

# Claydon & Clattercote **Courier**

OCTOBER 2010

## CLAYDON'S FIRST BLUE PLAQUE UNVEILED



Gerald Marsh unveils the Blue Plaque as Cllrs Robert Adams and David Hill look on. There were blue skies in Claydon on Saturday 25 September as around 60 villagers and invited dignitaries gathered in the Churchyard to witness the unveiling of a blue plaque to celebrate the lives and achievements of the Knibbs, early English clockmakers who were born and baptised in the village.

The Lord Mayor of Oxford, Cllr John Goddard and founder of the Oxfordshire Blue Plaques Board, Sir Hugo Brunner, watched as Gerald Marsh, clock expert and Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers unveiled the plaque fixed to the eastern wall of the Church Room.

After the unveiling Mr Marsh gave a fascinating talk about Knibb clocks

in the Church, illustrated with four of the 100 or so Knibb timepieces still believed to be in existence. He pointed out that the Knibbs would have been >>> **continued on p3**

**DON'T FORGET!** The clocks go back one hour at 2am on Sunday 31 October.



### In this issue...

- Welcome to Jacob Gallagher
- Harvest Supper Event has comedy moments
- **Courier** recognised by ORCC
- Claydon Bonfire Night set for 13 November

## WELCOME BACK SAM

A hearty welcome home to the village to **Sam Hoggins** after his serious road accident. Sam is making excellent progress with his family and friends around him. 

## DRIVING SUCCESSES

Congratulations to **Abbie Ronaldson** of Main Street and **Bethany Ferguson** of Bignolds Close. Both passed their driving test first time this summer. 

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continued from p1 <<< exceptional men to have come from a rural background and transform themselves into distinguished tradesmen living in London and Oxford. "Remember, at this time [the 1600s], simply getting out of the village was an achievement!" quipped Mr Marsh.

All then enjoyed first class refreshments prepared by Clare Adams and Jo Hill. Special thanks to Sue Upton of Great Bourton for providing excellent wine and the lovely flower display in the Church Room.

Special mention should go to Cllr Robert Adams who over a considerable period of time patiently pursued the application for the blue plaque.

The total cost of the plaque (around £1,000) was met mainly from grants and private donations.

A colour leaflet summarising the lives of the Knibbs has been produced and can be downloaded from the village website: [www.claydonvillage.net](http://www.claydonvillage.net)

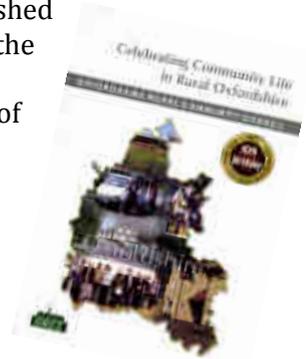


## COURIER RECOGNISED

The *Claydon & Clattercote Courier* is highlighted in

a book published to celebrate the ninetieth anniversary of Oxfordshire Rural Community Council. The ORCC publication features examples of

"significant contributions to the quality of community life" across the county. A digital copy of the book can be downloaded from [www.orcc.org.uk](http://www.orcc.org.uk)



## DRAW UPDATES

There will be no 100 Club Draw this Autumn, but the next Church Chance in 100 Draw will take place as planned in December.

## XMAS EVENT DATE SET

Back by popular demand, the Claydon Christmas Tree Lighting and Remembrance Event will this year take place on **Sunday 5 December** from 4pm. As in previous years stars will be hung on a tree in the churchyard to remember loved ones, there will be singing, a visit from Santa, as well as festive refreshments served in the church room. More details in November's *Courier*.

Lisa Simmons

## EASTERN PROMISE

Sue Webster of Crossing Lane has gone a long way to submit this month's entry for the *Courier's* travel competition. She explains: "At the end of August I taught a module of a University of Warwick Early Childhood Studies Degree at the Crestar Institute, Serangoon Road, Singapore. I could not resist the opportunity to take a Claydon Courier along with me.

The students, all Directors of Nursery Schools in Singapore, were really interested in the rural nature of our life in Claydon. It was a big contrast from the skyscrapers and multi-cultural city they are used to. It was a fabulous opportunity for me and I came home laden with local spices and recipe ideas. I return in November 2011, this time the students are keen for me to try the local speciality of fish head curry!"

