

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Tony Holmes

Volume 40 No. 4

May 2017

Did Someone Mention 'Election'?

With due apologies to those readers who echo the sentiments of the Bristol woman, shown on several TV news bulletins mouthing something like "WHAT – not another b***** one", or a few people who've been away getting blotto for a couple of weeks and hadn't seen any news, I feel obliged to mention the election topic.

No, NOT the one in June, DO try and ignore that one for a bit (ha-ha), I'm referring to the Oxfordshire County Council vote on Thursday May 4th, when according to the OCC website, all 63 Councillors will be up for election. Drayton now comes under the Division labelled 'Sutton Courtenay & Marcham' (Marcham indeed – hasn't even got its own village hall . . .) and, again according to that website, we'll have 4 names on the voting slips, Stuart Davenport (Conservative), Coral Plumb (Labour), Craig Simmons (Green) and Richard Webber (Liberal Democrat). That's not in any order of bias, it's alphabet order of surname. And no Monster Raving Loony, no UKIP, no Flat Earth Society, just that pretty sober bunch listed. And not even a "Let's be like Sweden and try a 6 hour working day" candidate. Tsh-tsh. Oh, nearly forgot, just one councillor to be elected.

Whoever you like, do try and vote, the county has a lot to work on imminently, especially if the new unitary authority comes to fruition as expected. Perhaps it should be noted what the County provides (or occasionally not these days, as the case may be):- **Children's services; Support for schools; Fire and Rescue; Libraries and museums; Roads; Social care for older people and disabled adults; Community transport; Trading standards; Countryside services, & Waste disposal**

Now, that other one, (the one we'll be bombarded with info, interviews, opinions, polls and theories about for several more joyous weeks), Ed Vaizey (our MP) included in his monthly bulletin (p6) this extra info, on this topic:-

Our Prime Minister, Theresa May, has announced that the public would be returning to the polls in a snap General Election to take place on June 8th. I appreciate that we have gone to the polling station many times in the past year – the EU referendum, local council elections and now the upcoming General Election. However, I share the view of my colleagues that this is the right move at the right time to secure the strong and stable leadership the UK requires.

For those of you who haven't already, in order to have your say and mark your ballot on June 8th, you **must register to vote** by May 22nd. It only takes a few minutes and can be done online at gov.uk/register-to-vote. If you are unable to vote in person on the date, you can arrange a postal vote or a proxy – when you nominate somebody to vote on your behalf. Anyone who is registered to vote can apply for either of these voting methods and instructions can be found at: www.yourvotematters.co.uk.

NB If you're registered to vote in Oxfordshire County Council elections, you won't need to register again for the General Election.

Drayton Millennium Green Trust

Firstly **thank you for the support** for our first Easter Egg Hunt, I think we probably had at least 45 children charging around collecting paper eggs to exchange for the all important chocolate ones! After the cost of the eggs we raised just under £120. Lots of chocolate was enjoyed, some cuddly bunnies went to new homes and it was a great spectacle to see the Green being enjoyed by so many. A new date for your diaries is the summer picnic on 20th July, further details to follow soon.

Our next clear up morning is on Saturday 29th April from 10.00 to 12.30, any enthusiastic help greatly appreciated (those of you whose agents deliver a speedy Chronicle may just see this!).

Our AGM is to be held at the Caudwell Day Centre on Monday 12th June at 7pm, held jointly with the Community Trust, & **all are welcome.** *Jane Mcwhirter (Trust Chair)*

(We don't know who this 'bunny' is, but thanks to Jane for sending some pics of juniors & seniors enjoying the day; p11 too)



VOLUNTEERS PLEASE

Marc Knight (Headteacher at Drayton CP school) tells us :- We are hoping to recruit some **volunteer readers**. We are looking for people who can give us about an hour or so of their time each week to read on a 1:1 basis with children in various year groups (our children are aged 4-11); we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, so interested parties would be required to undertake an enhanced criminal record check.

We are more than happy to show people around school and to discuss what we are looking for. Those who are interested should contact the school office (01235 531316) or by email (office.2560@drayton-pri.oxon.sch.uk)

ALSO >> we are looking for a handyman/woman to carry out a range of 'caretaker type' tasks, ideally for someone to do perhaps 2 hours per week (and also ideally supplying their own tools).

COMING CHRONICLES

The **June Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Friday May 26th**.

