SNOW  by ‘Doggerelle’

White cotton balls adorn the trees,
    Icicles begin to freeze,
And fairyland is everywhere
    Shining, dazzling, bright and fair.

Children cannot reach their schools,
    Workers gladly down their tools,
Others get to work, but late,
    While some prefer to hibernate.

    Excited laughter fills the air
    As testing icy ponds kids dare,
And groups of youngsters snowball fight
    In fields all frosty, sparkling white.

    Comic snowmen stand on guard
    In many a garden and back-yard,
With carrot nose and coal black eyes
    And trilby hats and Dads’ old ties.

The world seems quiet, life’s pace is slowed,
    A gentle lull because it’s snowed.
    Stilled is all life’s frenzied rush,
Enjoy the calm and gentle hush.

    For those who cannot get about
    Neighbours kindly help them out.
People have more time to chatter,
    Stop to have a friendly natter.

    Inconvenient it might be
    For older folk like you and me;
But when all is said and done
    The kids are having so much fun,
When old, nostalgically they’ll then
    Remember winter twenty ten.

A Commuter in the recent snowfall demonstrates that Drayton really needs that extra bus shelter . . . (thanks to Keith Clough)
COMING CHRONICLES

The MARCH Chronicle will be available for distribution to Area Agents on Friday, Feb 26th, from Margaret Armstrong (531122), who should be contacted by Agents requiring extra copies.

The Editor will be Derek Pooley (559454). Contributions may be e-mailed (see below), or placed in the Chronicle letter box, outside Vickery’s store on Drayton Green.

NO LATER than 5.15 pm on Monday, February 15th 2010.

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 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.

Editors clear the box from time to time before the deadline. It is a great help when items can be left in the box a few days before the closing date. Thank you.

NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

All contributions to the Chronicle are most welcome. Be sure to include the name, address and (in case clarification is necessary) telephone number of the author. Contributions can be made :-

1. If you’ve Internet access, by email to the relevant editor (and please use a meaningful title, we get a lot called Chronicle!):-
   (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.

2. A recording device such as CD or DVD (even the old Floppy Disk!); please include hard copy for checking the formatting and your address so that it can be easily returned. This is still a good way to receive copy since it removes much of the work necessary in 3 & 4 below, AND should help to eliminate misprints/errors from scanner problems or dodgy handwriting.

3. A good, black typescript on white A4 paper or smaller. The scanner can read in typescripts and this is a bit easier than re-typing, though scanned text does require a lot of checking. IF you prepare your text on a PC to print the output and send it to us, thanks, BUT PLEASE SEE 2 above - we do return things, honest!

4. Finally, hand-written items. Names of people and places in CAPITALS please (thanks to those who do), but remember these need typing out; do you know anyone with a PC? (saves us time).

ADVERTISING RATES

For Block Advert (about 1/12th page) - - - - Number of Inserts - - - -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advertiser Category</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drayton Resident</td>
<td>£5.00</td>
<td>£14.00</td>
<td>£25.50</td>
<td>£48.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Drayton Resident</td>
<td>£6.00</td>
<td>£17.00</td>
<td>£31.50</td>
<td>£60.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Half-size block adverts, 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: adverting@draytonchronicle.net

CHRONICLE LOTTERY

Daphne Samworth, Hon. Promoter

RESULTS OF THE JANUARY LOTTERY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prize</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Agent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>£25</td>
<td>Mr. Burrows, 129 Drayton Rd, S’C’t’ny</td>
<td>Claire Soper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£20</td>
<td>Mr. Viner, 19 Lockway, Drayton</td>
<td>Jenny Pooley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£15</td>
<td>T. Diver, Conifer Hse, Conifer Drive</td>
<td>Darren McDonald</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£10</td>
<td>Ms. Grant, 53 Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton</td>
<td>Keith Clough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£10</td>
<td>Mr. Ball, 87 Drayton Road, S’C’t’ny</td>
<td>Claire Soper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£10</td>
<td>P. Manthorpe, c/o Windy Ridge</td>
<td>Claire Soper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£10</td>
<td>D. Eato, 21 Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton</td>
<td>Keith Clough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£10</td>
<td>Sue Chung, 1 Church Lane, Drayton</td>
<td>Susan Brooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£10</td>
<td>Mrs B Boyd, 24 Whitehorns Way Drayton</td>
<td>Jan Hager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£10</td>
<td>Janey Woodley, The Red Lion, Drayton</td>
<td>Barbara Purbrick</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Winning tickets, from a total of 2250 sold, were drawn by staff & customers at the Red Lion (Ed:- hope whoever drew that last one got an extra pint!). We do need more Agents - could YOU help?

THE FOLLOWING TWO MONTHS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue for</th>
<th>Copy for publication by</th>
<th>Chronicle published and available for distribution on Fridays:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>15 March</td>
<td>26 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>19 April</td>
<td>30 April</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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DRAYTON ALMSHOUSE CHARITY

A vacancy exists for one of the Drayton Almshouses. Are you interested or do you know of anyone else over the age of 60 who might be interested?

For an application form please apply to: The Clerk to the Trustees Gothic House Drayton Tel: 01235 531253
Drayton TODDLERS Ana Gurl

The children had a lovely time at their Christmas party and were very pleased to see a special visitor with a present for everyone! A fun time was had by all.

It is nice to see all the toddlers back again now after a slow, snowy start to the New Year.

Drayton Toddlers meet in the village hall on Thursday mornings 9.30 – 11.30. We have lots of fun playing together, we have crafts and activities and even stop for a snack and a cuppa for the mums - Thanks Joy!

