

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Tony Holmes

Volume 40 No. 1

Jan/Feb 2017

Parish Council Latest

This report is of the meeting on January 9th, the December meeting's report is on page 12 (*Richard Williams*).

There have been a number of **compliance issues** regarding the Miller Homes site at Walnut Meadow (Barrow Rd). For example, poor drainage led to flooding of the access roads in recent heavy rains. It is hoped recent modification works have sorted out this particular problem. There are still ongoing difficulties, by no means confined to this site, as **similar problems seem to be occurring on housing sites across the Vale**.

The Department dealing with planning enforcement is clearly very stretched, but they have made efforts to get a grip on the situation. They have now begun a series of pre-commencement visits to sites in an attempt to identify and deal with possible issues in advance.

Several such visits have already been made to the south of High St site. With regard to Walnut Meadow, Drayton 2020 are doing their best to maintain regular contact with Millers' management with a view to monitoring progress.

Richard Webber, our County Councillor, confirms that the proposal for unitary local government in Oxfordshire is now **online for public consultation**. The full document can be seen at www.oneoxfordshire.org (Richard's column :- see page 10).

The service commemorating the awarding of the VC (in 1917) to **Sgt Edward John Mott** took place at St Peter's Church on Sun Jan 22nd. A **full report** should appear in next month's issue, but suffice it to say that the service was a fitting memorial to a very brave man, and the church was packed with people, including many members of the Mott family. There were 188 people present in all, 169 adults and 19 children, a most impressive congregation!

We also continue our series of tributes, 100 years on, to the fallen soldiers of Drayton, please see page 14

AMAZON FRAUDS!

We get many alerts these days about attempted online fraud, but this one is very plausible, and relates to the extremely popular Amazon. Action Fraud has received several reports from victims who have been sent convincing looking emails claiming to be from Amazon. The spoofed emails from "service@amazon.co.uk" claim recipients have made an order online and mimic an automatic customer email notification.

The scam email claims recipients have ordered an expensive item, and cleverly state that if recipients haven't authorised the transaction they can click on the help centre link to receive a full refund. The link leads to an authentic-looking website, which asks victims to confirm their name, address, and bank card information.

Amazon will **never ask** for personal information to be supplied by e-mail, so, as ever, **DO BE CAREFUL**.

You can read more about identifying these suspicious emails by visiting <https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/help/customer/> and to report a fraud or cyber crime, call us on 0300 123 2040.

HAVE YOUR SAY!!

A couple of invitations this month for readers to voice their opinion, re the NHS, and the new attempts to make our public money go a lot further with a new Oxon 'unitary' authority.

The NHS in Oxfordshire has launched phase 1 of the '**Big Health and Care Consultation**', your chance to share your views on proposals to change some Oxon healthcare services.

We want to make sure high quality care is at the heart of healthcare in Oxfordshire and this means being prepared to do things differently for the benefit of everyone. We launched a **public consultation** on Monday Jan 16th, we need to know what you think of proposed changes to:-

The way we use our hospital beds and bring more care closer to home, **Acute stroke services** in Oxfordshire, and **Maternity services** including obstetrics, Special Care Baby Units (this also affects emergency gynaecology surgery).

The full details are in our consultation document, that's at consult.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/consult.ti/Bighealthandcare/consultationHome but get a copy by calling 01865 334638, via an email to cscsu.talkinghealth@nhs.net (or at any local library).

We will also be holding **consultation events** across the county. You will be able to talk to clinicians and senior NHS Leaders and share your views. Places will be limited according to venue size so **please book ahead**. We really want to have a conversation with you, local dates :- Oxford Feb 9th, 7pm to 9pm; Didcot Feb 13th, 10am to noon; Wantage Feb 7th, 3pm to 5pm; Abingdon March 23rd, 6.30 to 8.30pm. (Ed:- they didn't have the wit to include the precise locations, you get those when you book I presume).

More info is available at your GP, or on their website: www.oxonhealthcaretransformation.nhs.uk If you would like to:

Attend any of the events and book your place to receive the full details, including venues, Receive a hard copy of the consultation document or survey, Or have any queries . . .

Please call 01865 334638 or email cscsu.talkinghealth@nhs.net
#####

And on Jan 19th OCC published their '**A Fresh Start for Oxfordshire**'; draft proposals for one new Oxon unitary council.

This can be seen at www.oneoxfordshire.org - it suggests abolishing all six councils (county and district), & to replace them with a single new unitary council for the whole of Oxfordshire. The significant savings made by eliminating duplication from running six councils could be used to improve public services and protect them from future cuts. Joining up the key strategic functions of planning, transport and housing will help us ensure housing and infrastructure are delivered in a sustainable way.

Such a new council would hopefully be:- **Simpler** for residents and business; **Better for services**; **More local**; and accomplish much better value by much **Lower costs** (eliminating duplication and waste). They **WANT YOUR VIEWS**, before submitting a final bid to central government for a decision. Visit their website and leave a comment, via www.oneoxfordshire.gov.uk -- the revised proposal and public response will be considered by the county council's Cabinet on 14th March.

COMING CHRONICLES

The **March Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Fri February 24th**.

