

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Derek Pooley

Volume 39, No.11

December 2016

TWO VILLAGERS TO Sian Middleton



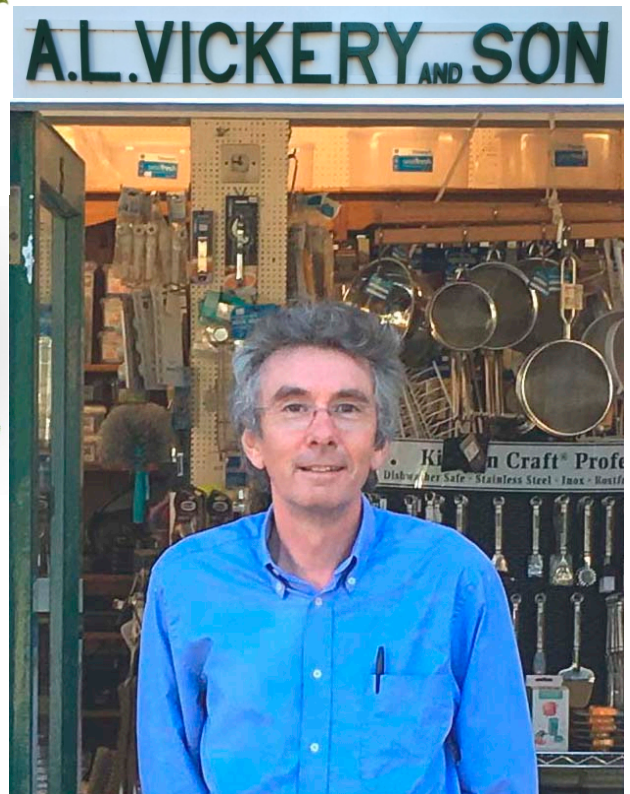
Sian has just been awarded a Vale of White Horse 2016 'Community' Award, for her massive contribution to the education of Drayton's children over the last 25+ years. Head Teacher, Marc Knight, said of Sian, who retired very recently, that *'her enthusiasm, sense of humour and determination to provide the very best for every child in her class will be missed by everyone at Drayton School'*. The Chronicle team is delighted to add its congratulations and thanks to Sian, who was presented with the community award certificate at a lunch ceremony in Wantage on 28th November.



BE GRATEFUL FOR Laurence Vickery

Laurence's hardware shop is seen by many as the central hub of our village and he too received a Vale community award a few years back. But his decision to launch his first ever advertising campaign (see page 14) gives the Chronicle team an opportunity to say thank you to Laurence for all he does for the Chronicle. He keeps our 'Chronicle post box' for contributions and cheques, he acts as 'flexible agent' by keeping spare copies of the latest issue, he provides our team's postal address and is a centre for the lottery which is so important to us.

Thank you Laurence from all at the Chronicle



Editor's Note: Because of his unstinting help and support for the Chronicle over many years we have agreed to include one of Laurence's new 'flyers' with this issue, something we routinely refuse because of the extra work it gives our team of volunteers.

Candlelight Carol Service

Drayton Hall at 7.30pm
Sunday 4th December

Music by Abingdon Town Band,
Wallingford Hand-Bell Ringers
Drayton School Children and
Drayton Community Choir
Also readings and other items.
Come and join us!!

Free admission Mince pies, tea & coffee
Collection for Action for Children



MERRY CHRISTMAS

To all our readers
From the Chronicle team



Also in this issue:

- P6: School Christmas plays are coming
- P7: Tales of owls and judges
- P8: Fighting for the Neighbourhood Plan
- P10: Keeping safe when nights are dark

- p11: Lobbying for a better A34
- P12: Making the best of Brexit
- P14: I told you they had it at Vickery's
- P14: Rejuvenating the Local history Society



CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The next **Chronicle** will be the **Jan/Feb 2017** issue:
 Editor: **Tony Holmes, 53 Whitehorns Way (531180).**
 Deadline for advertisements: **17.00 on Friday, 13 January 2017**
 Deadline for other contributions: **17.00 on Monday, 16 January**
 Printed copies available: **Friday, 27 January 2017**

Key dates for the subsequent two Chronicles:

Issue for	Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available on:
March	13 February 2017	24 February 2017
April	20 March 2017	31 March 2017



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CHRONICLE LOTTERY



Carol Arnold, Promoter



RESULTS OF THE NOVEMBER LOTTERY

CASH

Prize	Winner	Agent
£25	S. Wilson, Pewit Farm	Claire Soper
£20	Mr P & Mrs C Carter, Windrush	Susan Brooks
£15	J Gould, 16 Steventon Road	Judy Henman
£10	Mr & Mrs Johnson, 10 Corneville Road	Ruth Hudson/ Val Mann-Gladwin
£10	B Richards, 2 Chiers Farm	Doreen Mason
£10	Mrs P Taylor, 22 High Street	Ali Bone
£10	Mrs D Caudwell, The Manor	Doreen Mason
£10	Mrs Sellers, 33 Lockway	Christine Sadler
£10	Mr Law, Sutton Wick Farm House	Keith Clough
£10	Mrs H Craig, 59 Steventon Road	Janet Dale

WINE

Prize	Winner	Agent
1st	T Scaysbrook, 10 Lockway	Sue Ash
2nd	M Lowy, 39 Steventon Road	Tamsin Meredith
3rd	Mrs Hamilton, Sutton Wick Barn	Keith Clough
4th	Caroline White, 2A Eastway	Teresa Burnage
5th	D Cruxon, 10 Binning Close	Cathy Norris
6th	Jill Gimigliano, 28 Steventon Road	Judy Henman
7th	Mr & Mrs Lucas, Sutton Wick Lane	Julie Brown
8th	Mrs M Bradshaw, 14 Lockway	Sue Ash
9th	Mr I Bruce-Ried, 55 High Street	Michelle Ainsclough
10th	P Silver, 51 Abingdon Road	Jayne Henderson