New members are always welcome. Phone Vicky on 07779 243290 for more info.

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Drayton BOWLS Club ‘Roll Up’

It’s with great sadness that we start these notes announcing the loss of Doreen, our long standing Chairperson (see tribute p6).

Finals day was again a very successful day and the following picking up the trophies for the year 2009.

'Didcot Windows' open singles Tony Wright
‘Derek Messenger’ Ladies singles Pat Hoyland
‘Jean Mullins’ Gents singles Nick Carter
‘The Attwood’ cup Josie Carter
‘Henry Bunce’ handicap pairs John Goodacre, June Hyde
‘Don Alexander’ 2 wood Triples

John Goodacre, Josie Carter. Pat Mitchenson

‘Wally Weightman’ 2 wood triples

John Goodacre. Carol Smith. Eileen Long

‘Beryl James’ 3 wood triples


‘Rose bowl’ Triples league

John Goodacre. Kay Attwood. Pat Mitchenson

‘John Berry’ fours league


‘Ladies v Gents’ – Gents! ‘Handicap Tournament’ Chris Smith

The league teams are looking good at the half-way stage with ‘The Rollers’ in top spot on shot difference, and looking for a strong second half finish to top the table by the end of March; the best of the afternoon teams are ‘The Wasps’ who are third but only two points off the pace, so must also be in with a chance of topping the table come the end of the season.

Letters to the Editor

You may request that your name & address are not shown; however we MUST have those details, and phone number.

DRAYTON W.I. Shirley Thomas

Our year ended with our Annual Christmas celebration. We were entertained in a very festive way by “Pandimonium”, a folk group who soon got our feet tapping. The Day Centre was decorated which added to the occasion, the ‘bring and share’ supper was delicious and a good time was had by all.

A few members attended the W.I. Carol concert at the Town Hall in Oxford, always a wonderful start to the Christmas celebrations.

At our next meeting in January we are still in the party mood and will start the year by going out for supper.

HAPPY NEW YEAR DRAYTON.

<<<<==== NB After many years of trimming the menfolk of Drayton on Monday evenings, Margaret has decided to have her dinner at a more normal time - but as her ad says, Gents can now get a coiffure at ANY time, so just drop in, (or phone to check).
Letter from St Peter’s Church

Dear Friends,

‘All the bells are ringing’

The Victorians were by all accounts an energetic people. Such TV programmes as ‘The Victorian Farm’ illustrate their genius for reform which improved the lives of people on all levels of society.

What was true of farms, industry and society was also true of the church. At the beginning of the nineteenth century most churches were neglected and in a state of disrepair. The Oxford Movement of 1833 injected a new enthusiasm into church life. In 1855 the curate at St Peter’s, Thomas Mortimer spearheaded improvements to the building. He introduced new pews for the growing population, removed the music gallery and erected the chancel arch. (There are two water colour paintings at the back of the church showing the old gallery).

Rev F Theobald, who was the first vicar of Drayton, continued this reform and was especially good at pastoral care, in 14 years he did 476 baptisms, 78 weddings and 200 funerals. Revs Gary, Mortimer and Theobald were all instrumental in setting up and developing the school for village children.

All this growth and reform was enhanced and consolidated by Rev Francis Robinson who was vicar for thirty years from 1878 to 1908. He introduced an organ and robed choir, and also carved the choir stalls and priest stall which are still in use today. In addition he carved other things in the church like the porch and the screen at the back (finished after his death by others).

His most enduring contribution to both Drayton and wider church life was in the matter of bell ringing. Bell ringing had a bad reputation. The few bells that existed were rung by a motley crew of men who were more interested in the payment they received and the alehouse where they could spend it! Most vicars ignored the situation. On 13 November 1880 they held a meeting of clergy and bell ringers who made no contribution to the life of the church.

Rev Robinson and various other clergy were keen to alter this situation. On 13 November 1880 they held a meeting of clergy and lay people in the Oxford Diocese to begin a process of training and standardising bell ringing. This led to the foundation of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Bellringers which Robinson chaired. Over the next 20 years Robinson invested much time and energy in establishing excellent ringing chambers not only in Drayton but all round the diocese. So comprehensive was his expertise that he gained a national and even international reputation. Even today we get many groups of bell ringers wanting to come and use our bells.

In 2005 the bells were rung commemorating the 125th anniversary of the founding of the guild of bell ringers. In the bell chamber you can see numerous plaques commemorating this and other special ringing events.

PEEL OF BELLS: On Tuesday 16th February Drayton Bellringers will be ringing a Peel of Bells from 10am to 1pm to commemorate 100 years since the death of Robinson.

CELEBRATION: On Sunday 21st Feb (10am) we will celebrate the work of bellringing and give thanks for the life of Robinson who made such an enduring contribution to the life of the church here in Drayton and throughout the diocese. We will have contributions from Drayton Bellringers and Wallingford Handbell Ringers.

Josie Midwinter
Drayton Pre-School Playgroup      Debbie Bargus

We hope everybody had a great Christmas and hope the New Year has started well. We would like to welcome Grace, Julia, Isabella, Taylor and Alice who have all joined us this term, we hope they enjoy the time they spend with us.

Our topic this term is Feelings. We will be talking about our and other peoples feelings. How our body language shows how we feel. And how our facial expressions also show our feelings.

We had quite an exciting time in the run up to Christmas, as well as the children and staff practising their singing, we also had a Christmas party with entertainment from Uncle Wiggy and the children had the chance to get some last minute requests to Santa. Many thanks to everyone who helped with the party and donated to the Raffle and we hope everyone enjoyed the children singing, they all did really well.

