

Claydon with Clattercote Newsletter

March 2014



February saw the last of the winter floods

CLAYDON DISADVANTAGED BY HORTON HOSPITAL DOWNGRADE

Of all of the places in the county of Oxfordshire, Claydon is the worst affected by the permanent withdrawal of emergency general/abdominal surgery at the Horton General Hospital. It means a trip of 35 miles to the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford.

There are actually other places in the county (around the Henley area) that are farther away from Oxford than Claydon. However in that area they are very fortunate in having viable alternatives to the John Radcliffe. Henley is only 11 miles from the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading. There is even a second choice of Wexham Park Hospital in Slough, only 16 miles away.

The big difference in our case is the ambulance service. Yes, we have patient choice and if we have the transport and are capable of driving ourselves we can go to Warwick, less than 20 miles from the village. But if we are taken by ambulance for general/abdominal surgery it will be to Oxford. The administrative boundary of South Central Ambulance service is the northern county boundary of Oxfordshire (it covers Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Hampshire). A trip to Warwick would

take the ambulance out of area, so that takes priority over the needs of the patient.

These facts were pointed out to the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) at their meeting on 27th February. It was hoped that there would be a full public consultation to consider all of the options, as had been promised when the service was suspended last year. Nevertheless the HOSC agreed to the request by Oxford University Hospitals Trust and Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group to make suspension of emergency general/abdominal surgery at the Horton permanent.

CLAYDON BUS SHELTER

At the meeting of the Parish Council on 11th March agreement was finally reached on the location of a future bus shelter on a majority vote.

Councillor Jones presented a paper recommending the current bus stop on the corner of Manor Park and the Village Green. The paper is available to view on the village website www.claydonvillage.co.uk.

The paper dismissed the suggestion of a canopy on the side of the Church Room for the following reasons:

- a) The position at the top of the Church Room steps discriminates against the disabled. It could not be used by someone in a wheelchair. Climbing and descending the steps is also a chore for the less agile.
- b) The canopy would only protect from rain blowing in one direction.
- c) One of the main requirements of the bus shelter is to provide some seating, for which there is no space.
- d) It should not obstruct users of the Church Room and vice versa. Waiting passengers could obstruct users of the Church Room entering or leaving the building and there could be congestion when the bus actually arrives.
- e) The Parochial Church Council would need to be in full agreement.

There are still obstacles to overcome, not least funding. Although the mothers with children are not opposed to the idea, there is a feeling that they would not benefit greatly as a shelter would not be large enough to accommodate all of the children plus the waiting mothers and accompanying pushchairs. As a result they would not support a large increase in the Parish Precept in order to provide the funding.

The Jubilee Group has offered to designate £100 of its reserves for a bus shelter, and also to use its account in which to accumulate any donated funds. Some villagers have expressed an interest in adding to this sum. The possibility of grants is to be explored further.

Prior to any major fundraising activity, the type of shelter needs to be determined and agreed. Councillor Jones will present suggestions for types of shelter to villagers at the Annual Parish Meeting on May 13th.

There was also the suggestion that a bench would suffice and be significantly less expensive than a shelter.

CLAYDON EASTER EVENT

in aid of the Play Area Enhancement Programme

on Sunday 20th April

from 2.00 pm to 4.00pm

in the Church Room

Come along for afternoon **tea or coffee and cake**

Try your hand at the **Crafts**

or your luck on the **Chocolate Tombola**

or take part in the

Easter Egg Hunt

THE CLAYDON CONNECTION

A rare clock, built around 1665 by Joseph Knibb (born in Claydon in 1640) was recently sold at auction for £286,800, more than double its estimated value.

ROAD CLOSURE

Station Road in Cropredy will be closed for 10 days from 7th April.

OTHER PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council Meeting on 11th March was attended by County Councillor George Reynolds. Apologies were received from District Councillor Ken Atack. The following further items were discussed:

NEW HOMES BONUS

The request for a New Homes Bonus (paid when new houses are built in the village, or when properties become eligible for Council Tax) in respect of Parrots Barn and Manor Farm Buildings was initially refused by Cherwell District Council (CDC). However, following intervention by Councillor Ken Atack it has been agreed that the village will receive £1176 in the next financial year. It will also receive diminishing sums in the following two years.

PLANNING

Manor Farm Buildings

Following the refusal of the original planning application to demolish the majority of the barn and extend the existing dwelling, a new application has been submitted. This involves building a larger property inside the existing barn, but knocking further windows into the walls. The Parish Council and some individuals have made their objections known to CDC.

Fenny Compton Road

The application for a new house on the site of the garages in Fenny Compton Road, as outlined in the January Newsletter, has been approved by CDC.

Clattercote Priory Farm

A new application for a grain store at Clattercote Priory Farm had just been received. It will be passed to individual Parish Councillors for their comments.

Point to Point Farm

The Portakabin, which is considered to be an eyesore, is due to be removed.

Mollington Wind Turbine

The Parish Council has objected to the proposed wind turbine in Mollington in support of Mollington Parish Council.

VILLAGE GREEN WALL

It was agreed the Village Green wall will be repaired but it will still not be included in the village insurance schedule.

SPEEDING

Speeding vehicles have continued to be observed in the village, including farm vehicles sweeping around the corner of Main Street and Fenny Compton Road.

