

Claydon with Clattercote Newsletter

May 2013

WELCOME HOME ARRON

Arron Broughton has returned safely from Afghanistan. On 16th May, he joined the rest of 40 Commando in a parade through Taunton, where the unit is based, to celebrate their return from their last tour of duty to Afghanistan. Afterwards campaign medals were presented by the Duke of Edinburgh, Captain General of the Royal Marines. Martin's account of the day appears later in this issue.



Martin and Arron Broughton after the parade

Arron received a glowing end of tour appraisal. He was classed as performing above the standard expected in all respects. During this tour of operational duties he held the acting rank of Captain, and the official promotion is likely to take place in September.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting took place at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 14th May with a new format. The Meeting began with addresses by guest speakers who provided an insight into the work of their respective organisations. The meeting concluded with questions from members of the public on the written reports which had been submitted by village organisations in advance. It was agreed that the new format was a great improvement on previous years when reports had been read out. However, it was accepted that the public had insufficient time in which to read the reports before asking questions.

Councillor Ken Atack on the work of Cherwell District Council (CDC)

The Local Plan for the Cherwell District is currently at the consultation stage and is likely to progress to an eventual public enquiry by August. It includes the allocations of future housing development. Claydon is part of a cluster of villages based around Cropredy. The allocation for the cluster is around 50 houses to be built over a 20 year period. As Cropredy has most of the amenities, it is likely the majority of houses will be built there, but the total will be reduced by any small developments in the rest of the cluster. In the case of Claydon, only infilling or barn / dwelling conversions will be permitted.

The major housing development is to take place in the urban areas with, for example, 8,000 homes planned for Bicester (5,000 for the Eco-town and 3,000 for south west Bicester) and the potential for more as redundant MOD sites become available.

In terms of affordable housing, there are approx 3800 households currently on the waiting list. CDC is looking to promote affordable housing through a Community Land Trust and also with registered providers such as Sanctuary Housing, much of which will be based on developer contributions as market site planning permissions are granted.

CDC provides financial support to the Citizens Advice Bureau branches in Banbury and Bicester to operate a Volunteer transport scheme through which registered residents can be driven to hospital appointments etc. at an indicative cost of 50p per mile as travelled by the driver. Cropredy are currently considering setting up such a scheme which could be utilised by Claydon residents subject to the scheme going ahead. Cropredy already has its own informal scheme, similar to the Claydon Car Service. Mention

was also made of the service provided by County Connect, the pre booked bus service running through Claydon to Banbury.

CDC continues to investigate ways of reducing administration costs. It already shares a chief executive, senior staff and several departmental functions including the finance team with South Northants District Council and is also looking to collaborate with Stratford upon Avon Council over sharing human resources and IT services.

Councillor Attack confirmed he remains available to support and help residents who require advice on Council services and continues to work alongside the Parish Council on local projects as required.

Linda Watson, Chief Executive, Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC)

Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC) was created in 1920 as a registered charity. It provides advice and support to rural communities in several areas, including affordable housing, transport schemes, village shops and community halls.

ORCC has helped the Church Room Committee through the process to obtain a grant (from Oxfordshire County Council) for refurbishment of the building. It also analysed the data collected in the recent transport survey, producing a report of the findings and forwarded it to OCC. (Hopefully the report will influence the decision when the bus service contract is reviewed).

One area in which the organisation is currently busy is assisting community halls in obtaining grants for energy audits, and if necessary follow up grants for any recommended work to be done. Should the village proceed with setting up a separate charity for administration of the Church Room, ORCC would be able to offer help.

ORCC can also help villages in developing a Community Led Plan. Such a plan can be helpful in determining the priorities of the residents and planning for the future.

ORCC is acting as the support organisation for Healthwatch Oxfordshire the new consumer champion to promote better outcomes in health and social care across the county.

The following summary contains details of the main points reported by most of the organisations represented and the responses to the questions raised.

Claydon with Clattercote Parish Council

For the new financial year 2013/2014 the Parish Council has set the expenditure budget at £6007 incl. VAT. With a predicted income of £4324 incl. VAT there is a shortfall of £1683 between income and expenditure. The Council has taken the view (as last year) that around £1000 budgeted for statutory obligations will not be spent.

Within the budget, £1500 has been allowed for grants to village organisations: £500 for the Parochial Church Council towards maintenance of the churchyard; £500 for the Playing Field Management Committee towards maintenance of the Playing Field; £500 for the Church Room Committee subject to conditions.

