

Claydon with Clattercote Newsletter

May/June 2015



A good year for clematis

VILLAGE VOLUNTEERING AT ALL TIME LOW

The abiding theme of the Annual Parish Meeting on 12th May was the lack of volunteers for village organisations.

Only three villagers stood in the recent Parish Council elections, leaving two vacancies. The Parochial Church Council is short of two churchwardens and possibly a treasurer, in addition to needing helpers to clean the church and maintain the churchyard. The Church Room Committee needs more committed members and the Claydon History Society has experienced a fall off of attendance at recent meetings. The Claydon Car Service and the Film Club have recently closed down and even the Playing Field Management Committee is uncertain that there will be enough support to run a bonfire.

The following summary contains details of the main points included in the reports submitted by the village organisations and any questions raised.

Claydon with Clattercote Parish Council

For the financial year 2015-16 the expenditure budget is set at £6,809 incl. VAT, with a predicted income of £7,369 incl. VAT. The Council ended the financial year with a bank balance of over £6,000. £3,000 has been earmarked from the reserves towards the village bus shelter. The village precept, forming part of the Council Tax, was increased by £1,900 to £5,907 and the Council again received a grant of £93 from Cherwell District Council, resulting in a total precept of £6,000. Therefore the annual village precept for Council Tax payers in Band D is £44.05.

This year the Parish Council awarded grants of £500 to the Parochial Church Council towards upkeep of the churchyard, £1,500 to the Playing Field Management Committee towards the maintenance of the Playing Field, £200 to the Church Room Committee towards the new kitchen window, £40 towards the running of the Claydon Village Website and £50 to the Cluster Care Group in Cropredy.

The present Parish Council with just 3 members is just quorate, but if one Councillor is sick, a meeting cannot be held. If the Council receives a planning application and one member declares an interest, the remaining two cannot make a decision. The Council will therefore attempt to co-opt two more Councillors. If this fails and one of the existing trio were to leave, it would fall to District Councillor Ken Attack to form a Council. This would probably mean that Councillor Attack would sit on the Parish Council himself, and may enlist the help of County Councillor George Reynolds. The parish would then become liable for both Councillors' travel expenses. Should this fail, the Parish Council would come under the control of Cherwell District Council and the village would be liable for the proportion of the salary attributable to the time spent by the officer appointed to take on the role.

Claydon Playing Field Management Committee (PFMC)

There are 5 active members of the PFMC: Pamela Putt (Chair), Emma Gallagher (Secretary), Garry Putt, Mike Smith (Treasurer) and Emily Hunter-Higgins.

Fundraising events during the past year have included the Summer Fun Day & Dog Show, the Kids' Christmas Party, the Halloween Event, Claydon Bonfire Night, Curry Night, Claydon Games, and Jumble Sale.

The events are aimed at the whole village and the PFMC would like to see more village participation, otherwise there is a risk of fewer events in the future. In 2015 there will be a Village Fete and Dog Show on 4th July. Hopefully all of the village groups will be involved to raise funds for their own causes. Raffle tickets are currently on sale and the winners will be drawn at this event. A Jumble Sale is planned for September, but at this stage the Fireworks Night is not confirmed, due to lack of volunteers to help with the organisation and clearing up afterwards.

The break in to the container was a major set-back this year, with the generator and several other items stolen. Following payment of the insurance claim the container locks will be repaired to make it as secure as possible. Playing Field users are asked to be vigilant and report anything suspicious that they see. Some of the smaller items have been replaced, but the PFMC has decided not to replace the generator as it is still likely to be at risk. Generators can be hired when needed and if any villager has a generator that they would consider loaning for an event, the PFMC would be keen to hear from them.

In the last 12 months the Playing Field has continued to be in good condition with the grass cut regularly. Spikes have been installed at the top of the swings to prevent bird roosting, resulting in positive comments from villagers regarding the improvement. The largest expense during the period was grass cutting at £900. In order to maintain this standard in 2015-16, the expected cost of grass cutting will be £1,275 for 17 cuts at £75 per cut.

