sunday of the month, 3 - 4.30pm)

6.00 pm **Evening Service.** A traditional form of service, frequently with guest speakers.
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WESTMINSTER VIEW

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

I mentioned last month that one of the highlights for 2016 will be the celebrations for HM The Queens 90th Birthday. A fantastic initiative to help clean up the country for these celebrations is the 'Clean for The Queen' weekend. This project aims to inspire a million people to take action and enjoy a few hours together litter picking and making the areas we live in more beautiful. If you know of any individuals or organisations that could help with the events that are taking place between March 4th & 6th please contact www.cleanforthequeen.co.uk

It always gives me great pleasure when I come across ways to encourage and inspire young people. BAFTA are looking for entries to its **2016 Young Games Designer's competition**, which gives young people a chance to make and design their own game. The winners will be announced at a special awards ceremony in July, attended by stars of the gaming world. If you or, anyone you know, **is keen on gaming**, then entries are now open at www.bafta.org/vgd

Another scheme aimed specifically at **young people** is being offered by GLL who operate most of the Leisure Centres in the constituency. They are giving out grants of up to £1,250 to help young sports stars with their development. GLL are inviting new applicants from young people under the age of 21, any individual can apply and any sports club or community group with members that could take advantage of this grant can find the details at www.gllsportsfoundation.org/

This month my mailbag has been dominated by emails and letters about food waste, in particular on UK farms. I know that my ministerial colleagues have been working with charities on how best to prevent this, with one option being to encourage retailers to agree in advance to purchase the whole crop from a specific farm or field, then decide how each vegetable is used based on their size and appearance. This would help ensure vegetables aren't wasted just because they look unusual. The Government also continues to work closely with industry to help forge closer links with redistribution charities across the whole supply chain. It's simply wrong that anyone should go hungry at the same time as surplus food is going to waste.

Other matters that have been raised include issues around the use of wild animals in circuses, and the BBC's Charter Review period.

Please do contact me if you have any pressing issues that you'd like help with. Either myself or one of my fantastic team will get back to you as soon as possible and do what we can to assist.

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 dicksonce@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 aptt).

Neighbourhood Plan - Explained

(Continued from page 1) . . The Manor Farm site has had planning permission since the late 1990s, but the present plans will deliver what the earlier site layout could not, **namely a new village green**. Similarly, on the Barrow Rd site, we have secured an unusually generous provision of **public open space and new playing fields**, facilities Drayton has been trying to obtain for the last 30 years.

So, to the letter-writers, it is absolutely your prerogative to vote against the Neighbourhood Plan if you want to. But don't imagine for a moment that if a majority of the village had done the same, it would have prevented development in Drayton. In fact, it would have done the exact opposite. Not only would the three allocated sites have been built on, it would be open season on every other site in the village. If you don't believe this, just look around at **what is happening in Sutton Courtenay, Steventon, Marcham, and practically every other surrounding village**.

The letter writers are scathing about Drayton 2020's traffic calming plan. They say it is 'frankly a joke'. For the record, the Parish Council has no statutory responsibility for roads or public transport. It can and does lobby OCC (who **are** responsible for local roads) for network improvements, for more cycle paths and better public transport, but it has neither the powers nor the resources to do anything directly about strategic infrastructure. In short, the PC does not expect its traffic scheme to resolve the problems of increased traffic on an already overcrowded road network, it was never intended to. Its purpose is quite different. We cannot in the short term reduce the volume of traffic through the village, but we can 'manage' the flow by means of chicanes, different coloured road surfaces and the like, and create a more attractive and safer environment for pedestrians, with additional and better crossing points. This is the scheme's only objective,

Major infrastructure, e.g. trunk roads like the A34, is the responsibility of the Highways Agency (now Highways England) which is funded by central government. The Parish Council is as concerned as everyone else about the traffic problems in Drayton, but if readers wish to tackle these problems constructively, then the best way is to address your views to the place they will do most good. So **lobby** Ed Vaizey (MP), David Cameron (as an Oxfordshire MP) and the Leader of the Council at OCC, among others. It is the politicians who ultimately control the purse strings and have the ability to bring about change, but in the present climate of austerity, we are all having to modify our expectations.

