

# Claydon & Clattercote Courier

SEPTEMBER 2010

## ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION DRAWS VILLAGERS



The annual Claydon Art Group art exhibition was held on the Sunday and Monday of the recent Bank Holiday. The beautiful St James the Great Church was the venue again with the paintings shown amongst the lovely seasonal flowers from Marjorie Fox's garden with skilful arrangements by Hilary Law.



Eighty paintings were displayed by the group covering many mediums. Some paintings were sold, much to the delight of the artists. There were also cream teas, tombola and

bric-a-brac stalls in the Church Room.

Due to the hard work of the group, the two days went very well and from the monies made, a donation to the church of £100 has been made. The group would like to thank the villagers and outside visitors for their support without which the exhibition would have not been so successful.

**Stef Kearney - Treasurer**

### **\*\* ROAD CLOSURE \*\***

MOLLINGTON ROAD TO  
CLOSE FOR UP TO 2 WEEKS  
FROM SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>

See page 5 for more details

### **In this issue...**

- History Special: Looking back at the School Run from 60 years ago
- Local band makes Finals
- New start-up business in Claydon is looking good

## IN MEMORIAM

Sincere condolences to the families and friends of **Elaine Broughton** and **Betty Wyatt** who passed away in late August and will be greatly missed by their loved ones.

Elaine was a long-term resident of Bignolds Close.

Betty was sister to Eric Bates and former resident of Main Street.



## WITH THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS...

 **Barn Farm Plants**  
Upper Wardington, Banbury, Oxon  
[www.barnfarmplants.co.uk](http://www.barnfarmplants.co.uk)  
You will find the complete gardening experience...  
at your local friendly Garden Centre  
Open 7 days a week 01295 758080

**SMITH & RONALDSON**  
**BUILDERS**  
Specialists in stonework, extensions and loft conversions  
01295 690559  
01327 261590

 **Farnborough Garden Centre**  
**Harefurlong Nurseries**  
WHERE THINGS FOR YOUR GARDEN WON'T COST THE EARTH  
Southam Road  
Farnborough  
Banbury  
01295 690479  
OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK  
TUES to SAT 10:00am - 5:30pm  
SUNDAY 10:30am - 4:30pm  
(Mid Oct-Feb Tues-Sat 9:00-4:30)

 **Cherwell FENCING**  
professional fencing contractors  
**Cropredy 758330**  
**07828 129907**  
[www.cherwellfencing.co.uk](http://www.cherwellfencing.co.uk)  
Closeboard Specialist, Gates, Decking, Security Fencing

 **JA Electrics**  
*wires without worries*  
**Julian Aldred**  
*Electrician*  
T (01295) 750749  
[E.julian@ja-electrics.co.uk](mailto:E.julian@ja-electrics.co.uk)

*Your Local Carpenter*  
**M.C. CARPENTRY**  
For all Carpentry & Joinery Services Domestic and Commercial  
For a Professional and Affordable Service  
Call Matthew Clark on:  
01295 690340  
07814 891226  
Email - [mc\\_carpentry@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mc_carpentry@yahoo.co.uk)

**LOOSE COVERS, ROMAN BLINDS,  
CURTAINS AND CUSHIONS**  
All made using your own choice of fabrics.  
Contact Mandy Ward  
on 01295 690474 or 07960 898599  
[www.mandyward.co.uk](http://www.mandyward.co.uk)

 **PURPLE MANGO**  
**Quality Indian Cuisine**  
No 2 Hanwell Mews, Hanwell Fields, OX16 1AP  
Takeaway available at 10% off menu  
**(01295) 276900 or 252929**

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

## VILLAGERS TAKE A SHINE TO BEAUTY BUSINESS

Claydon resident Abbie Ronaldson's beauty evening in the Church Room on August 10 was a real success. Over 20 people attended and enjoyed an evening of pampering.

Recently-qualified Abbie carried out pedicures and manicures and her clients were not disappointed. In fact one lady commented "WOW, what a lovely relaxing treatment, my nails look fabulous!"