Claydon Playing Field Management Committee (PFMC)

A new committee member was gained in David Wicks, to bring the total to 5. In addition, the PFMC is grateful for those volunteers who regularly turn up to help out with events.

Funds were raised by hiring out the marquee and the Bonfire Night event. Other funds raised from the Summer Fun Day and Dog Show (£638) were donated entirely to the Parochial Church Council and the Church Room Restoration Project. An additional donation of £500 was also made to the Church Room Restoration Project.

Major expenditure during the year was £957.58 for the erection of a new fence on the open side of the Play Area and the re-painting of the existing fence, and £825 for grass cutting. Other expenditure included £234.85 for the purchase of a new dog-poop dispenser and bags and £80 for goal netting.

Forecast expenditure for 2013 is £5,131, with £3,000 ring-fenced for the purchase of new play equipment. Funds will be raised (though the proceeds may be shared) by the Summer Fun Day & Dog Show on 20th July, Claydon Games on 18th August and Bonfire Night on 2nd November.

Claydon Parochial Church Council (PCC)

After the departure of Rev Pat Freeth at the end of 2012, St James the Great is currently in a period of interregnum. Services have mostly continued as normal under the leadership of Rev Lynda Alcock, with local

clergy and lay members also leading services. It is hoped that a new vicar will be appointed by the end of the summer.

The PCC has experienced a difficult year financially and was only able to meet half of the £7,000 Parish Quota required to be paid to the Diocese. The implications of the shortfall do not appear to be serious in the short term, but Keith Hamilton stated that repeated shortfalls could eventually result in the closure of the church.

Pete Keaney's cutting of the grass in the churchyard has greatly improved its appearance, but as the grant from the Parish Council does not cover the total cost, the PCC has to make up the difference. A suggestion to reduce the cost of cutting and benefitting the environment by planting the unused half of the churchyard with wild flowers appears to have been misunderstood by the PCC. They have assumed that the existing grass would be left to grow wild, (rather than the area being replanted), creating an eyesore in the most prominent area of the village.

The Church Room Committee

The plans for 2013 are the improvement of the toilet facilities by enlarging the space and installing new sanitary ware. The creation of a separate charity to be taken over by the community is not included in the plans. Although Keith Hamilton is adamant that the Church Room is a continual drain on PCC finances, other options are being explored in order to avoid the separation.

David Hill expressed concerns that the structure of the committee is not as agreed by Rev Freeth in her original meeting when the project was set up. (The committee currently consists of 4 PCC members and 2 community members. Funds are controlled by the treasurer of the PCC who is not a member of the committee and does not attend meetings). He was assured by Keith Hamilton that the current committee is there only to oversee the refurbishment.

Claydon Trust

The Claydon Trust provided a free Diamond Jubilee Commemorative Mug for all children aged 11 and under who were living in the parish. The remainder were either sold or used as a gift for the Claydon Senior Citizens at their Christmas lunch.

The Trust also held a Diamond Jubilee Draw in aid of the Church Room Restoration Project and donated £200 for the prize money. This raised £631 in ticket sales plus £10 donation.

A loan of £200 was made to the Church Room Committee to help the cash flow during the first phase of the improvements. The loan has been repaid in full.

Neighbourhood Watch

Residents are urged to be vigilant. The village has been the victim of number plate theft, with the stolen plates invariably used for crime. Anti theft screws for number plates can be obtained from Halfords.

Other problems to be aware of include the theft of scrap metal, domestic heating oil and catalytic converters.

Claydon Jubilee Group

In June the Group celebrated its 10th anniversary with a party that was free to all. It also held a concert in aid of the Church Room Restoration Project. The group donated the refreshments for this and raised £306.

Claydon History Society

The highlight of the year was a talk on “The Clockmakers of England” by Gerald Marsh, a Freeman and Liverman of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers. Gerald brought a number of examples of fine watches and clocks which were passed around the audience for close inspection.

The society also hosted a visit by Heather and Marty Acree from Fresno, California. Heather’s ancestors, the Boremans were a prominent Claydon family in the 16th Century.

Claydon Village Website

During the last 14 months the website has grown in size and content.. The Community Content section contains agendas and minutes from Parish Council and PFMC meetings in addition to Neighbourhood Watch information and information on other village groups. Other framework includes Screen Splash, Diary Page, Gallery Page, and Ticker Tape style News Feed.