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

NO LATER than 5.15 pm on Monday, Feb 13th 2017.

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 Feb 10th**, 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.**

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 Chronicle		
Issue for	Copy for publication to Editor by (nb Agents Lottery Packs Fri before)	Chronicle published and available for distribution on Fridays:-
April	Mon March 20	March 31
May	Mon April 17	April 28

ADVERTISING RATES

For Block Advert (about 1/12th page)

--- Number of Monthly Inserts ---

Advertiser Category	1	3	6	12
Drayton Resident	£6.00	£16.00	£31.00	£60.00
Non-Drayton Resident	£7.00	£19.00	£37.00	£72.00

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

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

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

DISCLAIMER This Journal is published in all good faith and every care is taken in its compilation. The organisers of the DRAYTON CHRONICLE, and its Agents, therefore accept no responsibility for OPINIONS EXPRESSED, nor for the validity of any ADVERTISEMENT, nor for any EFFECTS ARISING WHATSOEVER from the publication.

CHRONICLE LOTTERY

Carol Arnold, Hon. Promoter

RESULTS OF THE - Jan/Feb - LOTTERY

Prize	Winner	Agent
£25	Morris 59 Abingdon Road	Jayne Henderson
£20	V. Booth 6 Mott Cottages	Tamsin Meredith
£15	Chris Bone Meadow Cottage	Ali Bone
£10	Tamsin Meredith 66 Steventon Road	Tamsin Meredith
£10	Mrs Haynes 21 Lockway	Christine Sadler
£10	Jenny Pooley 11 Halls Close	Ali Bone
£10	Geoff Caudle 46 Church Lane	Jean Caudle
£10	Bob & Margaret Smith 5 Henlys Lane	Andrew Bax
£10	Jenny Cullen c/o 14 Corneville Road	Val Mann-Gladwyn & Ruth Hudson
£10	Mrs R Wright 4 Binning Close	Cathy Norris

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Letters to the Editor

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

ALL AROUND

1st Drayton Brownies Annette Mitchell

Happy New Year to you all!

We would like to welcome Evie, Tegan and Emily to our pack and hope they enjoy their time with us.

We were extremely proud of Keira, Olivia, Izzy and Katie for taking part in The Crib Service. They did a marvellous job singing in front of a large audience!

This term we are concentrating on the Science Investigator and Number Fun Badges. We started the term with celebrating Burns Night, with Highland games, and Chinese New Year with Chinese lanterns and prawn crackers.

Our pack will be 60 years old in October and we need to think about how and where we are going to celebrate this! The first challenge is for us to find past Drayton Brownie members. They may be you, your mum, your auntie or your Gran! We would love to hear from them and get in touch as we may look at having a **reunion of past members of all ages**. Please can you help? Get in touch with any of the leaders listed below.

Meetings are held at Drayton Village Hall, on Wednesdays during school term from 6pm - 7.30, meetings are open to all girls aged between 7-10 years old.

Further details are available from:-

Ruth Hudson (Brown Owl) on 01235 205111;

Esther Deabill (Tawny Owl – 528502),

& **Annette Mitchell** (Barn Owl – 555216).

You can **register your interest** on the Girl Guiding Website & Join Us! See www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved - OR you can email us on drayton1stbrownies@live.co.uk

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Letters to the Editor

The Editor reserves the right to shorten, clarify or reject any letter. Each letter must bear a legible name & address, and Tel. No in case any text needs verification.

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DRAYTON W.I. Ann Webb/Gillian Pett

Our December meeting was very festive. We had our usual small amount of business, which was pruned to the essentials because the sight of all the plates of festive fare was too much. We feasted and laughed then got treated to a Ukulele Band playing some well know songs and some not so well known, they were very good.

Before we all departed the Santa 'tub' was taken round for us to pick a present. The sack had been seconded to the north pole! Merry Christmases were said and we all departed home.

'Pottering Around' came to our January meeting. Members were given the opportunity to decorate a mug, bowl or small vase. Everybody enjoyed the 'hands on' experience and less artistic members were soon put at their ease and surprised at what they could produce with Marcella's help and guidance, while our more artistic members produced some very impressive results.

The items have now gone away to be fired and we're all looking forward to receiving them back in the finished state. **Next month** we hope to learn about wills and the power of attorney.

If you would like to come as a guest, we meet at 7.30pm in the Day Centre, Gravel Lane, the second Thursday of each month.

ST PETER'S CHURCH

Priest in Charge (vacancy)
Associate Priest Revd Rosie Bruce 07766 421773
Churchwardens Mrs Alison Bone 202188
 Mrs Linda Johnson 527521
Organist (vacancy)

CHURCH NOTICES

REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday	8.00 am	Holy Communion (2nd Sunday only)
	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
Fri	6.30 pm	Choir Practice (1st Friday)	Church Room

CALENDAR for FEBRUARY

Tues	7th	2.30 pm	1st Tuesday Connections	Church Room
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YOU STAY – WE PRAY (Feb)

1st to 11th Abingdon Road; Oday Hill; Binning Close; Haywards Road

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If by any chance your Area Agent is unable to deliver your Chronicle one month you can collect a copy from Vickery's shop in the week after normal delivery time. Lawrence has very kindly agreed to keep a small stock for us each month.