We welcomed Sam back from maternity leave after the last half term; it’s great to see her back. Unfortunately at Christmas, Oz our Supervisor left Preschool, she will be sorely missed after many years service and we would like to thank her for all she has done for Preschool and wish her well for the future. We are currently looking to recruit a replacement Supervisor. Our remaining staff are covering all sessions.

There is an easy way to help our fundraising, if you order goods via the internet, you can register at www.easyfundraising.org.uk You choose a charity, we are on the list, then when you buy online from major companies (eg Amazon, Next, Play.com, Ebay, Churchill Insurance, AA, and The Book People), they give a percentage to us at no extra cost to you. Plus many more new outlets.

Dates: Friday 12th Feb – End of Term 3

Drayton TABLE-TENNIS Club      John Gould

Happy New Year to all who read this and to Ping-pongers everywhere. Recently the Didcot League held their Divisional Championships. This involves players competing individually against opponents from their own Division. Playing outside the team enables players to relax and play more freely as they are not influencing a team performance. At the time of writing I can report that Ryan Seamark reached the semi finals in the Division 5 event influencing a team performance. At the time of writing I can report that Ryan Seamark reached the semi finals in the Division 5 event

In the League, the A team are setting a cracking pace at the top of Division 1 with 6 wins and a draw from seven ties played. The E team in Division 3 are lying second with Kevin Davies starring with 17 out of 18 matches played.

Without doubt the most competitive league is Division 2 where the eleven teams are closely matched. Our C & D teams currently lie 5th & 4th in the Division with seven ties played.

New players are still welcome to attend our Monday Night practice. Children from 9 upwards (accompanied by a parent) can come from 7.00 p.m. They will receive coaching from Matt Wicks and his willing helpers. We have a supply of bats so just bring yourselves. Adults can come from 8.00 p.m. onwards. At £1 per session it is good exercise that everyone can afford.

Drayton PLAYERS      Jean Hager

As you will see, from the advert elsewhere in this issue (p1), we have sorted ourselves out for the February production and indeed, it’s almost upon us! We are delighted to present another murder mystery (following last year’s successful evenings) with audience participation and interval supper included.

Rehearsals have been underway for some time, and the plot is developing in a nicely complicated way which will require close attention from each sleuth out front; maybe a Miss Marple think-a-like, or even someone with the Wallander approach?

Performances of The Mystery of Talbot Manor will be on Friday 19th and Saturday 20th Feb, curtain-up at 7.30. For tickets (£8 including supper) contact 01235 200350, or visit Vickery’s in the village, who we thank for acting as an extra box office.

We look forward to welcoming YOU for a fun-filled night out!

The Mystery of Talbot Manor

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We look forward to welcoming YOU for a fun-filled night out!
**BAPTIST CHURCH**

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

**REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Service Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.15 am</td>
<td>Presently only one morning service per month; this is the Family Service, and is on the first Sunday of each month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.00 pm</td>
<td>Evening Service. A traditional form of service, frequently with guest speakers. (Communion every second Sunday)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Come and join us every Sunday – we look forward to seeing you.

EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME

---

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**Beetle Drive**

2pm on Sunday 28th February in the Caudwell Day Centre.

Beetle is a game, which is easy to play by all age groups and produces lots of fun. Refreshments included. First prize and booby prize. Raffle.

Tickets £3 for adults and £1 for children.

In aid of St Peter’s church

for tickets ring the Vicarage on 01235 531374

---

**A TRIBUTE TO DOREEN JONES**


As the Club mourns the passing of our long-standing Chairperson, it is appropriate that we record at least some of her contributions that made our Club the success it is today.

For 21 years, Drayton Bowls Club was Doreen’s life. She was one of the founder members way back in June 1988, and from the very beginning she put her heart and soul into the Club for which she was later awarded Life Membership.

Quite early on she organised a competition to design a Club badge, which we still use today, and for several years she organised our members’ bowling holidays.

When we first started our Sunday competitions, they included a cooked lunch. It was quite something to bowl with a background of appetising aromas from the kitchen, where Doreen and others would have been hard at work since the crack of dawn.

Later on, she thought it would be good to go out for an evening meal after each competition, and quite a few local establishments should be indebted to her for that idea.

She was an avid record keeper, and quite often she would come to the Club and sit quietly in the corner making copious notes of this and that, in her ledgers, a mass of detailed information that was invaluable when writing a history of the Club.

Doreen felt strongly that the Club should have an active social side, to involve the non-playing spouses and partners, and even during her break from Chairperson, she acted as ‘social secretary’. Trips to the theatre, dog-racing, and skittles evenings were down to her. She was keen for the Club to support events promoted by the Village, and was always involved with organising our Annual Dinners.

In our early years, there was little appetite in the Club for league play, but with encouragement from other Clubs, and not a little trepidation, Doreen felt we should give it a try, and the rest is history. Although she liked to win, her own cache of trophies was of little consequence to her. The Club’s success, in which she played no small part, was her most cherished trophy.

The love and devotion that Doreen gave to our Club is immeasurable, and now she’s joined a new club, we shall miss her.

Norman Hopkins - Club President

---

**OTHER LOCAL PLACES OF WORSHIP**

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

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**Wooden Spoon Recipe No. 33**

(by LOIS RENNELLS)

Salmon & Prawn ‘En Croute’ (serves 2)

1 340 gram packet puff pastry, 200 grams salmon (cubed), 50 grams prawns, rind and juice of ½ lime, 1 tablespoon finely chopped coriander, 2 teaspoons butter, 1 beaten egg.