Claydon Poor’s Land Trust

The Poor’s Trust received a total income of £422.56 with £459 paid out in benefits to 31 recipients. The shortfall was taken from the Contingency Fund.

Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch

Ten Claydon senior citizens enjoyed a meal at the Bell Inn, Great Bourton. Thanks to the generosity of Morrisons Supermarket and the Claydon Trust, everyone received a raffle prize and a Diamond Jubilee Commemorative Mug filled with chocolates. Several of the more elderly citizens who were unable to attend the lunch received either a raffle prize or a Jubilee Mug.

Claydon Car Service

The Car Service remains active, but as Cropredy Surgery now offers a prescription delivery service, the need to call on the service has reduced.

Cluster Care Day Opportunities Centre

The centre has continued its excellent work in providing a weekly opportunity for the lonely, frail and elderly in Cropredy and the villages to socialise, be entertained and take part in activities designed to stimulate the body and the brain. They enjoy a hot two-course lunch supplied by the Green Pantry in Cropredy.

The grant from Oxfordshire County Council, which in the past has covered the hire of the Pavilion, the paid staff and insurance), is expected to be cut this year. In addition to any shortfall in this area, significant fundraising is necessary to cover the entertainment expenses.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the Parish Council Meeting which followed the Annual Parish Meeting on 14th May and was attended by Councillors George Reynolds and Ken Attack, the following items were discussed:

RECYCLING BANKS

Concern was expressed regarding bottle recycling banks to be sited in the lay-by on the Appletree Road next to the sewerage works. Main issues were the proximity to the Playing Field, the frequency of maintenance and the risk of fly tipping. It was therefore decided not to proceed.

VILLAGE TREES

The village trees have all been pruned and the hedge on the Boddington Road has been cut.

ROAD SURFACES AND POTHOLES

Maurice Sheehan, Area Steward for OCC Highways Cherwell Division was due to attend the Annual Parish Meeting but sent his apologies. However, he has agreed to visit the village in person to inspect the areas of concern.

A423 ROAD SIGNS

New road signs have been ordered and are expected to be installed within the next few weeks.

THAMES WATER

A contractor has been employed to clear out the ditch next to the sewerage works.

PLANNING ISSUES

Wind Turbines

The decision of Stratford DC on Stoneton Wind Farm has been postponed until September. Permission has been granted for the wind turbine at Boddington Reservoir. A new application has been made for a wind farm at Hill Farm, Byfield.

CLAYDON CROSSING

The Office of Rail Regulation has been contacted regarding the failure of some train drivers to sound a horn when approaching the crossing, but no reply has yet been received. It was agreed to inform the firm that is currently working for Network Rail on safety issues.

ALLOTMENTS

Two allotments are shortly to become available. If you are interested please contact Louise Ashton, the Parish Clerk on 07810 441682 or claydonwithclattercotepc@yahoo.co.uk.

FINANCE

Although the Parish Precept remained unchanged, the difference in the calculation as a result of implementation of a new Council Tax Reduction Scheme by CDC resulted in the 0.2% increase shown on Council Tax Statements.

BUS SHELTER

The Parish Council continues to disagree on the siting of a bus shelter. Although the present bus stop is in the safest place possible, councillors continue to press for a more central site even though this would place

returning passengers in the unsafe situation of alighting on the verge at the corner of Main Street and Mollington Road.

Photographs of different shelter designs were circulated. One preference expressed was for a modern glass shelter to reduce the possibility of graffiti. Councillor Jones is to prepare costings but funding remains a problem.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL SPRING CLEAN

The village took part in the CDC Spring Clean around the village, plus the Cropredy, Mollington, Appletree Roads and Crossing Lane between 20th to 28th April, with the main activity on the Playing Field on Saturday 27th April.



The items collected included a car bumper, a tyre, part of a greenhouse frame, 4 bags landfill, 1 bag cans 1½ bags plastic (bottles and car parts), and ½ dozen glass bottles (1 milk bottle returned to captivity). More interesting items includes a large right boot, a cycle helmet and more than ½ dozen female body spray aerosols.

CROPREDY POST OFFICE

A Post Office service began operation from the Red Lion from Monday 29th April. The opening hours are Mondays and Wednesdays from 9.30 to 13.30. The service includes DVLA facilities and a Euros on Demand Bureau de Change.

