

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

Issue Editor: Derek Pooley

Volume 39 No. 3

April 2016

Can DRAYTON in 2020 be a shared-space village?

Coping with the traffic coming through Drayton was the focus of a second Drayton 2020 traffic workshop held in the Village Hall in February. Our village is both fortunate and unfortunate to sit on a key junction in 'Science Vale'. We are the link between Abingdon and Oxford to the north, Milton Park, Culham Science Centre and Didcot to the east and the Harwell campus and Newbury to the south. This strategic junction ensures we have good communication almost anywhere **and** we have the bulk of long-distance traffic and the heaviest vehicles bypassing us on the A34. Because of it we have buses, albeit more would be better, and trains not far away. There are plenty of jobs accessible to Drayton people, many well-paid, and plenty of customers to sustain our village shops and pubs. But our roads are much busier than if we were more isolated and traffic volumes will grow, as new houses are built in the village and all around us in the Vale.

The Drayton 2020 team are trying to work out how best to bring that traffic through the village steadily, but slowly enough to ensure that pedestrians, cyclists and cars can all **share the village streets safely**, making our streets 'shared spaces'. This is a fashionable concept in modern village planning and, although it's hard to believe that it can work (see letter from Shirley Thomas - page 3), it definitely can, even in situations much more difficult than Drayton, such as Poynton in Cheshire (page 11).

One key feature of the concept is the signal given to car drivers at the village gateways, that they are leaving a highway, where cars have absolute priority, and entering a village, where the space has to be shared with walkers and cyclists, so that car speeds must be reduced and drivers must expect to 'give way' quite often. The photo is of Parish



Councillor Christine West, explaining to everyone at the workshop the feedback at 'her table', which had looked at how best to set up a good 'northern gateway' into Drayton from Abingdon.

There is more on the traffic workshop, on making Drayton a 'shared-space' village and some evidence that such schemes can work on page 11.

With spaces for contemplation?

The Memorial Mob at last has something permanent and fitting to mark the tragic day in 1957 when an RAF Beverley aircraft crashed at Sutton Wick, killing many servicemen, several RAF dogs and 3 civilians.



The photo is of Brian Eastoe, Drayton's wood carver extraordinaire, who made the new memorial, with Iain Henderson, founder of the Memorial Mob, and the two standard bearers at this year's service. Next year will be 70 years on from the tragedy and Iain Henderson hinted that he might be able to arrange for a flying tribute then. See the letter on page 3 and more pictures from this year's service on page 10.

And public spaces tidy & litter free?

Mark Hallewell has written to the Chronicle (page 3) about how bad is the litter on the edge of the A34. There are major obstacles to villagers' volunteering to clear litter there but Mark has promised to join the next PC-organised litter day and the school is going to help with litter (page 3); can you?

The Millennium Green is kept litter free by their team of volunteers, but they start their volunteers very young. The photo is of Kevin jnr. David Sangu, helping out at the recent Millennium Green working party. To come and help see page 8



Also in this issue:

- P3: Sharing Everything
- P4: Drayton's Blue Plaque for Bell Ringing
- P7: The Chronicle needs Agents urgently
- P12 to p15: Yet more debate about Drayton 2020
- P17 & p18: Which way for Oxfordshire Councils?

2016 DRAYTON PARISH ASSEMBLY

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CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The next **Chronicle** will be the **May** issue:

Editor: **David Lee, 15 Corneville Road (202699).**

Deadline for advertisements: **17.00 on Friday, 15 April 2016**

Deadline for other contributions: **17.00 on Monday, 18 April 2016**

Printed copies available: **Friday, 29 April 2016**

Key dates for the subsequent three Chronicles:

Issue for	Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available on:
June	16 May 2016	27 May 2016
July	13 June 2016	24 June 2016
August	18 July 2016	29 July 2016

NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

Please be sure **always to include your name**, address and (in case clarification is necessary) telephone number. Without names we will usually not print an item at all.

However, please also note that the editor has to ensure that each Chronicle fits exactly into an even number of printed pages. The editor therefore reserves the right to place, edit, shorten or even reject contributions as required to achieve this.

A contribution or advertising request can be sent to us in one of three ways:

1. The best is by **email** to **editor@draytonchronicle.net**. Your contributions should either be embedded in your email as **plain text** or attached as a **rich-text** or **Microsoft Word** document!

Requests for advertisements should not be emailed to the editor but to **advertising@draytonchronicle.net**. Please note that they will eventually need to be in Word format, 9cms wide and, for a single block advert, about 4.5cms high

Make sure that the editor or advertising manager acknowledges your email within a few days.

2. If you cannot send your contribution by email, send us a **good quality paper version**, using **fairly large, simple, black** typescript, without underlining, on white paper, A4 or smaller.

3. Finally, we do accept **hand-written items**. However, in this case **please write the names of people and places in capital letters**. This does save a lot of mistakes.

Paper contributions should either be placed in the Chronicle letter box (outside Vickery's shop on Drayton Green) or posted to Vickery's at 5 The Green, Drayton, Abingdon, OX14 4JA.

After the deadlines listed at the top of this page, only urgent items will be considered for inclusion and then only if emailed or delivered directly to the **Editor's** house by the Wednesday following the Monday deadline.

ADVERTISING RATES

Charge for a Single Block Advert (about 9cms x 4.5cms)

---- Number of Inserts ----

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Drayton Resident	£6	£16	£31	£60
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Double-size adverts are charged at **twice** the above rates.

All advertising MUST be paid for up-front, either in cash or via a cheque made payable to 'The Drayton Chronicle' and placed in the box at Vickery's or sent there (address above).

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

CHRONICLE LOTTERY

Carol Arnold, Hon Promoter

RESULTS OF THE MARCH LOTTERY

Prize	Winner	Agent
£25	Mrs Ward, 31 Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
£20	Ian Rogers, 115 Abingdon Road	Julie Brown
£15	Mrs L Dymock, 53 Steventon Road	Janet Dale
£10	Mr & Mrs Tyler, 35 Lockway	Christine Sadler
£10	Mrs J Pooley, 11 Halls Close	Ali Bone
£10	Gary Holder, 32 Lockway	Sue Ash
£10	Mr Cook, 43 Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
£10	Mr Alan Woodley, 24 High Street	Ali Bone
£10	Mr Drew, 33 Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
£10	Val Cross, 32 Binning Close	Cathy Norris

We no longer use counterfoils. Instead, winning numbers from the 1785 tickets sold last month were generated randomly using a computer, as for national premium bonds and in the national lottery

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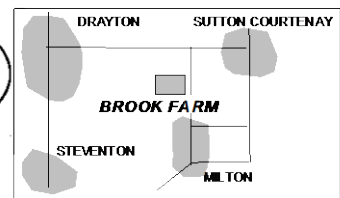


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YOUR LETTERS

Sharing joy and gratitude:

Dear Editor

I would like to thank Margaret Sharps, Sylvia Bond and Sheila Cook, who all helped with finding my much-treasured ring, lost in the Caudwell Day Centre. Their kindness and consideration was much appreciated.

Rosemary Barlow

Dear Editor

I'm one of those people who only have a **real** birthday every 4 years, and this year was my eighteenth (72 actually). I had lots of cards and presents and was treated lots by my family but the best present was delivered at 4.30 pm in the afternoon when my grandson's wife Aurore gave birth to my great granddaughter Rose. So this year's birthday was even more special for me.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Cox

Sharing sadness, about the Beverley crash:

Dear Editor

I well remember that day in early March 1957. The young man who died that day was John Matravers (nicknamed Mokey because of a slightly prominent nose) who was in his early 20s. He was working as an electric meter reader for the S.E.B. in Abingdon.

He was a very popular young man with lots of friends. His girlfriend worked at Boots in Abingdon and she went with a work colleague in the afternoon to look where the accident had happened. She did not know until later that her boyfriend had died there. Lots of his friends and family attended his funeral later in the Abingdon cemetery.

I often think that, if only he had been a little earlier or later that day, he would be alive today.

Ronald Taylor, Abingdon

Sharing scepticism, about sharing spaces:

Dear Editor

It was made abundantly clear to me at the workshop held by the 2020 committee to discuss traffic calming in our village that they are totally opposed to roundabouts to facilitate access to the three new housing developments. I don't care if it is a roundabout or a raised bed growing potatoes! I still believe it is the safest way to access the new houses and would act to calm the traffic far more efficiently than getting rid of our bus stops and relying on buses to hold up traffic, which to my way of thinking sounds extremely dangerous, with irate drivers trying to overtake stationary buses as they stop for passengers.

The plan looks good for a village with minimal traffic but we know the existing volume of traffic is only going to get worse. I appreciate having a pretty village but I would prefer a safe village.