Finally, planning documents are not everyone's cup of tea – unsurprisingly. But if anyone wants to understand better how the Neighbourhood Plan came about, you will find a detailed account, plus information on the site selection process, in the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) which accompanied the main Plan document. The SA runs to 100 pages, but fear not – Section 2 (approx 10 pages) contains all you need. It's at the village website, Drayton 2020 tab, then Submission Copy and scroll down. **Richard Williams**

(Drayton PC – chair / and Drayton 2020)

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GARD Update

There was an alarmist headline on some of the local newspapers which stated "Reservoir is Inevitable". This conclusion clearly originated from a Thames Water briefing given to a specialist water resources panel of the Institution of Civil Engineers which was then reflected in their conclusions. I have written to the President of the Institution (of which I am a fellow), backed up by our two water resources experts who are also fellows, challenging the statement and pointing out the inaccuracies of the panel's conclusions. It appears that the panel had not cleared the text properly with the Institution. We look forward to an explanation.

GARD continues to hold Thames Water to account, and is pressing hard to ensure that the alternatives to a reservoir are properly investigated in the next 2 years before a decision has to be made on the major water resource with which the Company seeks to meet London's water demand over the next 25 years.

Nick Thompson (Hon Chairman)



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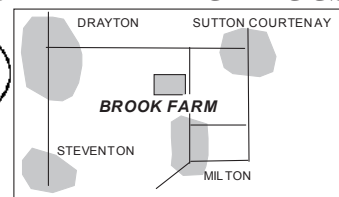


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YOUR LETTERS

Momentous Landmark Decision for Drayton

Dear Sir, via email

I just wanted to make everyone in the village aware of the **amazing presentation** our Parish Council Chairman, (Richard Williams), and the Chairman of the Drayton 2020 Implementation Committee, (Tom Shebbeare), gave the other week on our behalf. The occasion was the VWHDC Planning Committee meeting in Wantage at The Beacon (Jan 27th, 6.30pm).

The procedure, for those of us who aren't aware of the protocol, is for the developer of a certain site (in this case Halls Close) to give his reasons why the land should be developed, defended by two people from the village concerned who may speak for three minutes each, to give reasons why it can't. This was our **Neighbourhood Plan swinging into action**, and being used for the first time to combat any development which was too late to be included.

I can say that our two speakers were erudite, passionate and entirely persuasive in their delivery of a very difficult summary of such a complex subject in an extremely short time. Rather than gabble incoherently in order to get all their arguments across, as was the case for some long suffering speakers from other parishes, they relied on clear and persuasive and I must say professional delivery to get their points across, leaving the all the other speakers completely in the shade. "Defy our Neighbourhood Plan at your cost" challenged Tom. "If we are defeated we will take this further, to the Minister of State" said Richard.

Both Stuart Davenport and Catherine Webber who are in the Planning Committee also argued fiercely and persuasively on our behalf in the following public debate between the Councillors after our champions had thrown down the gauntlet. They also expressed the view that this was a test case, too important to be decided at district level, and that if need be, it should go all the way to the Secretary of State and High Court.

We rested our case, it was debated and we won! The motion to refuse the application was nine for, none against and two abstentions. It was an extremely emotional moment for all of us and I for one was proud to have such spokesmen speaking on our behalf.

If any of you would like to see the minutes on line, the link is: <http://democratic.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=102&Mid=2085&Ver=4>

You who helped us put together our Neighbourhood Plan should know that **all the time and effort was worth it**. Thank you for supporting us and thank you those who spoke for the village on that Wednesday. **We are lucky to have them**.

Pervin Shahin (Parish Council, & Drayton 2020 Group)

(the extra notes to this letter are in column 2, at the foot →>)

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Monster Race – I Need YOUR Support

Dear Editor via email

I am running a 5km obstacle race – in April - to raise funds for SpecialEffect because of the fantastic work they do to improve lives. Special Effect put fun and inclusion back into the lives of people with physical disabilities by helping them to play video games.

By using technology ranging from modified joypads to eye-control, we're finding a way for people to play to the very best of their abilities.

But we're not just doing it for fun. By levelling the playing field, we're bringing families and friends together and having a profoundly positive impact on therapy, confidence and their rehabilitation.

Please sponsor me by visiting my 'JustGiving' page, it's:- www.justgiving.com/MatthewBarberMonsterRace/ or... you can simply text MONS65 £5/£10 to 70070 to sponsor me today.

Thank You.