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Letter from St Peter's

Dear Friends,

The great thing about walking with God in life is that there is always an opportunity to start anew, God always offers us a new day and a new dawn, no matter what has gone before.

At the start of the New Year, why not take a moment to offer thanks for last year, ask forgiveness for where you have made mistakes and dedicate this New Year to him – to serve him and love him afresh.

You are very warmly welcome to join us at St Peters this New Year, whether it be for Holy Communion, All Age Worship or Messy Church.

Sue Icke

(PCC Member St Peters)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take (Proverbs 3, 5-6).

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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.

(MORE) ALL AROUND

Drayton BOWLS Club 'Roll Up'

We start these notes with a review of Finals day, held in December. A **big thank you to Val and her team of ladies** for the splendid buffet supper that followed a fine day's bowling.

On the day around 40 members attended, and the following were the winners of the various competitions: - **Wally Weightman triples**:- Jack Mitchenson, Freda Bray, Ian Norris. **Henry Bunce handicap pairs**:- Lyndon Locke, Bryn Jones. The **Don Alexander triples**:- Janice Davis, June Hyde, & Bryn Jones. The **Doreen Jones 'never won' singles**:- Barry Davis.

Beryl James pairs:- Carol Smith & Bryn Jones. **Rose Bowl triples league**:- Pat Mitchenson, Avril Holmes & Bryn Jones. The **John Berry fours league**:- Pat Hoyland, Pat Mitchenson, Bob Strachan & Bryn Jones (Ed's note, goodness, him again!). **Ladies singles**:- Val Locke. **Gents singles**:- Bryn Jones. The **'Didcot Windows' open singles**:- Ian Norris. And the final award, for the **most improved player of the year** went to Janice Davis.

And to round up the winning mood, also in December, on a bowling holiday at Hayling Island, June & Bryn won the pairs competition, which is quite another boost for the club.

At the half way stage in the afternoon league 'The Wasps' are in a strong position to retain the title they have won for the last 6 years, but it's only half way with 14 games still to play, so anything can happen, while 'The Hammers' are at the wrong end of the table and will be looking for better results in the second half of the season.

The first of the internal competitions are underway with the start of the 'Rose Bowl' triples league, (to run until early May), and the Wally Weightman triples were being played for on Jan 15th.

(Ed's note :- NB Bryn is recovering OK, having pulled a muscle or two under the weight of taking all those trophies home . . .)

We have room for one or two more members, if interested contact any committee member, you'll be very welcome. 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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Drayton RAINBOWS Mary Thompson

The Rainbows had a busy autumn term and ended with a party which Father Christmas attended!

The Spring term has begun with 12 girls and activities celebrating the 150th birthday of Beatrix Potter.

On February 22nd we will be thinking about Guides, Brownies and Rainbows around the world.

Rainbows meet on Thursdays in term time in Drayton Hall from 5.30pm until 6.30pm. They are the youngest members of the Girlguiding, for girls from 5 - 7 years.

For further information about volunteering, to help at meetings, or to register your daughter do look at www.girlguiding.co.uk

You can contact us by email, steventonrainbows@gmail.com or by phone :- Victoria Wright (01235 412666), or Georgina Arnold (07767 762346).

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People can call 105 from most landlines and mobile phones, no matter who they choose to buy electricity from.

BAPTIST CHURCH

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 (Third Sunday of the month, 3.30pm)

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

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



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WESTMINSTER VIEW

Ed Vaizey's column (Wantage & Didcot MP; presently on the Commons Speaker's Advisory Panel on the Arts)

Welcome to 2017! As this is my first Parish News of the New Year, may I wish you Happy New Year and hope that you had a wonderful Christmas and got to spend time with your families and loved ones.

2017 has arrived with quite a full in-tray for me as your local MP. Issues such as the **congestion on the A34**, the continued campaign to **re-open Grove station**, my campaign to secure **better fertility treatment** for people in Oxfordshire, and the need to secure **continued investment in science and technology** post-Brexit will take centre stage.

One of the issues I am most contacted about is **local health services**, and I share many of the concerns my constituents have raised about the ongoing review, known as the Sustainability and Transformation Plan. I am very unhappy with how the process is being undertaken, and the constant delays to publishing anything meaningful is having a severe impact on local services. Prior to Christmas two GP practices failed in a bid to secure funding to expand their premises to cater from growing populations.

This situation is becoming very urgent, and I shall be meeting local NHS chiefs early in the New Year to try and get from them a clear timeline for the STP, **so that we can all have a say** in how our health services are developed. I am also seeking meetings with health ministers to discuss the failed capital bids for GP surgeries, so I can understand why they were turned down and to have greater success in the future.

In January I will be also co-hosting a debate in Parliament on the **provision of IVF treatment**. This is an area that I have campaigned on for some time, and I am frequently contacted by constituents who are having difficulty funding fertility treatment. I fear that this area is seen as a treatment that local health services can easily cut and reduce. I will be making Ministers aware of my concerns, and hope they take some action to further protect this important service.