Why not take a similar photo on your next trip away and send it to us (details on back page).



## CONGRATULATIONS...

...to Emma and Paul Gallagher of Main Street on the birth of their son Jacob Samuel, who was born on 5 September.

Weighing in at 3lbs 13.5ozs Jacob was born at Stoke Mandeville hospital 9 weeks early. He is still currently in the baby Special Care Unit at the Horton but is doing well and putting on weight and fingers crossed will be back in Claydon soon.

Paul and Emma would like to thank their friends and neighbours for their well wishes, offers of help and support.

C

## TRICK OR TREAT?

Halloween is on **Sunday 31 October** this year. So that the Halloween tradition of children trick or treating is enjoyable for all it is suggested that both householders and trick or treaters adopt a Halloween Code:

### Halloween Code

A hollowed-out, lit, pumpkin placed in front of the house or on a front windowsill **or** a cardboard pumpkin shape on the front door says trick or treaters are welcome. Trick or treaters will visit only homes displaying a pumpkin.

C

# Courier Contact



## **From Name & Address supplied,**

I've just driven back from Banbury after seeing my uncle in hospital and I was coming past the farm on the left before you get to the Mollington dip and a car was right behind me. I wish I'd had the sense to try and look at the number plate, because when we got down in the dip it overtook me and a car was coming in the opposite direction.... it flashed it's lights at him. I thought it would be long out of sight when I got round the Farnborough turn, but to my disgust it was actually turning off to come down to Claydon. I didn't see it again, it must have been doing 70 down to here. I was hoping to see where it stopped to tell them what I thought. I'd just come from the hospital and I didn't want to end up getting smashed up on the road. I don't know what the car was, but it could have been a pale blue Ford Focus.

## **From Iain Kirkpatrick, Oxford Canal,**

I wish to respond to articles printed in August's edition of the Claydon Courier and previous articles concerning canal activities. We are entirely within our rights to use our pieces of land for canal-related purposes as written within the law. Both British Waterways and Cherwell District Council are aware of this. It is therefore offensive to continue insinuating that we are in breach of law and destructive toward the environment.

If you should choose to take a walk along the canal, you can expect to encounter boats and boat people as this is the natural environment for such activities. Therefore, it would be preferable for all concerned and for those who seem at a loss to reconcile such thoughts, that they find a more constructive use of their time.

***The Courier responds:*** *It is in all our interests that we - land-dwellers and boating community alike - live together as harmoniously as possible. Villagers have legitimately raised concerns about how land by the canal is being developed and whether the necessary legal processes that apply to all landowners have been followed. This is simply a case of ensuring that we all live by the same rules. If the authorities determine that these legal processes have not been complied with, the responsibility is with the landowner to show that their activities are, as Iain Kirkpatrick suggests, "within the law". The fact that villagers are questioning development by the canal surely shows a healthy regard for democracy and a willingness to protect our environment for the benefit of everyone?*



# CLAYDON BONFIRE NIGHT

## SATURDAY 13 NOVEMBER

### CLAYDON PLAYING FIELD/MARQUEE

6pm Gates Open  
BBQ, licensed bar including  
mulled wine

6.15pm Bonfire lighting

6.30pm Kids games / Judging of the guys \*

7pm Firework display

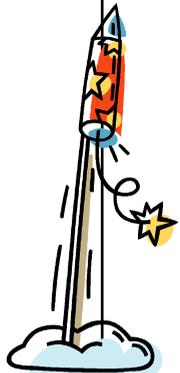
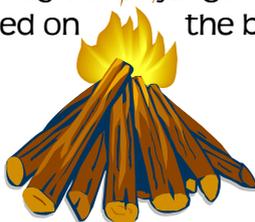
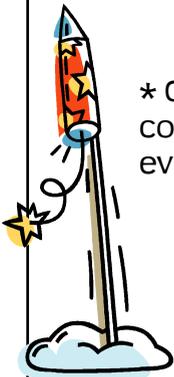
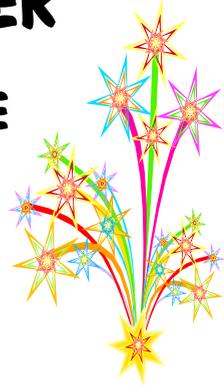
7.30pm Raffle