Shirley Thomas

Sharing criticism, of the NDP:

Three more letters were also received, continuing the debate about the wisdom or foolishness, the strengths and weaknesses of Drayton's Neighbourhood Development Plan. They are very long and printed on pages 12 to 15 with other Plan Update material.

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Sharing problems, especially Village Litter:

Dear Editor

I think we need another rubbish-clean-up day in Drayton.

I became the owner of a dog a few months ago and now walk around Drayton a lot more than I used to. Every time I go for a walk I seem to end up picking up someone's rubbish that's either been thrown from a car or dropped on purpose. My recent walks are down the side of the A34 from the other side of the A34 bridge and back to the Green via Kiln Lane. Unless you've done this walk it's hard to explain how much rubbish is down the embankment and, even worse, on the farmers field. I carried back two carrier bags of rubbish today after picking up loads of wet wipes that were blowing around - and some soiled pampers!



Anyway I would really like to be involved in another clean-up day for Drayton. Who will join me?

Your sincerely

Mark Hallewell

Dear Editor,

I wanted to flag up that we are running community week in school the week commencing 11th April.

The plan is that some of our children will take part in a number of activities within the village, **including litter picking**, car washing etc. There will also be guest speakers in school.

Would anyone in the village who could use our help with anything 'community related', which is deliberately a rather broad phrase, please contact me?

Best regards

Marc Knight

Headteacher,

Drayton Community Primary School,

Tel: 01235 531316

Dear Editor

Have your readers ever wondered what happens to their rubbish after it's collected from their black bins? If so, they should come for a tour of the Ardley Energy Recovery Facility (that big building on the M40 by Banbury) and find out how their waste creates enough energy for 38,000 homes!

The next tour is booked in at 10am 12 April 2016 for all South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse residents.

They should email me, alexandra.pyle@southandvale.gov.uk, or call 01235 540566 to book a space - or to reserve a later spot when more dates become available.

Many thanks,

Alexandra Pyle

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Associate Priest	Rev'd Rosie Bruce07766421773
Churchwardens	Mrs Alison Bone202188 Mrs Linda Johnson527521
Organist	Vacancy

REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday	8.00 am	Holy Communion (Common Worship - Traditional)
	10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (CW), except the 2nd Sunday, when there is a non-Eucharistic All-age Service
Thursday	9.15 am	Holy Communion (CW) in Lady Chapel.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Mon.	7.45 pm	Bell Ringing Practice	<i>Bell Tower</i>
Wed	10.00 am	Pebbles (term time only)	<i>Church Room</i>

CALENDAR FOR APRIL:

Tues	5	2.30 pm	First Tuesday Connections	<i>Church Room</i>
Sun	17	3.30 pm	The Celebration	<i>Drayton Primary School</i>

CHURCH REGISTER:

Funerals:

3rd	March	Sarah Jane Church
8th	March	Hazel Mildred Pardey

YOU STAY WE PRAY APRIL:

1st & 2nd: Corneville Road, Crabtree Lane, Lesparre Close;
3rd to 9th: Drayton Road, Milton Road, New Cut Mill, Fisher Close, Marcham Road, Meads Close, Rippington Court, Stone Hill; 10th to 23rd: Steventon Road, Eastway, Eastway MHP; 24th to 30th: Church Lane, Henleys Lane, Caudwell Close, Gravel Lane



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Letter from Rev. Rebecca Peters

Dear Friends,

Is bell ringing a sport? Some may roll their eyes at this question and yet others know how hard it is to actually achieve the perfect peal. Bell ringing was initially used to welcome people coming to worship, to rejoice in a great celebration, like a coronation or jubilee, or sometimes to warn people of an emergency. The bells are still rung on such occasions, before our 10am service and also in celebration. So what has this got to do with Drayton?

Well, St Peter's Church, Drayton has a very active tower captain and bell ringing community, founded in 1878 by Revd F.E. Robinson, the then vicar of St Peter's Church. He went on to change, add and recast the bells, until there was the present circle of eight bells. Rev F. E. Robinson was one of the founders of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers and is well known for the significant contribution he made to bell ringing.

Drayton Village has been awarded a blue plaque to commemorate the contribution Revd F. E. Robinson made to bell ringing. It is to be positioned on the church wall next to the bell tower. We would like to invite people to a service of celebration at 10am on 22nd May at St Peter's Church and, at 11:30am, a short service of consecration and unveiling of the blue plaque. The Bell Ringers will also be playing in the afternoon to celebrate.

God Bless

Rebecca



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FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS **Jean Hager**

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 **05 April** and **03 May**. If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.



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BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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Local contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409

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NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

We extend a very warm welcome to John Donohue, who has just taken over the Red Lion. John has had many years of running village pubs, most recently at Cholsey

Also, a warm welcome to Mr & Mrs Kerr and family on moving to Lockway from Whitehorns Way; he is a local window cleaner if anyone needs one!

Finally, a warm welcome to Carole & Peter Carter who have moved up from Cornwall to a bungalow in Church Lane.

DRAYTON VILLAGE HALL

Tony Holmes

Grateful thanks to the Vale Council; we've been awarded a grant which will pay half the costs of a new front door, a dishwasher to complete the revamped kitchen and a new PA system (the present one has occasional tantrums). The current front door has had several issues for a while, but regular users should be aware that when the new one appears, keys will need replacing!

We now have a further new group, it's called 'Clubbercise', (so a blend of disco and exercise, very colourful), that's Tuesdays at 8.15, call Hannah on 07811 209242 for details, or see her Facebook page. The 'BounceFit' group have now been in (Mondays 6pm) for 3 months, and are very well attended, as are our resident Zumba classes (Kelly, Tuesdays 5.45, & Gemma, Sundays, 7.30pm, with sometimes a preceding 'High-Intensity' exercise class at 6.45). So, plenty of opportunity to get fit! This month we have the Oxford Drama Network's AGM (22nd), and a special event run for the W.I. (18th), with I gather expects a celebrated guest speaker.

Our 4-hour slots for children's parties are very popular, so please don't leave booking yours too late.

Our regulars will be aware of the car-park pot-holes, which have got worse over the winter; as and when the weather improves, we're hoping to get some of the bigger tank-traps filled in - so if anyone knows a good tarmac firm with very modest charges please let us know! Oh, one last thing. Could our regular groups please note that we have had reports of hall lights being left on, so PLEASE do check them as you're leaving (that's Main or Small hall, loos, corridor, kitchen, whatever). The bills are big enough as it is!



ALL AROUND

RAINBOWS ARE ONE!

Mary Thompson

On April 11th Drayton Rainbows will celebrate their first birthday! During the last year Rainbows have enjoyed lots of activities and earned several badges - Global Adventure, Festivals, Round the World and Thinking Day 2016.

In December they held a Christmas Fair which raised £84.91 for Camfed, a charity supporting education for girls in Africa. The Rainbows joined in a District Thinking Day party in February, and finished the term by litter picking around the Village Hall as part of the "Clean for the Queen" campaign, and making her a 90th birthday card.

Drayton Rainbows are 5 and 6 year old girls, meeting at 5pm – 6.15 on Thursdays in term time. To register please call me on 01235 832077 or visit www.girlguiding.co.uk/joinus.

1ST DRAYTON BROWNIES

Annette Mitchell

We have been very busy celebrating in the last few weeks!

We made Chinese New Year Lanterns and tossed pancakes - a day late - on Ash Wednesday! We celebrated Thinking Day with other Abingdon District Rainbow, Brownie and Guide groups in Steventon. Since 1926 on 22nd February, Girl Guides and Girl Scouts think about the issues that affect girls and young women all over the world. For Mother's Day we made cards, sweets and button charms for the mothers and grandmothers. As part of our traditions badge, we drew and coloured in the union flag and sang the national anthem.

Meetings are held at Drayton Village Hall, on Wednesdays during school term, from 6pm – 7.30pm. Meetings are open to all girls aged between 7 – 10 years old. You can register your interest on the girl guiding website and click on 'Join Us!' at www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved, or you can email us on drayton1stbrownies@live.co.uk.

Further details are available from:

Ruth Hudson (Brown Owl) 01235 205111

Esther Deabill (Tawny Owl) 01235 528502

Annette Mitchell (Barn Owl) 01235 555216

DRAYTON WIVES

Gwen Price

On Wednesday 25th February, over forty of our members enjoyed a meal at the Oxford Abingdon Hotel. It was a good chance to socialise and enjoy each other's company. The April meeting will be the A.G.M. when, among other things, we will have a short talk on a Didcot charity called the Balsam Family Project. The successful craft group will display some of their work.

The whist group needs new members. You don't need to belong to Wives; Whist meetings are held at the Caudwell Day centre on the second Thursday of each month at 2p.m. Do come along!

W.I.

