
CLAYDON CHURCH ROCKS!

It was a fine summer's evening in Claydon, eight o'clock passed and then St James the Great Church erupted into the fine sound of classic rock music, as Claydon based band 'Dirty Voice' launched into a set combining famous rock songs and their own music.



With Joey on the drums, Ryan on bass and Ian on rhythm guitar keeping the songs together, Tommi launched into his impressive solos while Martin was in fine voice.

Ten songs played and time for a break, but not for long as Tommi and Ryan treated the crowd to a fine set of 6 acoustic numbers.

Another quick break, time for bacon butties and fluid top-ups, and then off into another energetic musical set including superb renditions of "The Boys are Back in Town" and "Freebird".

The band were happy to give their time in aid of the Church. They would like to thank all the villagers



who turned out to support them and the Church, and hope everyone enjoyed themselves. Also, a very special extra thank you to the traveling fans who came from far and wide to experience "The Gig in the Church" - a fantastic and enjoyable evening was had by all.

It is fantastic to hear that the princely sum of £766 had been raised to support Church funds!

Continued page 3 >>>

In this issue...

- Reader Survey 2009 Results
- Church Progress Update
- Farewell to Christina & Simon Kennedy
- New *Claydon* Contacts

SHIRES EDGE PROJECT LAUNCHED

A group of villagers from Claydon, Cropredy, Mollington, Wardington and The Bourtons met last month to agree a constitution for the *Shires Edge Project*, part of the Hidden Britain programme to provide benefits for local communities through tourism. The group voted in the inaugural project officers (Chair: Rev Pat Freeth, Vice Chair: Pip Dealtry, Treasurer: Sue Upton, Secretary: Mark Simmons). More details next month. C

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The *Courier* is completely self-funded.

To become a sponsor please call Paul Gallagher on (01295) 690119

Please mention the *Courier* when dealing with our sponsors. Thanks!

CLAYDON CHURCH ROCKS! (continued)

<<< Please now show your support for the band as they try to make it through to the final of the Surface Unsigned Festival on Saturday 25 July. Please vote for Dirty Voice by texting "birmingham 3077" to 64343.

Texts costs £1.

Pictures from "the gig in the church" will be



available to view on the band's website: www.dirty-voice.co.uk or their myspace site: www.myspace.com/dirtyvoice

Finally, thank you everybody for all the positive feedback given since the gig.

Pete Williams

Footnote to a great night: I just had to write a little something to accompany the item on the Rock Gig in the Church.

It was such a great evening, the band were superb and the atmosphere wonderful. I must thank all involved in the preparation and those who helped on the night.

It just shows what can be achieved in a small village with limited resources. The church is such a beautiful building and if we can successfully put on a rock gig we can do a lot more!

I must also thank Chrisi Kennedy, whose idea it was and, together with Julie Williams, did such a lot of organizing.

Finally, I have to say what lovely lads they were in the band. They gave their performance free and were so respectful of the church. They really deserve to do well and Claydon wishes them every success in the competition.

Keith Hamilton, Church Warden

CLAYDON CHURCH CHANCE OF 100 DRAW UPDATE

The first ever Church Chance of 100 draw will take place at the Parish Council Meeting on 14th July.

The response to the draw has been excellent and it is proposed that it will be repeated in 6 months time. The prize winners and total proceeds to St James the Great

Church will be posted on the Claydon notice board and will also be published in the next issue of the *Courier* and on the village website.

Thank you to the collectors who have done a fantastic job and also to everyone who has bought a ticket.

Mike Smith

SWINE FLU

What to do if you have flu symptoms. These include: high fever, cough and aching body:

- ✓ Stay at home
- ✓ **Phone** your GP or NHS Direct (0845 46 47)
- ✗ Please do **not** go to your GP practice or hospital A & E

Now is the time to set up flu friends - relatives, neighbours and friends who will collect medicines, food and other supplies for you if you get swine flu, so that you don't have to leave home.

Lynne Jones, Cropredy Surgery

A leaflet about Flu Friends is now available on the village website.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone for the care and support they gave while Mick was ill. He is now better and back to work. A big thank you to Mandy Garland and partner. And to Bill and Joy. Just knowing you were there helped me a lot. Thank you again.

Mick and Debbie Rolph

CLAYDON CONTACTS OUT NOW!