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, May 15th 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 May 12th**, 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 Chronicles		
Issue for	Copy Deadlines :- to Editor by (& Agents Lottery Packs the Fri before these)	Chronicle published and available for distribution on Fridays:-
July	Mon June 19	June 30
August	Mon July 17	July 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 - April - LOTTERY

Prize	Winner	Agent
£25	Day Ripington Court	Daniel Scarfe
£20	Mrs M Neal Binning Close	Cathy Norris
£15	P Silver Abingdon Road	Jayne Henderson
£10	Mr Bruce Greenacres	Keith Clough
£10	V Booth Mott Cottages	Tamsin Meredith
£10	Mr Drew Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
£10	Mr & Mrs Inger Church Lane	Susan Brooks
£10	Mr & Mrs Thornhill Eastway H-Park	Teresa Burnage
£10	A Hedditch Abingdon Road	Jayne Henderson
£10	Mrs West Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough

Winning tickets, from 1770 sold, were randomly drawn via computer (similar to Premium Bonds).
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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

The Brownies went on a Pack Holiday to Jubilee House to earn their Jubilee House Challenge Badge, this included Stay Over (spend 1 night at Jubilee House, pack your own bag and design a place mat); Out of Doors (build a den, take part in a camp fire and make pictures from items found in the grounds); High and Low (have a go at the assault course, go on an insect hunt and collect wood for the camp fire); Yum, yum, yum (help make a meal, have a picnic and eat a meal inside and outside)!

We have also been very busy celebrating notable dates on the calendar. St David's Day we were tasting Welsh cakes, St Patricks Day **Rebecca Norkett and Charlotte Puncher**, (past Brownies), entertained us with their Irish Dancing and taught the Brownies a step or two! Very talented, thank you both very much.

We made cards and decorated glass tea light holders for Mother's Day and finally we ended the term making Easter nests and Easter Bonnets! **Liz Brenton and Marie Ramshaw** from Drayton Bowls Club had the very hard task of judging the bonnets! Thank you both very much.

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 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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DRAYTON DINERS Daniel Scharf

Drayton Diners is nearly two years old. Between 8 and 15 residents have been meeting every month in the Wheatsheaf for a meal and drink to chew over the state of the world through Drayton eyes. **We would be happy to have more people join us** to share Geraldine's excellent cooking (ring 01235 531107).

On June 18th there will be the Big Lunch (full explanation can be found through their Web Site) when people around the country (and some abroad) arrange street parties to get to know their neighbours. In 2016 there were 7 million people engaged in this event and I would hope that there would be people in Drayton who could boost this number in 2017 - that is also billed as a memorial to **Jo Cox**, the MP murdered on that day last year.

For those who cannot reasonably close their street, maybe the management of the Millennium Green, village hall (car park) or Caudwell Day centre could be approached?

Abingdon Progressive Christianity Network Group



Celebrating Doubt

a lecture by Dr Val Webb

(Australian theologian and writer)

Thursday May 18th at 7.30 pm

All Saints Methodist Church, Appleford Drive

Abingdon, OX14 2AQ

tickets £5 - at the door

Sutton Courtenay Local History Society

The History Society was formed about seven years ago. Whilst some meetings focus on Sutton Courtenay's history, our aim is also to promote an interest in the local history of the surrounding district so some talks will have a wider appeal. We welcome visitors and the next meeting may be of interest to readers. After a brief AGM, Tim Healey will give an illustrated talk on 'Pagans and Puritans: The Story of May Morning in Oxfordshire'.

Tim Healey is a broadcaster, author and musician and plays an active part in the celebrations in Oxford. The meeting is on Wednesday, May 17th at 7.30 pm in All Saints' church. Meetings are free to members, £3 for visitors.

We normally meet every other month in the (SC) village hall and future subjects, after a summer break, include talks on the latest important prehistoric Roman and Saxon discoveries at Bridge Farm, Sutton Courtenay, the golden age of Stage Coaching, Morris' Motor Works and the transformation of Oxford. For more information about the Society see our website, sclhs.org.uk.

Mary Thompson (Chair, Sutton Courtenay Local History)

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 MAY

Tues	2nd	2.30 pm	1st Tuesday Connections	Church Room
Sun	21st	3.30 pm	Messy Church	Drayton CP School

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms March 19th **Charlie Duncan Mack**

YOU STAY – WE PRAY (May)

1st to 13th Abingdon Road; Oday Hill; Binning Close; Haywards Road

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Letter from St Peter's

Dear Friends,

Recently I was asked which was more important, Christmas or Easter? The answer could be a chicken and egg problem.

However important the event of Jesus' birth was, it is his death and resurrection that's more important to all those who believe in Christ. How do you know when it is Christmas? When Easter eggs are in the supermarkets - Hot Cross buns seem to be available all year round!

Christmas and Easter are not the only events in the Christian year. There are festivals and fund raising occasions and times for rejoicing and remembering. In the weeks after Easter the Church celebrates the coming together of Jesus' disciples, or followers, and their forming of the Church, a birthday if you like, Pentecost.