CHOCOLATES

Prize	Winner	Agent
1st	J Woolley, 79 Abingdon Road	Jayne Henderson
2nd	I Oram, 6 Eastway Park	Teresa Burnage
3rd	J Gould, 16 Steventon Road	Judy Henman
4th	Mrs West, 37 Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
5th	Mr Patel, Chestnut Drive	Colin & Carol Arnold
6th	Val Mann-Gladwin, 14 Cornville Road	Ruth Hudson / Val Mann-Gladwin
7th	T & M Brown, 65 Abingdon Road	Jayne Henderson
8th	Mrs Webb, 9 Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
9th	Berry, 77 Abingdon Road	Jayne Henderson
10th	Mark Tamburro, The Laurels	Liz Branson

The winning tickets were selected at random from 2131 tickets sold



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

YOUR LETTERS

David Bushnell

Dear Editor

Sadly, my Father passed away on the 6th November. He had lived in Whitehorns Way for nearly 40 years before moving to Wallingford and eventually to Prestbury near Cheltenham.

Dad enjoyed life in Drayton and over time was involved in the Chronicle and Parish Council. He also played the Church Organ for a while. After leaving the village, he remained a regular Chronicle reader and loved to hear all the news.

Thank you to all who have enquired as to his well-being over recent years; I am happy to say that although he has been very ill, he never lost his independence or, more importantly, his sense of humour!

Esther Deabill.

Bernice Morgan.

Dear Editor

Ruth Hudson and I are sorry to tell you that Bernice Morgan, who used to live in Corneville Road, has recently died. Many people may remember her as she taught at Drayton School and was a member of Drayton WI. She originated from the Carmarthenshire area. Her daughter Bethan moved to Carmarthen and shortly afterwards, in the Millennium year, Bernice and Wilf moved there too. Sadly, Wilf died a few years later and more recently her daughter Bethan also died. Her son-in-law Guy has since supported Bernice. Wilf and Bernice were very happy in Drayton and Bernice was always pleased to receive the Chronicle which was sent to her every month.

We shall miss her.

Gwen Price





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THE RED LION

⇒ Macmillan Cancer Support

Dear Editor

Thank you to all those who supported and helped raise funds for Macmillan at Drayton Playgroup; thanks to Jen Sawtell for helping me organise the morning. Funds were also raised by holding a pamper evening and a coffee morning. The amount raised was £306.50. Many thanks again.

Charlotte Lyford-Pitson



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 Mrs Linda Johnson527521
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REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday 8.00 am Holy Communion, currently only on the 2nd Sunday of the month
 10.00 am Sung Eucharist (CW), except the 3rd Sunday, when there is a non-Eucharistic All-age Service
 Thursday 9.15 am Holy Communion (CW) in Lady Chapel.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Mon. 7.45 pm Bell Ringing Practice *Bell Tower*
 Wed 10.00 am Pebbles (term time only) *Church Room*

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER:

Wed 7 2.30 pm First Tuesday Connections *Church Room*
(Note that this normally-Tuesday event is on Wednesday this month)
 Sun 11 10.00 am Christingle Service *Church*
 Sun 18 4.00 pm Carol Service *Church*
 Sat 24 4.00 pm Crib Service *Church*
 Sat 24 11.30 pm Midnight Mass *Church*
 Sun 25 10.00 am Family Eucharist with Carols *Church*

CHURCH REGISTER:

Baptism:

23rd October Rose Anais Cox

YOU STAY WE PRAY DECEMBER:

1st to 3rd: Hilliat Fields, Lyford Close, Manor Close, The Green; 4th to 10th: High Street, Chiers Drive, Cheers Farm, Halls Close; 11th to 24th: Lockway, Whitehorns Way; 25th to 31st: Comeville Road, Crabtree Lane, Lesparre Close



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Letter from St Peter's

The special services being held over the Christmas period are listed opposite and in the advert on page 16. At the back of church there will be paper stars, 'Stars for Remembrance'; 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. This year these stars will be hung on the Christmas tree in Church.

And looking ahead to January, there will be a special service on Sunday 22nd January at 10am. At this service we will be commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the day when Sgt Edward Mott was awarded his Victoria Cross on the Western Front in WW1. During this service a Commemorative Paving Stone will be dedicated by the Bishop of Dorchester, Colin Fletcher. Everyone is welcome to the service.

The spirit of Christmas is love. God loves us so much that He gave His Son to us. Let us celebrate His birthday!



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FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS **Jean Hager**

Please note that in December the 'First Tuesday' event will actually be on **Wednesday 07 December**. If you are feeling lonely, isolated or in need of some friendly company, why not come along to our monthly tea and chat afternoons. They are usually held on the first Tuesday of the month in St Peter's Church Room from 2.30 pm to 4:00. The teapot is always at the ready and you can be sure of a warm welcome. Our subsequent two dates are **03 January** and **07 February**. If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.



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BAPTIST CHURCH

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

SUNDAY SERVICES

3.00 pm Family Service (1st Sunday) - at Drayton School
6.00 pm Traditional Evening Service.
frequently with a guest speaker

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NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

We welcome Michel Gandra, Luciana Angonesi, Arthur Gandra and Victor Gandra who have moved into Chestnut Drive from South Abingdon.

