

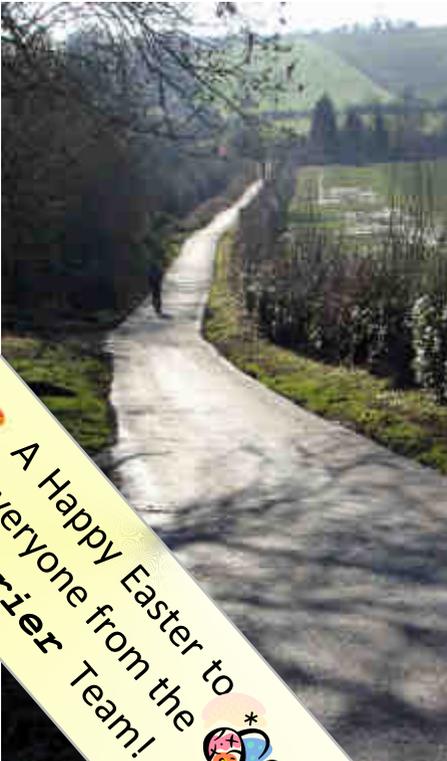
Claydon & Clattercote Courier

MARCH 2009

EXPENSIVE MAKEOVER FOR CROSSING LANE

The planned face-lift for Crossing Lane was completed by contractors for Oxfordshire County Council on Friday 20 February, almost (but not quite) as far as the foot crossing over the railway line.

The dirt track and existing tarmac were replaced with a surface that puts the recent inadequate pot-hole filling exercise along Apple Tree Road to shame.



Do villagers feel that the Council should apply the same level of work to the roads surrounding Claydon ?

Such work comes at a price however, with the Crossing Lane resurfacing reported to have cost £44,000.

Reminder to dog owners - you have a responsibility to pick up after your dogs, including along Crossing Lane!



In this issue...

- Warm thanks for Claydon's snow angels
- New column: Family Life
- Villagers get heating oil for less



A Happy Easter to
everyone from the
Courier Team!



CLAYDON CANINE HEADS FOR CRUFTS

Winnie, a one-year old black labrador puppy, and her trainer/ socialiser Julie Cozze-Young have been selected to be part of a demonstration by Banbury-based Dogs for the Disabled in the main arena at this year's Crufts Dog Show.

Winnie has become a favourite face around the village since beginning her training last year. Her green

jacket - which means 'Please don't pet me while I'm working' - is part of the acclimatisation process and has become a familiar sight.

As well as carrying out basic obedience commands at Crufts, Winnie will also be challenged to walk through scattered toys and dog treats without being distracted. Update and photos in next month's *Courier*. **C**

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ROMANCE IN THE CHURCH ROOM

'How about a romantic meal, just a few steps round the corner, wine included, with great company, the night before Valentines Day?' said my husband. 'Wow' I thought 'how romantic!' I'm sure my fellow villagers would agree that it was not an invite to be refused.

However, we were joined by over 30 other villagers who made it a night to remember. We enjoyed a delicious supper of chicken casserole and baked potatoes followed by cheesecake. There was a great atmosphere as everyone took part in a pre supper quiz, then enjoyed each others company over supper. We had fun playing the guessing game 'scattergories', then Janice Hamilton and her mother and sister entertained guests with a sing along. This was very well received by all who attended.

Thank you very much to everyone who supported the event. It raised £285 for St James The Great Church Fund.

Watch this space in the *Courier* for future village events.

Vicky Smith



NEW COURSE AT FIR TREE AIMS HIGH

Claydon resident and falconer Keith Jones' Fir Tree Falconry in Warmington has become a fully-accredited assessment and administration point for a new Falconry Award, tailored to all falconry and bird of prey keeping needs.

The award has been jointly developed by Lantra Awards and the Hawk Board. For full details of the five day course, which includes handling of birds, hunting field craft, health and hygiene, go to www.firtreefalconry.co.uk



FAMILY Bingo Night

Friday 27 March
7.30pm - Church Room

Entry £6 – Adults
£4 Children to age 16
Includes a light snack

Bring your own drinks

The evening will include a Raffle

Funds raised in aid of the church and the playing field

Courier Classified

Classified adverts are FREE for villagers. Just give the text of your ad to any member of the *Courier* team or email it to courier@claydonvillage.net

BABYSITTING - Responsible 15 year old available to sit on Friday or Saturday. Please call Abbie on 690559. Village only.