Matthew Barber (leader VWHDC)



Letters to the Editor

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

→> **PS1:-** I should add that the Battle of Halls Close is not yet won and there are more stages to come, but we owe it entirely to the Neighbourhood Plan that we are still in the fight. As one councillor put it, without the Plan, this application would have sailed through. The fact it was not an allocated site in the Plan is the only reason it was refused.

PS2:- I would also like to point out to those who might have misunderstood the object of the Drayton Neighbourhood Plan, that almost every town and village in the country has been obliged to accept the building of new homes in order to comply with so-called Strategic Market Assessment figures. The question has been HOW MANY and where.

We complied with the figures presented to us by the Vale of the White Horse, and in so doing were able to have our Neighbourhood Plan accepted as a legal document.

Other communities, such as Eastleigh in Hampshire were less wisely advised, as they opposed building per se, and didn't comply with locally set targets for their area. Their plan was thrown out. It has been a delicate balance between acceptance of the inevitable, and fighting for a fair and advantageous development which will aid the whole community. We have been very fortunate.

MORE LETTERS

DRAYTON YOUTH CENTRE CHARITY

Dear Editor, via email

Applications are invited from any Youth Organisation in Drayton who would like to apply for financial assistance from the above charity.

To request an application form, please send an email, to karen.tinson1@ntlworld.com or telephone 01235 531596.

Applications must be received by 31st March 2016, and all the applications will be considered at the Charity's meeting to be held in April (date to be confirmed).

Thank You Karen Tinson



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Steventon CC – fancy a game?

Dear Editor, via email

Now Christmas is over, why not think about working off a few pounds and making that New Year resolution to do some exercise in 2016 come true! Steventon CC's indoor nets will continue throughout March. Steventon has a successful and friendly Cricket Club, we welcome new players of all abilities; if you are interested please email: mike@diemgrowth.com or call 07929 043733.

Please do come along - we welcome everyone.

Kind Regards Mike Day

Volunteer Help Needed – Riding for Disabled

Dear Editor, via email

We (the Wantage group of the Riding for Disabled Association) operate on Tuesday and Thursday mornings during the school term, at the Blewbury Riding Centre.

We could do with more help from volunteers, though please note that horse experience is NOT necessary.

If you are interested, please call me on 01235 553574.

Regards, Pauline Taylor

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Come on Councils – Let's Get Moving!

Dear Editor, via email

For months I have been reading Richard Webber's reports on how finances are shared between the District and County Councils and thinking that it would not be rocket science and probably more efficient and definitely cost saving for the two departments to amalgamate.

So I was delighted to read Richard's comments in the December issue. I understand that turkeys aren't going to vote for Christmas but as taxpayers can't we do something about it?

Come on Mr Webber, lead the way!!

Thank you, Shirley Thomas

(Ed:- Readers may also see the Richard Webber & Stuart Davenport pieces in this issue, which both touch on this topic)

Players Resurrected

Dear Editor, Halls Close

What a delight it is to have the **Drayton Players** back in business! The choice of 'Busy Body' by Jack Popplewell for their first play for some time was truly inspired; a ridiculous, brilliant, unbelievable yet hilariously-funny comedy whodunnit.

The usual suspects were on stage in the village hall of course, with **Anton King** as Richard Marshall apparently rising from the dead, **Mirja Boyd** as his wife having affairs with nearly everyone and **Mike Davies** as the apparently innocuous but inherently evil Robert Westerby. **David Fardon** as the flu-ridden Superintendent 'arry' Baxter is new to the Players and did an excellent job, especially in Act 2 when he was even more convincing.

But if they were the stars, then **Jayne Henderson** as Mrs Piper, the real busy body, was a superstar. She was absolutely fabulous and I don't think Julie Walters could have done it better. Accent, emphasis, facial expression, gestures were all perfect for the part and Jayne turned a good show into a really memorable one.

