




DRAYTON PARSLOW VILLAGE NEWS



ISSUE 142

October / November 2017

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NEXT ISSUE

Contributions, articles and photos for the October/November issue **by no later than Friday 10th November 2017** please to the Village News mailbox dpvillagenews@outlook.com or by hand to Sally Wallis (10 Prospect Close) or Claire Darnley (Tamara, 3b Main Road). If you want to speak to either of us, please contact Sally on 720030 or Claire on 720383.



Greenacre Hall

For hall bookings please telephone
Carol 01296 720741

Unclaimed Raffle Prize from VPA show

We have a raffle prize that was won at the village show but was later found in Greenacre Hall entrance. If this is yours please email and let us know - swallis18@yahoo.com.

DRAYTON DIARY

October	
3 rd	Wolverton Community Energy – Solar Farm drop-in event – Carington Room, Greenacre Hall, 12:00-8pm
8 th	Harvest Celebration – DPSSC, 12:30pm
14 th	Comedy Night - DPSSC, 7pm
21 st	Bingo – DPSSC, 8pm
23 rd	VPA AGM - Three Horseshoes, 8pm
23 rd	Parish Council - DPSSC, 7:30pm
November	
8 th	Bingo – DPSSC, 8pm
27 th	Parish Council - DPSSC, 7:30pm



OCTOBER COIN JAR COLLECTION



Cannot believe we are heading towards October and the last jar collection of the year – where has the Summer gone?

The team will be knocking on your doors week commencing 9th October, so in advance our grateful thanks.



Your contributions to the Village News are welcomed!

Please email us your thoughts on any aspect of village life, fun facts, jokes, poems, local history information, details of a hobby or project, photographs of the village or anything else you think fellow villagers would find interesting!

dpvillagenews@outlook.com

VPA NEWS - AGM 2017

Our Annual General Meeting is on MONDAY 23rd OCTOBER 2017 at 8pm in The Three Horseshoes pub. All are welcome to attend.



We desperately need more help to be able to continue to put on the Annual Village Show. Some of the current committee may be stepping down this year due to other commitments so unless we get new helpers we will be unable to continue running the show which would be a real shame.

Next year's VPA show is planned for Saturday 11th August 2018.

VPA Show 2017

We hope you all enjoyed the 73rd Village Produce Association Show on Saturday 19th August. Once again we were lucky with the weather, a lot of wind but no rain although it was challenging to keep the gazebo's up at one stage! A very big thank you to all those who came along and supported us and to all those who entered the show – the flowers, vegetables, produce and handicrafts were amazing. We are extremely grateful to those who helped putting up / taking down the marquee and to all those who donated raffle prizes, tombola prizes and to those who ran stalls for us / stall holders, Tony's Reptile Show and all our judges and stewards. Special thanks to go to Steve and Denise from the three Horseshoes for all their kind donations, Gary for his help and donations, Robin and Gary for running the BBQ, Pollard Butchers in Newton Longville for supplying the beef burgers and sausages, Gavin Pierce for sponsoring the dog show and providing the fencing, Roger Spanswick and Richard and Carol Wemyss for extra support on the day.



2017 Cup Winners

CUP	WINNER
George Dickens Perpetual Challenge Bow	Chris Page
VPA Vegetable Cup	Chris Page
Derek Smith Memorial Cup	John North
VPA Flower Shield	John North

Wilson Challenge Cup	Linda Fedoriw
Silver Jubilee Cup	Helen Harvey
Treasurer's Cup	Iris Palmer
Maude Cup	Lyla Foley
Seniors Cup	Sophie Titmus
Jennings' Cup	Penny Fedoriw
The Presidents Shield	Iris Palmer
Dahlia Cup	John North
David Huggett Wine Cup	Joanna Simmonds
The Chairman's Cup	Mrs G Burhouse and Mrs T Austin
The Photography Trophy	Emily Sutherby
Best Kept Allotment Award	Roger Spanswick
Top Tray Shield	Chris Page
Top Vase Voucher	John North

We would ask that cups are returned next year to Linda Fedoriw by 31st July 2018.

We hope that you have been inspired to enter some classes next year and we look forward to seeing you for next year's show on Saturday 11th August 2018.