In this part of the world where we live, Christmas and Easter are celebrated in different seasons; one in wintery darkness and the other in hopeful spring. The imagery and symbolism of the seasons, remind us of Jesus as bringing in light and rebirth, a new life. The changing of the seasons marks out the passing of the year. You may have a favourite season, or one that you do not look forward to.

Change itself can have its challenges for some, or be a welcome opportunity for others, and I am not just thinking about seasonal changes. There are many changes in daily living as well as lifelong changes. At this moment, the country and the county are preparing for elections. Challenges and opportunity, questioning and debating will affect the coming weeks. The Church of England has suggested a prayer which I would like to share and leave with you:-

“Lord, we give thanks for the privileges and responsibilities of living in a democratic society.

Give us wisdom to play our part at election time, that, through the exercise of each vote, your Kingdom may come closer.

Protect us from the sins of despair and cynicism, guard us against the idols of false utopias, and strengthen us to make politics a noble calling that serves the common good of all.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord. **Amen**”

Revd Rosie Bruce

Suzy Willis & Associates

MCSP HCPC AACP

CHARTERED PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

Old Lodge, Henleys Lane

Drayton, OX14 4HU

Tel 01235 531269

Please ring for an appointment

(MORE) ALL AROUND

Drayton BOWLS Club 'Roll Up'

We start these notes by congratulating 'The Wasps' on winning the Oxford County afternoon triple league, well done to all the players who contributed to what was a fine performance.

'The Hammers' were at the wrong end of the table; not sure of their final position as there are still two matches to be played.

Since the last notes we have held three internal competitions, firstly 'The Wally Weightman' triples, going through to play the final in December will be Ian Norris, June Hyde, & Josie Carter, who will play Val Locke, Avril Holmes, & Pam Lacey.

Next the 'Henry Bunce' Handicap pairs, in which Tony Mullins & Marjorie Strachan will play Chris Smith, and Bryn Jones.

The Attwood cup bowls drive was won by Pat Mitchenson; the Rose Bowl triple league is due to end in early May and again this looks like a close finish.

Notes for the diary: - June 9th we will be going for our annual lunch to Burford with a bus laid on, leaving the Village hall at 10.30am, also the AGM will be held on July 10th @ 2pm (please note a change in the time), also in August (date to be confirmed) we will be going for a skittles afternoon.

Closing these notes we wish good luck to June Hyde and Jack Mitchenson who are playing in the final of the county pairs in Oxford (April 30th), also playing in the final of the fours with June and Jack are Janice and Barry Davis, play well and bring the trophies home!

Red Lion

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suite

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Drayton WIVES

Gwen Price

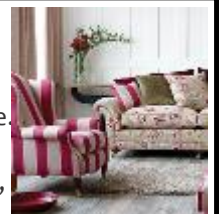
At the April meeting, our speaker was Alan Copeland whose fascinating talk was Curiosities of the Cotswolds (part two). He showed us some very unusual pictures of quirky areas and buildings of the Cotswolds. He had a funny story about each one. Here are a few examples :- the 'Macaroni woods' sign; Tiddles the church cat's grave; Betty's grave road sign; Tom long's post, The cat and custard pot, and many more. It was a very enjoyable talk.

Our meeting on 26th April will have been the AGM, when we shall have a display of craft work which has been done by some of our members.

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Drayton Table-Tennis Club John Gould

The League season for ping pong has now finished and pleasingly our G team were Division 4 champions. They are the only team throughout the 5 divisions of the Didcot League to remain unbeaten so the title is fully deserved. Captained by Janet Quarry the team is Marc Addison, Robert Mihalache, Michael Russell & Alec Winton. In addition Marc finished the season as the division's top player only losing 5 matches out of 45 played. All our other teams did well as none of them finished in the relegation places.

The **Bidmead Cup** Final will be Drayton v Wallingford and I will report in the June issue.

In the **Handicap Shield** we have had some good success with our A & B teams reaching the semi finals. They have avoided each other in the draw so possibly an all Drayton final will ensue. The A team are up against fellow Division 1 team Letcombe A, and the B team will either play Grove B or Moreton E both from Division 5. I will report on these results in the next issue.

Our club **Senior Championships** will take place on Sunday May 7th. This will be our 25th year running this event so a bit of a milestone has been reached. The **John Prior Cup** is the main singles event, run on a handicap basis to even things out as best we can. We've had a good number of entries including some 'first timers' so it should be a testing but fun day. There will also be doubles and also a plate competition for those who fail to progress too far along the road!

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)

Thank you to all those who contacted me after the terrorism incident in Westminster. My team and I are fine and offer our sincerest condolences to each of the victims and their families. PC Keith Palmer lost his life protecting MPs and their staff, and his bravery and professionalism will never be forgotten.