FOR SALE - Single bed. Excellent condition. For collection. £15. Call Tim on 690139

FOR SALE - Skisuit (size 16), all in one, as new, £50 o.n.o.
Computer desk (beech), with pull-out flap, on castors, ideal for student room. £25 o.n.o.
Walking boots (Ecco), XPEDITION, size 40, yak leather, as new. £55.
Mini fridge, with small ice box, ideal for student room, as new. £55. Call Chris on 07709 597786

AVON COSMETICS - To receive the latest catalogue and order from your local representative call Abbie on 690559. Your order delivered direct to your door!

VILLAGERS GET HEATING OIL FOR LESS

The Claydon Oil Buying Consortium (COBCO) has a new name and a dedicated website.

Now known as **Heating Oil For Less**, the non-profit scheme, run by Claydon resident Paul Gallagher, has cut individual fuel bills and saved villagers £1,400 since it launched last October.

Heating Oil for Less is open to villagers from Claydon and many other surrounding villages. There is no obligation to take a delivery

and the process is as easy as using your existing supplier.



The most recent delivery, at the end of February, saw households save up to £150 each! Next order: week starting 23 March.

The new website can be reached via a link on the first page of the Claydon website or directly at www.heatingoilforless.co.uk

Thanks to Paul for doing such an outstanding job!



PRAISE FOR CLAYDON SNOW ANGELS

During the bad snow, on the Monday after, I attempted to go to work and started up the hill to the A423. I got half way up and my car would not go any further so I had this mad idea to slowly back down the road and have another go at the hill.

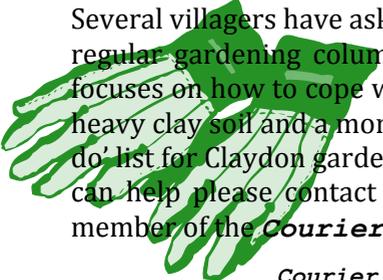


Unfortunately this plan did not work and beached myself after a short distance.

Martin the electrician from the village stopped to give me a hand and we soon realised that we would have to get out of the rut I was in, so he pushed and I drove. Eventually we managed it and I got on the other side of the road.

Spencer arrived to lend a hand just as a very kind young lady pulled up in her Range Rover and offered to tow me up the hill. I jumped at the chance to get to the main road.

GREEN FINGERS WANTED

Several villagers have asked for a regular gardening column that focuses on how to cope with our heavy clay soil and a monthly 'to do' list for Claydon gardens. If you can help please contact any member of the **Courier** team. 

I would really like to say a big thank you to all these wonderfully kind individuals who came to my rescue. It warms your heart to know the kindness of people from Claydon and nearby.

Stef Kearney

Villagers have asked us to thank **whoever** gritted Fenny Compton Road around the railway bridge and **Eamon Boyle** of Church Lane for clearing snow from the Mollington Road with his JCB. 

WINTER FLOWERS

The abundance of snowdrops appearing all over the village prompted **Diana Lambert** to share this poem.

Snowdrops



Little ladies, white and green,
With your spears about you,
Will you tell us where you've been,
Since we lived without you?

You are sweet, and fresh and clean,
With your pearly faces;
In the dark earth where you've been,
There are wondrous places.

Yet you come again, serene,
When the leaves are hidden;
Bringing joy from where you've been,
You return unbidden.

Little ladies, white and green,
Are you glad to cheer us?
Hunger not for where you've been,
Stay still spring be near us!

L. Alma Tadema

Claydon *FAMILY*

A new regular column gives a light-hearted, yet thought-provoking, insight into family life in Claydon in the 2000's.

Is there such a thing as an average family any more? Or for that matter what constitutes normal family life? I think we're pretty average - Mum, Dad, 3 kids - although one of them is 6ft 4 so he could count as two. Take a recent weekend before the snow...

Two of our priorities for this particular weekend were

filing our tax returns online so the taxman could not fine us - we were getting dangerously close to the deadline - and finishing the bathroom. This was a personal plea from me to my husband as our bathroom has been 'in progress' since last April and I would dearly like to remove the entire contents of the bathroom cabinets and airing cupboard from our bedroom. However, despite our best intentions, Saturday flitted by in a nanosecond. Not to worry, we still had half the weekend left - or so I optimistically thought.