Preheat the oven to 200°C/Mark 6. Roll out the pastry into a square, approximately 12” x 12”, then cut into four pieces. Place the salmon onto two of the pastry pieces, top with prawns, coriander, knob of butter, a squeeze of lime juice and a little zest.

Season lightly. Brush the edges of the pastry with beaten egg. Place the remaining two pieces of pastry on top and seal tightly.

Knock up the edges and make two cuts in the top of each ‘en croute’. Place them on a baking sheet and brush with beaten egg.

Leave to rest in the fridge for 15 minutes. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes until well risen and golden.

Serve with baby vegetables, new potatoes and lime wedges.
**YOUR LETTERS**

**Valentine’s Day (in the Hall)**

Dear Sir,  
via e-mail

Last month Ann Webb wrote asking us to use our hall "or risk losing it". Although the Parish Council is proposing to budget to assist the Hall in covering its expected deficit for 2010/11, putting it mildly, it does not appear to be very sensible to raise Council Tax from village residents when the same amount of money could be spent in putting this village facility to good use.

I have put ‘my money where my mouth is’ and booked the Hall for a Valentine’s Day dance/disco on 13th Feb (see advert here and on noticeboards) and my friend Paul Clark has offered not to charge for running a disco based mainly on 60s to 80s music. The Wheatsheaf will be running the bar.

I hope that there will be profits to give to the Hall and that other people and organisations will pick up the baton and organise follow-up events for at least one Saturday night in most months of the year?

Admission will only be by tickets, from Paul, me (phone 535587 and 531107) or village outlets. Please come and have a good night out on 13th Feb, but also to show that you value the Hall and want to keep it available in the future for more regular use by village residents.

Yours sincerely  
Daniel Scharf

**Candlelight Carols**

Dear Sir,  
via e-mail

Many thanks to all who gave so generously at the Candlelight Carols in the Village Hall, £310.40 (the most ever!) was raised which has been sent off to ‘Action for Children’.

I look forward to seeing you all again next time on Sunday 5th December - put it in your diary now!

Geoff Caudle

**Letters to the Editor**

You may request that your name & address are not shown; however we MUST have those details, and phone number in case any text needs verification.  
NB Please also note that, although we welcome submissions on a variety of topics, the Editor reserves the right to shorten, clarify or reject any letter or supplied text.

**Jazz & Swing Concert / 'Abingdon Bridge’**

Dear Sir,  
Halls Close

May I use the Chronicle to thank everyone who came to the Jazz and Swing concert in Drayton Hall in December. The profit was nearly £1,500 (not £5,000 as reported in the recent Abingdon Herald) and this has been given to the ‘Abingdon Bridge’ for its work helping vulnerable and disadvantaged (and often difficult) youngsters in this area. We at the Bridge are very grateful.

Our special thanks to Boulevard Swing and their leader, Drayton’s Brian Thompson, for making the whole thing possible, selling many of the tickets and performing so brilliantly on the night.

Yours sincerely,  
Derek Pooley

**Janet Manning**

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**Life Guards – Well Done !**

Dear Sir,  
via e-mail

We would like to congratulate three young people from the village who all go to Abingdon Swimming Club and are all now qualified Royal Life Saving Society Rookie Life Guards.

They also took part in the distance swimming evening during December at which 27 youngsters covered a combined distance of over 19 miles in two hours.

The three are Thomas Deabill (Rookie Bronze and 2000 metres) Georgina Arnold (Rookie Silver and 3000 metres) and Lauren Brown (Rookie Silver and 4000 metres).

WELL DONE to all of you.

The proud parents

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Jan/Feb 2010  Page 7
Dear Sir, 11 High Street, Milton

When there is a Repatriation of a serviceman killed in action, we drive over to Watchfield (near Shrivenham) to join a growing band of people who stand in the various lay-bys along the A420 as each cortège makes its solemn way from RAF Lyneham to the JR Hospital (where post-mortems are held).

In addition to the courageous example of Wootton Bassett (which is relatively well known) there are between 1,000 and 2,000 people who regularly make the little pilgrimage to show their respect for young men who have given their lives on behalf of our nation. Every occasion is very moving, with many RBL banners being paraded, and each cortège slows down to walking pace when they see a group of people waiting. We go to Watchfield because it is where groups of former Royal Marines drive from Poole, Guildford, Portsmouth, Northampton and various other far-flung places, but there are many civilians and whole families who make the effort to come out and offer their thanks.

If anyone would like to have prior notice of Repatriations, we can forward the notification e-mail (or phone the details) if you let us have your e-mail or telephone. Each notification comes through three or four days beforehand, with estimates of the cortège times along the A420 road.

Peter & Diana Hasting
(tel: 01235 834740  e-mail diamar@onetel.com)

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**More of YOUR LETTERS**

**Royal British Legion, Watchfield**

When there is a Repatriation of a serviceman killed in action, we drive over to Watchfield (near Shrivenham) to join a growing band of people who stand in the various lay-bys along the A420 as each cortège makes its solemn way from RAF Lyneham to the JR Hospital (where post-mortems are held).

In addition to the courageous example of Wootton Bassett (which is relatively well known) there are between 1,000 and 2,000 people who regularly make the little pilgrimage to show their respect for young men who have given their lives on behalf of our nation. Every occasion is very moving, with many RBL banners being paraded, and each cortège slows down to walking pace when they see a group of people waiting. We go to Watchfield because it is where groups of former Royal Marines drive from Poole, Guildford, Portsmouth, Northampton and various other far-flung places, but there are many civilians and whole families who make the effort to come out and offer their thanks.