Linda, Sally, Hannah & Laura, VPA Committee

Village Sunflower Competition Results 2017

We had 29 entries in our tallest Sunflower Competition however sadly quite a few sunflowers did not germinate so we did not quite have so many to measure as we originally thought!

CATEGORY	WINNER
Children Under 6	Gabriel Palmer
Children 6 – 8 Years Old	Emma Nash
Children 9-11 Years Old	Lyla Foley
Adults	Emily Sutherby
Tallest Overall Sunflower	Emma Nash

We hope you have been able to spot the sunflowers as you go around the village and have enjoyed seeing them.

VPA Evening Entertainment

Sir Jester provided the evening entertainment after the VPA show and all those who came along I'm sure will agree that they were very good indeed. However it was a shame that we had such a lack of interest in supporting this event and we were unable to fill the marquee.



Holy Trinity News



Reflections from the Rectory

REFLECTIONS FROM THE RECTORY

What is the difference between being and doing?



Perhaps a strange question to start off with, but a question that has been on my mind recently. Over the summer I have been reading a book called 'Becoming Reverend' by Matt Woodcock. It is his diary as he went through training to become a Vicar. In it he expresses some of his concerns about what he feels called to by God and the role the church seems to want him to fit. I think this is a common frustration and probably not just in the church.

The other day I was having a conversation with a colleague about this area, we talk about calling, a sense that God, through scripture, prayer and others calls us into ministry of different types. Being ordained means that I and others felt I was called to be a Priest, that is about 'being', who I am. The title 'Rector' is about 'doing', it is my job.

Part of this role, as we learn at college, is about representing the people (those who live in the parishes a priest is called to) to God, and representing God to those same people -, you dear reader!

Sometimes the lines and the balance get blurred and it becomes all too easy to spend too much time being the Rector and doing the priestly tasks. At times, we all need to be reminded who we are and to switch the focus back the right way around. Part of my 'being' is also about being a husband and father, these are equally important, this I have also been called to do.

What are you too busy doing that is distracting you from being you, who I would say you were called and created to be?

In John 10:10 Jesus says; "I came so that everyone would have life, and have it in its fullest." This is about being, not doing. I pray that you might find the time to switch off from the things you do to be able to be the person you are meant to be.

God bless, Simon

HOLY TRINITY SERVICE DATES

September		
24 th	11:00 The Chapel will celebrate their Harvest Festival Service and we will join them	
October		
1 st	9:30 Holy Communion	Simon Faulks
8 th	12:30 Harvest Festival Lunch will be held at the Sports & Social Club	
15 th	<i>No service</i>	
22 nd	9:30 Holy Communion	David Talks
29 th	10:00 United Benefice Service at Newton Longville	David Talks
November		
5 th	9:30 Holy Communion	John Saunders
12 th	9:30 Family Service	TBA
19 th	<i>No service</i>	

A new Christian youth group

Year 7 - 9 (11 - 14 years old)

**3rd Sunday of every month starting on
September 17th 6:30pm - 8pm
Free**

**Venue: Old Stocks, 1 Church Lane,
Mursley**

For more info contact:

**Bey Christian: 01296 720630 /
bey.christian@yahoo.co.uk
or Louisa Allen:
lej_allen@hotmail.com**



DRAYTON PARSLOW BAPTIST CHAPEL



Services for October and November 2017

October 1st 11am Keith Silverthorne

October 15th 11am Viv Cooling

November 5th 11am Ivy Nash

November 19th 11am Alan Bird

Any enquiries concerning the Chapel, please contact:

Mrs J McCall 720486

Mrs E Mallick 720666



Drayton Parslow Short Mat Bowls

Good news!

Sport England has awarded Greenacre Hall £4357 for equipment as part of their Small Grants Programme.

Once we have completed the formalities of the award we can go ahead and purchase the mats and equipment to get started.

Many of you have registered your interest to play and we will let you know when the sessions start.

This will be open to all, so if you think you might like to join in you can let us know by emailing:

s.piddock@tesco.net or telephone Susan Piddock

01296 728163



DP Go Green!