Abbie is currently taking bookings for a wide variety of treatments, including manicures, pedicures,



facials and waxing treatments that villagers can enjoy in their own home. Why not call Abbie on 690559 or 07765 019476. And watch this space for more details about her next beauty event. 

**DR KATE TILLER, DL  
CHAIRMAN OF THE OF OXFORDSHIRE BLUE PLAQUES BOARD**

and

**THE PARISH COUNCIL  
OF CLAYDON WITH CLATTERCOTE**

invite you to the unveiling of a plaque commemorating

**SAMUEL                  JOHN    +                  JOSEPH KNIBB**  
(1625-c.1670) (1640-1711)                  (1650-1722)

**EMINENT CLOCKMAKERS**

at

**THE CHURCH ROOM, CLAYDON**

on

**SATURDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2010 at 12 NOON**

*RSVP to Robert Adams (01295) 690779*

## GCSE SUCCESSES

Good luck to James Gardner of Fenny Compton Road who has moved on to Leamington College to study Media & Games Development following recent success with his GCSE's.

And well done to Lisa Kelsall of Manor Park, who has gone on to Oxford & Cherwell Valley College, Banbury, after a good showing in her exams this summer. **C**

## CAR BOOT CLEARS UP

Thanks to all those who donated items for the *Courier* Car Boot Sale in August. Over £100 was raised to go to future issues.

Special thanks to Pete & Stef Kearney for braving the appalling weather! **C**

## TOP LOCK UPDATE

Having wrapped the final pot in bubble wrap all the crafts people involved in the opening of Top Lock Gallery have been pleased by how the three week inaugural exhibition in August went. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who visited and supported our event, even through the challenging weather.

We plan to open mid-November for Christmas. There will be gifts from £5, with mulled wine, hot mince pies and chestnuts. Just come up for a lovely walk and see what we are up to at Top Lock. Watch this space!

Phoebe Shaft

---

## WELCOME TO OTIS

In preparation for their forthcoming baby, Paul and Emma Gallagher of Main Street are having a practice run of crying and sleepless nights!

This little bundle of fun takes the form of Otis, a brown and white Springer spaniel. Luckily this disrupted lifestyle ends a lot quicker and normal service should be resumed in a few weeks.

If you see them being dragged around the village with a brown and white blur attached to a lead, say hello as it will help Otis to socialise and get used to people. **C**



## DIRTY VOICE MAKES IT TO NATIONAL FINALS

On August 29 your local band took to the big stage at the O2 academy Birmingham for the Midlands regional showcase final of the Surface Unsigned competition. Competing as one of the best 16 bands in the region they delivered a highly charged set of their own hard rock songs.

With tensions rising we awaited the judges result at the end of the evening and were ecstatic to hear that they had been chosen to go to the national final at the O2 indigo in London on the September 25. Things got even better when the judges' results were published to find out they had won the night, so yes your local band is officially the BEST unsigned band in the Midlands.

Check out their MySpace site at [www.myspace.com/dirtyvoice](http://www.myspace.com/dirtyvoice) for



I'm sure you would all like YOUR band to come out top in the country. More details to come after the final.

**Pete Williams**



**To vote for Dirty Voice to win, text Midlands 3140 to 64343.** Texts cost £1.00 plus standard network charges. For more details call 0800 4346076 or email [festival@surfaceunsigned.co.uk](mailto:festival@surfaceunsigned.co.uk)

### ROAD WORKS ALERT

Oxfordshire County Council has given notice that it intends to carry out kerbing and drainage works on the Mollington Road in September.

**Mollington Road will therefore be closed from Monday 20 September for up to two weeks.**

(Not 3 weeks as stated incorrectly on a road-side sign!) The official diversion will be via Cropredy. Further details can be obtained from Helen Grainger on 0845 310 1111



## THE SCHOOL RUN

In a special feature, **Eric Bates** takes us back over 60 years to when getting to/from school was more of an adventure than it is now...