If anyone would like to have prior notice of Repatriations, we can forward the notification e-mail (or phone the details) if you let us have your e-mail or telephone. Each notification comes through three or four days beforehand, with estimates of the cortège times along the A420 road.

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**Marie Curie Collection**

Dear Sir, 93 Abingdon Road

May I, through the Chronicle, say a big “THANK YOU” to the residents of Abingdon Road (that’s nos 86 – 140) for their kind donation of £38-27p through the house-to-house collection for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

I’d also like to thank my daughter Emily for her help on those cold and wet winter evenings, it was much appreciated!

Yours Sincerely Julie Brown

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**Friday Club - Extra**

Dear Sir, Whitehorns Way

I would personally like to make a special “Thank You” to Beryl & Sylvia for the hard work they did on our Christmas party, and to the guest also.

We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves!

Also to Sally Dixon, Sue and Brenda for the lovely meal, also to Betty and John Biddle for looking after me, and transport for me.

“Happy New Year to all” Bert Cole

---

**Eric James**

Dear Sir, Marcham Road

We wish to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their kind messages of support following the sad loss of Eric James, a much loved husband, father, grandfather and friend.

Our thanks also to Josie for such a special service.

Donations in Eric's memory for the Intensive Care Unit of the John Radcliffe Hospital totalled £947.13p.

Kind regards Kath James and family

---

**Friday Club**

Dear Sir, Sylvia, Beryl, and members of the Friday Club would like to thank the cooks, drivers and helpers for all their support during 2009.

It is greatly appreciated, and we wish them a Happy New Year.

Yours Sincerely  Sylvia Bond

---

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The end of the old year and start of the new is traditionally a time for review and reflection, and also for new beginnings. So it has been with the PC because, as reported last month, our clerk, Marie Sellwood, decided to resign her post, and Jenny Pooley has already paid tribute to Marie’s considerable contribution to the work of the PC over the last five years. A small presentation was made to Marie at this, her last meeting, in recognition of her hard work and dedication. She leaves with our grateful thanks and work of the PC over the last five years. A small presentation was made to Marie at this, her last meeting, in recognition of her hard work and dedication. She leaves with our grateful thanks and we extend a warm welcome to our new clerk, Kathryn Smyth, who was also present at the meeting.

At the same time, Jenny herself, who continues to be an industrious member of the PC, has decided that it was time for someone else to take on the job of writing the monthly report, hence the change of reporter. Needless to say, our thanks are owed to Jenny as well, for keeping us all informed of the PC’s activities over the past months and years.

Two Trustees of the Drayton Almshouses, Mrs Camilla King and Mrs Margaret Watts, attended the meeting to explain how the almshouses are operated; who is eligible to apply for one, and what criteria are applied. Mrs King said that the Almshouse Trust is responsible to the Almshouses Association and has to work to charity law. She stated that although in the past, anyone applying for one of the almshouses had to be a Drayton resident, this requirement has now been relaxed, although there should still be a clear connection with the village (for example, the applicant has a close relative living in Drayton).

Applicants must be over the age of 60 and able to live independently, as there is no warden. There is also a limit on the amount of savings an applicant can have. The trust uses the current government guidelines for this, setting a ceiling of £16,500, and for the sake of fairness, the financial criteria are strictly applied. Potential residents have to complete an 11-page application form and be interviewed by the trust, preferably with their next of kin present at the meeting. There are 6 almshouses in Drayton, all in good decorative order, and at the time of writing, five were occupied, with one vacancy. It has not always been easy to find applicants, so anyone interested is encouraged to contact the trust for further information.

Applications are invited from any Youth Organisation in Drayton wishing to apply for financial assistance from the above charity. To request an application form please send an email to - karen.tinson1@ntlworld.com or phone 01235 531596. Applications must be received by 31st March 2010.

All applications will be considered at the Charity’s meeting to be held in April (date to be confirmed).

Dog sitter wanted

Are you a dog owner? Would you be interested in looking after our six month old Westie puppy Harry for a few hours each week whilst I return to part time work?

Harry is a lovely natured dog, very sociable, and loves the company of other dogs.

Hours and rate of pay to be negotiated.

For a further chat, please phone Louise Feltham on (01235) 526733

Applications will be considered at the Charity’s meeting to be held in April (date to be confirmed).
Classroom updates …

Robins’ topic for this term is ‘all creatures great and small’. We are starting with polar creatures many of whom would have been at home in Drayton in the snowy weather at the beginning of January.

Ravens will be looking at toys now and in days gone by. What toys did our parent and grandparents play with? Has anyone got any old toys they would like to show us?

Kingfishers’ topic this term is Africa. The children have made a very good start on this topic over the Christmas holidays producing a huge variety of work such as internet searches, 3D maps, pictures, posters, scrapbooks etc. Impressive efforts and creativity!

Eagles are learning about pirates this term. They will hopefully have a trip to see HMS Victory. Pirate fact - the story of Robinson Crusoe is based on real life pirate Alexander Selkirk who was marooned on Juan Fernandez (an island 400 miles west of the Chilean coast) in 1705 and rescued in 1709.

School news … As always we had a very busy Christmas period. The Christmas Fair raised just under £1000 so a big thank you to all those who put in lots of hard work, came along and helped, or just came and spent money! The children enjoyed their school party, we had a carol service and two very successful school productions – well done to all the children and staff!

Our new year started slowly with the children enjoying the snow and a few extra days off school. Welcome to our new staff; Julia Cutting our admin officer, Miss Bowerman who will be teaching Robins and Mr Lambert who is now full time with Eagles class. We hope you enjoy your time at Drayton school.

