

# Claydon with Clattercote Newsletter

July 2013

## CONCERT ON A SUMMER EVENING



### **The full ensemble accompanied by pianist Wendy Green**

After such a successful visit during the Diamond Jubilee Weekend in 2012, *Impromptu* returned to the village on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July to perform a varied selection of songs from musicals to light opera including 'An American Tail', 'Les Miserables', 'Chicago', 'South Pacific', 'Oliver', 'Iolanthe' and 'Paganini'. They were ably supported by the Cropredy Handbell Ringers who performed before and after the interval.

The event was organised by Thelma Tibbetts, with flower arrangements by Dorothy Beckett and Sylvia Ingram, on behalf of the Claydon Jubilee Group. Thanks also to Veronica Purdey for the tickets and cheese straws. The profit of around £130 from the event will be added to Jubilee Group funds for later distribution to a good cause. Although the group usually awards a grant at the end of the year, £200 has already been designated towards the cost of replacing the main door to the Church Room.



**Gareth Jeremy braving the heat to perform 'The Sentry's Song' from 'Iolanthe' in costume**



**Sue Adkinson performing 'All That Jazz' from 'Chicago'**

*Photographs courtesy of Clive Mutch*

# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the Parish Council Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> July, the following items were discussed:

## **ROAD SURFACES AND POTHOLES**

Maurice Sheehan, Area Steward for OCC Highways Cherwell Division once again sent apologies for not visiting the village in person. However, his colleague, Tracy Morton had recently visited the village and, accompanied by two parish councillors, inspected every road in the village. As a result 95% of the potholes had been filled. Potholes are apparently inspected every 6 months.

## **BLUE BRICK PATH**

Tracy Morton's visit also highlighted a problem with Oxfordshire County Council administration. Budget cuts have meant that work which has been contracted out may not be inspected due to lack of available staff. The poor standard of the work completed on the blue brick path by contractors was noted and will be corrected.

## **PLANNING ISSUES**

### **Threeways End**

The Parish Council had no objections to an application for an extension of the garage for conversion to an office. It will be necessary to remove some trees, but replacements will be planted once building work is complete.

### **Point to Point Farm**

The planning consent for a temporary dwelling (log cabin) is due to expire on 26<sup>th</sup> August. The owner has apparently been informed by Cherwell District Council that a re-application will be necessary to extend the consent. It was also remarked that a condition of the consent was that there should be planting to screen the barns, but nothing had been done.

### **Wind Turbines**

Byfield Parish Council has allegedly approved a further wind turbine at Boddington Reservoir.

## **CHURCH ROOM**

The Parish Council now has all of the required information to make an application for the Church Room to become an Asset of Community Value. Once granted, a certain amount of protection will be in place should the Diocese decide to sell the building.

## **OXFORD CANAL**

It was reported that the Parish Council had received a letter from Mr and Mrs Whitaker of Poplars Farm, complaining that the Parish Council and the villagers of Claydon were harassing narrowboat owners on the plots that they sold adjacent to Otter Hollow. This claim was strongly refuted. It was agreed that the Chairman would write to the Whitakers, stating that as far as the Parish Council is concerned the matter was closed over a year ago.

## **ALLOTMENTS**

At the time of the meeting rent was outstanding on 3 plots. The Chairman stated that strimming and spraying was urgently required on plots 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 13, 16, and 17. Councillor Simmonds assured Councillors that he was in contact with all of the plot owners and had the situation in hand. It was remarked from the floor that if nothing was done in the following two weeks, thistle and dock seeds would have spread and set.

One of the vacant allotments has been taken. Councillor Hoggins suggested that one should be made available to children, but the Chairman stated that if this happened there should still be a responsible adult in charge of the plot.

## **FINANCE**

After having received the first instalment of the precept and the allotment income, and paying the annual grants for grass cutting to the Playing Field Management Committee and the Parochial Church Council, plus the annual insurance premium and the membership fee for Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, the Parish Council was left with a balance of £1332. The auditors have requested details of the financial risk assessment.

## **NEW HOMES BONUS**

It was queried whether the village is entitled to a New Homes Bonus, with Manor Farm Buildings and Parrots Barn now eligible for Council Tax payments.

## **ROAD SIGNS**

Vehicles are apparently failing to notice that Manor Park is a No Through Road as the relevant sign is not seen by vehicles approaching from the Southam Road.