In my day whether you went to the village school or not, this was a very different experience from today's routine. For a start you had to make your own way there and back 'come hell or high water'. Except perhaps if it was the first time ever; there was no mum or dad to escort you to and from the village school; or if you attended a school somewhere else, no family limousine to take you there and back. There was no special bus service from door to door either.

Having passed the equivalent of the eleven plus exam, in those days known as the scholarship, I went to school in Banbury. There was no daily bus service to Claydon from anywhere at this time, so Oxfordshire Education Authority gave me a brand new heavy duty 'James' bicycle to get me to Cropredy and a free bus pass for the rest of the journey. From September 1942 until 11th February 1946 when the first ever daily bus service to Claydon commenced, unless snow stopped play as it were or some other catastrophic event occurred, I had to cycle every school day in all weathers to Cropredy, to catch the 08-25 Midland Red public service bus to Banbury.

This often meant furious pedalling and an exhausted arrival at my Auntie's house near the Chapel where I left my bicycle. A mad dash on foot to the bus stop opposite The Brasenose Public House usually got me there just in time. On one or two life or death occasions these parts of the journey were completed in twelve minutes.

At this time the Midland Red bus depot in Banbury housed a rather vintage fleet of buses. Few of them ever reached a top speed of 30 mph which was the official speed limit for all commercial vehicles until well after W.W.II.

We set off in fine style usually, but we were soon crawling along in bottom gear, as we struggled up the long steep hill through Great Bourton. Turning right as we approached the church and then left by The Swan Public House we met the main road again between the unusual lych-gate clock tower and The Bell Public House. The direct route was too steep for the ailing mechanics of the ageing vehicles which were always over loaded on this run.

At this point there was usually standing room only, sometimes not even that. Passengers from Little Bourton often travelled on the three steps at the entrance to the

bus, there being no room further inside. The bus conductor (now a vanished breed) to collect fares and issue tickets needed the skills of a scrum half. This service terminated at Banbury town hall. "Everybody Off!!"

I was one of a small but vociferous group of St. Trinian-like individuals who tumbled off and piled on to a town service bus usually waiting

nearby. Ten minutes later we spilled out of this vehicle and shambled into Ruskin Road on the Easington estate. At last we had reached our final destination: Banbury Grammar School.

Like other small groups of children from outlying villages we seeped into the building, always too late to attend morning assembly.

In the afternoon at 3-45 p.m. ten minutes before the official end of lessons, the same little groups could be seen seeping out of the building to commence their morning journeys in reverse. This was by virtue of special passes to enable us to catch our respective buses home. Sometimes, depending on whim and weather we would walk down to the town

hall to catch ours, there was just time - it left at 4-15 p.m.

Due to petrol shortages during W.W.II. certain buses were converted to run on gas. This entailed towing a portable solid fuelled gas generator, and the bus conductor had to stoke it up nearly every time the vehicle stopped. These buses were always under~powered and very slow, the 4.15 p.m. was often one such animal.

This being the case it invariably meant that all passengers had to get out and walk up Hardwick Hill, while the bus zig-zagged its own way to the top. Sometimes we had to give it a helping hand

and all push. In those days 'Health and Safety' was a phrase yet to be coined.

On arrival at Great Bourton the morning tour round the church yard was not necessary so we charged straight down the steep hill rapidly making up for time lost earlier. Often however our head~long flight was checked by one Mr. Jackson. He alighted from the bus whenever he thought fit. I never did know quite where he lived. A colourful character he always had a primrose or some such seasonal

**" The Midland Red bus depot in Banbury housed a rather vintage fleet of buses. Few of them ever reached a top speed of 30mph"**

piece of flora dangling from the corner of his mouth.

By now passenger numbers had thinned and as our speed increased down the rest of the hill, the rattles and squeaks from the ageing coachwork became a deafening cacophony. We shot under the railway bridge and careered round the corner just beyond it almost out of control. Despite this exciting and rapid descent from the heights of Great Bourton, it was never far off 5pm when we arrived back at Cropredy.