After-school clubs are now underway once again. Thanks to Mrs Goh for taking over the school choir. We are hoping to offer some taster sessions for new clubs to include golf, fencing, cheerleading and street dancing.

We are looking at possible links with a school in France which could provide interesting opportunities for the children. Watch out for more news on this in coming months.

Drayton school is taking part in the ‘Flora Cooking Equipment for Schools’ promotion. You can collect tokens from special packs of Flora and follow the instructions to register tokens on-line. Alternatively you can hand tokens in to school. Please help if you can – we have made good use of cooking equipment from this scheme in the past and every token helps!

A new opportunity - the school are looking for a lunchtime supervisory assistant to work 12pm – 1pm five days per week. Please contact the school office if you are interested.

Finally, please remember to make sure your children come into school suitably dressed for the weather and that coats, boots, etc are labelled with your child’s name.
Even More of YOUR LETTERS

Boulevard Swing

Dear Sir,
So, did you miss it again?! Well, if you did, you missed another evening of great music by Brian Thompson and ‘BOULEVARD SWING’ in the Village Hall on December 5th.

The programme included many great standard songs such as ‘Take the A Train’ and ‘A Nightingale sang in Berkeley Square’ etc; also many requests from the audience. My own request was for that lovely song ‘That Rainy Day’ which was played by Steve on trombone. This tune seems to have been written especially for the trombone (***) - thanks.

There were also many other great solos by the other members of this very talented group of musicians and their (lady) vocalist.

Another plus for the evening was that it was in aid of a very worthwhile charity, ‘Abingdon Bridge Young Peoples Centre’. Which of course means a lot of work for a lot of people to run the centre, none more than Derek Pooley, who incidentally was M/C for the evening.

Yes, it was a good night.

Nick Carter

(** Ed’s note :- Here’s That Rainy Day was originally written by Jimmy Van Heusen, and gets performed on a variety of instruments, and in varying arrangements, but often brass. It appears on the CD ‘ten’ by acclaimed all-female trombone quartet ‘Bones Apart’, who are British but perform all over the world).

Whitehorns Way - Cat

Dear Sir,

Calling cat-lovers in the area, who might perhaps be offering food and/or occasional lodging to a large ginger cat?

I say ginger, he has ginger stripes, and in America would probably be called an ‘Orange Tabby’; and he is large, a rotund body with a rather short stubby tail.

This is our cat, and is supposed, according to our vet, to be losing some weight; like us, overweight in cats doesn’t tend to add years to a lifespan. We think he may have been short of rations for a while either just before, or when he was a rescue cat, and is making up for lost time! He answers to almost anything, but especially the sound of a fridge door opening!

Despite smaller portions, and reduced calorie this-and-that, he keeps expanding, (without medical cause other than greed). We’d love to hear if anyone has been responding to his wheedling (he’s an expert cadger) – it could of course be several benefactors. OR, if you have cat and cat-flap, is your pet getting thinner?

Thanks
Tony Holmes (531180)

ED VAIZEY – Your Local MP

The New Year is a good chance to look at what the issues our local area will be facing in months to come.

There are still some major infrastructure issues facing the local area. The reservoir public enquiry is due to start in the Spring. Neither the district council nor local pressure groups have the resources to take on Thames Water; and I have asked the Government to provide funds for this. Personally, I think the reservoir is less likely to happen, mainly because Thames Water does not have the resources currently to build it. But I also think that the alternative options seem more and more viable.

The other issue is the incinerator, near Didcot. This has been on the back burner (Ed: nicely phrased!) since the County Council turned down the planning application, but it remains an issue that needs to be monitored very closely.

Then there is housing. The development of 2,500 houses in Grove is back on, as property developers emerge from the credit crunch. We now hear that Wantage will be the site for 1500 homes, making a total of 4,000 for the area. I do not think Wantage and Grove can take that much development, even if it’s spread over nearly two decades. It means growth of almost 50%.

Didcot will also see some 3,500 houses, and there are more planned for the north of the town. And Wallingford is fighting an additional 750 houses, plus there is the constant worry of the expansion of Swindon to the east, which will affect villages around Faringdon, though I think this threat is receding.

All in all, this is huge and unprecedented development for our area. While we need new homes, we do not need them on this scale. And it is ironic that local villages, that need and want a few extra homes, are consistently turned down when they ask for them. The system is completely bonkers.

Transport is another issue that will take up my time. I am campaigning for the re-opening of Wantage Road station, and also want the improvement of Didcot station to be used as a chance to enhance the Didcot Railway Centre as a tourist attraction. I have saved some of the train service in Appleford, and continue to represent commuters worried about high rail fares and car park charges.

Then there are numerous local issues, such as the future of Wantage cinema, which I will continue to be involved in, as well as issues specific to individual constituents, such as benefit and child support payments, housing and health waiting lists and numerous other matters.

If you need to get in touch with me, telephone 020 7219 6350, write to me, c/o House of Commons, London SW1A OAA, or you can e-mail me on vaizeye@parliament.uk; the Website is www.vaizey.com with up to date news and surgery details (no need to book an appointment - times are from 5.30 pm to 7pm unless stated). Next surgeries:- Feb 5th – Wantage Civic Hall & Feb 26th - Didcot, King Alfred Drive Community Centre
Winter Blooms using Hellebores

Our gardens are probably looking a little sleepy at this time of year so how about injecting a little brightness and beauty with some eye-catching Hellebores? Appearing to strike through the surface of the ground when all else is dormant, Hellebores make an arresting sight.