Jean Hager as prompter had some work to do, but that almost made it more enjoyable; village entertainment at its very best! **We're so lucky to have them based in Drayton.**

Yours sincerely Derek Pooley

Richard Webber - Oxon CC

We all knew the day (**OCC BUDGET!**) was going to be challenging! *Speeches prepared, dozens of appeals via email and letter to save this....demand that....battle lines drawn up for County Council Budget Day 16th February.....those with most years of experience all agreed this is the most difficult and the most contentious budget in living memory....dire warnings from security staff of the predicted mood of protesters outside County Hall... all aware that the budget on the table was rejected by most Oxfordshire residents, largely inflicted on Local Government by Westminster...the parlous state of the OCC finances...the legal demand to pass a balanced budget - with more dire threats of the consequences if a budget was not passed.*

It was going to be a long day – and might well go on overnight! A freezing morning may have curbed some of the anger in the large crowd of protesters, but the speakers were indeed loud and vocal. And there were some unexpected voices behind the protest – including assorted members of the Cameron family.

No closing of Children's Centres! No withdrawal of Bus Subsidies! Save the Health and Well Being Centres! Reinstate the support for all the wonderful voluntary bodies working with any number of social and health issues!

The press were having a field day. If you can't sell newspapers in this atmosphere, there's absolutely no future for them!

2 hours of listening to petitions and hear heart-rending appeals from representatives... you need a heart of stone not to be moved. Here we go... gallery packed... three large overspill rooms with tele-feed.... →



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Debate-time *Last minute defections from the ruling administration.... desperate looks on faces....a suggestion that Party Leaders should go into a room (smoke-filled?) to try to hammer out some sort of deal incorporating at least something of what everyone wanted.. and we still need to get a balanced budget at the end of it. ...was it possible?*

Councillors ordered by the Chairman to retire to party rooms to await the outcome of party leaders' discussions. High drama and a bit surreal.

Party Leaders backwards and forwards to bring back a possible emerging deal to present to their parties...a growing sense that maybe something would be possible after all... the Labour amendments (a brave attempt to reduce some of the pain, a short term sticking plaster maybe) but they might give us a little more time for a long term solution...the Lib Dem proposal to consult on Unitary government for Oxfordshire was a possible long term solution....Eureka!..... very little that could not be agreed!

Two hours later, a written proposal agreed by finance and legal officers, and at last a substantive motion to debate. Eureka again!

A comfortable majority could sign up. *Two more hours of debate and yes, this was going to work.... Two votes, one on the amended budget (60 to 2)... the second on the firm commitment to go for unitary government (59 to 3).... And its only 5 o'clock!...*

A temporary solution maybe, but it gives us time to get a long term solution. A triumph for local democracy and, an achievement of which we can all be proud. Now, we have to deliver....

If you have feelings on any County issues you would like me to hear, **please contact me** on Richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or 01235 534001.
Richard Webber (Cllr OCC)

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HO hears what children, young people and adults have to say about health and social care services, whether that is praise, criticism or ideas for improvement. We strengthen the collective voice of patients and the public, so that service providers and commissioners listen to what they have to say. We then hold them to account on how they use the information we provide to shape, inform and influence service delivery and design.

In order to ensure that we have the best possible evidence and the widest possible views to influence the delivery and design of health and social care services, **we need as many people as possible** to speak out about their experiences, so that we can speak on their behalf. We're independent, and accountable to the people of Oxfordshire, **so please tell us** how you would like to be treated and cared for, and what is important to you when using health and social care services, and we can make a difference together.

To find out more about Healthwatch Oxfordshire, please visit our website, www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk; contact us on 01865 520 520 or email hello@healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk

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District Council Stuart Davenport

As the Government seeks to balance the national books to eliminate the deficit, councils have been asked to reduce their expenditure. Although this is never an easy task, it's clearly an important part of the country living within its means.

As local authorities face reduced funding it has been necessary to look at creative ideas for improving efficiency. Oxfordshire County Council has agreed to investigate the prospect for Oxfordshire adopting what is called 'unitary status'. Unitary status would involve the **merger** of the County council with the five district councils in Oxfordshire.

Clearly six councils becoming one would have significant efficiency savings in the long term. How much could be saved is unclear, but there would be significant removal of administrative duplication. There would also be the prospect of capital receipts as the need for buildings to house six separate council headquarters is reduced.

Overall, in theory, I am supportive of plans to investigate the details of a move towards unitary status. However, we must ensure that as part of the negotiations planning decisions are still taken locally, by officers and councillors who are familiar with area. There are also other decisions which must remain the preserve of immediately local representatives.

As for councillors, clearly it would make sense to have a single point of contact for your representative on council matters. This said, unitary status would see fewer councillors serving larger wards/divisions, and this could pave the way for professional councillors. I do not approve of this idea and we must ensure that becoming a local councillor does not become a career in itself - this was never how the role was intended.