The Government have now invoked Article 50 and formally commenced the UK's process of withdrawing from the European Union. Over the next two years, the Government will now be tasked with negotiating a positive new partnership with the EU's remaining member states. The Prime Minister has made clear that she will attempt to deliver an outcome that works in the interests of the whole of the UK and will not ignore those who voted to 'Remain'. MPs will be able to debate, scrutinise and vote on important negotiating decisions and I will make sure that the voices of the constituency are heard throughout.

Some of you may be aware of the 1940s film 'Magic Town' in which the owner of a company which performs consumer surveys lacks the funds to compete with its larger rivals in the field. Instead, he comes across a small town which he believes is perfectly representative of the nation's views and uses it to conduct his research. This month, the team at ASI Data Science used modern data science methods to establish a new 'Magic Town' - an area that is most representative of the whole country. Their verdict? Our very own Didcot! Of course, we have always known that Didcot is indeed a 'Magic Town', but it is great to see it finally get the official recognition it deserves!

I am pleased to see that the Oxfordshire Cycling Network has launched its vision of a future Strategic Cycle Network for Oxfordshire. This will be a county-wide 'all ages, all abilities' cycle network linking major towns, workplaces and transport hubs with safe, direct and attractive routes. The 366-mile network could cost £120m and take 15 to 20 years to build, but it would bring transport and health benefits of worth at least 7 times that in the 20 year period alone.

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

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

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 Jottings

Free digital workshops for businesses

Businesses in the Vale of White Horse can find out how digital marketing, Google ranking and Google Ads can help raise their profile and income, thanks to a series of free digital workshops taking place this year. They are being organised by VoWHDC's Vale4Business and local online marketing experts Zanzi Digital to help people understand how they can use web based activities to boost their business. The remaining workshops for this year are:

Wednesday 17 May - How to make digital marketing work harder for your business

Wednesday 20 September - Make your Google Ad campaign stand out from the crowd in 20 minutes a week

All workshops take place between 8.30am and 10am at the Milton Park Innovation Centre, 99 Park Drive, Milton Park, Milton, OX14 4RY. Register by visiting www.vale4business.com.

Cllr Matthew Barber said "These workshops will provide vital advice for businesses looking to improve their online presence, and to help ensure that small local businesses have access to free advice which can help boost their trade and the local economy."



Call for landlords to join White Horse Lettings




Oxon Landlords with properties to let are being encouraged to sign up to **White Horse Lettings**. Run by South Oxon & VoWHD Councils, WHL offers long-term rental accommodation to people on the housing waiting list. Around 250 landlords are already registered but **more are required** to provide much needed homes for families on lower incomes.

WHL is looking for good quality flats, houses and rooms, and tenants (carefully vetted) are ready to move in.

White Horse Lettings staff are part of the councils' housing advice team with many years' experience in managing rental homes and providing accommodation. They support landlords throughout the tenancy and all services including paperwork, inventories and tenancy advice are **free of charge**.

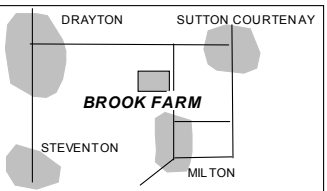
If you have a suitable property please contact White Horse Lettings, visit www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/whitehorselettings or they're on 01235 422422.

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New Thames Valley Police website

Thames Valley Police have just revamped their website, it's a new look, but the same address:- www.thamesvalley.police.uk

This is the culmination of a collaboration project between Thames Valley Police and Hampshire Constabulary, working with the Police ICT Company and the Digital Policing Programme. The design and operation will be a national solution which is expected to be available to all police forces in the coming years.

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Bat Walk Sat 20th May, 8.30pm-10pm :- Guided walk with the addition of bat detectors to find out more about these marvellous mammals. £6 per adult, £3 per child; booking essential**;

Drawing from Nature Sun 21st May, 2pm-4pm :- Explore Little Wittenham Wood with your sketchbook and get top tips from artist Gareth Lloyd, £20; booking essential**.

AND many more! NB To Book** info 01865 407792 + online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee).

YOUR LETTERS

Brian Moylan

Dear Editor, Abingdon Road

I would like to thank friends and neighbours for their support and kind thoughts on the death of my father Brian Moylan who, at the age of 88, died on February 14th.

He and mum Iris moved to the village in 1955 and very soon felt part of village life. He had an amazing career as an MG mechanic working with the winning rally team all over the world.

He was also a true family man, much loved, and will be greatly missed by his six grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren.

On behalf of my sisters, Lyn Spiers and Christine Sibbald, THANK YOU once again for your kindness.