January saw my first **'Brexit' public meeting**, (Jan 20th); I shall be holding **another meeting, Fri Feb 3rd, (7pm), Didcot Civic Hall**. I am looking forward to meeting many of you at these events and **hearing your views on Brexit**.

If you need to get in touch with me, telephone 01235 768888, 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).

I also send out occasional general interest emails about local developments in the Wantage and Didcot Constituency. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please complete the online form at:- <http://bit.ly/EdVaizeyMP>

Drayton 2020 - Update

Drayton2020 Neighbourhood Plan Update

Sports Pitches and Pavilion The architect's plans for the new Sports Pavilion are now being finalised and an application for planning permission for the Pavilion, car park and multi-use sports area (MUGA) will be submitted to VWHDC by Drayton Parish Council in late January/early February. The MUGA will have provision for tennis, netball, basketball, 5 a side football and ball target sports, and will be floodlit to provide for winter ball practice. Details of the plans will be published in the March Chronicle. Approval has already been secured for three football pitches (one adult size and two junior) and a cricket square. A children's playground will be provided by the developers and managed by the Parish Council.

Footpaths Volunteers continue to work on clearing and widening the footpaths on and around the Millennium Green. Quotes are being sought from contractors to top dress the surfaces and repair damage sustained over the last 15-20 years

Barrow Road/Walnut Meadow – About 15 houses are now occupied on the site and mains sewerage is now connected

South of High Street Site Planning permission for 140 houses has been granted by VWHDC. Work on site is expected to begin soon

Manor Farm CALA Homes have revised their planning application. The VWHDC are expected to make their decision on this revised application during February

Halls Close The developers – Blue Cedar – are working up their detailed planning application. They now have outline planning permission for up to 28 houses on the site, with road access via Halls Close

East Way VWHDC have approved a planning application for 8 more houses with access via East Way. The developers will need to submit detailed plans on how they propose to improve the East Way road access. They have undertaken to re-surface the roadway and maintain it for 10 years thereafter.

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

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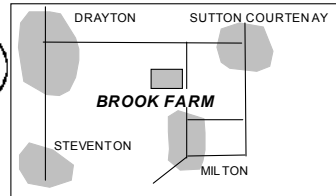
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Thank you to all that have helped and supported us in 2016, we have had an increased number of helpers on our clear up mornings, and I think a considerable increase in the number of people who use the space.

Our next two clear up mornings are on Saturday 11th February and Sun 12th March, both from 10.00 until 12.30. Please come along even if it's just for a hour, bring a few gardening tools and a mug, you can really help to make a difference. In March we are hoping to have a bonfire, so marshmallows will be available!

If you would like to **support an Easter egg hunt** over the Easter weekend, could you let me know either by email or via the Families in Drayton face book page, it would be really useful to know approximately how many children would be coming along for planning purposes! More details to follow.

Thanks **Jane McWhirter** Chair.millenniumgreen@gmail.com

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YOUR LETTERS

Esme Doreen Buckland

Dear Editor, 39a Stventon Road

My son (Ian) and I would like to thank the many neighbours and friends that sent cards and messages of sympathy, and also attended the service for Doreen in St Peters Church.

Although it was ten years ago on Christmas Day that Doreen suffered a spinal stroke, and was paralysed from the waist down, this last year was the worst she has endured from complications caused by pressure sores and infections.

Doreen was a keen member of Drayton WI, and had been a member of the Village Hall committee; she passed away peacefully on Nov 24th, and will be sadly missed by all that knew her.

Jack Buckland



A BIG 'Thank You' !!

Dear Editor via email

A big "THANK YOU" to the residents of the High Street. Due to their generosity a total of £226 was collected for the British Legion Poppy Day Appeal.

Kind Regards Brenda Malin & Shirley Thomas

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A Wonderful Day !

Dear Editor Lockway

Sylvia, Beryl, and members of the Friday Club, would like to thank the helpers, and the two Sallys & Pam for cooking the lovely Christmas dinner, also to those who donated gifts towards the day and the special presents to Beryl and me.

We were entertained by the Steventon Choral Society, with everyone joining in, so a big thank you to them too.

Once again, a wonderful day enjoyed by all.

Kind Regards Sylvia Bond

Charity Sixties Night Saturday 25th February, 8pm with THE SAGA LOUTS in support of Age UK



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Halls Close 'Planning' Appeal Decision

Dear Editor via email

In the Christmas edition of the Chronicle, our District Councillor, Stuart Davenport, told us that the Halls Close Appeal decision was "a clear assault on our recently adopted Neighbourhood Plan" and "seemed to represent an inspector acting out of line with other decisions for similar schemes."

What a shame, therefore, that Councillor Davenport didn't turn up to speak at the Appeal Hearing even though it lasted all day. What a shame he didn't even send a substitute or a statement to be read out. Mind you, the current Chair of the Planning Committee, Councillor Lovatt, seems to think the Halls Close Inspector made the right decision. He emailed me recently to say:-

The Officers recommended approval, the Chairman of the Planning Committee, Robert Sharp, and the Planning Portfolio Holder, Roger Cox, voted for it. The Vice Chairman, me, was not present. It was the other members of the committee that voted against the application. The Planning Inspector essentially upheld the advice of the planning officers.