Their beautiful flowers, white, cream, pink, purple or green and sometimes with lovely detailing, are a great sight during the winter. Even though their winter beauty provides a welcome contrast to murky skies, being evergreen, they provide structure and interest throughout the year.

Plants of the woodland margin, Hellebores are happiest where they can enjoy both sun and shade. Plant near trees in a woodland setting or in a mixed shrub border. They’re tolerant of a range of soils, but prefer moist, fertile, humus-rich soils and will get off to a flying start if you improve the soil at the time of planting with leaf mould or compost.

Some classic choices for hellebores are Helleborus niger ‘Potter’s Wheel’ with its large white flowers and green-eyes or Helleborus x ballardiae ‘December Dawn’ which has big white flowers (6-8cm across), flushed pink-purple. Helleborus foetidus (Stinking Hellebore) is called so because the leaves give off an unpleasant smell if crushed but the flowers are a fabulous green and often have the exquisite detail of being purple-margined. Helleborus foetidus ‘Miss Jekyll’ contradicts the name of ‘stinking’ by having lovely fragrant flowers. As a final suggestion, look out for the much loved Helleborus hybridus ‘Peggy Ballard’ with its gorgeous deep pink flowers.

These stars of the winter garden are easy to establish and require little maintenance in return for a wonderful show.

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Plus, did you know?

Helleborus has a rich if shady history as a ‘medicinal’ plant. The ancient Greeks apparently used it as an early chemical weapon. Scholars discovered that they used parts of the plant to poison the wells of their enemies. It often appears naturalised around the ruins of mediaeval European monasteries also. One interpretation of this is that the monks used it as a herbal treatment for ailments. According to English folklore, crushed hellebore leaves were used as a treatment for intestinal worms in country districts. The dosage had to be correctly administered as the leaves are known to contain alkaloids and other chemicals that could lead to poisoning (think of the Greeks). Helleborus was also used in the Middle Ages to ward off evil influences thought to be lurking in the house. In contrast, Helleborus was said to be used in witchcraft to summon undesirable spirits.

Finally, don’t forget about the birds. You may have recently read the RSPB’s report indicating that this recent cold, snowy snap will have a detrimental impact on our bird population. Frosty nights and/or long spells of rain cause birds to lose their condition. If you’ve been feeding them, make sure that you keep feeders clean and full. If you haven’t, why not invest in some modern, hygienic bird feeders? You’ll be helping populations of both local and over-wintering birds with the bonus of getting to enjoy the fun of bird table politics – so much more entertaining than the human kind.

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ST PETER’S CHURCH HOME-VISITING GROUP
will visit anyone who is, or has been, ill or is recently home from hospital, or unable to get out because of a disability, or is in any other circumstances where support would be welcomed.
Please contact:-  Jean Hager (531558), Sally Dixon (531547),
Ros Blogg (535589) or Margaret Watts (527145).

‘All the Bells are Ringing’
Centenary Service for Rev Francis E. Robinson
Vicar of Drayton 1878 to 1908 (details page 4)
10 am Sunday 21st February
at St Peter’s church
With Drayton bell ringers & Wallingford handbell ringers

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SAFEGUARDING ADULTS
Abuse is treating people in a way that makes them feel frightened or unhappy, harms, hurts or exploits them. It can happen anywhere.

Joan is 82 and lives on her own. Two men visited her and said that because of the recent frost the path to her door needed repairing, failing which she could be sued. She was frightened and agreed that she would withdraw £1,000 and they would come back the next day to repair the path.Fortunately her neighbour had seen the men and was worried. She went round to see Joan, and together they contacted the Oxfordshire Trading Standards Team, who were able to intervene and safeguard her.

Some adults are particularly vulnerable to being hurt or abused because they have a disability, illness, or impairment and need help and support.

Bill has a learning disability. He gets the bus into town, where he has a part-time job. At the bus stop he was often bullied by students from a local school. The bus driver was concerned and contacted Oxfordshire Social & Community Services, who were able to change Bill’s work times, so that he could get a different bus. They were also able to work with the young people involved, who apologized for what they had done. Bill felt much better, since he had been able to deal with the problem.

Abuse is not always deliberate. It sometimes happens that people are trying to do their best but feel stressed.

Margaret and John are both in their 90s. Amy, their daughter, looks after them. It’s hard work. Amy has to get up most nights, because her father is incontinent. One day after a particularly bad night Margaret hit out at Amy while Amy was trying to bath her. It was the last straw for Amy, and she slapped her mother back. She was distraught. She loves her parents dearly but felt she could not carry on. She contacted her local carers’ centre, who helped her with caring for her parents, getting time for herself and introducing her to other carers.

Details of all the organizations mentioned above can be found on the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board website: www.safefromharm.org.uk - If you are worried about a vulnerable person and don’t know where else to go, you can contact the Oxfordshire Social & Community Services:- 0845 0507 666; out-of-hours emergency 0800 833408.

Abuse is often a crime. If you think a crime has been committed, then contact Thames Valley Police: 0845 850 5505.

In an emergency dial 999.

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 3.00 pm to 4.30 pm and you are invited to drop in during these times.

The teapot is always at the ready and you can be sure of a warm welcome. Our next two dates are Feb 2nd, and Mar 2nd. If you need transport or further information please give me (Jean Hager) a call on 531558.

NEW BLOOD REQUIRED
Tuesday Feb 9th at the village hall, the mobile blood unit will be attending, times :- from 1.30 pm to 3.30, and also from 4.15pm to 7.30, to allow people coming home to get there. Most people can give blood, apart from obvious restrictions; IF you’re unsure if you can donate, please see the website [www.blood.co.uk], or call the 24 hour Donor Helpline on 0300 123 23 23.