The latest copy of our A4-sized guide to useful local contacts should be enclosed with this issue of the *Courier*. Extra copies can be downloaded from the village website: www.claydonvillage.net 

CLAYDON HOSTS CLUSTER CARE AGM

The Cluster Care Group (CCG) held its AGM in the Church Rooms in Claydon on Thursday 11 June 2009. We were very sorry to see Mrs. Mary Ennis resign as chairman of the Cluster Care Group after many years of excellent service. However we shall not be losing her altogether as she has agreed to stay on as a member of the committee. Mary has been involved with Cluster Care from the beginning and warm tributes were paid to her by Carol O'Dell, the contracts officer for Social and Community Services for Oxfordshire County Council, and by Mrs Sylvia Thacker, a member of the CCG committee.

At one of the regular Tuesday meetings client members presented Mrs. Ennis with garden vouchers to show their appreciation for all she has done for them. Hopefully, now that she is not so busy with Cluster Care, Mary will have more time to spend in her garden!

Just to remind everyone that our annual fund raising Car Boot Sale and coffee morning will take place in the Sports Pavilion Williams Scot Road, Cropredy on Tuesday 1st September from 10.30am-2.00pm - more details next month.

Margaret Atkins

***Courier* READER SURVEY 2009 RESULTS**

A big thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out the ***Courier's*** Reader Survey 2009. We asked you for your views so that you could help shape what is printed over the coming year. Overall satisfaction was high, and 96% said they read "all or most" of the publication every month.

Favourite sections of the ***Courier*** are items on village events (both before and after they happen), topical news items affecting Claydon and occasional features on local history. We already feature a good mix of these types of articles and aim to bring you more of the same in the future.

Nearly all readers who filled out the survey (87%) have used the services of at least one ***Courier*** sponsor and 70% find the Classified section useful. Nearly two-thirds (65%) have contributed something to the ***Courier*** (a letter, a picture, etc) at least once.

We also took the opportunity to ask a few general questions to get a better understanding of people currently living in Claydon. Nearly three-quarters (74%) of those who responded to the survey have an internet connection. The average length of time in the village is nearly 15 years and the average number of people in each household is 2.3!

We aim to do a Reader Survey each year, but we welcome contributions and feedback at any time, so feel free to speak to any of us (details on back page) about new ideas and things you'd like to see more (or less!) often.

The Courier Team

WHAT VILLAGERS SAY...

"Keep up the good work, Claydon would be a lonely village if we didn't keep up with the communication via this form"

"The *Courier* should be independent and the team should be less publicised in the editions"

"Excellent publication. Thanks for all your efforts"

"The *Courier* is a valuable asset to our village - well done!"

"The back page comment would be better as fact-based, not so personal"

"You are all doing a great job, even though some folk don't think so"

"Thanks for all your hard work - keep it up!"

Courier Contact



From Marion Hills, Manor Park:

WARNING: THE FOLLOWING MAY CONTAIN MATERIAL WHICH IS THOUGHT-PROVOKING

What do you buy with £1.00 each week? Maybe you use it to have a go on the Lottery? Maybe you slip a pound coin into a charity box outside a supermarket?

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTION FOR THE USE OF YOUR WEEKLY POUND COIN.

How many of you walk yourselves, your children and your visitors around the village, maybe to the church and museum, particularly on warm sunny days? How many of you listen to the chime of the church clock through your open windows & use it as a reminder of the time which we all know passes too quickly? Is that church clock one of the things that our future village population may continue to enjoy? Do villagers care enough to share in its preservation?

Those of you who read our village *Courier* will be aware that there is currently a rota of volunteers who wind the clock on a daily basis. Paul & myself are amongst those privileged to be undertaking the task.

Ideas have been put forward to mechanise the clock to keep it going & preserve its future. The team of volunteers is not saying they are giving up but lives change or circumstances see people move away from the village, and with that change there is risk that the clock is lost to us all.

May's *Courier* set out encouraging news with villagers keen to help preserve the church. The clock is in the church, but the operating costs quoted did not include further work to the clock.

THIS IS WHERE YOUR £1.00 EACH WEEK IS RELEVANT - Estimates on costs to undertake the mechanisation of the clock show we are looking to raise around £5000 to allow the work to take place. One of the companies who quoted has actually worked on a number of notable clocks in cathedrals & town halls including on Big Ben itself! A section of the report from this company reads: "This is a most wonderful & interesting example of early turret clock horology....It is of unique design & very well made for a turret clock of its age. The clock case & its framework are also contemporary to the clock & should not be altered in any way."