The uphill cycle ride back to Claydon at the end of the day was not easy as my bicycle had no gears. This meant walking up the hills most days, the effort needed to ride being too great. A highlight of the week on this last leg of these daily journeys was a simple but delicious treat. It came on Fridays when freshly baked buns still warm from the oven of Gardner Godson's bakery in Church Street Cropredy, could be purchased and then eaten 'on the hoof.'

Other people from Claydon did this same cycle journey as me but not necessarily to and from school. John Stokes, Norah Gough, Doris Smart and Vivien Stacey are names which spring to mind. We often cycled together.

Fulham Girls School was evacuated to this area during W.W.II. and

shared the facilities at Banbury Grammar School for some time. Gwyneth Phillips [the late Mrs. Dunwoody M.P.] was a pupil of this school and travelled most of the same daily route as me, but started and finished her journey on foot. I often gave her a lift part of the way home on the crossbar of my bicycle. She lived with her mother and brother in a cottage across the fields at Lambert's Barn. (This is still signposted off the Cropredy to Claydon road.) They were friends with the family of the head mistress of Claydon School.

Gwyneth's father, Morgan Phillips, was the Parliamentary Secretary to the Labour Party. He visited them all most weekends. This gave the humble inmates of Claydon an interesting link with the corridors of power at Westminster.

Surprisingly there is an even stronger link to the government of today with the village of Claydon, this time via two shadow cabinet ministers. However, I don't think I shall ever give any of their offspring a lift home from school on the crossbar of my bicycle.

I think it is true to say that I learnt more about life on the journey to and from school than I ever did in the classroom.

**Eric Bates**

## CLAYDON RESIDENT TAKES SILVER IN BANBURY RUN

Congratulations to Paul Marsden of Manor Park for picking up a silver award at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Banbury Run on 20 June 2010.

Starting at the Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, it is the largest gathering of veteran/vintage motor cycles in the world with an entry list restricted to 600 machines.

For riders who opt for a timed event, the route is unknown until signing on and the check points are also unknown.

There are two main classes of award: Gold and Silver. The Silver award means that riders have to



arrive at all check points not more than 3 minutes early or 30 minutes late. No electronic aids are permitted so it means that the rider has to work out the average mph the old fashioned way to achieve an award!

**Marion Hills**

---

## SOLUTION FOR NOISY CANINE NEIGHBOURS

Following the letter re dogs barking in the village (see Courier, June 2010), I went to see my sis-in-law, she has a Red Setter that now does not bark, well not all the time. She bought a Stop Barking Collar, it was about £18 I believe, and it works well. It has a small vibrator that rests on his throat and when the dog barks it actuates, it will not harm the animal. He only wore it 3 times and learned the lesson, now he only has to be shown the collar and he stops and lays down in a submissive way. If you are familiar with young Red Setters you will know that this is a very quick lesson learned and with no pain. I also wonder if this works when a dog howls when they are left alone?

There is a book that sometimes comes through our door, Better Ware, they do a collar for about £13, (reduced of course). On the internet just enter Stop Barking and you will see lots from £10 to £120. They also have one a neighbour can buy for about £50 to £70, you can hang on your fence or wall and it sends a sonic wave at the barking dog, it can take a few weeks for animal to work it out but it works in the end (so they say). I hope this helps a few folk out and helps with the neighbours as well. If you don't have a computer, give me a bell (690174) and I will try to help you out.

**Pete Kearney**

# 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](mailto:courier@claydonvillage.net)

**FARMYARD MANURE** - well rotted, collection only. Call Anne on 690675 or 07870 352949.

## FREE ELECTRIC BLANKET CHECKS

Cherwell District Council is conducting FREE electric blanket safety checks in October ready for the winter chill. Unsafe electric blankets can cause fires. Safety officials will be in Banbury on **Tuesday 19 October**. Call 01865 815607 to make an appointment; these are on a first come, first served basis.