Brenda Malin

There was no report in the last Chronicle, not because we had not been busy, but because the very interesting history of Drayton Women's Institute, compiled by Ann Webb, to celebrate the centenary of the founding of the Women's Institute, could not be accommodated in the very full Christmas issue. Unfortunately Ann has had a rather nasty fall since the New Year and is at present in hospital; I am sure all of her friends and colleagues in the village will wish her a speedy recovery.

The 95th anniversary of Drayton's W.I. was celebrated, in some style in the Church room, within yards of the Methodist chapel where the first meeting was held in 1920. We are very proud that our Institute has been going without a break for all these years. We had our usual Christmas meeting, finding time to celebrate again with yummy food and plenty of happy chatter. Our January meeting was anything but chatty, in fact we were struck silent by 'Shelly' of Shelly Chocolates, demonstrating and making her

hand-made chocolates. New Year's resolutions were quickly over ridden in the interest of courtesy to our quest speaker, who was most generous with her finished work. Shelly is a very talented lady, besides being a chocolatier, she is also a violinist and a wonderfully interesting speaker.

February 11th 7pm, The Plumb Pudding, Milton. (Don't forget to let Jill know your meal choice)

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BOWLS CLUB

Roll up

Congratulations to the 'Wasps' on winning their section of the afternoon triple league. This is the seventh year running that they have achieved this; well done June and her team. The 'Hammers' finished third in their section in what was a tight finish.

There have been two internal competitions so far this year. The 'Wally Weightman' triples was held in January and, making it to the final to be played in December, are: Pat Mitchenson, Avril Holmes & Bryn Jones who will play Jack Mitchenson, Ian Norrissa & Jo Rostagni. Also the 'Henry Bunce' handicap pairs was played for in February and the final will be between June Hyde & Chris Smith and Lyndon Locke & Bryn Jones. The next competition will be the 'Attwood Cup' bowls drive on March 20th; the results of this will be in our next notes.

We close these notes with great sadness with the news of the passing of Sarah Church. Sarah was a founder member of the club (1988) and a very keen member, always supporting the many competitions and bowling holidays over many years. Our thoughts and sympathy are with Derek and his family at this sad time.

TABLE TENNIS CLUB

John Gould

Well, the Drayton Table Tennis Club Annual Quiz took place on Friday 11th March 2016 at the School. It was a very good evening – at least the quizzers seemed to have fun. Congratulations to team Etwell-Moor that ran out winners after 10 rounds of questions. The club would like to thank all those who attended some for the first time, together with many 'regulars'. We've raised some funds for the club that that will help pay our heavy running costs and keep us going for our 31st season! I just hope the questions weren't too bad!

Our teams are nearing the season end. The Bidmead Cup has reached the semi-final stage and, by the time you read this, we will know if we've reached another final. The team played Hanney club in the semi. In the Handicap Shield our A, B, C & G teams have a good chance to progress to the knockout stages.

In the Didcot league, our F team are the stars having sewn up Division 5 with only 1 defeat all season. The G team have a very good chance to finish second in that division. Our D team is vying for second place in Division 3 – it's all very close and will go to the wire. The other teams are either mid table or trying to avoid a bottom-two place! Again it will be close for the C team in Div 2 and the E team in Div 4.

Our club Senior Championships will take place on 10th April and this always proves to be a great season finale at the club. Report will follow in another issue.

DRAYTON TWINNING

Stephen Fearnley

Last month on the 28th we provided teas at Lime Close Open Garden Day and a few visitors came to say hello, but it was a fairly bright but chilly day and not many came through the gates. Hopefully the weather will be kinder on 15th May for the next Open Day.

We have now heard from two couples from Abingdon who will be joining us for the visit to Lesparre from the 21st to 26th July. There is still room and others are very welcome to join us so, if you feel tempted, please call us up if only to find out what we do. This could well suit students who would like to brush up on their French. If you would like to look on-line, there is a link on the Village Website (<http://www.draytonvillage.co.uk>) to some twinning information.

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

GARD AGM

Nick Thompson

The GARD AGM will be held at Stocks Lane Farm, Steventon on Monday 25th April 2016 at 7pm. All who are interested in the present situation regarding Thames Water's plans →

CHRONICLE AGENTS

Carol Arnold

Sadly Jenny Stevens is giving up her Chronicle round after over 20 years, she and her husband John have been stalwarts of the Chronicle team and we will miss them greatly. We feel sure that everyone will join us in wishing them well.

We have someone who has taken on Jenny's round, but only on a temporary basis, so we really do need someone to step up and take it on permanently, in fact we could do with several new agents as we have some people doing as many as three rounds. We all value our Chronicle but without some new blood we wonder how long it can continue to be delivered as it is currently. We will also have more houses in the village over the next few years and this will present an even bigger challenge in terms of distribution.

If anyone feels that they could spare between 30 and 90 minutes once a month then please contact Gareth Davies on garethj.davies@virgin.net or me on carolannarnold@sky.com

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⇒ for a reservoir are welcome to attend to hear an update and ask questions. A Committee Meeting will follow.

CLEAR UP & SPONSOR-A-STEP Victoria Griffiths.

The apple trees are pruned! A huge thank-you to the hardy souls who braved the chill on 13th March, steadily working through the Millennium Green orchard. As the sun slowly appeared, the pile of cuttings grew and the coffee, cakes and delicious cheese scones provided relief and reward.

The next Spring Clearing mornings will be on Saturday 26th March and Sunday 17th April, 10.00am to 12.30am. The Saturday session will hopefully include a bonfire - so please join us and bring marshmallows and a mug for tea, coffee or squash during the refreshment break - as well as tools.

The trustees are committed to extending the path around the Green. Quotes are beyond our means at the moment but we have several grant applications pending. We know there is strong support for this and have decided on a fundraising campaign to allow villagers to 'Sponsor a Step' of this new path. Each step will need £10 and we really hope all users of the Green will consider joining this initiative.

The campaign will be launched on the 26th March. If you are not able to join us, please contact any of the Trustees to donate and secure your steps! Signs with details will be going up around the village. Summer events for the Green are also in the planning stages so please 'watch this space'.

DRAYTON'S ROCKING DRAGONS Brian Eastoe

As the owner of the box trailer known locally as the DragonMobile, I've been asked to explain its genesis. It evolved when I used to carve Rocking Dragons. Since I believe horses look best in fields running free, I carved my first grandson a rocking dragon, instead of a horse. I was then encouraged to seek orders for more, from various craft fairs and County Shows, so I had to have a box van to carry them and it became known as The Dragon Mobile.



I carved 12 dragons in all. At least two are in the USA, one went to Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital and one now lives in the J.R. on the Ground Floor. Each one was different, but all have big buck teeth and curly tails. The last one, known as Hero, also has a black box on his tail. When Hero was handed over, to the C.O. at RAF Brize Norton, he asked, 'why the black box?' I told him that Rocking Dragons only fly at night and need to know how to find their way home; and the black box is a magic sat nav!

One event I wish I'd photographed was asking four policemen at the New Forest Show, to help me. 'Sure, they said, what do you want us to do?' 'Can you lift this Rocking Dragon into this DragonMobile please?' And they did, with a lot of laughter about this being the first time that they had seized and secured a dragon. (Please, no mother-in-law jokes!)

Now, after almost 20 years of faithful service, the DragonMobile serves a more sedate purpose, storing equipment for use by the community, clubs and for various events. Its contents include 3 large expanding marquees, 6 small marquees, bunting, lights, 3 easels, workmates, tables, etc.

DRAYTON'S SWING BAND Derek Pooley

If you have been missing the music of local musician/composer Brian Thompson and the Boulevard Swing Band, why not go to the Didcot Cornerstone at 7.30 pm on Saturday 4th June. Tickets direct from the Cornerstone.

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HIGH SHERIFF HONOURS GARY Derek Pooley

Tom Birch Reynardson is the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire for the current shrieval year. He invited nominations for public recognition at Christchurch in Oxford of those people in Oxfordshire who make 'amazing contributions to their community'. Drayton's Gary Hibbins was nominated for his current work with young people through the DAMASCUS project and also for his earlier work with the Abingdon Bridge young people's support centre, which he managed for several years.

Editor's Note:

Thanks to Richard Williams for the picture. Gary is 5th from the right on the back row; the High Sheriff is the centre of the front row, dressed as befits the holder of the oldest secular office in the land, bar the queen of course.



NAG5 SAFETY CORNER

Bridget Haffenden

Cold callers and rogue traders

Following recent reports of cold callers in Sutton Courtenay, the police have provided the following information and advice:

Trading Standards suggest that signs saying 'we do not buy or sell at the door' should be removed, since they may indicate to rogue traders that there is a vulnerable person living at the address.

Oxfordshire Trading Standards' website has information and advice on cold callers and rogue traders at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/trading-standards>.