DRAYTON VILLAGE HALL

Tony Holmes

As with I expect most halls, we are constantly battling to cover costs, so could I remind all our groups and classes to PLEASE remember to turn



off lights and heating when they go, and if they have opened a window in these chillier months, shutting it again would be good! The heating system sometimes misleads people, in that it will shut off via the thermostat when it reaches the prescribed level – BUT if you don't physically turn it off, it can burst back into life when the temperature drops again, once people have gone home, and unfortunately that heats an empty hall!

And though we have a nice new front door now, can people please remember to close it once their regular groups or classes have started – especially on a wet day!

I never had an answer when I mentioned a small lost purse a couple of months ago, it's still with me, so if you can describe it, and estimate the small amount of cash it contains, then we can return it.

You hopefully have seen a mention elsewhere (page 16) of the party on Dec 3rd (tickets via our bar manager Gary), and he promises a fun cabaret amongst other attractions.

We're in discussions with a couple more groups who could become regulars, to hopefully fill in our few remaining weekday slots, more news next time if things work out.

As usual I'd suggest to parents not to leave things too late if you're thinking of a hall birthday party for a child – shame to disappoint people (& we do have customers from other villages too, as the hall has got better known).

Lastly a further reminder:- ladies, the bra bank is back, so if you're disposing of any older apparel after Christmas, do please bear that in mind.

Oh, Christmas – yes, Best Wishes everyone, and a happy and healthy New Year to follow!

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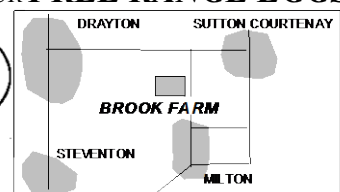


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ALL AROUND

DRAYTON SCHOOL

Marc Knight

The academic year 2016/17 has got off to a flying start!

Our Year 6 children visited Osmington Bay in late September, where they got to sample raft-building, abseiling and fencing to name but a few activities. This week-long visit is very important in terms of team-building but also in terms of encouraging independence among the children in this group, who will be moving onto secondary school next September.

This term children are studying geography topics, with a focus on comparing places. For example, Key Stage 1 children are looking at Africa and Asia, while children in KS2 are looking at India, New York City and China. This important work is supplemented with a link we have made with a school in Uganda. Children recently wrote a number of letters to the school there so we are very excited about receiving responses. After the Christmas break children will be studying history topics, with each class looking at an important figure, or 'game changer'.

We have been welcoming a number of new children into our school as more and more families move into the area. Our 2016 Key Stage 2 results were impressive, so a number of families have been touring the school, keen to see some of the work we do.

Children in our Y3/4 class have begun their weekly music lessons, when they are given the opportunity to learn the cornet, baritone or trombone. A number of Key Stage 2 children represented our school in the recent Abingdon cross country event at Tilsley Park. Everyone conducted themselves well, and I am pleased to say that Sam won the Y4 boy's event, beating over 100 other competitors. Some of our Y5 and Y6 children will be representing Drayton at the forthcoming swimming gala. Children in our Y5 will shortly begin their 'Tale Trail' project, which will involve weekly sessions alongside professionals from the Pegasus theatre in Oxford, culminating in a performance at the theatre in the spring.

We were pleased to see an excellent turnout at our harvest festival in October. We have received many messages of thanks from villagers delighted with the hampers we delivered to them.

As we head towards the festive season children are starting to learn their lines for the shows we'll be staging in the coming weeks. Our younger children will be performing at 2pm on Wednesday 6th December and at 6pm on Thursday 8th December. Children in our KS2 classes will also be giving 2 performances and they will be on Tuesday 13th December and Wednesday 14th December, both at 7pm. We hope to see lots of you there.

As ever, we are more than happy to show people the wonderful things we do in our school, so please contact our school office (531316) to arrange a tour.

TABLE TENNIS CLUB

John Gould

With Christmas approaching the Didcot League is well under way. Our 7 teams are experiencing mixed fortunes – some doing well, others not so well. Three of our teams are in Division 4. The G team is currently top of the pile having trounced its opponents in most of the ties played. With 10 'matches' in each tie - 9 singles and 1 double - they've so far won them all with the first ending 6-4 and the next 5 all being 9-1 wins. The E & F teams, also in the 4th tier, are propping up the league having found it hard since both winning promotion last season. That said, they have plenty of time to turn things around so fingers crossed.

Our other teams are all OK. The A team in Div 1 is mid table as is the C in Div 2 and the D in Div 3. All three have personnel changes that so far have worked well and justified the changes we made in the summer. That leaves the B team which is at the wrong end of Div 2 but has some matches in hand. They are an experienced team so we expect them to rise like one of Mary Berry's soufflés and consolidate.

January will see the start of Cup ties and we hope for good progress from all our sides in competitions in which we normally do very well.

Finally our annual quiz date has been agreed & will take place on Friday 24th February at the school.

HAVE A GOOD CHRISTMAS

BOWLS CLUB

Roll up

We start these notes with a reminder to members that finals day will be held on Sunday December the 11th starting at 10-30 in the morning, there will be 9 finals to be played for on the day, which will be followed by a buffet supper around 5 pm, even if you're not playing try and join us at some time during the day, there will be a Christmas raffle.

The final competition will be held on 27th November when we will be competing for the Didcot windows open singles, group winners & best runner up will go forward to play off on finals day. The John Berry fours league looks like going down to the final game before we find a winner, we will have all the winners for you in our notes in the new year.

The Wasps have made a great start in the afternoon league winning 8 of their first 9 matches and are top of the league, looking to retain the title they won last year, The Hammers are in the bottom half, and we look for an improvement in the second half of the year.

