

Claydon with Clattercote Newsletter

September 2012

ARRON POSTED TO AFGHANISTAN



Arron relaxing at home before his departure

On September 24th, Lieutenant Arron Broughton RM will be departing for a seven month tour in Afghanistan. He will be located in Helmand Province and be in charge of a troop providing support and security to Afghan police manning a checkpoint. He will be surviving mainly on basic rations with the occasional treat being a stay at a camp where they have a galley.

An essential part of the work will be appreciating the culture of the local police and the rest of the population. Actions and words which may seem quite innocuous to Westerners can be deeply offensive to Afghans and as such result in a life threatening situation.

We wish Arron every success in this posting and a safe return.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The following items were discussed at the Parish Council Meeting and the Playing Field Trustee Meeting on 11th September. The Parish Council Meeting was attended by District Councillor Ken Attack.

Dangerous Dogs

Attempts to invite the Dog Warden to attend a Parish Council Meeting have failed as it is against District Council policy. Complaints must go through the normal bureaucratic channels... It was stressed that there is only one dog warden for the whole of the Cherwell District. It was reported that on 10th September a lady had been bitten on the leg while walking in the village. Cllr. Mutch offered to take up the complaint if he is given the details by the person involved.

Bus Service

The bus service is now back to normal following three stoppages during the road closures. On two occasions the service failed to restart when expected, both times on a Saturday when Stagecoach could not be contacted. On 8th September, Cathy Bodily kindly drove the passengers into Banbury when the bus failed to turn up. Thanks to Cathy and to the Claydon Fox for providing a first class shuttle service.

The Parish Council resolved to make a formal complaint to Stagecoach.

Planning

The appeal against the decision to refuse planning permission for three chalet bungalows in the garden of Far Close has been dismissed. The Cherwell Local Plan is currently at the consultation stage. Permitted building in the village would still be restricted to infill and conversions. It was pointed out that the proposed housing limits for estates in the countryside have been reduced, so that if three houses are built together at least one must be affordable.

Finance

The Chairman reported an income for the financial year of £4876 (to include the final instalment of the precept on 14th September) and expenditure of £4490. An invoice for £500 was paid for cutting the churchyard. It was stressed that the £500 budgeted was just a contribution towards grass cutting. Any further cuts are the responsibility of the Parochial Church Council (PCC).

Grant Application Forms

The forms which will come into effect in October were finalised. They will be required to be submitted by any organisation wanting a grant from the Parish Council, such as the Playing Field Management Committee, the PCC, the Church Room Committee and the Cluster Care Group.

Church Room Project

The Chairman reported notification from Michael O'Donovan that no figures were yet available but receipts were expected from recent fundraising events plus a significant contribution from Bibby Financial Services, thanks to Vicky Smith.

Allotments

The Chairman reported that a few allotments were being actively cultivated but some were less so and it was considered that this would create problems with the transfer of weeds from the bad to the good. Letters were to be sent to the inactive gardeners.

Claydon Crossing

At the last meeting it was reported that some trains gave no audible signal when approaching Claydon Crossing. Network Rail has confirmed that trains should always give a signal in the day. If they fail to do so the date, time and direction of travel should be reported to the train company involved and to Network Rail Community Relations, on 0845 711 4141 or via their website :

<http://www.networkrail.co.uk/contact-us/online-forms/general-enquiries/> .

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)

Personnel changes at OCC have delayed progress on several issues but the new Area Response Manager is scheduled to visit the village on Wednesday 19th September.

OCC has confirmed that it is the owner of the verge in front of Home Farm and the verge on the Appletree Road. The ditch along the Appletree Road is the responsibility of the respective landowners. Thames Water are therefore to be approached regarding the clearance of the section of the ditch adjacent to the sewerage works.

Other areas of concern were overhanging vegetation at the junctions of Main Street with Crossing Lane and with Fenny Compton Road, and whether the blue brick path should be sprayed at this time of year with the dead vegetation then left to go slippery during the winter.

Playing Field

The Playing Field management Committee reported a balance of £5311.

The next event will be the bonfire on Saturday 3rd November.

Crime Wave Continues.

Thefts have occurred of electric fencing and equipment from a field and a trough and statue from a garden. **If you see anything suspicious please telephone police on 101 with information or 999 for an immediate response if a crime is taking place.**

Best Wishes

to Rev. Pat Freeth on her retirement to Gloucestershire.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS FOR OUR CHILDREN

All children are invited to the Church Room on Friday 9th November between 3.00 to 4.30 p.m. to help to create a display which will then be on show during the Christmas season.

There will be a Children's Christmas Party on Friday 14th December from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. in the Church Room. Contact Tara on 690965 for more details.

ELECTRIC BLANKET TESTING

Free electric blanket safety checks are taking place in Banbury on 9th October. If required, Dorothy Beckett is willing to book several slots and take all of the blankets for testing. Please contact her as soon as possible on 690322 if you are interested in having a blanket tested.

POSTAL SERVICES

Many thanks to Veronica Purdey for her help to villagers in providing her letter and parcel posting service. Unfortunately this has had to be discontinued because of increased costs.

OVER SIXTIES FILMS

The next film showings will be

Water for Elephants on Friday 19th October

An addition to the published programme is

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel on Friday 2nd November

Both will take place in the Church Room at 2.00 p.m.

COMMENT

Many communities are planting wild flowers in their churchyards in projects to help bees and other wildlife. The north and north east sections of the churchyard in Claydon would be suitable for such a project. Once set up it would require just one annual cut, therefore offering an added benefit of reducing maintenance costs.

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Whilst every care is taken the Editor accepts no responsibility for errors, omissions or their consequences.