Current fundraising efforts are concentrated on a basket swing and are almost halfway towards the target. Thanks to everyone who supported the Tea and Games, raising over £180, which will be doubled by Bibby Financial Services Community Fund. An application for a grant from Aviva has been made and villagers can help by visiting www.aviva.co.uk/community fund to vote. It could mean up to £25,000 for new equipment.

Forecast expenditure for 2015-16 is £2,495, including funds for the bonfire on which a decision will be made in August/September.

If anyone is interested in running or helping out at events and wants to be included in PFMC communications, please contact Pamela Putt on 07946 509174 or Pamela.Putt@yahoo.co.uk.

Claydon Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Under the leadership of Rev Hilary Campbell, traditional communion services are held in most weeks, usually in the morning, but 6 pm Sunday services are being tried too, as that may be more convenient for some. In addition, at the suggestion of parents, some more informal family-friendly services have been held on a Sunday afternoon. These have taken the form of a short service in the church, followed by crafts and refreshments in the church room. The Harvest service in October, the Christingle, Crib and Carol Services have been particularly well attended. Feedback is welcomed on how services can be improved to suit a range of tastes and needs, perhaps an hour of silent or music-led prayer and meditation on a summer's evening? Contact Rev Hilary Campbell on 01295 730385 or email vicar@thecampbells.demon.uk.

The PCC thanks villagers for both their practical and financial support in flower arranging, grass cutting, developing the family services, contributing to the craft activities, organising fundraising events and obtaining matched funding.

As there is no longer anyone to cut the grass, someone is urgently needed on either a voluntary or modestly paid basis (the Parish Council has budgeted a grant of £500 towards this task in 2015). The only offer of help so far has been from a professional charging more than the PCC can afford on an ongoing basis.

The PCC also needs one volunteer, (or ideally several people on a rota), to vacuum, sweep and dust the church once a month or even every other month. It can be done at any time of day. Donations of cleaning materials e.g. polish and dusters would also be appreciated.

If you could help at all please contact Rev Hilary Campbell, as above, or Emma Ives on 07775 733010, email emmaives@hotmail.co.uk.

Claydon Poor's Land Trust

Rent for the field plus building society interest resulted in a total income of £502.39. A total of £404 was paid out in benefits with £98.39 added to the Contingency Fund.

The Trust now holds reserves of £1087.61

Claydon Trust

There were no requests for funds and no activities co-ordinated by the Claydon Trust in the year ending 31st December 2014. At the end of the year the balance of the account was £1147.88.

A suggestion was made that it may be time for the Claydon Trust and the Poor's Land Trust to consider a merger. Times have changed since the original Poor's Land Trust was founded in 1752. The overriding scheme is very similar to that of the Claydon Trust i.e. for the benefit of the inhabitants of Claydon.

Neighbourhood Watch

The main event this year has been the damage to the container on the Playing Field and the theft of valuable equipment. The break in would have caused considerable noise and a vehicle being parked close to the container should have given cause for concern.

Regularly in these reports it has been stated that we all need to be aware that there are people who regularly drive around looking for opportunities to steal. In the warmer months we tend to leave windows open, particularly in conservatories. Even very small windows can be entered by someone determined to find an easy entry into your home. Be aware and be warned – don't be the next victim and if you see or hear anything suspicious call the police.

Claydon Jubilee Group

The Group has continued with its coffee mornings as it has for the last 13 years. It is a tribute to all of its members for the consistent enthusiasm – there has never been a break in its continuity in all these years.

This year there is a commitment to help provide a bus shelter for the protection of the elderly and school children in adverse weather conditions. An appeal raised £400 in the first month and a tombola, raffle and free refreshments lifted the total to £1,000. This proves the need of the villagers and justifies the commitment of the Group.

The Group has also donated £100 to the Nepal Earthquake Appeal.

Claydon History Society

Events in the last year have included a Valuation evening by Bonhams and an illustrated talk by Moira Byast on the theme of The Ghost of Christmas Past.