We would like to congratulate June Hyde and Jack Mitchenson on reaching the final of the county pairs competition held recently, it was a very strong field they were competing in, with county and England players taking part, so well done June and Jack. As these are the last notes before Christmas we wish all our members a happy Christmas and healthy new year.

KEEP BOWLING!

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DRAYTON WIVES

Gwen Price



Our talk in November was "An introduction to the world of owls" given by Alan Charlett.

He was an excellent speaker but the stars of the show were his three different kinds of owl. They were in special carrying cases. Each owl was brought out separately. The first owl was an eagle owl which was very big with beautiful coloured feathers; the second owl was a little owl which apparently is often seen in Drayton in the High Street area; the third owl was a well recognised barn owl. Each owl was put on a perch where they seemed to be looking at us and weighing us up with their piercing eyes. Alan told us many facts about owls. Here are a few: not all owls are nocturnal; they are silent hunters; they are good hunters and carry their food away; owls pair for life; their hearing and sight is excellent; they take sixteen weeks to grow and have a long life span. What an amazing bird an owl is.

WI

Ann Webb

We began by making final arrangements for our quiz night the next evening. Quiz results will be given next month when finalised.

Thanks to all who attended and helped, another great night. This all sorted we moved on to the main business of the evening.

We were pleased to welcome Anthony King. For those of you who don't know the name, be thankful you have not met him officially. Anton is now a retired circuit judge, and although we have had several visits from him over the years he never ceases to enthral and entertain. He began with a brief history of how he became a judge and what has to be achieved to reach this grade in law. After studying law at university he progressed through various stages until becoming a judge in 1992 and retiring in 2012. He trained for the bar under Lord Bingham and attended many very important trials during this time, namely the Christopher Evans trial in 1962 where the wrong man was hanged, and the Kray twins trial when they finally got what they deserved. He ended his long career in criminal law and family law over-seeing adoption cases. Before he ended his talk he opened several beautifully ornate tin cases and his 'big red bag' and showed us his various wigs and gowns and explained how and when they were worn. Altogether a wonderful evening!

Next month it's our Christmas Meeting:

Entertainment, good food and a present from Santa; 7.30pm in the Day Centre, on Thursday, December 8th.

More All Around on page 14 ➔

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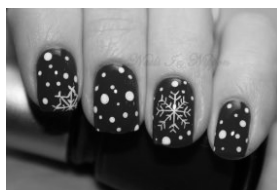
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FIGHTING FOR THE NDP

Richard Williams



Much of my recent time and attention has been taken up with trying to defend our Neighbourhood Development Plan against the additional and unwanted proposal to build up to 28 houses behind Halls Close. I have therefore left my usual report on the other business of the PC meeting on 07 November until later and concentrated my report for December on the Halls Close saga.

Halls Close Appeal - Update:

The appeal hearing for the Halls Close development took place on 31st August. After a couple of months wait, we received the Planning Inspector's Appeal Decision on 2nd November. As many of you will already know, we lost the appeal, and the Inspector ruled that Blue Cedar Homes should be granted outline planning permission for up to 28 houses on this site.

To say this decision is disappointing would be an understatement. Obviously, Drayton 2020 believes it is the wrong decision, but we might find it easier to accept if it gave at least the appearance of being arrived at fairly, or after proper and serious consideration of the issues. There are bound to be differences in judgment among individuals. Two planning inspectors (or judges) could look at the same set of facts and still come to a different opinion on what should happen. However, in this case, we believe that the Inspector's judgment is not just flawed; he gives the impression of simply not having heeded the evidence before him.

Back in January, thanks to robust representations made by Drayton 2020, the Vale Planning Committee overturned the recommendation of its own officers and voted down the Halls Close application. The Vale officers were taken by surprise, and put together their Refusal Notice in some haste. The Notice is less than a page long and in the circumstances, lacks any real detail. It recognises that the site is not one that was allocated in the Neighbourhood Plan, and makes mention of its proximity to the Drayton Conservation Area, therefore its possible detrimental effect on the setting of the Conservation Area, although it is not itself in the Area. This latter issue is not one that was raised by Drayton 2020, although at the time we welcomed any additional reason for refusing the application.

We felt, even so, that the Conservation Area was a peripheral matter, and that there were far more important issues to consider. These are set out by the Planning Inspector in the later part of his report and they include:

- the proposal would undermine local democracy and the Localism Act
- the Neighbourhood Plan allocates sufficient housing to the village to meet the Vale Local Plan housing target
- approval of the scheme could set a precedent for other development and discourage engagement with neighbourhood planning or encourage landowners and/or developers to try to by-pass the planning-making process
- the appeal site was only proposed as a potential development site very late in the Neighbourhood planning process
- the Neighbourhood Plan was widely consulted upon and supported by a large proportion of local residents in the referendum
- the density of proposed development relative to its context and that of the sites allocated in the Neighbourhood Plan
- housing development is coming forward including at the other Neighbourhood Plan allocated sites

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- *there has been/will be a decline in the housing market and there are other permitted housing schemes that have not been built*
- *in the view of the Vale Local Plan examination process, there is a five-year supply of housing land for the area.*

Although not all of the above are strictly planning reasons, they are all absolutely relevant, as the Inspector is required to take into account what the Government calls ‘the three dimensions to sustainable development’ – economic, social and environmental. Looking at other cases across the country, we find that, for example, the effects of development on local traffic have been assigned due weight when calculating the balance of the benefits afforded by a development, and its possible adverse effects. Harm to a neighbourhood plan is given significant weight in those cases where the NDP has been fully adopted, and especially where it makes provision for housing over and above the allocation in the Local Plan. Drayton is just such a case. But, having listed the above factors, the Planning Inspector proceeds to all but dismiss them.