Kind Regards Janet Woolley



Barn Dance

Saturday May 13th 7pm

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For SOBELL HOUSE

Dear Editor Corneville Road

Steventon WI is holding a coffee morning on May 18th (Thurs), 10am to noon, at Steventon Village Hall.

Tea, coffee & cakes will be on offer, also home produce on sale, a tombola and a raffle. All proceeds for Sobell House.

Thank You Anne Stopps

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More Noise & Potholes!

Dear Editor 6 Meads Close

In response to the letter from Judith Henman (April), we expect by now that she has learned the reason for the heavy traffic at night time through our Village.

What a lot of people in Drayton - and indeed Steventon - want to know is, who will mend our roads after the A34 has finished being repaired?!

We are not directly on the main road but all night long we hear the lorries thumping along at an alarming rate, rattling manhole covers (in some cases denting/breaking them) and ruining the surface of our roads. They don't follow the marked diversion, hence this nuisance night after night for the past few weeks?!

We also believe that Steventon bridge won't need to be dismantled, it will collapse! Brunel must be turning in his grave!

Can the Parish Council tell us if our road will be repaired too and if so, when?!

Yours sincerely Janet & David Smith



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More Letters

RBL -- Collectors Please!

Dear Editor via email

In recent years several very long-term Poppy Collectors have retired or moved away from Drayton, and we thank them most sincerely for their devoted service. However this has left the village rather short of Collectors!

The 2017 Poppy Appeal runs from Saturday 28 September (the day before the clocks go back) until Remembrance Sunday on 12 November. **If you could spare a few hours during that time**, I would be very glad to hear from you. The areas where we most need collectors are **Steventon Road and Abingdon Road**, both of which are divided into small units which can easily be covered by an individual or a couple. We also have gaps in various areas all through the village, so please do volunteer if you possibly can.

The Royal British Legion provides life-time support for Service people and their surviving families with personal care for individuals. They also run all the Residential Homes – although some facilities are now actually built by organisations such as Help For Heroes, the day-to-day running and support is entirely carried out by the Legion.

Please remember that everyone who has served in the Forces in any way, and their relations, can be helped by the Legion in a variety of ways – you just have to ask us!

Please consider volunteering for the Poppy Appeal, which is a wonderful way of receiving a smiling welcome at people's front door. I am on diamar1@btinternet.com or 01235 847430.

Kind Regards

Diana Hasting

Neighbourhood News

A warm welcome to:- Erica Collier who has moved into The Courtyard, Sutton Wick Lane.

And also to Anna & Darren Draper who have moved into Binning Close from Didcot.



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Breast cancer has recently been hitting the headlines once again, perhaps unsurprisingly, since this illness is the single most common cause of death in the UK in women aged 35 – 54 years. Shockingly, one in eight women will develop breast cancer in their lifetime.

Bosom Friends is a small, Oxfordshire support group run entirely by volunteers, and offers a listening ear as well as practical, confidential support to those who have been affected by breast cancer. The group was formed several years ago by two women who wanted to ensure that others in Oxfordshire would not feel the same isolation that they had experienced following their diagnosis of breast cancer.

Members of Bosom Friends meet once a month, usually in the home of one of the members. There is the opportunity to get together for a chat over a cuppa and cakes in a supportive and informal atmosphere. The monthly meetings often include guest speakers and other social events.

Whether you have just been diagnosed, are currently undergoing treatment, or completed your active treatment a while ago, the group offers emotional support & practical, up-to-date info.

Above all, the group offers an understanding voice at the end of the phone should you ever need it.

If you or someone you care about has been affected by breast cancer, please do take a look at the Bosom Friends website - www.bosomfriends.org.uk; alternatively if you prefer, please call Jan on 01844 290362, or Gillie on 01844 212516.

AND - ON A SIMILAR TOPIC

THIS is another appeal for **Chronicle Agents**, who do a wonderful job with the Chronicle Lottery, which helps with our funding and ensures that householders don't have to pay for each issue.

However, we desperately need to get some more people on to the team. We always have a few gaps in our Drayton coverage, and there's a few more houses coming along!

The rounds are divided so as to be quite small, so shouldn't cost too much in terms of time, or shoes!

If anyone can (PLEASE!!) help they can contact Carol Arnold on 01235 531923, or it's email :- carolannarnold@sky.com



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A new number to call when the lights go out

A new national phone line has been launched to make it easier to report power cuts in your area and get help and advice.

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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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THAMES VALLEY ALERT APP

Thames Valley Police is delighted to announce that the **Thames Valley Alert App** has been launched and is free to download now. The app, for iPhone & Android, can be downloaded from the App Store, and Google Play, and allows you to receive instant notifications to your phone re the latest policing alerts in your area (NB you must enable push notifications to receive these).