My final thought on the prospect for a unitary council is this:- **any decision must be ratified by a referendum**. This would take the final say away from councillors and put power in the hands of those who would be affected by any change.

I am always available to discuss council issues; please email Stuart.Davenport@whitehorsedc.gov.uk or call 01235 521078.

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Another Scam to beware

Fraudsters are sending out virus-infected emails that claim a package has been seized by HM Revenue & Customs upon arrival into the United Kingdom. The official looking scam emails claiming to be from Royal Mail contain a link to a document which will install malicious software on your computer, designed to steal data like account names, email addresses and passwords.

An example email reads:- Title: Your parcel has been seized
Royal Mail is sorry to inform you that a package addressed to you was seized by HM Revenue & Customs upon arrival into the UK. A close inspection deemed your items as counterfeit and the manufacturers have been notified. If your items are declared genuine then they will be returned back to you with the appropriate custom charges. You may have been a victim of counterfeit merchandise and the RM Group UK will notify you on how to get your money back. Please review the attached PDF document (RM7002137GB.Zip) for more information. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused.

To help the spread of the virus, the email also says: "you will need to have access to a computer to download and open the Zip file". If you receive one of these emails, do NOT click on any links or download any attachments and DO report it to Action Fraud.

There follows a handy reminder about yet another scam doing the rounds, courier fraud.

If you, or anyone you know, have been affected by this fraud or any other scam please **report it to Action Fraud** by calling 0300 123 2040 or visit the website at <http://www.actionfraud.police.uk>.

Contact NAG5 by calling 01235 848694 or e-mail neighbourhoodactiongroup5@hotmail.com

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No full Parish Council report this time (next meeting Monday March 7th, Caudwell Day Centre (7.30)); To contact any members of the PC, all enquiries should be directed to the **Parish Clerk, David Perrow**. David may be contacted via email at draytonclerk@yahoo.co.uk, or by phone on 07909 176061. 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 (new) village website: <http://www.draytonvillage.co.uk/> (also has back copies of the Drayton Chronicle), info re Drayton 2020 Implementation Committee, and details of other village events.



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- To make a phone call straight after you've hung up, **ALWAYS** use a different phone



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ALERT



PLANNING PROBLEMS

Kindness and tolerance can bite back As a member of the Vale Planning Committee, I thought a little known enforcement rule should be brought to your attention. It involves the use of land. There is the four year rule whereby if a person builds a house or domestic building on a piece of land and its authenticity is not challenged in four years, then it becomes his right to leave the building there. Recently, a case in Boars Hill came to our attention where a complete house was built without planning permission, and as nobody had brought this to the Vales' attention in four years, there was nothing that could be done about it.

Similarly, there is a ten year rule whereby if the use of a piece of public land is changed and is used in this way for ten years without challenge, then that person has the right to continue using that land and in time can claim it as his or hers. This is known as the Law of Adverse Possession. There is a case in this village where a large box trailer has been parked on a piece of unclaimed land for more than ten years, and now nobody can do anything about removing it, as through kindness, tolerance or the wish not to interfere, it was not brought to the Vales' attention.

So, be warned! The lesson for all of us is to be observant. If you are aware of any similar cases, it is important to bring it to the authorities' attention immediately, even if it involves a neighbour or friend.

Catherine Webber (Marcham District Councillor)



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TV INTERFERENCE IN DRAYTON

Some Chronicle readers may recently have suffered interference with their TV reception; we certainly have. The cause is the increasing use of some radio frequencies which were previously reserved for TV for the new 'generation 4' mobile phones. The culprit frequencies are around 800Mhz, which is close enough to those used for our television signals from the Beckley transmitter north of Oxford to cause us trouble if we are also close enough to one of the mobile-phone transmitters that ring Drayton and some of our TV equipment is not up-to-date.

Fortunately the solution is straightforward. If you have a TV aerial directly feeding just one television set you can buy a '4G interference filter' from B & Q or Amazon and insert it between the aerial and the set; the filters cost around £5 to £10. If you have a booster amplifier between the aerial and your set, or if you have a distribution amplifier to send the aerial signal to different rooms in your house, the filter must be fitted between the aerial and these boxes. Or you can buy a new distribution amplifier, from Screwfix for example, for about £30 to £40. If you decide to use the problem as an excuse to up-grade the TV itself, the necessary filter will almost certainly be built into the new set, but check with the supplier before buying to make sure it is.