### THAMES VALLEY POLICE

TVP's neighbourhood team will be holding a 'Have your Say' meeting in Claydon.

**Friday 24 September**

**4pm - 5pm**

This is an opportunity for us to introduce ourselves to the village and answer any queries or questions from residents. We will bring our neighbourhood van and will position ourselves near to the church.

### Cherwell Customer Service Outreach Team

The District Council has recently formed an Outreach team with the aim of reaching residents who cannot readily access services because of mobility or disability problems and others who feel vulnerable or isolated.

Many villages have regular events and older people clubs to encourage community spirit and involvement but not everyone is included and it can be difficult for some residents to speak out to seek assistance.

**Alison Willis** and **Paul Tysoe** will happily attend local community events / clubs to give advice and raise awareness through talks on what Cherwell services are available.

So if you wish to speak to them to arrange a visit or to discuss a problem, please telephone **01295 753757** or e-mail [customer.service@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:customer.service@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)

## PETE'S PINT - A regular review of local hostelries



### The Blinking Owl Inn, North Newington

Hello Dear Reader,

If you take the B4035 the Shipton-on-Stour road towards Broughton Castle you will be on route to North Newington, that is if you don't miss the RH turn about 1.5 miles outside Banbury.

Once you have made the turn, (it is on a left hand curve in the main road) follow the road into the village and the Blinking Owl is on the left, fair size car park before the pub, also on the left.

Dave is the landlord, his partner is the cook, and sometimes their daughter helps out as well. The opening hours, well they are at the Governors' calling, so give him a bell on (01295) 730650.

The pub has been there since 1645 and it was the Bakers Arms until Mein Host got there 27 years ago. At the side of the pub stood a large barn in which Dave kept things various as you may say, in the roof of the barn was a Barn Owl and it would hoot at Dave and blink at him when he went in, so Yer Man changed the name of the pub to what it is now. I think that there was a bit of a battle with the Owl over certain things and it was not always the "Blinking" Owl. The

barn has now been changed to rooms for B&B and downstairs is used for a function room, holds about 35 folk for a do.



In the winter time you will find a large fire in both bars, food tables in one and large sink-into leather sofas in the other side. It is a free house so you will find a range of real ales. At the moment it is:

Hobgoblin, Jennings Cumberland, Brew 11, and a light flowery beer that the girls seemed to like, sorry can't remember the name, you will just have to look yourselves.

He also has lager and keg beers as well. The food is very good with fair prices, not a large menu but diverse, this also includes four good-looking veggie noshes. Dave is very much a hands on landlord, he will start a conversation with you and join yours, but he will also stay away if he feels that he is intruding. This is the art of a man that knows his job, unlike a few places that I have been to, on your behalf.

The place is full of stuffed and china models of Owls as you may expect, it is just a very welcoming and warm place to be.

Cheers!

Pete



# Coming up...

For more  
village info go to  
[www.claydonvillage.net](http://www.claydonvillage.net)

- **Monday 20 September**  
**MOLLINGTON ROAD CLOSED for up to 2 weeks**  
**(until 4 October)**  
*[See page 5]*
- **Saturday 25 September, 12 noon**  
**Knibb Brothers Blue Plaque Unveiling**  
Churchyard/Church Room *[See page 3]*
- **Friday 1 October, 7.30pm**  
**Harvest Supper Event, inc. food and raffle**  
Church Room *[Look out for details]*
- **Saturday 13 November, 6.30pm onwards**  
**Claydon Bonfire Night**  
Playing Field *[More details next month]*



If you would like an event included on this page please contact us (details below)

## ***The Courier is brought to you each month by:***

Anne Hoggins (690675)

David Wicks (690267)

Kate Wicks (690267)

Lisa Simmons (690155)

Mark Simmons (690155)

Paul Gallagher (690119)

Pete Kearney (690571)

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](mailto: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 any of the team.

**Deadline for the next issue is October 1.**