He says (paragraph 49) that ‘the only conflict with the Neighbourhood Plan in this appeal concerns the setting of the DCA (Drayton Conservation Area)’. This is plain wrong, and the Inspector has misinterpreted two of the key policies in the Plan, which actually restrict development at the present time to the 3 allocated sites. This was explained to him at the time of the hearing, and it is in any event, common sense. What would be the point of allocating specific sites if the Plan allows development anywhere else in the village?

Unfortunately, at the hearing, the Conservation Area was the only issue that the Vale officers raised. Otherwise, they remained completely silent. Their consultant spent over an hour putting his case despite admitting that any ‘harm’ caused to views of the CA would be ‘less than substantial’. No doubt this exercise was well meaning, but it was unconvincing, time consuming, and hardly worth the effort. Tactically, it was disastrous, as it appears to have convinced the Inspector that the Vale had no stronger case to put. It was left to the representatives of Drayton 2020 to argue forcibly all the issues around local democracy, respect for the referendum etc. but apparently to no avail.

In paragraph 58, the Inspector says *‘These matters (the ones in italics above) are largely identified and considered within the Council officers’ report on the appeal development’*. He adds *‘Other than as set out above (the same list), the Council did not conclude that they would amount to reasons to justify withholding planning permission’*. This is a truly inexplicable statement, because it is exactly this list that the Council cites as reasons why planning permission should be withheld.

Paragraph 7.27 of the Vale’s statement says, *‘Overall, the council contends that significant and demonstrable harm is caused by the manner in which this proposal conflicts with the DNP (Drayton Neighbourhood Plan)’*

The paragraph concludes, *‘To allow this scheme would undermine this carefully developed growth strategy that has achieved a high level of support at referendum through allowing an unwarranted and unjustified extension to the village in a manner that should be considered less sustainable than the DNP allocations.’*

There is surely a complete contradiction between what the Vale Council’s statement says, and what the Planning Inspector appears to think it says.

I will not go into the issue of the Vale’s supposed lack of a 5 year land supply because I think it has been aired in these pages enough times already. But suffice to say, there is good evidence to suggest that the Vale does now have the required land supply, and possibly closer to 7 years than 5. But the information is not yet official, and until it is, we and other villages in the Vale, will be bedevilled by the clause in the National Planning Framework which says that, without this confirmation, all our planning policies must be deemed out of date.

This has been a long and hard fought battle. The Vale’s ⇨

performance over the Halls Close application has been nothing if not chequered. Back in January they were not even on our side. After being overturned by their own Planning Committee, they changed sides and came on board with us, but were half-hearted and ineffective at the hearing in August. In fairness though, and prior to the hearing, they did produce the very supportive written statement opposing the development from which I have quoted. It supplies the detail which could not be included in the Refusal Notice. It also references several of the recent cases from other parts of the country whose situation most resembles Drayton. Alas, the Inspector appears to have based his conclusions largely on the wording of the Notice while failing to properly take account of the written submission. His report appears to us a poor document which does not compare well with others we have seen.

We would like to have had the appeal decision recovered by the Secretary of State, but this unfortunately proved not to be possible. The option remains to take the case to the High Court, but this would be expensive, with no guarantee of success. Meanwhile, we are exploring other channels of communication and will keep you posted if we hear anything of note.

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Bridget Haffenden

Try to avoid becoming a victim of Christmas crime!

As the festive season approaches and the days shorten many homes will have gifts, and perhaps cash, in the house in preparation for Christmas. A house in complete darkness, with undrawn curtains and no car in the drive is a sure sign to an opportunist burglar that there's no-one at home.



Deter thieves by:

- Using a 24 hour segment timer (available for around £5) to switch on lights, the TV or radio to give the impression that the house is occupied.
- Keeping valuables and cash out of sight.
- Using forensic marking such as Smartwater, an ultra violet pen or similar on valuable items.
- Ensuring all doors and windows are closed and locked. If you have a uPVC door make sure you have double locked it.

If you're going away over Christmas or the New Year period:

- Cancel milk and newspaper deliveries.
- Ask a trusted friend or neighbour to close your curtains at night and open them in the morning.
- Consider leaving important documents and valuable personal items with your bank or with other family members.
- Ask a neighbour or friend to park, ad hoc, on your drive while you're away.
- Before you go away don't advertise the fact on Facebook, Twitter etc.
- Double check all external doors and windows are locked before you leave the house, and remember to set your burglar alarm if you have one.

To contact the police, call either 101 (for non-emergencies) or 999 (for emergencies).

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

LOCAL POLICE UPDATE

**PCSO Sue Haynes
and PC Keith Morton**

Recent Crime

Overnight on 21 October, number plates were stolen from a vehicles parked in The Green Sutton Courtenay. Crime number 43160295506

Overnight on 23 October a pick-up truck was stolen from a driveway on Drayton Road, Sutton Courtenay. Crime number 43160296843.

If you have any information about these crimes please call our non-emergency number 101 and quote the crime number.

Theft of tools from vehicles

Over the past month there have been reports of people having their vehicles broken into or an attempt to break in has taken place. Please ensure that you don't leave any tools in your vehicle and ensure it is secure. Think about registering and marking your tools and park in a busy and well-lit area if possible.

Crime prevention advice

As the clocks have gone back and the evenings are closing in it is a good idea to look at your home security. Lighting is very important and having a timer switch for a table lamp can light up your home even when you're not at home. Also ensure all your security lights are working and you have a good solid padlock fitted to outside buildings such as sheds and garages. If you would

like any crime reduction advice the please make contact by emailing the Abingdon Outer team using abingdonouterNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

Safe cycling

Please also think about safe cycling now the evenings are dark. Make sure you and your children and have bike lights, helmets and high visibility clothing. Even the ride home from school will be getting dark soon.