Have you got anything going spare that other villagers might have a use for? e.g. household items, garden tools, top soil, turf, paint, carpet

Contact us at dpvillagenews@outlook.com
(no charge from us if no charge from you)

From Kirsty (kirstyfoley@btinternet.com):

We have a 1st bike (with stabilisers) with a dinosaur on it:
And 3 boxes of square beige Laura Ashley wall tiles:



From Sally (swallis18@yahoo.com):

2 wooden cabinets - painted yellow but can be painted any colour. One has a door and one shelf inside, the other is open shelving.



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

<http://draytonparslowparishcouncil.org.uk/>

Drayton Common Land Trustee Fund Annual Distribution 2017

If you live in Drayton Parslow and are currently finding it difficult to afford essential things, you might be eligible for a grant from the Drayton Common Land Trust Fund. These grant criteria will be as follows:

The Trustees shall annually apply such rents for the relief of financial hardship, either generally or individually, of people in Drayton Parslow Parish by making grants of money for providing or paying for items, services or facilities.

This grant can still take the form of a credit towards electricity bills however the Trustees are now able to consider other requests that fit the criteria above.

Villagers can nominate themselves or can nominate a neighbour, friend or acquaintance who might be reluctant to apply on their own behalf. All applications and distributions from the fund are handled in confidence. The closing date for applications is 17th November 2017 as the grants will be decided at the meeting on the 27th November 2017. To be eligible, even if you have received credits from this Fund in the past, you need to apply in writing to: Mrs Deborah O'Brien, Clerk to the Trustees, 3 The Pightle, Drayton Parslow MK17 0LQ.

Please make sure that you include:

1. Applicant's full name and address.
(Please also provide your own name, address and phone number if you are nominating someone else).
2. Applicant's telephone number
3. A brief explanation of why you are requesting a grant
4. For electricity payments please also include:
 - a. Name of electricity provider
 - b. Electricity account number
 - c. If applicant is on a Meter Payment Card
5. For other grants further information/invoices may be required as requested by the trustees in order to make a payment.

Applicants will be contacted during December 2017 to tell them whether their application was successful.

Major Development Proposed for Drayton Parslow

At the time of writing, a decision is still awaited from Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) regarding the proposal to build 24 new homes on land adjacent to North Close.

The developer has submitted a further drainage report which the County Drainage (SuDS) officer will now examine.

You can read the full PC objection on AVDC's planning portal at

<https://publicaccess.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/online-applications/> - enter the application reference 17/01429/APP.

Neighbourhood Plan

Many of you will have seen - and hopefully visited - the Neighbourhood Planning table in the main tent at the VPA Show. If you did you will have seen the display boards summarising the outcomes and results of the questionnaire completed by 68% of the village population during the spring. One of our boards really made a powerful visual impact as it displayed the land surrounding Drayton Parslow that is potentially vulnerable to building applications. This board created a lot of interest! We hoped it would as the area is extensive and clearly illustrates what we are fighting to protect.

The display offered a second opportunity for villagers to complete the questionnaire and further engage with the issues - indeed the display also ensured that we are fulfilling the obligations set out as part of the process. It was also a great opportunity for us to target the younger members of our community - so many thanks to the many of you who completed the questionnaire! These are currently being analysed but will give us a much clearer idea of what issues matter most to you. And the draw for the £25.00 voucher will have been made by the time you read this at the PC Meeting on 18 September. The lucky winner will be notified by the Clerk. Many thanks to all those village members who supported us on the day.

Meanwhile we have recently been successful in our grant application from Groundwork UK via DCLG that will give us a small amount of funding to support our next steps. We will be hosting further community consultations later in the year to determine the policies for our Neighbourhood Plan.

Our next meetings of the **Planning Group** are **Monday 16 October and 13 November at 7.30pm in the Sports & Social Club.**

Please feel free to come along and either join us or let us know if you can help in any capacity either now or in the future.

Allotments

2017/18 Renewals are now due for allotments. Please send or deliver your rent due to the address shown on your invoice if you haven't already so done. In addition, we have three vacant allotments available. Rent is incredibly cheap – well under £1 per month, so why not grow your own this year? Contact the Clerk for details. draytonparslowpc@btinternet.com

Sewerage issues

Unfortunately, there have been reports of some issues in the village. Your first point of contact should be Anglian Water 03457 145 145

<http://www.anglianwater.co.uk/household/water-recycling-services/flooding-advice.aspx>.