Report a doorstep crime by calling 01865 815000 or use the report form on the Trading Standard's website at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/doorstep-crime>.

The Citizens Advice Bureau in Abingdon can provide useful advice and information. Visit their website for the opening hours and location in Abingdon at <http://www.caox.org.uk/abingdon>. Or call 03444 111444. Telephone lines are open 10am-7pm Monday to Thursday and from 10am-4pm on Fridays.

If residents have concerns they can call the non-emergency police number 101 for advice. (Call 999 in emergency situations.)

Speeding

The ROSPA website: <http://www.rospa.com/road-safety/advice/drivers/speed/inappropriate/> contains interesting information:

Around two thirds of crashes in which people are killed or injured occur on roads with a speed limit of 30mph or less.

Inappropriate speed contributes to around 10% of all injury collisions reported to the police, with 13% of crashes resulting in a serious injury and 24% resulting in a death. These figures include both 'excessive speed' (exceeding the speed limit) and also driving within the speed limit when conditions are such that the speed limit is too fast, e.g. poor visibility, poor weather or a large number of pedestrians.

Who speeds?

On 30mph roads in built-up areas 45% of car drivers exceed 30mph and 15% exceed 35mph.

On 40mph roads in built-up areas just over one fifth (21%) of car drivers speed and 7% go faster than 45mph.

On single carriageway 60mph roads in non-built-up areas 7% of drivers speed, but only 1% go over 70mph.

On 70mph dual carriageways in non-built-up areas over one third of car drivers (37%) exceed the speed limit, with 10% of those going over 80mph.

On motorways in non-built-up areas with 70mph limits almost half (46%) of car drivers exceed the speed limit, with 11% going faster than 80mph.

Research suggests there are three types of drivers:

- Compliant drivers, who usually observe speed limits (52% of drivers).
- Moderate speeders, who occasionally exceed speed limits (33% of drivers).
- Excessive speeders, who routinely exceed speed limits (14% of drivers).

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

And from local bobby, PC Keith Morton

In Drayton we have had several complaints of parking again. One road in particular, Crabtree Lane, has double yellow lines as you enter but people are still parking on them. We will be patrolling the area and will start issuing fixed penalty tickets to anyone continuing to park on the yellow lines.

DOG MICROCHIPPING

Stephen Fearnley

From Wednesday, April 6 it will be a legal requirement to have your dog microchipped. The owner must also keep their registered details up to date including if they move house or change ➔

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➔ phone number. Any dog over the age of eight weeks will be required to be microchipped and registered. The microchip has its own unique code that can be used as a tracker to reunite pets with their owners.

If a dog is not microchipped, its owners will be served a notice ordering them to do so within 21 days, failing which they may face prosecution or a £500 fine. If owners do not update their details on the database, they could also be liable to pay a fine.

Some local animal charities and organisations offer free microchipping programmes, as do some local authorities. Your own vet should be able to do it and may charge around £15.

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DRAYTON

The Beverley Crash

Many villagers joined the Memorial Mob and currently-serving RAF personnel to mark the 69th anniversary of the crash of the Blackburn Beverley XH117 from 53 Squadron on Sutton Wick. Just after take off from Abingdon, bound for Cyprus, the aircraft engines failed and it struck cables and trees whilst trying to get back to Abingdon. 15 RAF personnel died, 3 more were injured. 2 civilians were killed and 1 injured. 7 RAF dogs died.



When, just before 11.00 am, which was roughly the time of the crash, an RAF bugler sounded the last post, several dogs with the villagers present recalled their wolf ancestry and joined in, almost as if they were mourning the dogs which had died; uncanny!



The Chairman of the Vale Council, Councillor Mike Badcock, was present from the Vale (together with crutches to support his recently replaced hip). He had been a small boy at the time and admitted racing to Drayton when he heard of the crash to 'gawp', as small boys are prone to do. It's clear that neither the dogs nor the geese are as interested in his speech as they had been in the bugler's playing.



Chronicle readers Keith Clough, Dave Lee and Daphne Samworth sent me pictures from the memorial event and I am grateful to them. One is of Colonel Jiri Svatos, the Czech airforce attaché in London, who had come to Sutton Wick to mark the

REMEMBERS

and its WWI Sacrifice

BEN WHITTINGTON

John Roberts

Private Benjamin Arthur Whittington of the 1st Battalion Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, with the service number 9261, died 100 years ago on the 25th of April 1916, in the battle of Kut-el-Amara in Mesopotamia (now Iraq). He was the son of William and Harriet Whittington of Sutton Wick and was only 25 years old when killed. He is buried in the War Cemetery in Kut, between Baghdad and Basrah



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⇒ fact that RAF Flight Sergeant Jindrich Zarecky, the slip-crew pilot who had been killed, was from Czechoslovakia and had fought with the RAF in the Battle of Britain. Another photo is of Wing Commander Rachel Caston, from Brize Norton and, finally, the view of the event which few of us saw, from Keith Clough's bedroom window.



2020 TRAFFIC WORKSHOP

Derek Pooley

Annabel Keegan is from Phil Jones Associates, the consultants



advising Drayton 2020 on how best to deal with traffic passing through the village. She began the workshop on 20th February by reminding the 60-odd participants of the ‘shared space villages’ concept. The strategy is deceptively simple, to slow traffic through the village to a level where street space can be safely shared between cars, cyclists and pedestrians without all the paraphernalia of traffic lights, pedestrian crossings, speed bumps etc. Perhaps surprisingly, this does not reduce the rate of flow of vehicles through the village, because the distances between cars can be less at low speeds and the disruption to flow caused by having to stop for pedestrians is less. For the same reason we are all required to slow down on motorways when the traffic density is very high; counter-intuitively, the throughput of cars increases as speeds are reduced. Moreover, time wasted by traffic light delays and in stop/start driving from moderate speeds is eliminated.

Annabel has since provided the Chronicle with background reports and links to examples of where it has been tried and how well it has worked. The best illustrated example is for Poynton in Cheshire, which sits right on the crossroads of the north-south A523 from Stockport to Macclesfield and the west-east A5149 from Wilmslow to the A6 and Buxton, a much busier junction than ours of the B4017 with the B4016. Poynton was chosen as an exemplar of the method and the film, (the link is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-vzDDMzq7d0>) ‘Poynton Regenerated’, documents conditions ‘before and after’. It should be compulsory viewing for everyone concerned about similar plans for Drayton!



who found the traffic much kinder and less intimidating than before.

However, one disturbing aspect of the Poynton trial is that their scheme had cost £4M and one wonders if Drayton could find enough money to do the job properly here.



Although some workshop participants tried to argue that nothing short of major new roads would ameliorate Drayton’s traffic problem, most of the workshop time was spent discussing just how Drayton would implement the shared-space strategy if we decided to go ahead and could find the money.

Parish Councillors had been assigned to facilitate discussions on each of the major features of a Drayton scheme, the northern, southern and eastern gateways into the village and the village centre itself with the major junction of the B4016 with the B4017, all based on ideas which the consultants had provided. Parish Councillor Pervin Shahin (below) is discussing with Douglas Smith and others aspects of village centre.



If Drayton does go ahead with ‘shared space’ there will some difficult choices to make, not least on exactly where and how to place the village gateways. Parish Councillor Richard Wade (below) had a particular problem on his table, dealing with the southern gateway, because of the part of the village (Citta Vica) stretching south of the A34 bridge, with some participants arguing that if the gateway was that far out it would be ineffective and that the golf course/recycling centre was the best place, as the consultants had suggested.



Dealing with these and other problems will require wisdom and judgement as well as careful consultation. The key players in



Drayton 2020, from right to left, Richard Williams (Parish Council chairman), Tom Shebbeare (chairman of the Drayton 2020 implementation committee) and David Perrow (Parish Clerk) will have plenty of hard work to do in the coming months.

The Chronicle team wishes them well!

DRAYTON 2020

APRIL 2016 PROGRESS REPORT David Perrow

Barrow Road/Walnut Meadow Site.

Work here is progressing well. There have been issues with Thames Water digging up the main road without giving Drayton residents or the Drayton PC any notice, as well as a proposal now to use Barrow Road itself for the route for the sewerage pipe into the development, without any proper consideration for or consultation with nearby residents. These matters are being pursued with Thames Water and Miller Homes.

South of High Street Site. Planning permission for 140 houses has now been granted by VWHDC. Work on site is expected to begin in late summer/early autumn.

Manor Farm Site. Drayton 2020 representatives will meet in the next few weeks with CALA Homes, the developers who have acquired the site, to discuss their plans and timescales.

Sports Pitches and Pavilion.