Sunday started as Sunday morning should do - with a lie in and the Sunday papers. This is my treat of



the week, as for such a long time we have had to get up with the kids - taking it in turns over the weekend days. Our oldest is 21 and the youngest 8, and now that the kids are old enough to get up by themselves it is bliss for us both have a lie-in. We are still usually woken by about 8am but it is a far cry from our 6am weekday start and it is usually involuntary as the children know they will get a Merit if they are quiet! However, children are not perfect and the inevitable quarrel happens with raised voices and sometimes tears!

As this Sunday dawned bright and sunny we decided to forgo the extra long lie-in and attempt a family walk. For a walk to be deemed interesting to the children it must involve the words 'muddy', 'wet' and 'puddles', and as it rained so hard the day before we felt we'd be onto a winner.

Sure enough, wellies and waterproofs at the ready we set off down Fenny Compton Road and walked along to Wormleighton reservoir. Mud was in abundance and as I gingerly tip toed on the few grassy bits hoping the water wouldn't seep through the eyelets of my walking boots the kids were busy sloshing about in the puddles.

After the reservoir we walked along the canal and came across a small scattering of bird feathers. I absent mindedly made the remark that it looked like there had been some sort of set in which a bird had been involved.

Unfortunately that was nowhere near enough info for two inquisitive minds and we were met with a barrage of questions: What bird? Who was the fight between? What *exactly* had happened? It was then that my husband adopted his Bill Oddie persona and made an in depth examination of the said feathers, huddled in close to the two children, debating what had happened.

I thought at one point that he was going to sniff them, but we were spared that and after a five minute debate a conclusion was reached – a Sparrow hawk and a pigeon had had a fight and the pigeon had come off the worst (there were lots more of his feathers about!!)

Suitably satisfied the children moved on. Jess started to count the fishing spots and the girlies moved on ahead leaving the boys a few yards behind. I turned round and horror of horror saw Tom bending over the canal with a large stick in his mouth! It transpired he had

found some sort of weed (my Richard Attenborough hubby informs me it was cow parsley) that was hollow down the middle and thought it would be great fun to blow bubbles in the canal!

My husband thought this was hysterical, but I did not (having visions of him sucking up canal water and getting dysentery or falling in and freezing – it was 2 degrees) so we compromised, and after making a promise to only blow not suck and to be held onto by the anorak he was allowed to continue with his game!



By the time we had got onto the Boddington Road a good 2 hours had passed and hubby (having promised me he would do a bit more to the bathroom) was debating if he had enough time to get to B&Q before they shut. We had a brief discussion about what time they did actually shut and begged to

differ as I thought 4pm and he 5. We got home by 3.15 and he decided that perhaps I was right and there wasn't really time to go (aagh!!)

Karen Jackson

The weekend concludes in next month's issue.

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EASTER MARKET CRACKS ON

An Easter Market will take place at Boddington Village Hall on Sunday 5 April from 10.00am until 1.00pm, including special gifts and Belflair Belgian Chocolates - yum!

A craft café will be serving hearty hearty home made soup and scrumptious cakes, and there will be supervised art activities for children to allow adults to browse in peace. Several Claydon stallholders will be present, including Claydon Art Group. 

SURGERY UPDATE

On **March 19** all surgeries across North Banbury will have a reduced service from 12.30pm to 5.00 p.m. for GP training. On-call doctors will be available by ringing the surgery. We will still be open for nurse appointments and dispensing.

Over Easter the surgery will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday, 10 and 13 April. Also the surgery will be closed on the two Bank Holiday Mondays 4 & 25 May.

Lynne Jones, Cropredy Surgery

Tobin Jones

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For more details ring Anne or Jayne on 0118 984 2588



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ANIMALS FACTS: GUINEA PIGS

Smooth-haired guinea pigs are easier to keep than long-haired guinea pigs (which need to be groomed daily).

It's best to keep more than one as they like company. Separate males and females, as females can produce five litters a year.

When guinea pigs first arrive they should be left alone for a few days before they are picked up.