Anglian Water also offers advice on how to prevent sewerage overload through their 'Keep it Clear' programme <http://www.anglianwater.co.uk/environment/how-you-can-help/in-the-home.aspx>

Drones and Privacy

As popular as drones have become for recreational purposes, there are strict guidelines published by the Civil Aviation Authority. These state that the drone must not endanger anyone or anything; must be kept within sight of the operator; and must not be flown above 400 feet, in congested areas or within 50 metres of a person, vehicle or building. This means that they may not be flown on the recreation area or for that matter, in back gardens that are within 50 metres of a neighbour. If you think that a drone is being operated in breach of the CAA code you should speak to the operator (who may not be aware of the CAA requirements) or, as a last resort, notify your local police service – call 101.

As a general rule, unless a drone pilot has permission from the CAA, he or she should not be flying a camera equipped drone within 150m of a 'congested area' (e.g. town or city) or at a public event.

<https://www.caa.co.uk/Consumers/Unmanned-aircraft/Recreational-drones/Recreational-drone-flights/>

Please pick up and dispose of dog waste

There are three dog waste collection bins in the village with one located just down from the Sports & Social Club. In spite of this dog owners are not always bagging and disposing of waste appropriately. In fact on several recent occasions bagged up waste has been left on the porch of the Sports & Social Club!

Next Parish Council meetings:

23rd October & 27th November 2017 – 7:30 pm Sports & Social Club

All agendas and minutes of Parish Council meetings can be viewed online at

<https://draytonparslowparishcouncil.org.uk/>

Drayton Parslow Sports & Social Club



As ever, the bar was open and manned by our Volunteer bar staff during the VPA show. Huge thanks to our regular volunteers – **Colin, Helen, Richard, Alan, John** – and special thanks to **Emma** for joining our bar team and helping out on the day, we very much appreciate it. Due to other commitments, Colin has now stepped down from the Bar Rota, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all of his time and efforts over the years he has been part of the bar team. We've said it before, and we will continue to say it – the Sports and Social Club is highly reliant on Volunteers in order to keep running. If anyone has a spare hour, and would like to help in the running of this village facility, we would love to hear from you. We promise we are welcoming and friendly, and we don't expect much – every hour given is very much appreciated.

- We desperately need more bar staff to man the bar on Sundays (12noon-2pm) whilst the regular dominoes players get together, as our current (depleted) rota of volunteers is not enough to keep open every week. Our ideal would be to have a rota of 8 staff, so everyone would do c. 6 shifts a year (we are currently down to 4 staff on rota). It is very light work, our new till is very user-friendly, and there is plenty of time to chat / read a book etc during the shift.
- We would love more people to join our committee, to keep adding ideas and opinions to how the club is run and to keep our services relevant to the broader community. Our next committee meeting is at 8pm on Weds 4th October in the Clubhouse, please do come along to meet the rest of the committee and see how our meetings typically run.
- We would love a team to plan, promote and run one-off social events (even just one a year), similar to our Comedy Night, to bring more people into the clubhouse.
- We would love anyone handy with tools to undertake minor maintenance and repairs (leaking taps, stuck windows etc) to keep the clubhouse in good condition for our members and their guests.

If anyone does want to support us in whatever way that suits you, please do get in touch, we would love to hear from you!

Comedy Night – Saturday 14th October

Patrick (our Compere) has lined up some fantastic acts for our forthcoming Comedy Night. Tickets are

£10 per person, available from Kirsty Foley (07789 511264) or Sarah Norman (07970 820342).

Please do come along for an evening of laughter – you may be laughing at the acts or, as in previous events, it may be the rest of the audience who entertain you. The bar will be open, and the Fish and Chip van will turn up at some point during the evening. If you do wish to come along, we would appreciate everyone buying tickets as early as possible and not waiting until the last minute. This is to ensure that we know we have sold enough tickets to cover our costs of the Comedians.

Regular Events



The **Mobile Post Office** operates out of the clubhouse every Tuesday 2-4pm.