The Drayton 2020 working group (Rob Drury-Dryden, Colin Arnold, Nigel Porter & the Parish Clerk) have now met with Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association and are devising a questionnaire for the village on its sports requirements. This will inform the final specification for an architect's design for the pavilion and allow a business case and application for planning permission for the sports fields, pavilion and car park to be formulated. An architect recently moved to the village, who has experience in designing sports facilities, has offered to help.

Playgrounds. The Lockway playground refurbishment design is now nearing completion and it is expected that this will be finalised and the order placed with the chosen supplier in March, and that work will take place in May/June

School and Pre-School. Following site visits to other recently built/extended pre-schools in the area, the new building is now to be being designed and costed. OCC are planning the expansion of the School for the extra children expected from the growth of the village. The new classroom will enable children to be taught in single year groups for the very first time.

Tree planting. Mike Habermehl (who designed our Millennium Green) has been engaged by the Parish Council to design the tree planting scheme on Hilliat Fields. Enquiries are being made to obtain details from the utility companies about their pipe/cable runs so that the scheme can be costed and permission obtained from Oxfordshire County Council, who own the land on which the trees will be planted. Members of the working group for this project are Tom Shebbeare, Andrew Bax and David Perrow.

Shop-front appearance. It is an ambition of the D2020 NDP to improve the appearance of the shop frontages in Drayton. Advice is also being sought on possible improvements to the 'Mace' shop, including exterior design and parking – this is a long term project and will need some commercial funding. The Post Office has declined to improve the frontage of the shop as part of the current interior refurbishment, so another way will need to be found to achieve this redesign.



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⇒ **Traffic Workshop.** About 60 people attended the February Workshop in the Village Hall. The next stage is to revise the traffic scheme taking account of the comments made at the Workshop. Notes from the Workshop and an informative video are available at http://www.draytonvillage.co.uk/?page_id=698

STILL THE ARGUMENTS RAGE ON Derek Pooley

I know I risk causing some of our readers to lose the will to live by publishing yet more of the detailed and complex exchanges between critics and supporters of the Drayton 2020 Neighbourhood Development Plan! And I risk being rapped over the knuckles by the Chronicle treasurer for making this issue too big and upping our printing bill! But the Chronicle does try to publish everything sent in about important village issues which is not libellous or offensive and the letters by Mark Tamburro and Daniel Scharf, and Richard Williams' response, definitely meet our criteria; hence the next several pages.

However I will try to make amends for readers by attempting to summarise the key factors getting us where we are with the NDP, in the hope that future debate can move on from how we got where we are to what is best to do next.

1. All British governments are dismayed by our shortage of houses and their consequent high prices, especially in the south east. The reasons are clear enough: old people living and needing houses for much longer; couples separating and needing two houses rather than one; Britain's society and economy being so attractive that many more people want to come here than leave.

2. The consequences are dire. Young people are unable to find somewhere of their own to rent, let alone get onto the housing ladder. Communities are unable to find the key workers they need (nurses, teachers, carers, policemen etc.) because they can't pay them enough to afford housing. Our economy is always at risk of a house price bubble and frequently falls foul of its bursting.

3. The solution (build more houses) is simple, but not easy. So many developments have been prevented or delayed in recent years by local opposition that the UK Government has now made it a legal requirement for local planning authorities to meet targets for new build, the so-called National Planning Policy Framework.

4. No longer can new housing be prevented by local objections, or by arguments that roads in the area are inadequate, or by local planning authorities just dragging their feet. Those that have tried to, as the Vale did over the site on the Drayton Road to the south of Abingdon, are simply over-ridden by planning inspectors or the Secretary of State and may, in extremis, effectively lose control of local planning altogether.

5. But the 2011 Localism Act, by envisaging neighbourhood development plans such as ours, does provide a means for local communities to guide and extract maximum benefit from developments which must occur on their patch, by encouraging negotiation and agreements between land owners, developers, villagers and the planning authority.

6. Most observers were initially sceptical that this would work, but a few far-sighted visionaries in Drayton, almost uniquely within the Vale, went ahead anyway. They successfully jumped through all the hoops the law required and persuaded a majority of villagers to back them.

7. The Drayton NDP has already proved its worth to its major stakeholders. Two of the three developments agreed as part of the 2020 Plan (Barrow Road and South of the High Street) have been approved with little fuss. The one attempt to ignore the NDP (by Blue Cedar for the south of Halls Close site) has been comprehensively rejected by the Vale and we hope any appeal they might make will be similarly dealt with.

8. The Drayton developments planned include green spaces, playing fields, tree planting and extra facilities such as a sports pavilion and up-graded play areas - as David Perrow's report opposite indicates. In fact the Drayton NDP has been so successful already that Richard Williams is in demand to speak to other towns and villages seeking to follow Drayton's lead.

9. Of course, the NDP does not provide for everything every villager wanted, especially not for Daniel Scharf's utopia of small and/or shared housing, self-build and more allotments, not least because there just isn't enough interest. Readers will deduce from the advert on page 20 that the Parish Council struggles hard even to find enough takers for the allotments it already has.

10. But in particular, the Drayton NDP doesn't provide for major new road infrastructure, such as up-grading the A34 as it passes Drayton, Abingdon and Oxford or for providing a good east-west link road to avoid the A415's tortuous route through Abingdon and the extra pressure that puts on Drayton roads. Mark Tamburro is right that we need to lobby for these whenever we get a chance; anyone who knows how to persuade Highways England to move these hugely expensive projects up their priority list should make themselves known to Drayton 2020 immediately.

11. But our NDP **may** be able to get things done which will ameliorate the problems caused by Drayton traffic and, at the same time, improve the 'look and feel' of the village, making it even nicer to live in. Hence the traffic workshops, most recently in February, reported on pages 1 and 11.

But I leave our readers to hear what critics and supporters of the NDP in the village are saying:

CRITIQUE 1 - missing the point. Mark Tamburro

In the last months Chronicle there was a response to my letter from the Drayton PC chair about the issues I had earlier raised. Unfortunately, the writer completely missed the points raised and I'm afraid provided the typical responses one would expect when such a plan is questioned/criticised. Firstly, whilst the response was factually incorrect, it was indeed great to finally get a response to my concerns and issues from someone involved with Drayton 2020. I have been writing to Drayton 2020 for the last three years about these very same issues and had zero response so I am pleased I have finally managed to get a response back.

So please let me set the record straight. I am cognisant with how the process works and that the developments were initiated by the landowners and that there is a need to build more houses etc. However, my premise was that the additional 25% increase is way over the top for a village the size of Drayton and will have a major affect on the already critical capacity of the infrastructure. I feel that these issues have been somewhat overlooked and should have been at the forefront of the plan development rather than 'we're sorry, there's nothing we can do about it' approach. In my experience, with enough effort and lobbying you can indeed do something about such issues.

I also fully recognise the 2020 plan gives us a degree of control of what is built. However, the writer suggests that no more development will happen with this plan in place and I'm afraid that is simply not true. We have already seen applications being put forward and some will indeed be approved. So please lets not keep suggesting the Drayton 2020 plan will somehow put a block on other developments in the village because it will not.

My major concern about the plan, the traffic issues/problems, is, I am afraid, going to have a major effect on our daily lives. I fully recognise that this is somewhat out of the control of Drayton 2020 plan but this does not mean we cannot fight the issue and put it at the forefront of our plans. My premise was that whilst we were

somewhat directed to build more houses you have not tackled the major issue these and other developments in Steventon, Sutton Courtney, Milton and Abingdon will bring. You have continued to look at Drayton in isolation and not taking into account what is happening around us and this is fundamentally wrong.

Let me be more specific. Each of the Developers, as part of their planning application, are required to submit a traffic study for their particular development. These studies only look at the impact of their individual development and, as they are funded by the developers, are not going to restrict their own development in any way so lets please get real! My wider issue is that we cannot look at these developments in Drayton and elsewhere on an individual basis, as it simply does not represent what the real traffic situation will be. I have therefore continually pressed for Drayton 2020 to undertake **an independent** traffic study that takes into account all the surrounding developments. This study will show that another 1500-2000 cars will be on the road at peak hours and, by all my estimations, will simply kill our ability to move in and out of the village. Please lets not keep saying this is the responsibility of OCC and there's nothing we can do about it. If we took this stance on everything that happens in our lives then nothing would ever get changed. Again, my premise was that we should be putting this at the forefront of any plans rather than try and use a sticking plaster to fix a gaping wound. By the way, and I am sure you are aware of this, you can make the studies/numbers say whatever you want when you are paying for it!

Linked to this, I recently attended the traffic workshop at the village hall. Whilst the traffic schemes look nice they failed to address this problem and again 'out of our control' was relayed every time someone raised the issue. As a result, many people who attended the workshop walked out half way though because they felt they were not being listened too. The traffic 'calming' scheme does look nice but I'm afraid completely misses the point about what the main issue is and indeed was not even mentioned in the design principles. I, and many others, would much rather see the money we are spending on this targeted on fixing the wider issue of traffic and the road infrastructure problem. Incidentally, I raised the point about the number of extra cars that will be on the road as a result of all the development and the organisers seemed oblivious to this which is somewhat worrying.