In fact Councillors Sharp and Cox abstained so not one member of the Planning Committee supported the Planning Officers' recommendation, but Councillor Lovatt had more to say about Drayton and Neighbourhood Planning:

There was another application for the land at Close End House, another infill site, which, under my chairmanship, the committee approved on 30th November. This brought out the argument by the Parish Council that the land in question had not been taken into consideration in the formulation of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP), was therefore not in the NP and therefore the application should be refused. If not, what is the purpose of having an NP?

I therefore asked officers the question, "If an area of development is not included in a neighbourhood plan, is that material grounds for refusal?". I was told "No".

The purpose of a neighbourhood plan is specifically not to prevent or restrict development but to enable it. The incentive for this is that an NP entitles the Parish to a larger share (25%) of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to facilitate desired development.

This begs the question - If an area of development is not in an NP and can still get planning permission what is the incentive for a developer to have anything to do with Neighbourhood Planning?

I used to think Dibley Parish Council was the most hopeless council in the country. What a shame Drayton cannot Drexite from the Vale.

Yours

Paul Mayhew-Archer

(Even More) ALL AROUND

Drayton Pre-School Katy Hoyle

Last term saw the children getting ready for the festive period, practising lots of Christmas songs ready for their nativity at the end of term. The children also got the chance to perform their songs to the residents of Bridge House in Abingdon as part of their Christmas light switch on.

The children have been enjoying exploring the outdoors in the colder weather, looking at ice and frost in more detail, which included wrapping up warm for a village walk to collect sticks to use as part of a craft activity. The children love to explore the local area as part of their learning.

In November, we held a **Pamper Night jointly with Drayton School**. This was a massive success and raised lots of funds for our schools. **We would like to thank everyone** involved in this and who came along to help us raise money for a great cause.

On behalf of the Preschool we would like to wish everyone a 'Happy New Year' and look forward to welcoming our new children in 2017. If you are interested in putting your child's name down please contact Nadine at draytonpreschool@btconnect.com or phone 01235 536094.



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Drayton Table Tennis John Gould

I hope the New Year has gone well for you so far.

Our 7 teams are now half way through their Didcot League ties. Best of the bunch is the G team, which is top of Division 4 and so far unbeaten. In addition Marc Addison is currently the top player in that Division on 19 wins from his 21 games. Our remaining 6 teams are doing OK with the D team in Division 3 having the best chance of a top two finish.

We now start the cup competitions. The individual teams start their quest for the Handicap Shield and the Club team will play for the Bidmead Cup. We've had great success in this latter event over recent years having won it 5 years running until last season when Moreton Club won it. However a tough draw saw the team host Moreton in this season's first round. Played 4th January our team of Matt Davies, Robbie Greenfield & Peter Weir came through a close encounter to win. They are now into the quarter finals so wish them luck.

A reminder, that our ever popular **Annual Quiz Night** will take place on **Friday 24th February, at the school**. Teams of up to 6 can enter. Ring 531328 for more details.

Neighbourhood News

We would like to send our best wishes to Trudi Buckner who recently became 80 years young. Trudi has for many years assisted with the monthly lottery draw and her commitment is much appreciated.



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Drayton Wives Gwen Price

The title of our talk in November, was Shelley's speciality chocolates - with tastings! It was a chocoholic's feast. The lady who produced the chocolate made three different kinds, using white, milk, and a dark chocolate to make liqueurs.

All the results were passed round for us to taste. Some of the other ingredients included balsamic vinegar, strawberry jam, sea salt, butter and amaretto. She was a fascinating speaker who was passionate about her craft. She became a chocolatier ten years ago when she needed another interest besides her career as a professional violinist!

Needless to say we all purchased some samples to take home!

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Royal British Legion Al Costley

The Branch (Steventon & District) will continue to hold routine meetings at **7.00pm in the Sports and Social Club, Steventon**. **All members are most welcome**, and meetings are now held on a more informal basis.

Forthcoming meetings for 2017 remain on the third Monday of every second month, as follows:-

20th March; 15th May; 17th July; 18th September; & 20th November

As ever, the Branch is always available to support and advise, and key contact details for current Committee members are:-

President:- Pat Buckland, 07778 039967

Chairman:- Al Costley, al_costley@hotmail.co.uk or 07832 340468;

Secretary:- Paul Francis, francisoxo@aol.com or 07799 026666;

Treasurer:- Rod Clewley, rod@rclewley.orangehome.co.uk or 01235 831206.

Richard Webber - Oxon CC

Unitary Govt – Time for Oxon residents to decide

It was confirmed by both sets of the expensively-commissioned experts that Oxfordshire's Local Government is badly in need of improvement and that Unitary Government in some form is the obvious way forward. The estimated savings from forming a single Unitary Council (replacing the present County and 5 District Councils) amount to more than £20m every year.

When the issue is explained to residents, almost all I have spoken to respond "Surely, it's a no-brainer. So why are we not getting on with it?"