Drayton Brownie visit.

On 12 October PCSO Sue Haynes paid a visit to the Brownies at Drayton Village Hall. She spoke about her job roll and how to keep safe and will be arranging for the Brownies to pay a visit to Abingdon Police Station next year.

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DISTRICT COUNCIL Stuart Davenport

A34

The gridlock which inconvenienced the village on the first Monday of November was a stark reminder of our vulnerability to any disruption in the flow of the A34. Hours of near standstill is not an uncommon experience and will have severely interrupted the economic and social activity of the village on that day.

We all know the problems of the A34: the sheer weight of traffic which is often carrying freight in or out of Southampton; the presence of only two lanes; excessive driving speeds; and poor driving decisions often made by fatigued drivers.

Long term the solutions involve new road provision, possibly including a motorway stretch between Northampton and Southampton. This is controversial and unlikely to be even decided in the short term. However with the A34 currently carrying 79,000 vehicles a day, and only likely to increase with development in our area, a significant network upgrade cannot be deferred indefinitely.

Locally there are some alterations which could improve the situation. These are currently being promoted by the A34 action group. Included among the ideas are a full risk assessment of the road; evidence-based calming measures, such as average speed cameras or chevrons in the right places; and improved flow mechanisms, such as a crawler lane or, in particular parts of the A34, no-overtaking areas. The suggested improvements also include refuge and rest areas and a hard shoulder.

The problem of the A34 is too big for any local council to tackle unilaterally. However, through joint working the county and district councils can make the case to central Government of the economic case for improving road flow on the A34. Additionally the number of accidents – 2,000 between 2010 and 2014 – brings an impact to lives which should encourage Government to act.

Through the Local Enterprise Partnership and the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway Project, local councils are promoting upgrading the A34. Our local MP has made the A34 a priority of his Parliamentary work. There is activity to secure change – we just need to keep the pressure on for action to be taken.

Development behind Halls Close

Much will be written in the Chronicle this month on the decision by the Planning Inspector to side with Blue Cedar Homes and overturn the decision by the Vale's Planning Committee to reject the application to build 28 houses on Halls Close. The decision, a clear assault on our recently adopted Neighbourhood Plan, seemed to represent an Inspector acting out of line with other decisions for similar schemes.

I do not wish to rehearse the arguments of why the application should have been refused, but I do wish to explain what has been happening since the outcome of the decision was communicated.

After pressure from your County Councillor and me, as your District Councillor, Ed Vaizey MP has written to the Secretary of State for Local Government to ask that he reviews the decision. As I write, there has been no response from the Minister.

Since the decision I have been in discussion with senior planning officials at the Vale to determine whether they feel there is scope to launch a judicial review of the decision. This would assess whether the Inspector acted lawfully when he made the decision. The officers are seeking legal opinion as to the likelihood of success should they launch a judicial review: these are costly enterprises and only to be undertaken when there is a realistic chance of victory.

I will be liaising closely with the planning officers to make sure they are using all their available resources to ensure the decision is closely scrutinised and challenged where possible. ➔



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May I take the opportunity to wish all residents a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



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COUNTY COUNCIL

Richard Webber

So what does Brexit mean?

This is a subject I have been deliberately avoiding since the end of June. 'Leave' won the referendum – how clearly or how comfortably could be argued, but win it did. We all now need to work to make the best of it. That does not mean that I have suddenly become a Brexiteer, but it does mean that I should give Brexit the space and chance to prove itself.



The subject has caused great conflict and divisions within friendships, within communities and even within families. There is only one way I know to resolve such conflict and that is to keep talking. Soft Brexit, Hard Brexit, Single Market, Customs Union, no migration or less migration – whilst our elected representatives sort out the best deal they can, we have to live with each other.

Victories are always more successful and more long-lasting if the victors are magnanimous. Triumphalism builds long term resentment. Remainers and Leavers alike voted the way they did mostly out of strong conviction. Leavers need to understand that many Remainers are 'hurting', even grieving, and they need to be given space to grieve.

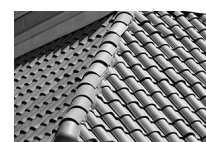
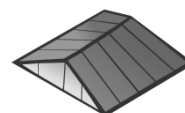
We can all agree that extremism and hate crime have no place in Oxfordshire. However, the Mayor of Oxford is deemed to need a bodyguard – and this should worry us all.

No-one imagines Brexit is going to be easy or completed in a short time. Almost daily we hear about further complications ahead. All of us are going to have to be patient if the government is going to be able to get the best outcome. Rushing them will certainly result in a less satisfactory outcome for both Remainers and Leavers.

And what relevance does any of this have for local government? The long term financial outcomes of Brexit are still far from clear, but in the short term, it is highly likely that costs and prices will increase. This will put further pressure on Council budgets - not a great start to the next Budget-setting season. Whilst the problems of the OCC budget in recent years have been well advertised, Oxfordshire is better placed than many other councils to face extended austerity. The financial challenges of OCC are small compared with those facing the country. This year's OCC budget challenges will become clearer with Chancellor's Autumn Statement next week so more next time.

You can contact me by email to richardwebber777@gmail.com or by phone on 01235 534001

A happy Christmas and good New Year to you all!



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WESTMINSTER

Ed Vaizey

I've had a busy month in Parliament. On national issues, I took part in the debate on the BBC Charter Review, the Cultural Property Bill which aims to implement the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property, and a debate on press freedom. On local issues I secured a visit from the new Secretary of State for Education to our amazing University Technical College based in Didcot, pressed for Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group to start their review into the future of Wantage Community Hospital during Health Questions, and welcomed the Department for Health's review into the funding of community pharmacies.