They need a spacious living area and an enclosed area for sleeping. Their hutch should have a sloping roof and be raised off the floor for cold or stormy days. Non-scented wood shavings should be put down inside and will need to be cleaned out regularly.

The guinea pigs themselves need to be moved often so that they can eat fresh grass. They should also be fed hay, vegetables, fruit and cereals. Check that they are eating and drinking well. A healthy guinea pig has a glossy coat, bright eyes and firm droppings.



Anne Hoggins

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Classic Pepper Sauce



Ingredients:

15g freshly ground black pepper from a pepper mill
200ml red wine (cheap cooking wine is fine)
 $\frac{3}{4}$ pint double cream

Method:

Add the pepper to a large saucepan. Add the red wine and reduce to a syrup. Finally, add in and heat up the cream, but do not boil.

Add salt and more pepper if required.

Supplied by **Sam Hoggins**, *Hyltons at the Moon & Sixpence*, Hanwell, Telephone (01295) 730544

BIN COLLECTIONS: MARCH/APRIL 2009

GREEN BIN
Fri 20 March
Fri 3 April
Fri 17 April



BLUE & BROWN BINS
Fri 27 March
Sat 11 April
Fri 24 April



Tear out this page
and pin to your fridge,
noticeboard, etc.

Village Diary



March/April 2009

- Tuesday 17 March** **Mobile Library visits**
 Corner Church Lane/Main Street, 12.40pm - 12.55pm
- Wednesday 18 March** **Jubilee Group Coffee Morning**
 Church Room, 10.30am - Midday
- Week starting 23 March** **Heating Oil For Less Delivery**
[If you'd like to be included see article on page 5]
- Friday 27 March** **Family Bingo Night**
 Church Room, 7.30pm *[See page 3 for details]*
- Sunday 29 March** **Village Breakfast**
 Church Room, 9.30am *[All villagers welcome]*
- Tuesday 31 March** **Mobile Library visits**
 Corner Church Lane/Main Street, 12.40pm - 12.55pm
- Wednesday 1 April** **Beetle Drive**
 Church Room, 2.30pm - 4pm
- Sunday 5 April** **Easter Market**
 Boddington Village Hall, 10am - 1pm *[See page 9]*

If you would like an item included in Village Diary please pass on details to any member of the **Courier** team (see p12)

Weekly Church Services at
 22 March: 10am Family Service
 29 March: 9.30am *No Service*.
 Parish Breakfast (see above)

St. James Church, Claydon
 5 April: 9.30am Holy Communion
 12 April: 8.30am Easter Day Holy Communion
 Wednesday mornings: 10am Holy Communion

March

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
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April

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Courier Comment

For more
village info go to
www.claydonvillage.net

Recycle!

We hear so much about recycling these days it's sometimes easy to forget how simple it is to be green; here are our some of our top tips:

- Save envelopes/pens that come with junk mail and stamps that have not been franked
- Reuse the rubber bands that the postman drops and plastic bags that contain magazines
- Write shopping lists on old christmas cards before recycling
- Use old flannels as cleaning cloths
- Get the most out of bottled products (eg washing up liquid) by turning upside down
- Save on bin liners by reusing large plastic bags (eg toilet rolls)
- Pass on books and magazines to friends, the surgery, a hospital, a charity shop or a jumble sale
- Use lawn/flower beds to grow vegetables at home or consider applying for a village allotment
- Consider using waste water from the house in the garden



The Courier is brought to you each month by:

Anne Hoggins (690675)

David Wicks (690267)

Karen Jackson (690015)

Kate Wicks (690267)

Lisa Simmons (690155)

Mark Simmons (690155)

Paul Gallagher (690119)

Russ Jackson (690015)

Tim Cozze-Young (690139)

Vicky Smith (690192)

Claydon & Clattercote Courier

Be part of your *Courier*! Write, draw, sketch, paint, photograph - we will always try to publish material received and will return original items to you.

Drop contributions in to 5 Bignolds Close, (tel 690155), email them to courier@claydonvillage.net or pass them on to any member of the *Courier* team.

Advertising/Sponsorship

The *Courier* is totally self-funded and relies on the support of local individuals and businesses.

To make a donation, take out sponsorship or place an advert, please contact Russ Jackson on 690015.

Deadline for the next issue is April 1.