An account of the Parish Church of Claydon gives us further information on the clock: "A 16th Century foliot clock.....This clock was probably made by Joseph & John Knibb.....stated in the Claydon Register as having been born in 1639 & 1649...They were famous clock makers." The Knibb brothers are buried in the churchyard.

The village comprises over 100 dwellings which, if they were prepared to pledge just £1.00 per week for a year, would raise the money needed to allow the clock mechanisation to take place.

I am aware that not all villagers share enthusiasm for the clock & it is to those of you that I apologise if my positive thinking displeases. We are all entitled to our own opinions & I fully respect that items printed in the *Courier* may not please everybody.

I conclude & hope that some villagers out there may want to assist in the quest to mechanise the village clock. I felt jolly lucky the day I found the bungalow that Paul & I rent in such a lovely village, and am currently trying to find outside sources for funding & seeking out grants that may be available. To date no luck.

I can be contacted on: 01295 690950 or e mail: marion@paulmarion.plus.com or 11 Manor Park. PLEASE CALL if you feel you want to help maintain Claydon's history for our future generations.



Claydon Fun Dog Show

Saturday, 25th July



**You are invited to the Claydon Fun Dog Show
on the Village Playing Field on Saturday 25th July.**

**The emphasis is on "Fun", so we invite you to try your
hand (and paw) at a wide selection of class categories.**

**Register on the day from 12.30 then enjoy the BBQ & Bar.
Judging will begin from 13.30.**

Don't own a dog ? Come along & cheer for your favourite!

Classes are as follows:

1. Most Handsome Male Dog (any variety)
2. Prettiest Bitch (any variety)
3. Best Basic Training (Free format, on lead)
4. Cutest Canine (under 24 months old)
5. Best Trick by A Dog
6. Best Veteran Dog (8+ years)
7. Scruffiest Dog
8. Most Appealing Expression
9. Dog/Handler Look-Alike
10. Best Dog In Show – The Judge's Favourite !



All classes £1.00. Register at the event on the day.

Rosettes 1st, 2nd & 3rd.

All dogs MUST be kept on a lead at all times.

For more information & directions: www.claydonvillage.net



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Old local stone to complete walling
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Please call me on 690267.

David Wicks

POLO, ANYONE?

Fancy a new weekend picnic spot?
Try the RLS Polo Club, north of
Southam on the Leamington road.
Open weekends from May to Sept.,
usually free entry!!

Claydon People

Christina Kennedy

openly admits she doesn't tend to stay anywhere for very long. However, until now, she has made an exception with Claydon. As she and husband Simon were celebrating their 10th anniversary here in the village in March, the duo were also preparing to start a new life down in Shepton Mallet, Somerset

From leaving school in Selly Oak, Birmingham, at the age of 16, Chrisi has had a long and varied career.

Always someone with a keen interest in business, her professional life started at an accountancy firm in Birmingham where she joined as an audit clerk. Although enjoying her time there she quickly realised the profession was not for her. "Accountancy is a bit boring in its own right," she explains.

What followed over the next thirty-odd years was hardly boring: working for companies across a wide variety of sectors including hairdressing, jewellery, gardening, local retail and private security, becoming qualified as a



chartered company secretary, moving several times across Oxfordshire, Warwickshire and Hampshire and notching up three marriages.

Unfortunately, a family of her own eluded her due to health reasons. She reflects: "I've never been a long term person because I get bored and hate routine."

To avoid routine Chrisi set up her own business as a consultant company secretary working from home in Andover in 1989. The business was successful but during the downturn of the early 1990's Chrisi sold up.

She then set up another consultancy business and, after landing a major South African client, Simon came to work for the company in 1999. But their house in Hook wasn't suitable to work from home and that's when the pair came across Claydon.

Chrisi fell in love with Walnut House as soon as she saw it. "The house was a building site at the time but the developers lent us some wellies and I knew I just had to have it," she says.

Although Chrisi says the village hasn't really changed much in physical terms over the past 10 years, she says the people that inhabit it have. "There's a lot more younger people here working from home or commuting to Birmingham, London or Coventry," she says.