I was successful in securing a debate on the safety of the A34. During this debate the roads Minister, John Hayes MP, agreed to undertake a safety review of the A34, which was an excellent outcome for my constituents and those in the wider area. Highways England have been tasked to carry out the study, and are inviting interested parties such as the local Councils and police force to take part. I will make sure that my constituents' views and concerns are represented.

We also had some success in highlighting the plight of the AEAT pensioners with Ministers, many of whom live within my constituency, and who have lost a significant amount of their pension following the closure of AEAT. I am calling for an urgent independent enquiry along with changes in the law to allow the Pensions Ombudsman to investigate the situation.

After I raised my concerns about the disruption that would be caused by a planned two week closure of Challow Bridge, I was pleased that Network Rail listened and put forward a new plan for these works. These works will now take place on the weekends of 18th and 25th November between 10pm and 6am to limit the disruption.

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



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For the first time in fifty years Drayton's legendary Vickery's Hardware store has launched a publicity blitz supported by Drayton 2020. Laurence Vickery, son of the Founder, is targeting villagers in Drayton, Milton, Steventon and Sutton Courtenay with the slogan 'I told you they'd have it at Vickery's'!

He told the Chronicle 'We are local and have almost everything you'd find in a Superstore.

by drive for miles and queue for ages when we can provide what you need on your doorstep - and at very competitive prices - with good advice thrown in for free?'



DRAYTON HISTORY SOCIETY David Perrow

Can you help re-activate interest in our village history?

The Drayton History Society was a very active local group until the 1990s, holding regular meetings and events and amassing an impressive archive of original and copied maps, photos and documents from earliest times to the present.

This valuable resource is available to a new group if the Drayton History Society can find new leadership and members. The Society's archive is stored in a resident's front room at present, and needs to be relocated with some degree of urgency. The material is held in filing cabinets (x6), on shelves and loose, so needs a significant amount of ground-floor space. It is mainly papers, so needs to be kept warm and dry. Unheated garages or outhouses would not be suitable, nor would lofts or upstairs rooms because of the weight.

DRAYTONMILLENNIUM GREEN Keith Clough

There has been quite a lot of activity on the Green since I wrote the report for the September issue of the Chronicle - in addition to the regular walkers and joggers! We had the 'Right Royal Picnic'; there have been two working parties; walnuts and apples have ripened and part of the boundary hedge collapsed into Sutton Wick Lane.

Despite the rain which led to a foreshortened afternoon, the Picnic was very successful. Those who attended had an enjoyable time and our thanks go to the organisers who had put in a lot of effort. Whilst it was not run specifically as a fund raiser, there was a small profit which will go towards an additional seat on the Green. It has been suggested that this could become an annual village event with many of the organisations in the village taking part. It could be an introduction and welcome to the village for those moving in to the new houses.

The two working parties were both well attended and were supported by the Parish Council, with whom we are working closely. There were sufficient people on both occasions for us to be able to tackle 4 tasks each morning. It was good to see some new faces and to see more children joining in. You may have noticed that the path widening (including the path from Henleys Lane) is almost complete, most of the trees facing the green have had their lower branches trimmed and there has been some tidying round the pond and the sundial. On the 29th October, we had an excellent bonfire and were able to burn the branches which had been cut and stacked, in 5 wood piles, on previous occasions.

I know that some of you have been collecting walnuts, picking up dead timber for logs and picking apples in the orchard. At the time of writing, some trees still have apples on them. These assets are there for the villagers to benefit.

The collapse of some of the hedge (reported in the October Chronicle) revealed that some maintenance will be required to parts of the stone wall and the wire fence will probably have to be replaced. Anyone fancy building a dry stone wall?

As always, the Trustees, on behalf of the village, thank the many 'Friends' who support the Green financially, join the regular working parties, are on the litter clearing rota and/or assist in other ways. I know that some of you prefer to work on specific tasks on your own or with a friend. These contributions are also very helpful. If you want suggestions of jobs that need an hour or so, contact me. We would also like to have a list of people who would be prepared to come out to deal with unexpected incidents, such as when a tree is blown down across the path.

Weather permitting, regular monthly working parties will recommence in February. One of the first tasks will be pruning the apple trees. It should be a much easier job than it was this year. We will probably be having a bonfire in March. More volunteers will always be welcome.

Keith Clough, vice chair, Millennium Green Trust
krc@imf.co.uk or 01235 531144

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING LIST Doggerelle

I must get my courage up and get me to the store,
But facing all the Christmas crowds now daunts me more and more.



I'll make myself a list of all I'm going to need
To cater for the appetites of all I'll have to feed.



The first things I must purchase are things to make the table
As decorative and colourful, as charming as I'm able.
A floral crimson centre piece would be a pretty sight
And matching scarlet candles would add some glowing light.
Bright Christmas table napkins and crackers for each guest,
And after dinner chocolates, I'll seek the very best.

Of more concern, what shall I buy as main course at our feast?
From the butcher I will order, one job done at least.

But shall it be a turkey or should I get a goose,
Or maybe duck or chicken, I don't know what to choose!
I must not forget potatoes and will find the best to roast
And select assorted veg'ables, of them I'll need a host.
Carrots, peas and parsnips and for those who like them sprouts,
Celeriac in lemon cream? --- no, guests might have their doubts.



I must remember stuffing, and some will crave bread sauce,
And cranberry preserve is compulsory of course.
Shall I make a pudding or be lazy and just buy it?
I think I'll do the latter, for the first time I will try it.
Simple custard on the pud or double cream whipped thickly,
Or maybe brandy butter, though that is rather sickly?