The app uses GPS data to send you targeted messages according to your current geographical location and messaging preferences, sending you instant notifications to your mobile phone about specific information, warnings and advice relevant to that location.

The app offers a number of other features, including allowing you to quickly locate your closest police station, and also provides a feed of the latest Thames Valley-wide news on Twitter, so you'll never miss those important Force-wide updates and breaking news (this is available even if you don't have a Twitter account).

Please note, you can still choose to receive alerts via email, text or voicemail. **To download the app**, visit the Apple store or Google Play and search 'Thames Valley Alert'.

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RECENTLY HEARD on a TRAIN – Parental Advice

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A picture tells . . .

Following on from page 1 – more ‘Bunny’ pics

(they’re in there somewhere?!)



(& got one!)



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And snaps of ‘Vamp til Ready’, at the recent Village
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(Thanks to David Russell)



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Parish Council Richard Williams

Report of the Annual Parish Assembly and Parish Council meeting held on Mon 3rd April.

Annual Parish Assembly: The Chairman and sub-committee chairs reported on events of the previous year. Amongst the items recorded, it was noted that the Parish Council:

- considered 60 planning applications, which represents a 50% increase in numbers on last year. One of these was the major development at Manor Farm;
- gave grants totalling £17,511 to seven Drayton and four other local organizations,
- officially opened the refurbished Lockway playground in June;
- organized the church service to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the WW1 action in which Edward John Mott (born in Drayton) won the Victoria Cross (the memorial paving stone is now in place beneath the lych gate entrance to St Peter's Church);
- liaised with the RAF's 'Memorial Mob' over the church service to mark the 60th anniversary of the Sutton Wick Air Crash;
- unveiled the Blue Plaque to Rev F.E. Robinson (bell-ringer) on May 22nd;
- maintained village footpaths, burial ground and allotments, cleared litter, and cut grass throughout summer months;
- supported the Millennium Green Trust in several weekend working groups, helping to widen the existing footpaths and assisting with general clearing-up tasks;
- contributed to catering costs of the August Right Royal Picnic;
- commissioned architects' plans for the new sports pavilion and submitted planning application;
- co-ordinated project for design and build of a new pre-school.

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→ **Other reports** were given on various village activities by Tom Shebbeare (Drayton 2020 Implementation Committee); Roxy Elford and Holly Freeland (DAMASCUS Project); Keith Clough (Millennium Green Trust); Ann Webb & Tony Holmes (Village Hall); Andrew Bax (Drayton Community Trust); Daniel Scharf (Drayton Diners); Vicky Malin (Caudwell Day Centre); Camilla King (Drayton Almshouses); Tamsin Meredith (FODSA – Friends of Drayton School Association); Rachel Hammond (Stonehill Community Garden), and Tim Atkins (Allotments).

Richard Webber and Stuart Davenport, our OCC and Vale councillors respectively, gave an update on county and district matters. Both reports mainly concerned the proposed local government reorganization, whereby the present four district councils and county council would disappear, to be replaced by a single unitary council. The position of Oxford City Council in these negotiations is not yet clear. The problems of an inner-city council are not the same as those of the more rural district councils, and the political complexion of Oxford is also different, with the City being Labour controlled. It was pointed out that Labour councillors will not want to be subsumed into a body where they are the minority, but in any case, unitary council or not, some functions are likely to be devolved to a more local basis – planning being but one example. No doubt Richard and Stuart will have more to say on this in their own columns, but major change in some form is now definitely in sight.

Parish Council The usual PC meeting followed, but in fact, most of its agenda, including the above councillors' reports had already been dealt with in the extended Annual Parish Assembly. If anyone wishes to know more, please be aware that the full Council Report for 2016/17, including the Chairman's and sub-committee reports and parish accounts are all available on the village website: Parish Council tab, then 'Agendas and minutes' on the drop-down menu.

The next PC meeting will be the AGM, at which office-holders must be re-elected. Please note this meeting will be held on Monday May 8th, (7.30 pm), in the Caudwell Day Centre in Gravel Lane, a week later than usual due to Mon May 1st being the May Bank Holiday. **As ever, all are welcome to attend.**

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.

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Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG5 Safety Corner)

PCC launches new Police and Crime Plan

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Anthony Stansfeld, has launched his new five year Police and Crime Plan for the Thames Valley. The document sets out the priorities for policing and other crime reduction organisations. It consists of five strategic priorities which are:-

Vulnerability – Managing demand on services through working together with a particular focus on mental health, elder abuse, hidden abuse, and the criminal justice experience for victims.

Prevention and Early Intervention – Improving safeguarding in both the physical and virtual space including tackling cyber crime, road safety, peer on peer abuse, hate crime and female genital mutilation (FGM).

