

# Claydon with Clattercote Newsletter

January 2012

## ADDITIONAL NEW BUS SERVICE

County Connect, a new type of bus service, that has been operating for some time in Northamptonshire, has been extended to include the villages of Claydon, Cropredy, Great Bourton, Little Bourton and Wardington .

You can request when you travel between any assigned stops within the designated area in Banbury or to another village. It operates from 7 am to 7 pm on Monday to Friday and from 8 am to 6 pm on Saturday and journeys must be completed by these times. The service will not replace scheduled services which are suitable but will connect with them.

The pick-up point in Claydon is at the junction of Main Street and Mollington Road.

The service is open to all residents, but first they must register, either online at [www.county-connect.co.uk](http://www.county-connect.co.uk) or by telephone on 0845 456 4474. Full details of the service are on the website and in the Welcome Pack sent to you shortly after registering.

Journeys must be pre-booked either by e-mail or telephone (as above) or by texting 'CountyConnect' followed by a space then your message to 82727. Bookings can be made up to an hour before travel and up to a week in advance. It is on a 'first come first served' basis, so bookings are entirely dependent on availability.

Fares are based on the distance travelled and Concessionary Travel Passes are valid from 9.30 am on weekdays and all day on Saturdays.

The buses offer easy access with space for shopping, luggage and one wheelchair. They are fitted with seat belts for passenger safety. Drop off and pick up points in Banbury include the Horton Hospital, the Railway Station, and supermarkets Morrisons, Sainsburys and Tesco.

## ROAD CLOSURE

From 6<sup>th</sup> February the Cropredy to Williamscot Road will be closed, except for access, for structural carriageway patching, from the A361 to the Cropredy canal bridge. It is anticipated that the work will be completed by 22<sup>nd</sup> February but a closure order for 18 months has been obtained, to cover any unforeseen circumstances.

## PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET INCREASED

At the Parish Council meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> January, attended by District Councillor Ken Attack and 12 members of the public, the major item for discussion was the budget for the coming year. Apologies for non-attendance were received from County Councillor George Reynolds.

The budget was set at **£6919** but because of the difficult economic times the Village Precept was only increased from **£3800** to **£4000**. However in order to achieve this all available reserves will be utilised and there is no contingency fund to cover any unforeseen expenses. As the Tax Base, the number of houses in the village liable for Council Tax, has increased, the impact on each household will be marginal.

The individual items were agreed as follows:

**Playing Field £1000** There was some disagreement over the amount of the grant, particularly as the Playing Field Committee bank balance currently stands at almost £6000. A sum of £500 had been set in the draft budget but after heated discussion this was increased to £1000 and agreed by a majority of 3 to 2.

**Churchyard mowing £500** A condition of the grant is that each cut will be billed as it occurs and not as a lump sum at the end of the year. There is serious vole damage in one particular section of the graveyard and Dorothy Beckett is keen to organise a working party to repair this. If you are interested in helping please call Dorothy on 690322.

**Clerk's Salary and Expenses £1270 plus £250** This figure is in line with the officially recommended payment for parish clerks.

**Election £959** This figure is up from £350 last year as Cherwell District Council has withdrawn any subsidy it provided in previous years. There is a legal obligation to set aside these funds but the expectation is that they will not be required.

**Insurance £700** The Parish Council must review all of the village assets (eg. the noticeboard, the village pump and all of the playing field equipment) before June in order to ensure that they are correctly valued for insurance purposes.

**Church Room Grant £500** It was agreed that the money will only be paid when the agreed refurbishment is about to take place.

**Diamond Jubilee Grant £250** A grant will be made to help any Diamond Jubilee Celebrations take place when an organising committee has been formed.

**Training £300** New planning laws etc may necessitate attendance at seminars each costing in the region of £45.50 excluding travel.

Other items such as **Repairs and Maintenance (£200)**, **Subscriptions (£250)**, **Audit (£200)**, **Church Room Hire (£80)**, **Miscellaneous (£50)**, **Donation to Cluster Care (£50)** and **VAT (£360)**, brought the total budget to **£6919**.

## **PLANNING ISSUES**

### **Manor Farm**

The application to convert an existing outbuilding to residential accommodation has been approved by Cherwell District Council (CDC) and work is now going ahead.

### **Clattercote Priory Farm**

The application for a pig weaner unit next to the railway line has been approved by CDC.

### **Wind Turbines**

The application for a wind monitoring mast between Shotteswell and Hanwell was refused by the CDC Planning Committee despite a recommendation for approval by the Planning Officer.

### **Croprey Marinas**

CDC has approved both of the applications for marinas in Croprey.

## **PREPARATIONS FOR WINTER**

The salt for replenishment of the village bin has now been delivered and is kindly being stored by Councillor Hoggins.

## **BUS SHELTER REQUEST**

Requests for a village bus shelter have frequently been made in the past and always refused as there was deemed to be no suitable location. Councillor Jones suggested that a shelter could be sited on the Top Village Green at the end of Manor Park. There was no support for this suggestion.

## **PLAYING FIELD NEWS**

As a first phase of the project to improve drainage on the Playing Field work is due to proceed on clearing the ditch on the Appletree Road side of the field and cutting back the hedge.

A bench is due to be installed in memory of John and Connie Lloyd.

## **NEXT COFFEE MORNING**

The first coffee morning of the New Year will be on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 10.30 am in the Church Room.

## **ROYAL MAIL COLLECTIONS**

With the future of Cropredy Post Office uncertain, it is worth reminding villagers that Royal Mail collections are made on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from Veronica Purdey's house at 7 Boddington Road in addition to the usual collections from the box opposite the church. As Veronica has a franking machine with a 'Banbury' post mark, she is able to process letters and small packets up to 2.5Kg (just under 5lbs) without the need to visit a post office. As a neighbourly gesture, Veronica is willing to process villagers' mail if they call between the hours of 9 and 12 on her normal collection days. The postage cost is the same as charged at a post office. As this is not an official post office, proof of postage can only be given for recorded deliveries.

## **HISTORY SOCIETY**

The next meeting of the Claydon History Society will be on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30 pm in the Church Room.

## **OVER SIXTIES FILMS**

The first film showing of the year will take place in the Church Room at 2.00 p.m. on

### **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February**

starring Philip Seymour Hoffman, Bill Nighy, Nick Frost,  
Rhys Ifans and Kenneth Branagh in

### **The Boat that Rocked**

Events on a pirate radio station in the 1960s - a love story  
with the music of the time.

A full programme of films for 2012 is available on a separate sheet. If you are interested and do not receive a flyer please call Thelma Tibbetts on 690574. Funding has not yet been confirmed for films from April onwards. The Newsletter will publish an update of the situation in the next issue.

## **HORTON UPDATE**

In December representatives of the Oxford University Hospitals Trust indicated that if the present issues of delayed transfers of care (better known as bed-blockers) are solved the number of beds at the Horton will be reduced by 25%.

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