7.30pm onwards - BBQ and Bar remain open

**FREE ENTRY, but donations welcome**

All proceeds will go to the development of the Playing Field  
and other village causes

\* Children of all ages are encouraged to bring  
completed guys to the Playing Field on the  
evening where they will be judged before being  
placed on the bonfire



## QUIZ AND QUIPS AT CLAYDON HARVEST SUPPER

There was a healthy turn-out for the Harvest Supper Event on Friday 1 October, with 25 villagers enjoying a relaxed evening over a hearty meal accompanied by good wine and company.

The Church Room was beautifully laid out, with a communal table replete with candles and small foliage displays to celebrate the gathering in of the harvest and season of plenty.

Harvest Festival has a special resonance in a rural community like Claydon where farming, even today, is an intrinsic part of the village fabric.

Rev Pat Freeth welcomed villagers before they tucked into a delicious dinner of shepherd's pie and vegetables (prepared by Pat herself) and an equally scrumptious vegetarian quiche (made by Michael O'Donovan).

The main course was followed by a heavenly apple crumble (made by Janice Hamilton), served with cream. Naughty, but definitely nice!

No sooner had the plates been cleared away than heads went



down in concentration for a quiz compiled and presented by Angela and Bethany Ferguson. Modesty prevents me from revealing the identity of the winning team, but the tricky questions led to much discussion and debate.

Nearly everyone was a winner in the sterling raffle organised by Anne Hoggins, which raised £55.

The evening ended in an amusing modern retro way with the showing (via laptop computer and digital projector) of a vintage TV comedy programme, appropriately entitled 'Harvest Supper'.

Thanks to the Parochial Church Council and all involved for a wonderful evening, which raised a total of £207 towards the upkeep of St James the Great Church.

**Lisa Simmons**





## ANIMAL FACTS: BONFIRE NIGHT TIPS

Keep your animals safe on and around Bonfire Night.

Do remember to shut cats, dogs, horses in at night and stay with them while fireworks are going off to reassure them if necessary.

November 5 is on a Friday this year.

Be aware that some villages have other dates for their organised events - Claydon's is on Saturday 13 November on the Playing Field, a location as far away as possible from pets/livestock.

For animals in the home, leave out plenty of food and water. Leave a television or radio on to provide a distraction and shut all windows and close curtains/blinds so that flashes are less likely to disturb the animals.

Anne Hoggins

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## A QUIET, SPIRITUAL SPACE AT CLAYDON

In addition to the usual Sunday services that one might expect to be held in an ancient country church, St James the Great at Claydon holds a Said Communion (in other words, a brief Communion Service without hymns) every Wednesday morning at 10am. This is indeed a brief service - typically only about 35-40 minutes long - but something of a midweek spiritual oasis, which those who attend find very refreshing. This is not quite as parochial as it may sound as some who come travel some distance from outside the county. Imagine hearing the sounds of birdsong and farm animals straying into church during quiet moments!



If you *really* want to be quiet in church then every two months this tiny, old church hosts its 'Spiritual Half Hour' at which attendees simply sit quietly in this lovely place and either pray or else meditate. When the evenings are dark these gatherings are candle-lit. The 'Spiritual Half Hour' is held at 7.30pm on the first Monday of alternate months - the next is on 1 November. Needless to say, **all** are very welcome to all services and no-one is under any obligation or pressure!

**Supporter of St James the Great**

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING NOTES - SEPTEMBER 2010

A Parish Council meeting took place on 14 September, with 8 villagers present, plus district councillor Ken Attack. The main points raised were:

**Blue Brick Path** - A formal job request to attend to the path has been logged with Oxfordshire County Council and another meeting is due to take place with OCC shortly.

**A423 Speed Reduction** - Oxfordshire County Council has responded to the Parish Council's request for dangerous junction signage at the Mollington Road turning.

Sadly, budget restrictions mean that such signage will not be considered.

**Point to Point Farm** - Cherwell District Council has granted planning consent for a temporary log cabin for three years.