Finally, the writer also implied in his note that I may not know what I am talking about so again, let me please set the record straight. I have worked in the property industry for over 30 years and all over the world and advised some of the largest companies on the FTSE, Dow and Nasdaq in their property matters. I therefore think I know a little bit of what I am talking about! Indeed, I'm afraid implying that someone doesn't know what they are talking about in order to try to win an argument is a cheap stunt. This is one of the reasons why I will continue to fight and be relentless in trying to solve the real issues that face us and not allow them to be swept under the carpet.

The Drayton 2020 plan is indeed a response to government pressure and it allows the village to be enhanced via funding from the developers. However, it will not stop other developments in or around Drayton and, fundamentally, fails to address the main issues facing us. However, I guess we will at least be able to admire these enhancements looking through our car windows as we sit stationary in our traffic calming environment which, ironically, will not make drivers calm at all! Brilliant!



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MORE DRAYTON 2020

RIPOSTE 1 - The PC's defence Richard Williams

Without wishing to get involved in a detailed point-scoring exchange with Mr Tamburro, I would make the following observations on his latest letter (on page 13):

Mark Tamburro says he has received zero response from Drayton 2020 prior to the article in last month's issue. He has a short memory. He raised many of the same issues he refers to here in an E-mail to the Parish Clerk last December (2015). I have a copy of the E-mail to hand, together with a copy of the Clerk's detailed reply.

Mr Tamburro responded to the online consultation for the Neighbourhood Plan, along with many other residents. It is standard procedure with such consultations not to reply to respondents individually. However, all comments were noted and taken into account. Many of the responses, including Mr Tamburro's, related primarily to traffic problems, and for this reason, there is a fairly lengthy exposition of traffic issues in the final Referendum copy of the NDP.

Mr Tamburro thinks that 25% growth is excessive in a village like Drayton. 5 years ago, most of us, including the Steering Group, would probably have agreed. What Mr Tamburro seems unable to grasp is the extent to which the goalposts have moved since then. The very considerable amount of development now going on in the Vale (and all over the country) is driven by central government. The National Planning Policy Framework, introduced in 2012, **obliges** local planning authorities to maintain a five year land supply. This is not a gentle hint from housing ministers; it is a requirement! If LPAs don't (in the government's eyes) make sufficient efforts to achieve this, they risk being penalised by having an extra 20% added on, i.e. they will have to demonstrate **six years'** worth of 'specific, deliverable sites'. Yes, we all know the supporting infrastructure is inadequate, but house building is the government's current priority, and any infrastructure improvements are going to have to play catch up.

As things stand, if we can hold the line in Drayton at 25% growth, we will be getting off relatively lightly. Drayton is classified by the Vale as a 'large' village. All other large villages in the Vale are under pressure from multiple planning applications. Some are looking at 50 or 60% growth or more. Sutton Courtenay's village website shows that, in addition to the several housing sites already underway, three more are in the pipeline: one proposal is for 200 houses off Hobbyhorse Lane, and two other major applications are forecast - 140 houses north of Appleford Rd, and up to 600 east of the Harwell Rd. This doesn't include a possible massive warehouse development to the west of Didcot Power Station. An article published in the Daily Telegraph on 20th Feb suggested that if all the development proposed for Sutton Courtenay goes ahead, the village could, in a few years time, nearly treble in size. In all sorts of ways, this is a worrying prospect. Only one thing is certain. Without its Neighbourhood Plan, Drayton would be facing a lot more than 25% growth.

Mr Tamburro seems convinced that Drayton 2020 just 'doesn't get' the traffic problem and is, so to speak, fiddling with trivialities like a traffic calming scheme, while remaining oblivious to the main issue. Well, actually, we **do** get it. No, really, we do. How could we not, since all the members of Drayton 2020 and the Parish Council live in the village and are as affected by traffic congestion as anyone else? Yes, we know how long it takes to get to Abingdon in morning peak time. Yes, we share the irritation and frustration when the A34 closes, and traffic is diverted through Drayton, causing total gridlock. Yes, the situation will get worse, possibly a lot worse, before it gets better.

The only question is, what, practically, can we do about it? Stamping our feet and complaining that it is all 'unfair' will not work. Whether Mr Tamburro likes it or not, there is a severe shortage of housing, especially of 'affordable' property, right across the country - the result of governments and local authorities

dragging their feet for decades. He presumably would like his children to have somewhere to live in the future, without spending half or two-thirds of their income on rent. The south-east may be overcrowded, but it is where the jobs are, and development will naturally gravitate to the places where demand is highest. As house prices in London soar out of reach for most people, more and more of them will move out to places like Didcot, where transport links to London are excellent, but property is much cheaper. When the Great Western Railway is electrified and Crossrail completed, this population movement to the west of London will, I suspect, be accelerated.

There is a sound argument that truly 'sustainable' development should be concentrated in existing towns and cities because that is where the facilities are, and public transport is much better, reducing the need for unnecessary car trips etc. Unfortunately, there are nowhere near enough 'brownfield' sites in the Vale to meet the government's 5 year land supply target, and the big 'strategic' sites on the edges of towns are not progressing fast enough, which is why we are where we are. Mr Tamburro thinks that we should be resisting development far more strongly. I can only refer him to the NDP Sustainability Appraisal which explains in more detail than is possible here that, under the present dispensation, if you want to prevent development on 'unsuitable' sites, accepting some development on 'suitable' sites is inevitable.

Which does not solve the problems of our overloaded road network. For at least the last twenty years, residents in this area have been pushing OCC and the government to get on with highway projects such as the conversion of the Lodge Hill/A34 slip road into a full four-way interchange; a south Abingdon bypass, a third Thames crossing, and so on. These schemes have to compete for funding with hundreds of others in the UK, and even when agreed, they do not happen overnight. In addition, most of the key infrastructure improvements lie outside of Drayton village: it is most unlikely, for example, that roads like the B4017 or the B4016 will or can be widened or significantly upgraded. So it is rather absurd for Mr Tamburro to claim that Drayton 2020 is not doing enough to tackle the issue. This is rather like saying, yes, we know that Drayton Parish Council is not directly responsible for British foreign policy in the Middle East, but that is no excuse for it not doing more to solve the Syrian refugee crisis.

As explained, what we will do is continue to lobby OCC for improvements in any area we are able to influence. The good news is that the Lodge Hill interchange appears finally to have got the go-ahead, and improvements to the Milton and Chilton interchanges on the A34 are nearing completion. A new link road from Lodge Hill to the M40 has been mooted, and there are even rumours of a link from the M40 to the M4 being constructed to the west of the A34.

Mr Tamburro urges Drayton 2020 to undertake an 'independent traffic study' that aggregates our 3 allocated sites in Drayton and also 'takes into account all the surrounding developments'. One wonders how many of these developments he would like us to include: South Abingdon presumably, and all the sites in Steventon (currently 3 underway, 2 more with planning permission). And no doubt all the ones in Sutton Courtenay? What about those in East Hanney, Marcham and Kingston Bagpuize? These are not facetious questions; traffic from all these developments will have some impact on Drayton.

How accurate will the data be, given that most of the houses are not even built yet, so we cannot possibly know in advance who will be making what journeys? At best the information will consist of guesstimates. We might as well calculate 2 cars per household and simply work out an approximate number from that. It would be almost as reliable. Such a survey would be hugely expensive, probably costing thousands of pounds. It might be illegal - Drayton Parish Council has no mandate to spend taxpayers' money (the council tax precept) on surveying sites outside the village. It would be out of date almost as soon as published, as yet more sites with planning permission come on stream. And what would its purpose be, since OCC and the Highways Agency already collate this data? →

⇒ In contrast to the above, Drayton's NDP serves an entirely practical and pragmatic purpose. It has already blocked one development in Halls Close, and although some properties (single houses, extensions etc) will be built over and above the 3 allocated sites, we have a strong defence against additional 'major' sites (more than 10 properties).

Finally, Mr Tamburro claims that he will 'continue to fight and be relentless in trying to solve the real issues that face us'. I would be genuinely interested to know what he has actually done and achieved in this impressive campaigning mode; that is, other than sniping at Drayton 2020 and writing intemperate and patronising letters to the Chronicle.

CRITIQUE 2 - a fuller picture **Daniel Scharf**

In responding to an earlier letter, Richard Williams claims to be painting a 'true picture' of the Drayton Neighbourhood Plan (Plan) and its operation. Much of what he says is true, but now might be a good time to review the impact the NDP is having. Extracts are taken from the Plan (in bold) for those not among the 700 residents who took the trouble to vote at the referendum.