Reducing Re-offending – Targeting and managing harm and risk with a focus on substance misuse, violence involving weapons and offender management.

Serious Organised Crime and Terrorism – Improving the local response including increased public awareness, promoting a ‘dare to share’ culture, and preventing violent extremism and exploitation of vulnerable people.

Police Ethics and Reform – Increasing the pace of change with a focus on improved support for victims, uptake of new technology, and improving the perceptions of police among young people

The Plan was informed by the views of nearly 5000 residents, including over 1000 young people, who took part in the PCCs policing and crime survey in 2016.

It was also developed using a broad range of information including academic research, analysis of crime trends and consultation with partners including the police and local authorities.

Anthony Stansfeld said: “Demand on policing and community safety issues have changed over the last few years and my new plan reflects this. The Plan focuses on many new and emerging issues for policing but crimes such as household burglary and rural crime will also remain a priority.

“Tackling new demand, as well as maintaining support for the investigation of more traditional crimes, won’t be an easy task. However, as recent Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) inspections have shown, Thames Valley Police is a force we can be proud of and I have faith that they will be able to rise to this challenge and continue to safeguard the communities of Thames Valley.

“I will now be working closely with partner organisations to understand how they will address the issues identified.”

For more information and to view the full Police and Crime Plan visit the PCC website at

<https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/news-and-events/thamesvalley-pcc-news/2017/03/police-and-crime-commissioner-launches-new-police-and-crime-plan/>

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>.

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HAVE FAITH :- For those who missed it on Page 4, go back and check out the Prayer for Politicians (as officially supplied by the Church of England). Having seen a lot of them come & go, over what is now all too many decades, maybe we should all have tried prayer (not much else works?). Or are most just beyond help . . .

Here and There / Bits & Bobs

ABINGDON AIR & COUNTRY SHOW, Sun May 14th, Abingdon Airfield (Dalton Barracks) - Gates open 10.00am.

A great family day out with something for everyone, it has now become one of the largest events in the Thames Valley area, supporting the Thames Valley Air Ambulance. It has a 3 hour flying display, static aircraft, ground attractions, craft/trade stalls, falconry, 'Farms 2 Ewe', Abingdon Morris dancers, Live music (Ellie Mae of 'Britains got Talent' fame, The Mangled Wurzels, Abingdon Rock Choir, Radio Days big band), Oxford Drum Troupe, plus Classic and Military vehicles, Helicopter flights, Arena displays, Abingdon Caledonian pipes and drums and much more. See their ad (Page 7) >> Tickets (in advance), Adults £12, Seniors £8, Child £4, On the day, plus 50%.



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DIESEL VEHICLES:- As a diesel car owner, I've heard the recent news items about the problems they cause (whereas a few years ago, the Govt was recommending them!). A recent Radio4 show pointed out that 75% of the problem emissions come from trucks, buses and vans. It also mentioned the many train franchises that use diesel, and for any actual or likely user of such a service, best not breathe in (apparently!) at any major station that has them!

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ABINGDON in OZ?!

This was featured in the local news a couple of months ago, but for those who didn't see it, any travellers from Abingdon may be surprised to stumble upon a little piece of home hiding an hour's drive away from Perth (that's the Australian one, not Scottish!).

Nestled among scrubland near a chocolate factory is a quirky attraction that boasts replicas of Abingdon landmarks, including tiny versions of County Hall Museum and popular riverside pub the Old Anchor Inn.

Sutton Courtenay resident Jenny Shaw amazed Facebook users in January when she posted pictures of the Amaze Miniature Park, near the city of Mandurah. She said: "It's on a freeway next to a lorry depot, it's very weird. They've got a maze there and a little tea shop, it was a sleepy little place, but it's a nice recognition of Abingdon's history - if you're in the area, you have got to go."

Dianne Murphy, who ran the attraction with husband Peter from 2012-2015, said it was partly because of Abingdon's status as the oldest continually-inhabited town in England. The originators of Abingdon Miniature Village were both Australian and had never even visited Abingdon. However when they researched possible towns they came across Abingdon as a perfect choice, mainly for its links to the military and being the home of the MG factory - both of great interest to the owner - as well as the history and historic buildings.

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May news for The Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock

Stanley Anderson Exhibition:- May 6th to June 18th, he moved to Towersey near Thame during WW2, and drew inspiration from the local area. Many of his subjects evoke a sense of nostalgia for traditional crafts and architecture that has been destroyed by war.

Ross King:- Mad Enchantment, Claude Monet and the Painting of the Waterlilies lecture (Sun May 6th, 2.30pm), his latest book marks the story of Monet's struggles and triumphs in the last dozen years of his life; Tickets £8, phone 01993 814106

Childrens holiday activities:- Science Oxford Workshops (£2 per child) :- May 31st, Dinosaur Workshops, & Science of Magic Workshop. More info >> www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/museums

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 **May 2nd & June 6th**.