Non-technical people can, in principle, get help from 'at800', a help organisation set up by the mobile phone companies, by calling 0808 13 13 800. But it may be simpler to ask for help from Drayton Television Services on 531451! **Derek Pooley**

#####

ENGLISH – The Joys & Perils?!

We hear a lot from politicians, and we'll hear more for several months re the EU referendum. Recently an MP sent out the following text to his constituents (similar to the bulletins we have from Ed Vaizey):- "Thanks to all the constituents who've raised concerns about the 19B & 157 bus services, threatened by cuts. After prolonged discussions with the company, we're delighted to be able to tell you that these buses are going nowhere"

And in a paper ad for a chiropodist, "Come and see us for help with bunions, corns and verrucas, a foot massage or exfoliation, or just have your toenail clippings done over a nice cup of tea"

(With thanks to 'The News Quiz' – BBC Radio4)

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 2.30pm to 4:00pm (NB **NEW start time!**) 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 March 1st & April 5th.

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) Stuart Davenport (01235 521078)
& **Oxfordshire County** richard.webber77@ntlworld.com

DRAYTON HALL NEWS

Well done to the Players for their successful return with 'BusyBody', director Deidre Jones should be having a deserved lie-down (she told me) but as usual has other projects on the go. The Oxfordshire Drama Network (Deidre & Mike Davis) has its AGM at the hall in April.

As I hinted last time, anybody who can suggest how to get the car-park repaired without spending the many thousands we've been quoted, please do get in touch!

A couple of **new groups**, Home Education (mums and small children), Tues mornings & alt Fridays, & 'Bounce-fit' (Monday evenings). We also may soon have a 'Tai Chi' class, and a further exercise class (dance oriented, Tues evenings if they come).

Our 4-hour slots for children's parties are **very popular**, so don't leave booking yours too late – Sats, Suns, even perhaps a late Friday afternoon/early evening if that suits.

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 (a number of their group travel a fair distance, so it must be good!).

Now, Ladies, the **Bra Bank** should be back in place soon, after a short hiatus due to problems at the recycling centre used by the relevant local charity.

Ann Webb is back home now after her accident, and resulting stay in the JR – we wish her well for a continuing recovery. On a similar theme committee member **Fred Stevens** is I gather on the mend after breaking a couple of ribs, and **Gary Hibbins'** young daughter is apparently recovering well from a meningitis scare.

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LISTINGS

Oxford Art Society - from Sat March 19th to April 17th (not Mondays), at the Oxfordshire Museum (Woodstock), the OAS annual Members' Exhibition will be showing and selling work by artists living and working in and around Oxford. This selected exhibition (**free**) features elected Members' work by Painters, Sculptors and Print Makers (to celebrate 125 years of the Society).

Barn Sale & Dog Show April 3rd, 10am to noon, at the National Animal Welfare Centre, Trindledown Farm, Wantage Road, Great Shefford, Berkshire, RG17 7DQ. Come and grab a bargain at our Barn Sale! Items include clothes, books, DVDs, bric-a-brac, small furniture, children's toys, kitchenware. All money raised goes directly to care for the rescue animals.

We will also be running a dog show on the day which is open to every dog, Pedigree classes are £2 per class; Novelty classes include fastest biscuit eater(!), waggiest tail, best crossbreed, most handsome dog and prettiest bitch, with entry fee £1.50 per class. Rosettes and prizes in all classes for 1st to 5th place.

Golden Hello - £3500 (Oxfordshire County Council) see the OCC website www.oxfordshire.gov.uk :- they're offering a Golden Hello payment of £3,500 throughout 2016 to experienced Children's Social Workers (OCC = 01865 792422).