LISTINGS
Art & Artists of Abingdon - Historical & Contemporary, Abingdon Museum, until May, 10.30 to 4pm, FREE admission.

Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock until March 28th ‘In the footsteps of Henry Taunt’ (historical and contemporary photos of the Thames), also a selection of fine oil paintings from around the county, 10am to 5pm, Sun 2 to 5 (closed Mons) Free admission.

Community Safety:- purse anti-theft bells available, free of charge, from the front desk of Abingdon Police Station, and the VoWH Local Service Point in Abingdon (Abbey House) – but hurry, stocks are limited.

ARE YOU IN THE DARK? If your streetlight isn’t working, or wastes resources by being on in the daytime, then PLEASE report it on the County Council hotline (free) 0800 317802 - help them by giving the town, road, and if possible the number on the post, or the nearest house.

Thanks to Derek Pooley for this recent shot of Drayton’s heavy snowfall (Dr Bette Pembridge, in explorer mode!).

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS
A very warm welcome to Colin and Christine West who have recently moved into Sutton Wick Lane.

They have come from Rickmansworth with their dog, Gipsy and their horse, Zero.

MISSED OUT ON YOUR CHRONICLE?
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.
DIARY FOR FEBRUARY
All events held in Drayton Hall unless otherwise stated
To book Drayton Hall ring 531418  To call the Hall ring 528686
NB You may now check Hall bookings online :-
www.draytonvh.org.uk or call the above number
Mon 1 7.30pm Parish Council Meeting (p9)  Caudwell DC
Sat 6 Private Function
Sun 7 Bowls (all day)
Tues 9 Blood Clinic
Fri 12 Chronicle Ads DEADLINE (p2)
Sat 13 8.00pm Valentine’s Dance/Disco (p1 & 7)
Mon 15 5.15pm CHRONICLE DEADLINE  Vickery’s
Wed 17 Players set-up & shows (p1) until 20th
Sun 21 10.00am Bellringing Celebration (p4)  Church
Sun 28 2.00pm Beetle Drive (p6)  Caudwell DC

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REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS
Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

Mondays
9.00 am  Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)  School Ground Bldg
2.00 pm  Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)
5.45 pm  Bears (Boys/girls, 6–8 yrs, Tel. 512834)  Steventon Hall
6.30 pm  Youth Zone (to 7.30 except Bank Hols)
7.00 pm  Scouts (Boys/girls, 8–10 yrs, Tel. 512834)  Steventon Hall
7.00 pm  Table Tennis (Junior coaching - 90 mins)  School
7.15 pm  Drayton Wives Whist (3rd Monday)  Caudwell DC
7.30 pm  Parish Council (1st Monday)  Caudwell DC
7.45 pm  Bell-ringing (for 1½ hours)  St Peter’s
7.45 pm  Drayton Drop-In (to 8.45, except Bank Hols)
8.00 pm  Table Tennis (Senior practice + playing 2 hrs)  School
8.30 pm  Badminton (Private Group)

Tuesdays
9.00 am  Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)  School Ground Bldg
1.45 pm  Drayton Art Group (until 4 pm)  Caudwell Day Centre
3.00 pm  First Tuesday Connections (1st Tuesday)  Church Room
3.00 pm  Junior Netball (for 1 hour)  School
6.00 pm  Ladies’ Netball (for 1 hour)  School
7.30 pm  League Table Tennis

Wednesdays
9.00 am  Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)  School Ground Bldg
11.00 am  Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)  Haywards Rd
11.20 am  Mobile Library (Fortnightly, for 20 min)  The Green Car Park
2.00 pm  Whist – now each week  Caudwell Day Centre
2.00 pm  Drayton Wives (Last Wednesday in the month)
2.15 pm  Badminton
6.15 pm  Brownies
6.15 pm  Cubs (Boys/girls, 8–9 yrs, Tel. 512834)  Steventon Hall
7.00 pm  Junior Table Tennis, Age 9+  (for 1 hour)  School
7.00 pm  Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)
7.30 pm  Bingo Session  Caudwell Day Centre
7.30 pm  Table Tennis - League  School

Thursdays
9.00 am  Foot Clinic (1st Thurs)  Caudwell Day Centre
9.00 am  Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)  School Ground Bldg
followed by lunch club and afternoon session
9.30 am  Holy Communion  St Peter’s Lady Chapel
9.30 am  Parent & Toddler Group
2.00 pm  Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)
7.30 pm  Women’s Institute Meeting (2nd Thurs)  Caudwell DC
7.30 pm  Sequence Dancing. Tel: 531701
7.30 pm  Table Tennis - League  School

Fridays
9.00 am  Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)  Sch’l Ground Bldg
11.00 am  The Friday Club (fortnightly) 202466  CaudwellDay Centre
7.00 pm  Whist Drive (ACHLoFriends)  Caudwell Day Centre
7.00 pm  Choir Practice (alt Fridays – page 4)  St Peter’s

Sundays
8.00 am  Holy Communion  St Peter’s
10.00 am  Sung Eucharist (Family Service 2nd Sunday)  St Peter’s
11.15 am  Family Time (1st Sun)
6.00 pm  Evening Service

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Didcot (2nd Sat) – 13th
Newbury (1st & 3rd Sun) – 7th / 21st
TVFM news - ring 01235 227266 - website Tvfm.org.uk
Usually the markets run from about 8.30 am until lunchtime,
Abingdon’s market (Didcot too), has an excellent set of stalls,
several organic meat suppliers, a fishmonger & greengrocers (remember them?!), and a great cake-maker!