40 Commando Parade and Award Ceremony

My day started early, with a journey starting at 5.30. I was in Taunton town centre by 8.30 only to find the town centre roads had closed an hour earlier. Getting parked was not too bad and I joined the many hundreds of people already in the town centre in choosing the best place to stand. The Parade started about 10.00 and the crowds had expanded into thousands with just about every public media camera there recording the event. The Parade was led by the Band of the Royal Marines followed by 'A' company dressed in green 'Lovats', the service dress. The rest of 40 Commando followed wearing their standard desert uniform. In total some 700 men took part in the Parade. Arron followed his company commander leading 'C' Company.



Arron is first left of the lamp post

Arron was selected as part of the Captain General, the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Phillip's welcoming party and I was privileged to be his chosen guest. As such I left the town parade early as I was instructed to be at Norton Manor (40 commando HQ) by 11.00 am. I had a special invitation and pass entitling me to access the main gates ahead of others. Following the official photo shoot of marines and dignitaries with the Duke of

Edinburgh outside the officers' mess, both Arron and I met the Duke of Edinburgh inside. Arron was formally introduced. We both shook hands with the Prince following some slight confusion caused by me putting my hand forward first. I don't think HRH was too bothered but Arron found it amusing that I could fluff such a simple thing as a hand shake.

Following lunch at the officers' mess the award ceremony then took place on the sports ground. It was a perfect day weather wise, beautifully sunny but not too hot. Arron handed service medals to his troops as part of a well rehearsed order of events. There was lots of 'sergeant major shouting', marching and of course the Band of the Royal Marines. The day was well organised and catered very much for families. Food, drink and entertainment went on well into the evening for those who wanted to hang around. After another more relaxed and informal visit to the officers' mess I eventually parted company around 6.00pm from Arron who was staying down there until after the weekend.

I am hoping he will start his well earned leave but somehow feel he is so into his work that he will continue to get involved. I know he has already visited Commando Training Centre Royal Marines (CTCRM) ahead of his new job as a training officer. In some ways I believe it's what he does, it's what he lives and breathes. In much the same way as farming, there is always something to do. I guess it's that kind of dedication that earns him the kind of respect from his seniors and lead to the amazing reports he earns.

Martin Broughton



The Citizens Advice Bureau now provides a free friendly service to over 65 year olds in Oxfordshire called Community Connect.

They are looking for volunteers to visit older people, to help them find out about services and activities they require such as community

transport schemes, specialist equipment for the home, social activities, personal care and IT and Computer help.

For more information on becoming a volunteer, or if you would like to use the service, please contact the CAB on 01608 648099 or communityconnect@wocab.org.uk

Congratulations

to Georgina Gage Smith and partner Lewis on the birth of Oliver Michael.

OPEN GARDEN

As part of the National Garden Scheme, Ken and Susan Atack will be opening their garden at Eaves Cottage, Williams Scot, on **Sunday 2nd June** from 2.00 pm to 5.00pm. There will be homemade teas and a plant stall. The entrance fee will be £4 for adults with children admitted free. Proceeds will be donated to the National Garden Scheme Charities and Pancreatic Cancer.

CLAYDON HISTORY SOCIETY

The next meeting of the Claydon History Society will take place on **Monday 3rd June** at 7.30 pm in the Church Room.

OVER SIXTIES FILMS

Although Age UK were unable to show the planned film 'Kiss Me Kate' on 19th April the substitute 'Paint Your Wagon' was enjoyed by the majority of the audience. 'Kiss Me Kate' will be included in the schedule for showing at a later date.

The next film showing will be '**Salmon Fishing in the Yemen**' at 2.00 p.m. on **Friday 28th June** in the Church Room

CONCERT IN THE CHURCH

Following the successful concert that kicked off the Jubilee Weekend in 2012, **IMPROMTU** will be returning to perform a different programme of songs on **Saturday 13th July at 7.30 pm**. They will be supported by the Cropredy Hand Bell Ringers.

Bookings can be made in advance at £6 per person, to include a drink and nibbles, by contacting Thelma Tibbetts on 690574. Any proceeds from the event will be added to Jubilee Group Funds for possible distribution to a good cause at the end of the year.

Written and produced by Jenny Jones

with thanks to Martin Broughton and Ken Atack

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