It was suggested from the floor that the village could invest in speed humps. However, as street lighting is a prerequisite the village does not qualify. The Parish Council agreed to take up the offer of assistance from a villager to obtain temporary warning signs and erect them in the village, moving them around every 2 weeks. It was also agreed to borrow speed indicator equipment which flashes up the speed that the vehicle is doing, and logs the vehicle registration number, as a result of which a letter will be sent to the owner. Councillor Putt agreed to find volunteers to operate the equipment.

HIGHWAYS

Councillor Reynolds reported that an additional £1 million had been allocated for highway repairs. He urged Parish Councillors and villagers to report potholes, particularly if the repairs disintegrate within a few days. If complaints are made soon enough the contractors will not be paid for substandard work. Complaints can be made by telephoning 0845 310 1111 or via the website www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/potholes.

Concern was expressed that during the construction of HS2, the A423 has been designated as a lorry route from Ladbroke to Junction 11 of the M40.

CHURCH ROOM

The Church Room has been confirmed as an Asset of Community Value. The Church Room Committee will be invited to present its plans to the Annual Parish Meeting on 13th May.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY REVIEW

The boundaries of the district wards are currently being redrawn, as a result of which the Cropredy Ward is expected to include more villages than it does at present. There will be a briefing at Bodicote House on 31st March.

BROADBAND

The results of the village survey have been posted to CDC but as yet there has been no response. OCC has slightly modified the area in which improved broadband will be rolled out but CDC needs to clarify whether the village is included.

ALLOTMENTS

The tenancy agreement is to be reworded to stress that the plots must be maintained to a satisfactory standard. It is intended to either spray or plough the vacant plots, while the Chairman will speak to the tenants of the plots where the weeds are causing a nuisance.

The vacant plots will be also be advertised in neighbouring parishes. If any villager is interested in using a plot please contact the Parish Clerk on 07810 441682 or claydonwithclattercotepc@yahoo.co.uk.

PLAYING FIELD NEWS

A very successful Italian Night raised over £250 towards the Play Area Enhancement Programme. It is anticipated that the amount will be match funded. Sufficient funds will then be available to purchase a Play Panel after which the priorities will be a Basket Swing followed by a Playhouse.

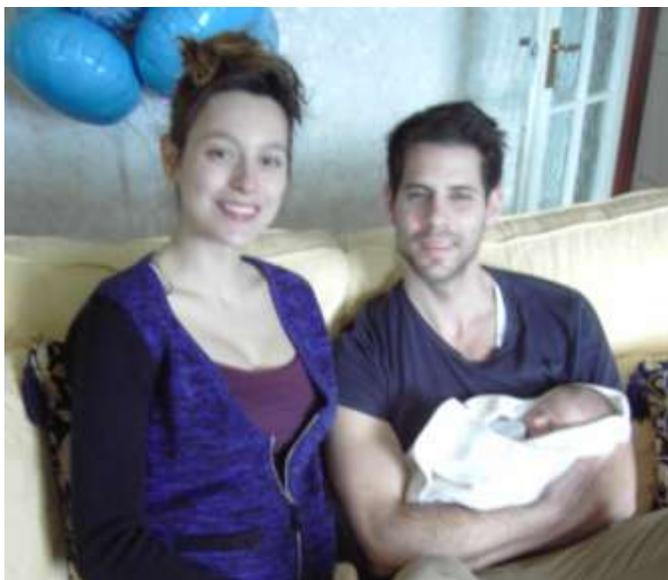
The next fundraising event will be on Easter Sunday, (see page 3) followed by a **Jumble Sale on Saturday 10th May** from 2 pm to 4pm, entry 20p. After Easter leaflets and bags will be distributed to all of the homes in the village for donations of jumble. They will be collected from the end of driveways on 7th May.

A Spring Clean will be taking place from 10.00 am on **Sunday 13th April**. CDC will be loaning gloves and pickers and providing the sacks. Volunteers are needed to walk around the village collecting litter. There may be a barbecue to follow. Watch out for notices.

CROPREDY PRE-SCHOOL EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANSA & OPEN DAY

Saturday 26th April from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm. Lots of children's activities, stalls and refreshments etc.

Congratulations



to parents Adele Broughton (Pom) and Philip Al-anazi on the birth of Douglas Al-anazi at 2.55 am on 19th March weighing 7lb 4oz.

and to Georgina Lewis (nee Gage Smith) and her husband Lewis on their marriage at Cropredy Church on 7th February.

Thanks

Margaret Bricknell thanks villagers for their good wishes and their support in attending Alan's funeral. £1000 was raised in donations to the British Heart Foundation in memory of Alan.

Help Wanted

The Cluster Care Group is in need of more volunteers to help out at the meetings on Tuesdays, and also a secretary to take minutes at committee meetings. If you can help please contact Moya Reed on 01295 758531.

Diary Dates

HISTORY SOCIETY MEETING

The next meeting of the Claydon History Society will be on **Monday 31st March** at 7.30 pm in the Church Room.

OVER SIXTIES FILMS

The next film showing will take place in the Church Room at 2.00 pm on

Friday 11th April

Starring Judi Dench in her Oscar nominated performance as

Philomena

an Irishwoman who decides to trace the illegitimate child that she was forced to give up as a teenager

also starring Steve Coogan and Sophie Kennedy Clark

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Sunday 13th April from 10.00 am.

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JUMBLE SALE

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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Tuesday 13th May at 7.00 pm in the Church Room

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 13th May at 8.00 pm in the Church Room

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