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 Thursday users please note (this won't be a surprise!!) that we'll be in use as a Polling Station for both the County Council elections (May 4th), and the national one (June 8th). The former will be in the Small Hall, and the latter has 2 desks so will be in the Main Hall.

AND – can everyone on every day PLEASE REMEMBER to turn all the lights off!!

One of our groups is taking a short break, that's the **Seniors (Gentle!) Yoga** (Monday mornings); Helen is producing an apprentice, but I guess it's a testimony to the powers of yoga that she hopes to be back in record time, hopefully June.

Our new **PILATES** class, Tuesday mornings, run by the Philippa Aldridge fitness group, has had a short break but is back in May (new teacher), so for info and to book, it's **07702 727971**

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!).

Oh, and it's the Hall Management C'tee AGM on Mon May 15th (7.30pm), so would all groups who've a committee rep please be geared up. The Hall hopes to be reaping the benefit of some 'S106' housing funding in due course, and we should soon be revisiting the previous ideas for improvements from a couple of years ago. Any villager who has some good ideas to improve the hall, this is your time to step forward?!

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CALL PETER EARNSHAW ON 07749 597627 OR email ovenblitz@googlemail.com web: www.ovenblitz.co.uk

WEEKEND APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE

Member of the Association of Approved Oven Cleaners

LISTINGS

Abingdon.animalfinders.co.uk has been re-badged, is NOW at petsreunited.com/local/Abingdon, still offers a **FREE reporting service** to help **lost, stolen or found pets** such as dogs, cats and ferrets, & 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 orgs, it's 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.

Oxfordshire Artweeks May Festival will take place from May 6th to 29th. For three weeks, you will be able to visit open studios in towns & venues across Oxfordshire **for free**. For more details, please see <https://www.artweeks.org/> & click 'EXPLORE'; there are far too many venues to list on here, but there's plenty to view in Abingdon, Didcot, and nearby villages, plus of course masses in Oxford itself. For those who aren't so computer-savvy, call them on 01235 869059 (Mon/Weds/Fri 9.30 to 2.30pm).

'**Tomorrow**' :- is an inspirational award-winning film, being shown by Abingdon Carbon Cutters; Weds May 17th at 7pm at Stonehill Barn (free), with a look at the gardens first & refreshments & discussion afterwards. **Please join us!** (NB Unlike other documentary films that focus on the causes of environmental issues, Tomorrow suggests solutions, practical initiatives working now in various locations. The movie is cited as the trigger for a new kind of engagement by ordinary people to make a real difference. Oh, and it's not far, Stonehill House is down the lane just before the new houses in south Abingdon).

FOSTER CARERS NEEDED

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

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

Log on to www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/fostering to find out more details, or call 0800 7835724.

THIS MONTH there is a **Fostering Information event**:- Speak directly to our (Oxon CC) recruitment team, social workers and experienced foster carers. It's on Wednesday May 10th, 6.30 - 8pm in **Nash Court, Oxford OX4 2RU** (that's just off the Eastern By-pass, the Cowley junction, other side from Tesco).

You just might be able to make a difference to someone's life?

DRAYTON DIARIES

DIARY FOR MAY

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

Thur	4	Local Elections (Small Hall)
Sat	6 2.00pm	Private Function (Child's b'day)
Sun	7 9.00am	Private Function
	1.30pm	Private Function (Child's b'day)
Mon	8 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting <i>Caudwell DC</i>
Sat	13 12.00pm	Private Function (Small Hall)
	12.30pm	Chronicle Lottery Deadline
	7.00pm	BARN DANCE (see ad page 8)
Mon	15 5.00pm	Chronicle Deadline (p2) – Ads 12th
Mon	15 7.30pm	Hall Committee AGM
Sat	20 9.00am	Private Function
	7.00pm	Private Function
Sun	21 9.00am	Bowls Club
Sat	27 1.00pm	Private Function (Child's b'day)
Sun	28 1.00pm	Private Function (Child's b'day)

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THE RED LION

John, Mandy & Joshua -

We would like to thank Drayton for supporting the Red Lion as we reach our 1 year anniversary.

We are having a BBQ on Saturday 20th of May from 12-5pm and will be serving hot dogs for 50p and Hamburgers for £1.00, to say thank you, please come and help us celebrate

Kids and dog friendly

All Welcome

Please call 01235 532393

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07789 873483 or visit my website

www.lhgoodwin.co.uk

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>

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>
1.45 pm	Whist Drive (ACHLoFriends)	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</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>

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)	

DRAYTON TELEVISION SERVICES

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