Bingo continues to run monthly on Saturdays. Doors open at 7pm, Eyes Down at 8pm.



The bar will be open, and the Fish & Chip van will be in attendance on the night.

Forthcoming dates for your diary are: 21st October, 8th November and 16th December



Whist Drive continues to run every Tuesday night, 8-10pm. All are welcome. Anyone wanting more information should contact Doreen on 01296 720517

Abbey Smith Bridge Club

Abbey runs Lessons, Seminars and sessions for regular players throughout the week.

Full details can be found on

<http://www.bridgewebs.com/abbeysmith/>

or by contacting Abbey on

abbeybridgelessons@hotmail.co.uk or 07891 586 410.



Open Bar

The bar remains open every Sunday 12-2pm. The Pool Table is Free to use for everyone whilst the bar is open.

Hall Hire

Subject to diary availability, the clubhouse remains available to hire for one-off events (Birthday party / Christening / Wakes – any reason for a gathering!).

We have a large, spacious room, with kitchen, garden and bar facilities, overlooking the Cricket ground. Hall Hire charges are fixed at £10 per hour (with an incremental £7.50 per hour if the bar is required).

A non-refundable deposit and hire agreement form are required for all bookings. Please contact Sarah Norman on 07970 820342 for hire availability.



CRICKET REPORT



The league team continues to be inconsistent and finished the season in mid-table in division 5 although still only escaped relegation by 6 points.

At the beginning of July Drayton lost against New Bradwell 2nds. Batting first Drayton score 252 for 9 wickets with Ross Potter top scoring with 65 runs and Paras Keshav with 45. But our bowlers were unable to contain the opposition who got home by 6 wickets although with only 5 balls to spare.

Against Milton Keynes 2nds Jigar Patel took 3-47 when the opposition batted and then scored 38 with the bat but it did not prevent Drayton losing heavily.

However, the club bounced back with a winning draw against local rival Stewkley. Batting first Drayton scored 223 for 8 wickets with Jigar again top scoring with 67 and well backed up by Paras with 55. Stewkley then fell well short of the Drayton total thanks to tight bowling with Terry Dickens and Jon Adams each taking 2 wickets.

Then the weather brought a premature end to the following two games. In the second at least Drayton managed maximum batting points with solid batting through the order with Ross Potter scoring 65 and Irfan Javed 56 before Andy Willis chipped in with a quick fire 48 not out.

Drayton then suffered a six-wicket defeat against St. Andrews despite Sajjad Akram scoring 45 with talented youngster Hasan Ali then taking 3-24 when the opposition batted.

A return to form, and which ensured that Drayton stayed in division 5 next season, was achieved in a 5 wicket win against Milton Bryan. Hasan took 3-31 when Milton Bryan batted and then steady middle order batting saw Drayton home.

But then the season ended in disappointment with a heavy 114 run loss against Buckland and Aston Clinton despite good bowling from Jon Adams 3-54 and Hasan Ali 3-40.

The Trident Trophy involving the neighbouring villages of Swanbourne and Mursley in a 20-20 tournament proved a great success helped by an improvement in the weather.

Mursley took the honours defeating Drayton in the final game with captain Wayne Nolan receiving the trophy and players handed their medals.

One consolation for Drayton was that Terry Dickens took the player of the tournament award with his 50 not out against Swanbourne and then 2-15 and 27 not out against Mursley. And Mursley's James Peat won the trophy for the young player of the tournament with an excellent all-round performance. Swanbourne's Ashley Sherwood scored 50 not out against Drayton but it was not enough and so Drayton won this game while Mursley also defeated Swanbourne.

Special thanks are due to Roger Willis and team in preparing the wicket for the tournament in spite of the wet weather on the Saturday and for Linda Fedoriv in doing both the lunch and tea.

In the friendlies game against Milton Bryan, Marcus Critchley scored a classy 101 before retiring to seeing Drayton home by four wickets. Earlier Jon Adams, Anthony Pearce and K. Benyon all took three wickets during the Milton Bryan innings.

The 20:20 tournament hosted by Soulbury resulted in a win for the hosts. Despite having beaten Stoke Hammond Drayton succumbed to Soulbury in the final game even though opener Sajjad Akram top scored in both of Drayton's innings.