There seem to be two types of argument that are raised against a single Oxfordshire Unitary solution. The first type all boil down to Councils and councillors desperately arguing for self preservation. The second group of objections is more worthy of an answer.

With large councils comes a reduction in democratic accountability. But how many of us know our District or County Councillor? How many of us even know what the different councils do? I certainly didn't before I got directly involved. At present there are 63 County Councillors. The experts reckon there would be 120 Unitary Councillors in one Oxfordshire Unitary Council. In other words, each councillor would be responsible for half the number of people. Councils would no longer be able to pass the buck between each other. There would be *one council* responsible for all local services, *one council* to make the big necessary decisions and *one council* to blame if things go wrong. In my view, that would give local government *more* not less democratic accountability.

Every day we delay in going Unitary wastes public money – that is the money that you and I pay in our Council Tax. £20 million of savings every year is approximately £60,000 per day – the equivalent of filling many potholes, supporting a Children's Centre, or retaining several bus services. Can we really afford to delay further? As someone who has spent the past four years facing the dreadful choices that austerity has offered, I must ask - is the prevarication any longer morally justifiable?

However you feel on this issue, I very much hope that all residents of Appleford, Milton, Sutton Courtenay, Drayton, Marcham and Shippon will join me on entering their views on the OCC website where a consultation is about to begin. It is about time that ratepayers rather than councils or councilors should be allowed their say.

If you have feelings on any County issues you would like me to hear, **please contact me** on richardwebber777@gmail.com or 01235 534001.

Richard Webber (Cllr OCC)



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MISSED OUT ON YOUR CHRONICLE?

If by any chance someone doesn't get their Chronicle delivered (we always need more agents!) they can collect a copy from Vickery's shop in the week after normal delivery time. Lawrence has very kindly agreed to keep a small stock for us each month.

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Spring Out of Winter!

Have you ever wondered what it's like to be involved with your local Conservative party? Well, come and find out! We're a friendly bunch, spending time together socially as well as supporting our local and national party. In February we have arranged a relaxed fish 'n chips quiz night at **Sutton Courtenay Village Hall**. Details are below and we would welcome newcomers who are keen to find out more about the party.

FISH'N'CHIPS SUPPER AND QUIZ NIGHT

Friday Feb 17th 7.30 for 8pm in Sutton Courtenay Village Hall, Frilsham Street, OX14 4AZ

Sutton Courtenay & Drayton Conservative Branch invite you to a General Knowledge Quiz Night. This is not a political meeting but an opportunity to meet your local prospective Council Candidates socially and to have a fun evening. Tickets at £16 pp. include a Welcome Drink and Supper with Dessert. There will be a Cash Bar.

Tickets available by cheque (payable to W&DCA) from Mrs Diana Hasting, 3 Chapel Lane, Sutton Courtenay, ABINGDON, OX14 4AN. Credit-card payment is available from Wantage & Didcot Conservative Association at 8 Gorwell, WATLINGTON, OX10 5QE e-mail group@oxfordshireconservatives.com or call 03333 706580

If you have dietary requirements please contact Diana on 01235 847430 (or e-mail at diamar1@btinternet.com) so that an alternative supper can be arranged.

COME AND SING in HARMONY

Do you love to sing, but are not actively involved in music making at the moment?

Do you sing already, but would like to try something new in 2017?

Harmony InSpires, an all-female a Cappella chorus based in Appleton, invites women of all ages to join a FREE evening course in a Cappella harmony singing on 8th, 15th and 22nd February 2017

Find out more at: www.harmonyinspires.org or email sing@harmonyinspires.org

HARMONY InSpires
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Grants for community events

Community groups in the Vale of White Horse looking to stage local festivals can claim up to £1,000 grant funding - but they need to apply by Wednesday 1st March.

Vale of White Horse District Council which offers grants to non-profit community organisations, still has funds available to support local festivals taking place over the next 12 months. The funding can cover up to 75 per cent of the total cost of staging festivals open to the local community.

Events the council has helped to fund recently include the Abingdon Cycle Festival, ATOM (Oxfordshire Science Festival), fennel Festival, and Wantage Summer Festival.

If you need help to fund a local festival in the Vale of White Horse visit www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/grants.

Parish Council Richard Williams

Meeting report – Dec 5th (Jan meeting : see front page)

Despite being opposed by the Parish Council and our ward District Councillor (Stuart Davenport), the 'Close End House' development – 8 new houses accessed from Eastway – was approved by the Vale's Planning Committee on 30th November. This was not a surprise, as the decision followed the officers' recommendation, but it was worrying as it is now the second time in 18 months that a site not included in the Neighbourhood Plan has been granted planning permission.

In the course of the evening it became clear that **we have a number of issues with the Vale that badly need resolution**, and therefore a meeting with the Vale's Development Managers has been arranged for early February. Hopefully this will clarify matters and enable us to move on.

The good news is that the Vale's own Local Plan Part 1 has now been confirmed as 'sound', and **the district now has a 5 year land supply**. Unfortunately, **the announcement comes too late** to help us with the Halls Close and Eastway applications. As it turns out, local residents were willing to take both of these planning decisions to the High Court to seek judicial review. Sensibly, they first approached independent professionals for legal advice. Sadly, they were informed that there was no realistic chance of success in either case, so there was little point in proceeding further.