**Manor Farm Barn** - A decision is expected shortly from Cherwell District Council on whether the barn that is now being used as a residence is a lawful development. Parish Council Chair David Hill thanked all those who had written to Cherwell with their views.

**The Brambles, Main Street** - The Parish Council had no objections to the application for an extension.

**Blue Plaque** - Everything was reported in place for the unveiling of the plaque on 25 September [*see front cover*] and Cllr Robert Adams was very pleased with the plaque itself. Repairs had been made to the eastern gable of the Church Room, although a villager expressed disappointment with the quality of the pointing.

**Allotments** - Payment and signed agreements were still outstanding from three allotment holders and two allotments appeared to have had little attention. Overall, however, Cllr Anne Hoggins said she was delighted with the rejuvenation of the allotments.

**Grit Bins** - The bins on Crossing Lane and Fenny Compton Road appear to have disappeared. The Parish Council is to investigate and will also reconsider the location of a bin on the corner of Manor Park.

**New clerk** - Parish Council Chair David Hill congratulated clerk Sue Morgan on her hard work to date.

**Courier praised** - Cllr Hill drew attention to the inclusion of the *Courier* in an ORCC book celebrating examples of outstanding contributions to local communities. [*See page 3*]

Next Parish Council meeting: Tuesday 9 November, Church Room, 7.30pm. All welcome.

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**BUNGALOW SWAP** - I have a two bed bungalow in the village of North End, 10 miles from Banbury. I would like a two bed bungalow in Claydon. Contact Mandy on 07799 530212.



## **The Red Lion, Cropredy**

Hello Dear Reader,

Do you realise that by the time that you will be reading this our own local that was, The Sun Rising, just behind the Church, will have been closed 20 years, time flies so they say.



1500s. The place is now very warm and full of folk, most of them having good food on a Saturday night. It is the food that seems to have given them the good name, quite a few Claydonians have

told me of the VFM food.

A pub in Fenny Compton, the Merrie Lion was being painted on the outside and generally sorted on the inside. Well it shut for a bit while this was going on, then opened for a few hours, then opened longer. I thought: 'This looks good. I will give it a try for my Dear Reader.' I couldn't do it one Saturday night, so do it next week I thought. But bang! it was shut, as in the shutters are up; closed for good! This also applies to the Three Pigeons in Banbury on the main set of traffic lights that has been shut for about four months. Shame, it was a nice little pub, very unique with the bars below the road-pavement level. Likewise, The Lion at North End has been closed for a few months now, but a good sign there is that the place is up for rent, not just closed to be sold as a house, etc. It was a pub that was good for the Boys over at the army camp, not too far to walk/stagger home!

Still, we have a few watering holes left, like the Red Lion in very local Cropredy. It has been there since the

They have three real ales on tap, the Sparkler is removed all the time; you have to ask to have it on, now that makes nice change. I find the beer choice good, but a touch uppish on price for a village pub that sells lots of grub: £3.30 for a pint of Adnams Broadside, the other two are cheaper, up to you. (On the price of a pint, it is now £4.50 for a pint of cider at Helidon Lakes Golf Club, wow!)

The other thing about the Red Lion is that the place is like a rabbit warren. My friend went to the Gents, he thought he was going to end up in Claydon. It all adds to the character of the place, parking is OK as long as you have a small car, I think you can get five cars in the car park, it is at the rear of the pub. You could try to park outside, make sure you turn your mirrors in though. I would try to park elsewhere and walk, it will be worth it. Overall, it is a nice place and not far from us, over to you.

Cheers!

**Pete**



# Coming up...

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

- **Tuesday 9 November, 7.30pm**  
**Parish Council Meeting**  
Church Room [*Public meeting - all villagers welcome*]
- **Saturday 13 November, 10am-3pm**  
**Farnborough Craft Fair**  
Farnborough Village Hall and Church
- **Saturday 13 November, 6pm onwards**  
**Claydon Bonfire Night**  
Playing Field  
[*See page 6*]
- **Sunday 5 December, 4pm onwards**  
**Claydon Christmas Event**  
Churchyard/Church Room  
[*See page 3*]

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

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

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## ***Claydon & Clattercote Courier***

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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.

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