However, some things haven't changed. "We wanted an allotment back then and were told there weren't any available even though plots were just sitting there. After much hassle and argument we ended up having two. Of course there's still similar conversations going on now about the allotments. Things haven't moved on in 10 years, they should have and I feel sad about that"

Whilst here, the pair immersed themselves in village life, particularly after they retired two years ago, with Chrisi becoming chairman of the Playing Field Management Committee in June 2007,

treasurer of the Parochial Church Council at the end of 2007 and chair of the most recent festival committee.

Although Chrisi and Simon, who both celebrated their 60th birthdays last year, will be leaving the village this month, Chrisi says she will miss the walks, views and the church here. "I'm very fond of the church although I'm not a churchgoer. The church here has given me a lot of strength."



Known for her steadfast honesty, Chrisi is candid about what she feels are the more negative aspects of living in Claydon.

"I don't like small mindedness and harping back to the days of over 20 years ago," she says, "the village needs to live for today and tomorrow not for the past. This needs addressing if the village is to survive and move forward."

>>>

<<< Talking about village groups and committees, Chrisi adds: "Certain people need to stand back and help those new to the village. To be fair they have a valuable insight that could help take things forward, so they should use their skills in a positive way to help the younger people give the village a new lease of life."

Chrisi believes Claydon is at a turning point in its history. "There is so much will here to make things happen at the moment and to make Claydon a lovely, friendly, happy place to live. All of that energy and enthusiasm needs to blossom so that everyone can enjoy it

"Claydon is no longer a farming village. Farming is important to the countryside but it's not the heart of the village anymore. It's more about the people that live here and their lifestyle and what they need"

However, there is something, or rather someone, that has been a



constant in her life for the last 25 years. "Simon and I are celebrating our silver wedding anniversary this year - just to prove I can hang on to something!" she laughs.

The pair look forward to celebrating their anniversary in their new home in Shepton Mallett which includes two

bungalows and an acre of land. "I look forward to having the chickens and the bees in the garden with me," says Chrisi, "and to having lots of amenities on the doorstep, but I shall miss some people in Claydon very much, though I'm sure we'll stay good friends."

We wish Chrisi and Simon the best of luck in their new home and thank them both for their significant contribution to Claydon over the last 10 years.

Lisa Simmons

A fuller version of this article can be downloaded from the village website at www.claydonvillage.net

Green Fingers

Did anyone notice the greenfly a few weekends ago? I was eating tea outside when I noticed in the streaming sunlight hundreds of flies.

What ever method you use to keep control greenfly remember it is vitally important to follow up on a regular basis to catch offspring, eggs and new greenfly.

Organic – pyrethrum, insecticidal soap sprays. Potted plants can be carefully upended and submerge the plant in a bowl/bucket of weak washing-up liquid and swilled around. Encourage ladybirds. Ladybird larvae can be purchased (Scarletts plant care).

Inorganic – bifenthrin in a contact spray insecticide form

This month - keep on top of the weeds, Using a hoe also helps to break the surface of the soil to allow air and water to permeate into the upper levels. This is particularly useful with the Claydon clay which quickly forms a hard surface that stops the

precious water from permeating into the soil where it's needed. This should ideally be done weekly but a little and often goes a long way.



Prepare for **softwood cuttings** of woody shrubs. Select new stem that have no flowers. Count from the tip 4 pairs of leaves and cut just above the forth pair. Carefully strip off the bottom two pairs of leaves so not to rip the bark. Use a growth hormone powder and push into a light compost/soil mix.

Finally position where there is average sun. Remember that the cutting is still trying to draw moisture up, so in full sun may dry it out. Also you are trying to promote good root development so deep shade/coolness is not going to help. Cutting the bottom of a clear plastic bottle sticking it over your cuttings helps retain moisture and establish a balanced micro-climate. Water and check progress.

Fuchsia, Euonymus and Escallonia are dead easy to start with.

David Wicks

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Claydon *FARMING LIFE*

On April 15 we heard the Clattercote swallows announce their arrival after four weeks of travelling from South Africa. Sadly, not as many arrived as in previous years.



The spring and early summer have gone smoothly. The rain came just in time to help the rapidly growing crops, fertilizing is complete and the wheat has been sprayed to prevent fungi attacking the ears (seeds). The peas are setting their first pods, the beans will soon be doing the same, assisted by a friend's pollinating bees.