However, the Parish Council is meeting on Jan 23rd with Blue Cedar, the developers of the Halls Close site, to discuss matters of site layout, building materials, landscaping etc, in an effort to minimise the impact on existing residents. Meanwhile, the PC's major objection to the Eastway site was, and still is, the **access arrangements**, which involve an unmade, unadopted roadway and a bridleway. It looks as though legal complications will result from this, and it remains to be seen how they will be resolved.

To contact any members of the Parish Council, all enquiries should be directed to the Parish Clerk, David Perrow, in the first instance. David may be contacted on 07909 176061 or via email at draytonclerk@yahoo.co.uk -- any Drayton resident may also ask to be added to the Clerk's emailing list.

In addition, all Parish Council minutes are now archived on the village website: <http://www.draytonvillage.co.uk/> The website carries back copies of the Drayton Chronicle, information on the latest activities of the Drayton 2020 Implementation Committee, and details of other events in the village.

The **next Parish Council meeting** will be on Monday 6th February 2017 at 7.30 pm, in the Caudwell Day Centre in Gravel Lane. As ever, **all are welcome to attend**.

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Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG5 Safety Corner)

Please take a few minutes to read these reminders about the best ways in which to **keep yourself and others safe** when out and about.

Pedestrians

Use pavements, or paths, whenever possible.

If there is no pavement keep to the right-hand side of the road so that you can see oncoming traffic, keep close to the side of the road and walk in single file

In poor daylight conditions help road users to see you by wearing or carrying something light-coloured, bright or fluorescent.

When it's dark use reflective materials (armbands, jackets, waistcoats, sashes, footwear). Drivers using headlights can see reflective materials three times further away than those that are non-reflective.

Never try to cross the road in front or behind of a vehicle with its engine running.

Cyclists

At night white front and red rear lights must be lit. Flashing lights are permitted but it is recommended that cyclists who are riding in areas without street lighting use a steady front lamp. Bicycles must be fitted with a red rear reflector. Lights and reflectors should be kept clean and in good working order.

Brakes must work efficiently, gears should be working correctly and the chain properly adjusted and oiled.

Tyres should be in good condition and inflated to the pressure indicated on the tyre.

All traffic signs and traffic light signals must be obeyed. You must not cross the stop line when the traffic lights are red. Some junctions have an advanced stop line to enable you to wait and position yourself ahead of the traffic.

You must not cycle on a pavement (if you are concerned for your safety, or that of young children, you can dismount and push your bicycle on the pavement until you feel it is safe to re-join the road).

For your own safety please wear a helmet and light coloured or fluorescent clothing in daylight and reflective clothing at night to help to ensure that other road users see you. →

(Ed's note:- sorry, cynical hat on here, this looks all well and good, but somehow I doubt that the considerable numbers of riders that I've encountered, over many years, riding the wrong way in Abingdon's East & West St Helens, for example, will be taking much notice! Mind you, this piece does NOT actually say that such a thing is explicitly forbidden, the 'traffic signs' reference, well, if they don't see them, they don't apply?!)

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Ensure the windscreen wipers are in working order and keep the screen wash reservoir topped up.

Ensure front and rear lights are in full working order and free from dirt. Use headlights in seriously reduced visibility.

Tyres should have a minimum 2mm of tread and preferably 3mm or above -- Remember that stopping distances are **10 times longer** in ice and snow.

Avoid the water pump freezing by using antifreeze (had it checked lately?).

Carry an emergency kit in the car: tow rope, shovel, hazard-warning triangle, a fully charged mobile phone, de-icing equipment, a working torch, warm clothing, wellington boots, blanket and emergency rations including a hot drink in a flask.

If you, or anyone you know, have been affected by a 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

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

100 Years Ago This Month

Continuing our set of memorials to local WW1 casualties, here are the references to **George Jones & Frank Payne**, both of the Royal Berks Regiment, both died on Feb 17th.



In Memory of GEORGE THOMAS JONES

(Private) ROYAL BERKSHIRE REGIMENT (3rd Battalion)
Service Number – 34085; Died at Home 17th February 1917
Age 36. Son of Inkerman and Harriet Jones of
Church Lane, Drayton, Berks.

Remembered with Honour READING CEMETERY



It is quite easy to visit the Somme battlefield cemeteries, and those around Ypres (eg Tyne Cot). All beautifully maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and local people, they provide a moving testimony to the madness of war (and that one was supposedly the “war to end all wars”).

In Memory of FRANK ENOS PAYNE

(L/Cpl) ROYAL BERKSHIRE REGIMENT (6th Battalion)
Service Number – 23419; Killed in Action Feb 17th 1917
at Grandcourt (Somme); Age 19
Son of Thomas and Rose Payne of Gravel Lane, Drayton, Berks

Remembered with Honour

THIEPVAL MEMORIAL PIER and FACE 11D



The Thiepval Memorial, pictured above, is especially moving, the monument (designed by Lutyens) has the names of over 70,000 British & Commonwealth soldiers who had no known grave. It can be seen for a mile or two in each direction, and although visually impressive, is quite an eerie place, with no birdsong.