The game between the Chairman's XI, under captain Barrie Norman, and the President's XI, of Mark Cunningham, proved to be a most enjoyable affair on a lovely Saturday afternoon with plenty of spectators and past Drayton players. Playing two innings of 15 overs each the Chairman's XI squeezed home on the last ball. For the Chairman's XI, Jon Adams scored 48 not out in the second innings while Hasan Ali with his leg spin took 4 wickets and Terry Dickens three.

Lionel Colby

Lionel Colby (Secretary): lionelcolby@gmail.com

Barrie Norman (Chairman): barrie@landfind.co.uk

Ross Potter (Friendlies Captain): 07828 325671

Lionel Colby



Your Garden in October

Gardening Advice from Gill Gallon, Potash Nursery

www.potashplants.co.uk

You might consider your garden is coming to an end for this year, but there is much to see and even more to do this month. There are still some beautiful late flowering grasses and perennial plants. Some plants are past their best, but by careful deadheading you can maintain a colourful show probably well into November.

Jobs for the garden

- Cut back perennials that have died down but leave slightly tender ones such as penstemon or with attractive seed heads like verbena bonariensis until new growth starts to show in spring
- Divide and plant herbaceous perennials. Planting perennials now will enable them to establish well before winter sets in.
- Move tender plants, including aquatic ones, into the greenhouse.
- Continue to deadhead roses and reduce long climbing stems to protect the plants from strong winds and keep them secure.
- Clear up fallen autumn leaves regularly, put them into compost bins or black sacks (with air holes in them) for making great leaf mould
- Plant out spring cabbages, autumn onion sets and garlic. Sow hardy broad beans and peas.
- Harvest apples, pears, grapes and nuts
- Plant all spring bulbs except tulips which need to wait until next month
- Last chance to mow lawns and trim hedges in mild areas
- Renovate old lawns or create new grass areas by laying turf but make sure the ground is well prepared first.

Plant of the Month – Sedum



Sedum is a perennial plant with thick, succulent leaves, fleshy stems, and clusters of star-shaped flowers. Known also as stonecrop and ice plants, there are many varieties of sedum, making them suitable for almost all parts of the garden. Use low-growing sedum varieties as ground covers and in rock gardens, and taller varieties for back borders.

Sedums are very undemanding plants and virtually maintenance free apart from a trim back in the spring. Sedum provide great late summer and early autumn colour. They are greatly attractive to bees, hover flies and butterflies, especially when they first start to flower and are full of nectar. Sedums are hardy, easy to care for, and make great cut flowers, too.

Gill Gallon

Potash Nursery, www.potashplants.co.uk



Three Schools Update



Leading Parent Partnership at The Three Schools

Since January we have been busy working towards achieving the Leading Parent Partnership Award at Drayton Parslow and Mursley schools.

The main purpose of the project is to maximise parental involvement in all aspects of school life including transition, participation, communication, guidance, induction and home-school links. The LPPA framework and process draws on high-quality research evidence:

Research has identified that, at age 7, a parent's influence on a child's learning is six times that of their school and even at 11 years old, it is 29% greater. Increased involvement can raise achievement by at least 18%. No involvement is associated with low or no qualifications at 16.

The LPPA gives schools a coherent framework to deliver effective parental engagement from early years at Mursley and Drayton Parslow with a view to continuing at Swanbourne in the future. Following our self-evaluation we first identified areas where we can positively improve parental engagement. The next stage involved setting up a working party of interested volunteers to tackle the Action Plan and we now have a small group of extremely hard-working and committed parents doing a wonderful job!

Our progress so far has involved parents working alongside their children in school, joining us for assemblies to celebrate their child's achievements, and helping in school with a variety of activities. We have held a 'Bring a grown up to school' morning and reading breakfast. Staff have worked on improving our website and e-schools pages, and developing a series of mini-guides for parents to access online, and we have designated parent volunteers to welcome new parents to the school.

There is still plenty to do but we hope to complete the award for validation by March 2018.