The sweet smell from the bean flowers, on a still summers evening, is better than any perfume. Our other spring crop, linseed, will soon be painting the fields blue, dropping their spent petals in the evening and for the next day, producing fresh flowers each morning

The most entertaining moment, whilst fertilizing this year, were twelve gallivanting hares in Keith Lambert's wheat. Their mad athletics certainly made my

assistants (Oscar, the spaniel and Squeak the border terrier) deafeningly vocal!

The pair of barn owls in Walker field is also doing well this year. From her bathroom window my mother watched them hunting last evening, skimming silently over the field in search of prey.

We hope to have the new pig finishing building occupied soon. This should allow us to send much larger pig to our Morrison's contract.

Here's hoping for a dry harvest. I think we have earned one after the last two years' washouts.

Adrian Taylor

ALLOTMENTS

If you have ever requested an allotment or would like to do so, please contact the Parish Clerk to have your name added to the waiting list register.

Sue Upton, Parish Clerk
The Red House, Great Bourton
Oxon. OX17 1QY

Tel: 01295 758398

E-mail:

claydonwithclattercotepc@yahoo.co.uk

ANIMAL FACTS: HOUSE MOUSE

The house mouse can live with little or no water and has a high reproduction rate, with a gestation period of only 19-20 days.

Mice breed between March and October, though urban mice can breed continuously. Most young die during the first winter.

There are around 130 types of mouse, although only 20 are thought to be a true subspecies.

They are social animals living in small groups, dominated by a single male. Adults weigh 1 oz at most but can have a tail length of up to 3¾ inches.

They eat grain, insects and food thrown out by humans. Their predators include birds of prey, weasels, rats and cats.



Anne Hoggins

BIN COLLECTIONS: JULY/AUGUST 2009

GREEN BIN

Fri 24 July

Fri 7 August

Fri 21 August

BLUE & BROWN BINS

Fri 17 July

Fri 31 July

Fri 14 August



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Homemade Beef Burgers

Ingredients:

2 lbs of good quality mince

1 large onion (finely chopped)

4 cloves of garlic (finely chopped)

2 eggs

+ Breadcrumbs, Worcester Sauce, dried Oregano, salt & pepper



Method:

Place the mince, onion, & garlic in a large mixing bowl. Add a dash of Worcester Sauce, some dried Oregano, salt and pepper.

Add the 2 eggs and a small handful of breadcrumbs, then mix the ingredients together.

Once fully mixed, shape into 4-5 balls then press down each one into a burger shape.

Pan fry for 5 mins. each side until firm. Serve in a seeded bun with fillings of cheese, bacon or gerkins. Ideal for your summer BBQs!

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

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

Village Diary

July/August 2009



- Wednesday 15 July** **Jubilee Group Coffee Morning**
 Church Room, 10.30am - Midday
- Tuesday 21 July** **Mobile Library visits**
 Corner Church Lane/Main Street, 12.40pm - 12.55pm
- Saturday 25 July** **Claydon Fun Dog Show & BBQ**
 Claydon Playing Field, 12.30pm-3.30pm [See p.7 for more details]
- Tuesday 4 August** **Mobile Library visits**
 Corner Church Lane/Main Street, 12.40pm - 12.55pm
- Wednesday 5 August** **Beetle Drive**
 Church Room, 2.30pm - 4pm



If you would like an item included in Village Diary please pass on details to any member of the **Courier** team (see p16)

Weekly Church Services at St. James the Great Church, Claydon
 19 July: *No service.* 10am United Benefice Service, Wardington 2 August: 9.30am Holy Communion
 26 July: 10am St James Patronal Festival All Age Service 9 August: 8.30am Holy Communion
 Wednesday mornings: 10am Holy Communion

July

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Courier Back Page

For more
village info go to
www.claydonvillage.net



Church Update

'Progress' can be defined as "to advance, move forward, to go on" - all terms relevant to St James the Great Church and the growing support in aid of it.

Financial support from regular fund-raisers such as the Beetle Drive has been significantly boosted by the Gig in the Church.

There is also a welcome increase in the number of people volunteering, including new members joining the PCC, to give time and energy to help organise future activities.

The structure of the PCC has also progressed, with individuals now responsible for fund-raising, long-term development, communications and a new 'Friends' programme.

Full details to be posted on the noticeboard & in the next *Courier*.

Tim Cozze-Young

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*! We welcome all contributions & will always try to publish material received.

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

We retain the right to edit or reduce content to fit the space available.

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 Paul Gallagher on 690119 or talk to one of the team.

Deadline for the next issue is August 1.