Shortly after the 'making' of the Plan the Parish Council supported the ribbon development element of the site at Barrow Road/Abingdon Road in total contradiction of the policy that says, **'P-LF2: Housing development that does not extend the village's boundaries through ribbon development along roads to the adjacent settlements of Abingdon, Steventon, Sutton Courtenay and Milton, will be supported.** Part of the justification for this policy is, **'110. Not least for the reasons already outlined in section 5 above, it makes sense to consolidate the village within the existing built 'envelope', rather than encourage the linear spread of the village outwards beyond its existing boundaries.'** Surprisingly, both the PC and Drayton 2020 claimed that the development to the rear of Halls Close, that offended neither policy P-LF2 or para 110, to be contrary to the Plan.

Housing policy P-H2 relates to the **SCALE OF DEVELOPMENT AND SITE ALLOCATION**, stating that, **'Housing growth in Drayton will be supported in sustainable locations to a scale proportionate to both the overall current Local Plan requirement and the residual Local Plan 2011 Part 2'**. Saying In the case of the Barrow Road/Abingdon Road development, **'149...The site is considered to be capable of taking approximately 60 new homes to meet both the needs of the village and wider district.'** The ribbon development seems to be roughly equivalent to the 13 houses above those being planned for the site. Although the Plan states that, **'161. ...The majority of units should be at the smaller scale end of this spectrum...(ie 1 or 2 bedrooms)',** the PC and District Council supported a development with zero one/two bedroomed dwellings being built for sale.

In identifying land for about 250 dwellings the Plan states that, **'162...Wherever possible housing should be phased within and between sites over the 15 year period'**. But the Plan neglected to include a phasing policy, apparently resisted by the District Council but included in other NDPs and an omission queried in the examination of the Plan. There does not appear to be any reason for the PC to expect that development of the allocated sites would continue up to 2031 and 220 dwellings have already been approved in 2015/2016, with a prospective developer known to be interested in the third site at Manor Farm.

Richard Williams claims that fewer houses might be permitted in Drayton than under the Local Plan. However, the Draft Local Plan actually says that **'5.33. The transport constraints at Abingdon-on-Thames are a key reason why strategic growth is not currently planned to the south of the town.'** Those voting at the Referendum might have thought that the very substantial allocations in the Plan to the south of Abingdon were accepted on the basis of the transport policy P -T1 that states **'All developments will be required to put in place detailed Travel Plans. Developers are required to provide robust evidence that each and every proposal, as set out in their Travel Plan, is**

feasible and will significantly reduce traffic volume. Direct mitigation measures such as car sharing and carpooling will be positively encouraged.' However, in practice there is no pretence or evidence that traffic is being 'reduced' reflected in nearly 3 parking spaces being permitted for each dwelling.

Those preparing the Plan were assisted by the very high response to the survey of village opinion. This revealed significant levels of support for self-building (145 residents), co-housing (50), smallholding (200) and car clubs (40). The Plan is already out of date for failing to meet the demand for self-building and co-housing (only meriting community aspirations). The 'encouragement' car pooling carries no weight in making decisions, and there is nothing in the Plan for those wanting to be involved in smallholding. In contrast, the 73 houses at Barrow Road were supported on the provision of new football pitches and pavilion that were not requested or wanted by the football club.

Richard Williams and the PC/Drayton2020 would be right to say that they had the help of the District Council (and an Examiner) in the production and making of the Plan. It would also be right to say that the District Council has the responsibility for deciding planning applications in accordance with the Plan. However, it would also be reasonable to expect PC comments being submitted to the District Council to accurately reflect the actual wording of the Plan that villagers voted on.

The next time that this is likely to be an issue will be when discussions with developers continue and/or an application is submitted at Manor Farm. Those voting on the NDP could reasonably expect the PC's comments to accord with **'Policy P-LF1: Any development of the Manor Farm Site should include the creation of a new green open space on the site...[and]...should reflect the rural and agricultural nature of the Conservation Area, in which it is located.'** It will be challenging for the developer and PC/Drayton2020 to devise a scheme of approximately 50 dwellings as referred to in the Plan that would comply with this policy and the relevant law requiring the preservation or enhancement of the character or appearance of conservation areas. It will be interesting to see how many small dwellings are proposed.

None of this is intended as criticism of those involved in the neighbourhood planning process, but to assist in creating a fuller if not truer picture of the Drayton Plan and its implementation. It is clear from the part being played by the professionals employed by the District Council that 'planning' has not been made to be easy and there seems to be a need for more humility, less certitude, and a much greater understanding of what should be comprised in the sustainable development required to satisfy Government policy.


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PARISH COUNCIL

Richard Williams

Report of February and March Meetings

01 February 2016



Brian Eastoe presented the finished memorial to remember the RAF personnel killed on 5th March 1957 when a Blackburn Beverley C Mk 1 heavy transport aircraft crashed in Sutton Wick. The memorial, carved in wood and much admired, will be a fitting tribute to all those who died. The memorial has now been erected on the green opposite Sutton Wick pond, near to the postbox and bench

seat. A service of dedication was held on 5th March, attended by RAF officers (and their dogs) and about 50 people from the village (see page 10).

The PC agreed that the issues around access to and drainage from the South-of-High-St housing site, which caused it to object to this application in December, appeared to have been resolved. The objection was therefore withdrawn and the Vale subsequently granted planning permission on 2nd March.

The format of the Traffic Calming Workshop to be held on 20th Feb was discussed. (see pages 1 and 11)

A new noticeboard has now been installed in Steventon Rd, south of the A34 bridge.

07 March 2016

Alan Alston enquired about progress on the derelict site in Marcham Rd which has been neglected since planning permission for housing was refused. The PC wrote to the Vale on 14th Dec asking them to use a Section 215 notice to force the landowner to tidy the site. Despite reminders, a reply had only just been received. An enforcement officer will visit and decide what follow-up action to take.

Alan and Richard Seamark reported that the Football Club was in difficulties, and was struggling to find people to take on administrative duties. The Committee will review the situation after the end of the season in July.

Daniel Scharf said that illegal estate agents' signs in the village were still a problem, and neither the Vale nor OCC seemed willing to address the matter. Instead, they both kept passing the buck to each other. The Clerk undertook to investigate further.

A Blue-Plaque-unveiling ceremony to commemorate Drayton vicar, Rev. Robinson's contribution to the world of bell ringing will be held at St Peter's Church on Sun May 22nd at 11.30am, following the 10am service. Volunteers are needed to assist with the preparation of food and to help supervise.

To contact any member of the Parish Council, all enquiries should be directed to the Parish Clerk, David Perrow, in the first instance. David may be contacted via E-mail at draytonclerk@yahoo.co.uk or by telephone on 07909 176061, and he will ensure that any messages are passed on. Any Drayton resident may also ask to be added to the Clerk's e-mailing list, so that they receive prior notice of meetings and any relevant documents.

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

The next Parish Council meeting will follow the Annual Parish Assembly, to be held on Monday 4th April 2016, at 7.00 pm, in the Caudwell Day Centre in Gravel Lane. Please note the earlier time! Do come along and find out what your Parish Council has been doing over the last year.

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Stuart Davenport

Do you know a community organisation or not-for-profit business that could do with some capital funding? If you do then the Abingdon Area Committee at the District Council would like to hear from them.



The New Homes Bonus and Capital Grant schemes, which seek to provide funding to help communities, especially those taking in new housing, opened for grant applications on the 14th March. The scheme will be open for 12 weeks.

Organisations can request a minimum of £1,000 and up to 50 per cent of their total project cost. In exceptional cases, like a major funder pulling out of a project that offers significant benefit to residents, they will consider a request for more than 50 per cent of the total expenditure.

Drayton has benefited from the scheme in the last two rounds. The Parish Council secured funding towards the playground improvement, and the Village Hall Committee has recently secured grants towards the PA system, front door and kitchen equipment at the Hall.

So far the grants scheme has been under subscribed. So if you have any thoughts please do bring them forward. The grants team at the council would be happy to give you guidance.

Further details are available at:

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/community-advice-and-support/grants/capital-grants-scheme>

As ever, if you have any enquiries about council services please don't hesitate to get in touch on either;

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Editor's Note: Our district councillor, Stuart Davenport, has (wisely?) kept clear of the very touchy subject of whether and how the county and various district councils in Oxfordshire should be reorganised to save money, by combining them into 'unitary' councils in some way. His leader, Councillor Matthew Barber of the VWHDC has not, suggesting a new Southern Oxfordshire Unitary Authority covering the area currently administered by Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire District Councils ➔

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➔ and, with similar proposals for other parts of the county, the effective abandonment of the Oxfordshire County Council altogether. Our county councillor, Richard Webber, is (not surprisingly?) dismayed by these proposals, as readers will see in his report on page 18.