It was reported that there is no signage to the village at Threeways End, on the road between Lower Boddington and Wormleighton.

# PLAYING FIELD NEWS

At the Playing Field Trustee Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> July the following items were discussed:

## **Play Area Enhancement.**

A sub-committee has been formed to look into the feasibility of acquiring a new piece of play equipment. The committee will be responsible for identifying all of the options, consulting with villagers, sourcing grants and planning the implementation. The Trustee requested a progress report at the next Parish Council Meeting in September.

## **Drainage**

The conversation was heated, insulting and aggressive as councillors deliberated a change in priority of the drainage project. There has been difficulty in finding a contractor interested in doing the work. It was finally agreed that the drainage project would be put on hold for at least two years unless suitable funding could be found.

## **Grass Cutting**

The regular contractor is still being used. Plans to join forces with Wardington have not materialised. A request was made to leave a section of the field to grow wild.

## **Bonfire Damage**

It has been arranged that Adrian Taylor will roughly plough and then roll the ruts when conditions are suitable.

The next Trustee Meeting will be on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November.

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## **FEEDBACK REQUIRED**

Is there enough enthusiasm to have a Halloween party in the village? This could be in the Church Room or even the Marquee on the Playing Field. There could be hot food, decorations, ghoulish drinks, spooky music – whatever is required to make the night a fun scary evening for all! It could even start another annual Claydon event. All it takes is support from the villagers to want to have such an event, and to actually participate in running it on the night. Contact Paul Gallagher on 690119, or e-mail [Paul.Gallagher@hotmail.com](mailto:Paul.Gallagher@hotmail.com).

## MARINA NEARING COMPLETION

After months of delays due to the bad weather Cropredy Marina is still targeted to open in August, although not in time for the Cropredy Festival.

After completion of the staging, water will be pumped from the canal into the site during July. (The basin did fill up during the bad weather, but then had to be pumped out in order to complete the work.) The process will take a week for the water to reach the required level and the work will be monitored by the Canal and Rivers Trust, to ensure that canal users are not inconvenienced. The final work (including the insertion of the service pods for water and electricity) will take place with the water in place.

The construction work has had little effect on Claydon (with just the odd vehicle taking a wrong turn out of the site and having to turn around on reaching the village). It is expected that once the marina is operational the busiest time for traffic will be on bank holidays with only a small proportion passing through the village. An advantage is likely to be a greater police presence in the area with the local police having a key to the site and patrolling at intervals.



**The basin on June 30th**



## **CALLING PATIENTS & STAFF**

**Have you got concerns about**

....patient safety?

....changes to services?

....staffing levels?

....what you are being asked to do?

....something else?

Contact "Keep the Horton General"  
in complete confidence

**We need to know  
what's going on**

Email [keepthehortongeneral@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:keepthehortongeneral@hotmail.co.uk)

Message "Horton Campaigner" on facebook

## **Congratulations**

to Matthew Taylor on gaining a 2.1 degree in agricultural engineering from Harper Adams University, near Newport, Shropshire.

### **CLAYDON HISTORY SOCIETY**

The next meeting of the Claydon History Society will take place on **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August** at 7.30 pm in the Church Room.

### **CLAYDON GAMES**

Please note the change of date to **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August** from 2 to 4 pm on the Playing Field. Welly wanging, running races, rounders match (adults required for 2 teams). £1 per entry to cover costs. Medals provided to winners of events. Marquee will be erected. Tables and seating will be provided. Bring your own picnic or items to cook on the barbeque.

### **OVER SIXTIES FILMS**

The next film showing will be

## **My Week with Marilyn**

Starring Michelle Williams, Eddie Redmayne, Julia Ormond, Kenneth Branagh and Judi Dench

at 2.00 p.m. on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August** in the Church Room

While working on 'The Prince and the Showgirl' in 1956 Marilyn Monroe took a shine to a lowly assistant director.

### **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September** at 7.30 pm in the Church Room.

### **ERRATUM**

Apologies to Mrs Sandra Atack for incorrectly naming her as Susan in the May issue. The Atack's Open Garden event in June raised £700 for National Garden Scheme Charities and Pancreatic Cancer.

*Written and produced by Jenny Jones*

*with thanks to Clive Mutch*

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