I must not forget the drinks, so sherry, wine and port,
And for those who drive or don't imbibe provide soft drinks I ought.

My list is now complete I think, I'll get me to the store,
But my appetite has disappeared when faced with this great chore!



ART & STUFF

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(by War Memorial)

Your local Art and Antiques shop selling
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DRAYTON REMEMBERS

Sacrifice and Courage in WWI

HARRY DENTON

Private Harry Denton of the 11th Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment, with the service number G/8283 was killed in action on 15th September 1916, in the attack on Flers in the Battle of the Somme. Harry was 23 and the son of Harry and Ellen Denton, New Cut Mill Cottages, Sutton Wick. He is remembered at the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face II C



John Roberts

TOM WOODLEY

Private Tom Woodley of the 12th Battalion (Labour), the Devonshire Regiment, with a service number 42744 died on 29th January 1917 in the Battle of the Somme. Tom was 39, the son of Henry and Mary Woodley of Drayton. He is buried in the Allonville Communal Cemetery NE of Amiens.

John Roberts



Editor's Note: Private Denton should have been remembered in the September Chronicle, since we aim to remember each fallen soldier in the month of the 100th anniversary of his death, and we apologise to Private Denton's family for our error of not including him then. We hope late is better than never.

CHARLES BUNCE

Private Charles William Bunce, of the 1st Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, with the service number 9567, died on 12th January 1917, near Baghdad, Iraq. Charles was 21 and the son of Albert and Kate Bunce of Sutton Wick. He is buried at the Baghdad (North Gate) war cemetery.



John Roberts

EDWARD MOTT'S PAVING STONE Derek Pooley



Sergeant Edward John Mott VC DCM was not killed in the WWI conflict, though he must have come close to it on several occasions. He was born in Drayton and we remember him now for his remarkable courage.

He took part in the daring though ultimately unsuccessful attack on the Turkish positions at the Dardenelles, the brain-child of Winston Churchill, and was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for his 'gallant conduct, leadership and conspicuous bravery' in that action.

Later in the war, in January 1917, in the battle of Le Transloy, which was part of the great Battle of the Somme, he won the British armed forces' ultimate recognition for courage and initiative in combat, the Victoria Cross. At Le Transloy, south of Arras, Sergeant Mott single-handedly overwhelmed a German machine gun position, enabling the overall British attack at Transloy to succeed. For this he was awarded the VC, 'for valour' as the simple bronze cross says.



Right across Britain, during the years 2014 to 2018, each serviceman awarded the VC in WWI is having a special commemorative paving stone placed in their honour. Drayton will unveil and dedicate the stone to be placed for Sergeant Mott at a special service at **St Peter's at 10.00 on Sunday 22nd January 2017**, conducted by the Bishop of Dorchester, the Right Reverend Colin Fletcher OBE.

Foot Note: Mr Mott eventually died in 1967 and a plaque remembering him and his wife is placed at the Oxford Crematorium. The Chronicle published a full-page article on Mr Mott's life in its special issue marking the start of WWI in July 2014 (on page 11). This is always readily accessible via the village web site at <http://www.draytonvillage.co.uk/drayton-chronicle/chronicle-archive/>



DRAYTON DIARY

FOR DECEMBER

All events are at Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise
(To book Drayton Hall call Tony Holmes on 531180)

Regular Events are not listed this month but were in November

Sat	3	6.00 pm	THE Christmas Party - see below
Sun	4	7.00 pm	Candlelight Carol Service - see page 1
Mon	5	7.30 pm	Parish Council <i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
Thurs	8	2.00 pm	U3A Crafts <i>Small Hall</i>
Sun	11	9.00 am	Bowls Club Finals Day
Wed	14	9.00 am	Pre-school Christmas Party
Sun	18	9.00 am	Trade Fair

And in JANUARY:

Mon	16	9.15 am	Chronicle Lottery deadline <i>Vickery's</i>
		5.15 pm	Chronicle copy deadline <i>Vickery's box</i>
Sun	22	10.00 am	Dedication of memorial for Drayton's Edward Mott, awarded the VC in January 1917 <i>St Peter's</i>

3 December
£5
6 PM - MIDNIGHT
2016
THE CHRISTMAS PARTY
DRAYTON VILLAGE HALL
£5 A TICKET - UNDER 16s GO FREE
MR AND MRS GAME SHOW STARTS 7.30 WITH THREE DRAYTON COUPLES TAKING PART
DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM



Steventon Choral Society

Present **Music for Christmas**

15th & 17th December – Steventon Hall

Doors open at 7 p.m.

Festive songs for all and this year raising funds for Alzheimer's Society - Oxfordshire Branch

Tickets £10 (accompanied children free) including half time refreshments.

Tickets available at the Steventon Post Office or call 01235 848292 / 01235 834015

www.steventonchoral.org.uk

AUTUMN DELIGHTS



Doves sheltering



Dog waiting



Leaves turning



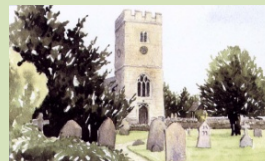
Geese queuing



Finches feeding

Photographs by Keith Clough and Derek Pooley

Christmas coming



*St. Peter's,
Drayton,
Christmas 2016*

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE Sunday 11 December 10am

CAROL SERVICE – Sunday 18 December 4pm

(hot drinks and mince pies served after this service)

CRIB SERVICE – Saturday 24 December 4pm.

MIDNIGHT MASS – Saturday 24 December 11.30pm

CHRISTMAS DAY – Sunday 25 December 10am

A FAMILY EUCHARIST WITH CAROLS



All are welcome
At every service



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