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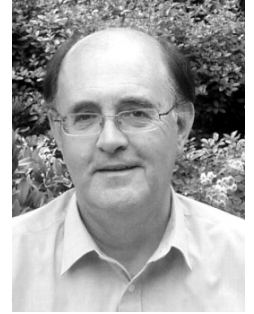
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COUNTY COUNCIL

Richard Webber

Some people will know of the spat between District and County Councils over how best to reorganize Oxfordshire local government. The 'hostile takeover bid' announced by the District Councils (see page 17) was not discussed with the County Council and it is regrettable that the conversation which must take place will now be held in an atmosphere of recrimination. Several assumptions on which the District bid is based are false:



- **Oxfordshire residents can be ignored**

There is a nasty feeling about that the District Unitary Proposals for Oxfordshire, apparently supported by some MPs and the PM, have been planned in secret and could be imposed on Oxfordshire residents whether they like it or not. It is one thing to attempt to cut out the County Council from the conversation (as a way of punishing them for daring to argue that George Osborne's cuts were hitting County Councils disproportionately), it is quite another to cut out Oxfordshire residents whom all elected representatives are there to serve.

- **Oxfordshire County Council is not run as well as the 'smooth-running machine' that is the District Councils.**

Thanks to the benefit of the New Homes Bonus – £Ms gained on the back of all the new developments across the County (80% is paid to Districts) - District Councils have had their finances transformed. Meanwhile all County Councils have been trying to maintain their services (all of which are big ticket items – roads, social services etc) with their meager 20%, while increasing numbers of children and adults fall into vulnerability. This is true of all Shire County Councils. It is not just Oxfordshire's problem.

- **District Councils can take over the County Council.**

The District hostile bid is a reaction to the County's suggestion that unitary government would save many millions of pounds. Districts should takeover the County rather than the other way round. This misses the point completely. Under the County's proposals, The County and all District Councils would go and a brand new Unitary Council would be set up, capturing the maximum amount of savings. No one is "taking over" anyone else.

- **Residents want the Districts to run everything.**

Wrong again. Oxfordshire residents don't mind who runs their council. What they want is that the services they most care about are delivered with the best possible value.

- **The discussion should focus on who holds the power.**

Not so. This is an argument about finance. Unitary government will yield savings. It is a question of how much saving each proposal will yield. As a result it is a question of how many and which services do Oxfordshire residents wish to preserve.

I believe that Oxfordshire residents must have a big say in deciding the future of their County.

Contact me at:

richard.webber77@ntlworld.com or on 01235 534001

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WESTMINSTER

Ed Vaizey

Obviously our thoughts have been dominated by the tragic events at Didcot Power Station late last month. I visited shortly after the accident and met the owners of the site, as well as the heroic emergency services. It has been a truly amazing operation in extraordinary difficult circumstances. My heart goes out to the families so cruelly affected.



But I hope all of my constituents will have or have had an enjoyable Easter break, and do not or did not eat too much chocolate!

It gave me great pleasure recently to launch superfast broadband for residents in Pusey and Gainfield. This was an unusual scheme as the village was not in the County's plans for superfast rollout. So BT set up a scheme to allow the community to make a financial contribution, supported by BT and the County. The local community raised £45,000 towards the installation of the key box, which will now be able to provide the community with superfast connections. Overall, superfast broadband has now reached 31,252 premises in the constituency.

My mailbag last month was dominated by submissions or suggestions to the Chancellor of what to include, or what not to include, in this year's Budget. Suggestions such as abolishing VAT on sanitary products, cuts to alcohol and fuel duty, and preserving the tax reliefs for pension contributions have all been made. The latter issue proved to be the most contentious, as the Government recently conducted a consultation on whether there is a case for reforming pension tax relief. I took a number of the concerns raised with me to the Chancellor, and I note that the Chancellor has decided not to pursue these changes.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any pressing issues that you would like help with. Either I or one of my team will get back to you as soon as possible and do what we can to assist. You can contact me at the House of Commons, SW1A 0AA, 020 7219 6350 or dicksonce@parliament.uk. Email is the quickest and most reliable way to get in touch, as I keep a very close eye on my emails and can reply very quickly. I also send out occasional general interest emails. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please complete the online form at <http://tinyurl.com/EdVaizeyMP>.

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Sun	10	9.00 am	Dog Show (Griffon Bruxellois)	
Mon	18	9.15 am	Chronicle Lottery deadline	<i>Vickery's</i>
		5.00 pm	Chronicle copy deadline	<i>Vickery's box</i>
		6.00 am	W.I. Function	
Fri	22	6.00 pm	Oxford Drama Network AGM	
Sun	24	9.00 am	Bowls Club (to 5.00 pm)	



ABINGDON AIR / COUNTRY

SHOW - 1st MAY from 10am

(Abingdon Airfield, Dalton Barracks)

Annual charity Airshow for all the family to enjoy!

More info: www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk

Follow us on twitter or facebook. Advance tickets available online, facebook, or localised outlets.



See you there ☺

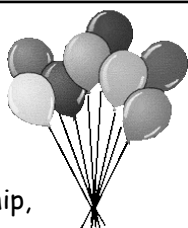


The Celebration

Drayton Primary School

Sunday 17th April

3:30-5pm Games, crafts, worship, drama & story. Followed by cake & refreshments. For more info contact Rebecca 531374.



MILTON HILL BOWLING CLUB

You are invited to our **OPEN DAY** on **SATURDAY 7th MAY 2016 at 2:0pm.**



Try your hand at bowling on our all-weather green at Milton Heights, behind the Milton Hill Football Club.

Maureen Broad Tel: 01235 831423

Rod or Audrey Clewley Tel: 01235 831206

Hope to see you on the day.

Dig This! - Allotments Available

There are a few allotments/half allotments available for rent in the Parish Council's allotment area in Church Lane Drayton, if any Drayton residents would like to take up cultivation this Spring to keep fit and grow your own. If you are interested please contact David Perrow, Drayton Parish Clerk:

draytonclerk@gmail.com or 07909 176061



REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

MONDAYS

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
1.15 pm	Baby Sign Language Classes.	
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
5.45 pm	Beavers (Boys/girls, 6-8 yrs, Tel. 512834)	<i>Steventon Hall</i>
6.00 pm	Bounce Fit (call Sophie on 07791 778388)	
7.00 pm	Table Tennis- coaching and social	<i>School</i>
7.00 pm	Scouts (Boys/girls, 8-10 yrs, Tel. 512834)	<i>Steventon Hall</i>
7.15 pm	Drayton Wives Whist (3rd Monday)	<i>Caudwell DC</i>
7.45 pm	Bell Ringing Practice	<i>St Peter's bell tower</i>

TUESDAYS

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
1.45 pm	Drayton Art Group (until 4 pm)	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
2.20 pm	Mobile Library (fortnightly for 20 mins)	<i>The Cross</i>
3.00 pm	First Tuesday Connections (1st Tuesday)	<i>Church Room</i>
3.00 pm	Junior Netball (for 1 hour)	<i>School</i>
5.45 pm	Zumba Fitness (Kelly)	
6.00 pm	Ladies' Netball (for 1 hour)	<i>School</i>
7.00 pm	League Table Tennis	<i>School</i>
8.15 pm	Clubbercise (call Hannah on 07811 209242)	

WEDNESDAYS

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
10.30 am	Pebbles (Babies & Toddlers - in Term)	<i>Church Room</i>
1.45 pm	Whist	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
2.00 pm	Drayton Wives (last Wednesday)	
2.15 pm	Badminton	
6.15 pm	Brownies	
6.15 pm	Cubs (Boys / girls, 8-9 yrs, Tel. 512834)	<i>Steventon Hall</i>
7.00 pm	League Table Tennis	<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 (First Thursday)	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
9.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>St Peter's Lady Chapel</i>
9.30 am	Parent & Toddler Group (in Term)	
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
5.00 pm	Rainbows (call Mary on 832077)	
7.00 pm	League Table Tennis	<i>School</i>
7.30 pm	W.I. (2nd Thursday)	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
7.30 pm	Sequence Dancing. Tel: 531701	

FRIDAYS

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

SUNDAYS

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

If you want to make a change to or place an entry in our 'regular events' column, please email editor@draytonchronicle.net. You must include your name and phone number as well; otherwise we will take no action.

DRAYTON VILLAGE WEB-SITE

Don't forget that you can find recent Chronicles, by visiting www.draytonvillage.co.uk, the new village web-site.

You can also use the site to look up Parish Council minutes, contact the Parish Clerk and see details of the Drayton 2020 Neighbourhood Plan projects.

Printed by Mayfield Press,
Ashville Way, Oxford.
Telephone 01865 714715