David May

Acting Head Teacher

The Three Schools (Swanbourne CE, Mursley CE and Drayton Parslow)

Facts about Halloween



- *The first Jack O'Lanterns were actually made from turnips.*
- The word "witch" comes from the Old English wicce, meaning "wise woman".
- *Samhainophobia is the fear of Halloween.*
- The largest pumpkin ever measured was grown by Norm Craven, who broke the world record in 1993 with an 836 lb. pumpkin.
- *Trick-or-treating evolved from the ancient Celtic tradition of putting out treats and food to placate spirits who roamed the streets at Samhain, a sacred festival that marked the end of the Celtic calendar year.*
- Black and orange are typically associated with Halloween. Orange is a symbol of strength and endurance and, along with brown and gold, stands for the harvest and autumn. Black is typically a symbol of death and darkness and acts as a reminder that Halloween once was a festival that marked the boundaries between life and death.
- *According to tradition, if a person wears his or her clothes inside out and then walks backwards on Halloween, he or she will see a witch at midnight.*
- During the pre-Halloween celebration of Samhain, bonfires were lit to ensure the sun would return after the long, hard winter. Often Druid priests would throw the bones of cattle into the flames and, hence, "bone fire" became "bonfire."
- *Stephen Clarke holds the record for the world's fastest pumpkin carving time: 24.03 seconds, smashing his previous record of 54.72 seconds. The rules of the competition state that the pumpkin must weigh less than 24 pounds and be carved in a traditional way, which requires at least eyes, nose, ears, and a mouth.*

Village Broadband update from AVB

12th September 2017

We understand that many of you are wondering what the situation is regarding AVB's installation of fibre optic broadband in Drayton Parslow.

First of all, I would like to assure you that AVB are fully committed to providing the service to Drayton Parslow and are working as fast as possible to do this. We have deployed fibre to the village and all that remains is to connect you to our network. Whilst this sounds simple, it is proving to be a challenge, but we are working on the project as a priority.

We appreciate your patience in this process. AVB's mission is to bring fibre broadband speeds to rural areas in the Aylesbury Vale District and as a local company we understand the importance of modern communication in our community, whether business or residential. We had hoped to be in Drayton Parslow by now and are as frustrated as you are by the delay, but we would like to confirm that we are as committed as ever to our plans for delivering fibre optic broadband in the village.

Andrew Mills, Managing Director, AVB



Stewkley Singers

The new season of rehearsals is due to begin on 14 September 2017 and we will be preparing for our Christmas Concert and also for our concert in May 2018 when we will be performing the Mozart Requiem.

We are a non-auditioning choir although previous singing experience is extremely welcome and the ability to read music is a great help.

We have vacancies for 1st Sopranos who have prior experience of singing with a choir and are able to read music; we also have vacancies for Tenors and Basses.

We pride ourselves in maintaining a low subscription fee which presents excellent value for money and is put towards the running of the choir, hire and purchase of music and staging our performances.

Members come from Stewkley and outlying towns and villages, including Wing, Whitchurch, Cublington, Soulbury, the Brickhills, Adstock, Woburn Sands, Leighton Buzzard, Milton Keynes and Aylesbury.

Our rehearsals take place at St Michael's School Stewkley on Thursday evenings from 8pm. Please call our Secretary, Ron Sims, on 01525 24067 or e-mail for all information to enquiries@stewkleysingers.org.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Holy Trinity Church is currently undergoing some extensive restoration works and The Sports & Social Club has very kindly offered us use of the Pavilion for our Harvest Celebration. There will be a very short and informal 'Songs of Praise' at 12.30 pm followed by a two course buffet lunch at 1pm. If you wish to stay for lunch it would be helpful if you could let us know in advance as detailed below:

Village Harvest Celebration at the Pavilion

Sunday 8th October at 12.30pm
Lunch at 1pm

Adults £7, Children up to 12 years £3, Under 4's free
(A donation from Lunch proceeds will go to Christian Aid)

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Everyone welcome - please come and join us!



Stewkley Players are proud to present their 118th production **Death by Design by Rob Urbinati** at **Stewkley Village Hall** from Wednesday 15 to Saturday 18 November.

This comedy is set in a 1930s English country manor and mixes the writing talents of Noel Coward and Agatha Christie.