Earth Trust Lambing Weekends, March 12/13th, & 19/20th, 11am-4pm; this year there's to be even more to see and do on the Earth Trust farm! As well as the ewes and their lambs, there'll be pigs, piglets, goats and more, plus bale climbing and craft activities. Refreshments available. £6 adult, £3 child, £15 family, (free for Earth Trust Friends), Little Wittenham, 01865 409406

Cornerstone (Didcot) On offer through Easter & the school holidays is a wide variety of family and children's workshops to keep all ages engaged and inspired; full listings & online booking are available at website www.cornerstone-arts.org. For little ones, do see **The Curious Adventures of Pinocchio**, brought to Cornerstone by Lyngo Theatre on Thurs 31 March (2pm), follows Pinocchio on his quest to find his father and to become a human boy. A beautiful set, with lovely puppet characters and delightful music. Tickets can also be purchased in person or by telephone from the Box Office on 01235 515144. Open Tuesday to Saturday 10am-6pm, Sunday 11am-4pm. Closed Monday.

FOSTER CARERS NEEDED

Could you foster? We need short term and long term foster carers as well as carers who can just help out for weekends and school holidays for children of all ages from babies to teenagers.

Foster carers receive a comprehensive training and support package along with financial support. We need a diverse range of people with different skills and qualities to come forward so that more children are placed in the right home, first time.

Log on to www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/fostering to find out more details, or call 0800 7835724. They have an **upcoming information evening**, Wednesday March 16th, at County Hall, Oxford (6.30pm to 8) for a chance to chat to the fostering team personally (ie our recruitment team, social workers and experienced foster carers). **Why not come along, you just might be able to make a difference to someone's life?**

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.

DRAYTON DIARIES

DIARY FOR MARCH

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	5	9.30am	Private Function	
		5.00pm	Private Function	
Mon	7	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	<i>Caudwell DC</i>
Sat	12	2.00pm	Private Function	
Mon	14	5.00pm	Chronicle Deadline (p2) – Ads 11th	
Sun	20	9.00am	Bowls Club (to 5pm)	
Fri	25	1.00pm	Private Function	
Sat	26	9.00am	Dog Show (Lapphounds)	
Mon	28	9.00am	Dog Show (Elkhounds)	



Monday - Friday 7.30 - 5.00

Saturday 10.00 - 4.00

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REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

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

MONDAYS

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
1.15 pm	Baby sign-language classes (1 hr – 07927 339102)	
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
6.00 pm	'Bounce Fit' (1hr - Sophie 07791 778388)	
7.15 pm	Drayton Wives Whist (3rd Monday)	<i>Caudwell DC</i>
7.00 pm	Table Tennis (Coaching, one hour)	<i>School</i>
8.00 pm	Table Tennis (Social Play, one hour)	<i>School</i>
7.30 pm	Badminton (Private Group)	
7.45 pm	Bell-ringing (for 1½ hours)	<i>St Peter's</i>

TUESDAYS

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
11.00 am	Home Education Group (weekly – 2 hours)	
1.45 pm	Drayton Art Group (until 4 pm)	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
2.20 pm	Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)	<i>The Green</i>
2.30 pm	First Tuesday Connections (1st Tuesday)	<i>Church Room</i>
5.45 pm	Zumba Fitness (Kelly)	
7.00 pm	League Table Tennis (three hours)	<i>School</i>

WEDNESDAYS

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
10.00 am	Pebbles (Baby, Toddler, Carer gp – p4)	<i>Church Room</i>
2.00 pm	Drayton Wives (Last Wednesday in the month)	
2.15 pm	Badminton	
6.15 pm	Brownies	
7.00 pm	League Table Tennis (three hours)	<i>School</i>
7.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
7.30 pm	Bingo Session	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>

THURSDAYS

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
9.00 am	Foot Clinic (1st Thurs)	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
9.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>St Peter's Lady Chapel</i>
9.30 am	Parent & Toddler Group (NB Term-time ONLY)	
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
2.00 pm	Wives' Whist (Mthly – 2nd Thurs)	<i>Caudwell DC</i>
5.00 pm	Rainbows (girls 5 to 7 years, call Mary 832077)	
7.00 pm	League Table Tennis (three hours)	<i>School</i>
7.30 pm	Women's Institute Meeting (2nd Thurs)	<i>Caudwell DC</i>
7.30 pm	Sequence Dancing (01235 531701)	

FRIDAYS

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>Sch'l Ground Bldg</i>
11.00 am	Home Education Group (fortnightly – 4 hours)	
11.00 am	The Friday Club (fortnightly) 202466	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
7.00 pm	Whist Drive (ACHLoFriends)	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>

SUNDAYS

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

NB :- The ARCHIVE of past Chronicles can be found at the NEW village website <http://www.draytonvillage.co.uk/>

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