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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 **Feb 7th & March 7th**.

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** richardwebber777@gmail.com

DRAYTON HALL NEWS

Would all users please note that while (as we go to press) the present cold weather is blighting us, DO TRY and remember to switch the heating OFF when you leave!

In addition to our recent new group :- **Seniors (Gentle!) Yoga** (Mondays at 11am, Helen Pull :- 07712 646382), we shortly welcome another class, which is to be **PILATES, Tuesday mornings**, run by the Philippa Aldridge fitness group. They plan to be running 2 mixed ability Pilates classes and one Chair-based Pilates session (so no getting on the floor with that one!); they start on **Feb 7th**, with **FREE taster sessions** available, so for info and to book, it's **07702 727971**

Saturday Feb 25th we have two very worthwhile causes to support, Angie Howland is raising funds for both 'SPARKS' & Great Ormond Street (via her upcoming London Marathon) so it's a Family Fun-Day, details just across the page →>>>>

AND – that Sat evening, **Wantage Riding for the Disabled** (another very good cause) are holding their **QUIZ NIGHT**, so do try and support that if you can (info and to enter a team, it's Kate on 01865 875020). Up to 8 in a team, 7.30pm start, and they do a lovely supper in the price!

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!).

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CONTACT : JEFF COX



01235 – 203038
07866 – 903400
JC_OX14@YAHOO.CO.UK

OTHER LOCAL PLACES OF WORSHIP

Methodist Chapel High Street, Milton,
Sunday Service: 10.30 am
Local contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409

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LISTINGS

Abingdon.animalfinders.co.uk We offer a **FREE reporting service** to help **lost, stolen or found pets** such as dogs, cats and ferrets, plus horses and all sorts of other animals in the Abingdon area. When you report an animal to us - we notify the local vets, wardens, shelters and rescue organisations in the local area. We call this our Official Alert Network. We also distribute reports to the members of our Local Pet Watch scheme, on the ground in the area. A further service is that if you report a lost pet, with a photo, we can return an A4 document for you to print out, an easy way to do flyers/posters and spread the word.

Come and join us for a Family Fun Fundraising Day
Saturday 25th February 1pm - 4.30 pm Drayton Village Hall

Featuring.....Music with NICK COPE ; Face Painting, Bouncy Castle, Tombola, Raffle and Silent Auction, Cake Sale, Food and Drinks, Craft and book stalls, and it's . . .EVERYTHING £1

Admission TICKETS IN ADVANCE £4 per child, £2 per adult.

Please email Angie at: angicolenutt@yahoo.com All proceeds in aid of Angie's London Marathon Fundraising for SPARKS and Great Ormond Street Hospital.

FOSTER CARERS NEEDED

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DRAYTON DIARIES

DIARY FOR FEBRUARY

All events held in Drayton Hall unless otherwise stated

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

Sat	4	1.00pm	Private Function (Child's b'day)	
		6.00pm	Private Function (Radley AC)	
Mon	6	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	<i>Caudwell DC</i>
Tues	7	9.00am	Pilates (new, Philippa Aldridge Fitness)	
Sat	11	10.00am	Clear-Up morning! (p7)	<i>Millennium Green</i>
		5.00pm	Private Function	
Sun	12	1.00pm	Private Function (Child's b'day)	
Mon	13	5.00pm	Chronicle Deadline (p2) – Ads 10th	
Sun	19	9.00am	Bowls Club	
Fri	24	7.00pm	Table-tennis Quiz (p9)	<i>Drayton School</i>
Sat	25	1.00pm	Charity Function (see page 15)	
		7.00pm	Wantage RDA Charity Quiz Night (p15)	
Sun	26	9.00am	Finnish Lapphunds Dog Show	
		10.00am	Private Meeting (Lounge)	



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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>
11.00 am	Seniors 'Gentle' Yoga (07712 646382)	
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>
7.30 pm	Badminton (Private Group)	
7.45 pm	Bell-ringing (for 1½ hours)	<i>St Peter's</i>
8.00 pm	Table Tennis (Social Play, one hour)	<i>School</i>

TUESDAYS

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
9.00 am	Pilates (via Philippa Aldridge Fitness)	
1.45 pm	Drayton Art Group (until 4 pm)	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
2.30 pm	First Tuesday Connections (1st Tuesday)	<i>Church Room</i>
7.00 pm	League Table Tennis (three hours)	<i>School</i>
8.00 pm	'Clubbercise' (Hannah – 07811 209242)	

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	
6.00 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>
9.15 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>
5.30 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 (Brian - 01235 531701)	

FRIDAYS

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

SUNDAYS

8.00 am	Holy Communion (2nd Sunday)	<i>St Peter's</i>
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (Family Service 3rd Sunday)	<i>St Peter's</i>
3.30 pm	Baptist 'Family Time' (3rd Sun)	<i>Drayton School</i>
6.00 pm	Evening Service	<i>Baptist Church</i>
7.00 pm	Zumba Fitness (Gemma)	

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