It follows playwright Edward Bennett and his wife actress Sorel Bennett who flee London and head to Cookham after their show endures a bad opening night.

Various guests arrive unexpectedly – a Conservative politician, a fiery socialist, a nearsighted ingénue and a zany modern dancer. Each character holds a secret and when one of the guests is murdered, and all the other visitors appear to have their own motive, it is left to housemaid Bridgit to play detective.

Tickets cost £6 including a programme and are on sale from Monday October 23.

To book call the box office on 07845 489167 or pop into Stewkley Village Hall between 10am and 12noon on October 29, November 5 or November 12.

The show starts at 8pm each night with doors open from 7.30pm. A bar will be open before the show and during the interval. The Players hope to see you there!

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The next of our series of features on members of the local community:

Let's spend 30 minutes with...

Emily Sutherby
Drayton Parslow resident,
babysitter and charity fundraiser



1. How long have you lived in Drayton Parslow?

22 years, born and raised here - not sure if that's a good thing or not!

2. What do you like best about living in Drayton Parslow?

The main thing I like about living here is that it's a small, mostly quiet village, there aren't many other places left like it! I think it would be a real shame if it lost that vibe.

3. What is your favourite event held in the village?



My favourite village event has got to be the **VPA show**, I have so many great memories of growing up and entering all the classes to try a and win the cups! Now I enjoy entering some of the adult classes and most importantly the dog show with Ella!

4. What is your favourite book / books?

I have to admit that I'm Not much of a reader, but anything to do with **Winnie the Pooh** and I'll happily read it for hours... I recently visited **Ashdown Forest** which is where A.A. Milne got his inspiration for the books and I loved investigating all the different places my favourite little pink Disney character might have explored.



5. Who is your favourite celebrity chef & why?

Can't say I have one! So, I'm going to tell you about my favourite place to eat - **The Phene in Chelsea**. I always go for my birthday every year, the food is amazing and the drink options are endless, the atmosphere and decor are great too.

6. The film you can watch again & again?

There's a few! But I'd have to whittle it down to **Princess Diaries 1 & 2** - I probably know the films word for word after watching them so much growing up! Also, **What We Did On Our Holiday** - It absolutely stole my heart! I would recommend it to everyone, you'll need a tissue but at the same time you'll be crying with laughter.

7. What is the best job you have ever had?

Babysitting all of my wonderful families in the village of course!! Aside from that, volunteering with **Great Holm Riding for the Disabled group**, which I've been doing for nearly 9 years. It's so worthwhile when you see the enjoyment on the riders faces, although it was quite daunting being made Chairman last year and having to get to grips with all the technicalities of running a charity! Since taking over I have expanded the group to the biggest it has ever been and we now offer riding lessons to 12 disabled adults in the local community. - This is something I am exceptionally proud of!

8. What is your favourite place to visit?

A tricky one as I love to explore new places! I think it's got to be the **New Forest!** I go at least 4 times a year with Ella, I love exploring all the different parts of the forest, taking pictures, going riding and seeing all the beautiful wild horses.

9. Who would be your special guests at a dinner?

All time number one has got to be **Paul O'Grady**, I adore him! His love of animals and his fabulous humour, recently I went to see Blind Date being recorded and was in my element, he's hilarious! For a bit of eye candy - **Bradley Cooper**.

And finally my **Grandad Gerry**, who I miss immensely, it would be an honour to have one more dinner with him.



Charity work:

As mentioned previously I am **Chairman for Great Holm RDA** which involves running the charity, organising the volunteers and riders and various other things! I am also a Trustee and Instructor, I teach the riders on a fortnightly basis in Mursley, building up their confidence on a horse and improving their riding skills. We have adult riders all with various disabilities and it makes everything I do worthwhile to see them enjoying themselves and for our service to be aiding their disabilities.



I am a Young Ambassador for Florence

Nightingale Hospice Charity, which involves helping at events and promoting awareness of hospice care within the younger community. I'm currently volunteering at the charity offices once a week where I cover reception and also in the fundraising department assisting the organisation of events raising valuable funds to enable this facility to continue.



COMEDY NIGHT

Saturday 14th October

£10/ticket

Doors open 7pm. Comedy 8pm

Contact Kirsty—07789 511264

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