The balance of funds held by the society is £475.54.

Although the History Society agreed in conjunction with the Parish Council to take on the project of identifying Local Heritage Assets in the parish, the low attendance at recent meetings has cast a doubt on this project.

Claydon Village Website

ClaydonVillage.co.uk has been running since 14th February 2012. Statistics for the site during the past 12 months 3,256 total visits with 82.7% new visitors. The average time spent on site per visitor is 2 minutes.

The 'Claydon Village Website – Latest Updates ' mailshot has 454 subscribed members from Claydon and 51 surrounding villages. Some have attended Claydon events purely through being informed via the mailshot. One national estate agent chain has included a link to the website in its house sale literature.

Features on the site include: myDonate button raising funds for new play equipment, Screen Splash – alerting visitors of important information, Diary Page hosting items such as refuse collection and HOFL (Heating oil syndicate) order dates.

There is a great deal of information that Claydon villagers have about Claydon and its history. It would be wonderful to capture and share this information (stories, photographs etc.) for future generations. ClaydonVillage.co.uk is the ideal place to host all of this valuable information.

Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch

The annual Claydon Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch was again held at the Carpenter's Arms, Lower Boddington on Tuesday 16th December. This was the 30th anniversary of this annual event which started following the first of the modern Claydon Festivals in 1984. At that time a fund had been established to cover the cost of the Christmas Lunch and a Children's Party.

15 residents enjoyed an excellent lunch, with a good selection of choices for each course, at a cost of £13.95. There was the usual raffle, and thanks go to Morrisons and those villagers who contributed prizes. A journey by County Connect bus was organised for several of the party.

Claydon Church Room

Last October a meeting was held with the purpose of forming a new committee to run the Church Room. The main change agreed with the Parochial Church Council was that in future the new committee would be responsible for all costs, including electricity, insurance and maintenance, but in return would be able to use all of the income for improvements.

A new vacuum cleaner has been purchased and a double glazed window installed in the kitchen. An application for a grant to fund further improvements has been made.

Ideally there should be seven active members of the committee. At the meeting only five offered their services and one has since left the village. Two members also serve on the PCC. Villagers are urged to join the committee and support this important village amenity.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council Meeting on 12th May was attended by County Councillor George Reynolds. David Hill was elected as Chairman. The following items were discussed:

PLANNING

3 Walnut Gardens

The application for a proposed lean to side extension to increase the utility and kitchen space has been granted by Cherwell District Council.

28 Manor Park

The Parish Council is not required to be consulted in the case of a Lawful Development Certificate.

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

As the County Council is only prepared to perform two cuts of the village verges this year, the Parish Council resolved to consider funding additional cuts. Some villagers already cut the verges outside their houses, so the areas requiring extra cuts need to be determined. The area around the phone box was considered to be the worst eyesore.

Following a request that verges should be left to grow long, the Newsletter was requested to ask for feedback in support of this suggestion.

BUS SHELTER

The design of the bus shelter was agreed as illustrated below.



It will come as no surprise to the villagers who attended the Tombola Event to support the fundraising effort. As a Newsletter incentive, a board of designs was displayed and villagers voted for their preference. 22 people voted for modern glass, 5 for wood and 1 for stone.

It is hoped that sufficient funds will be available to install the shelter in the autumn. (*Fundraising continues including a Tombola at the Village Fete and Newsletter donations for villagers willing to give up their paper copy – email Paul Gallagher on contact @ClaydonVillage.co.uk*)

VILLAGE GREEN

The lower Village Green was registered in March 1968. The top green has not been registered. The current rules for registration require a village green to be used for games, pastimes and dog walking. There is a process to de-register a village green if required.

A seed mix of grass that grows in the shade has been suggested for the area under the horse chestnut tree.

ALLOTMENTS

There are currently 2 vacant plots. If anyone is interested in taking on a plot please contact the Parish Clerk on 07810 441682 or claydonwithclattercotepc@yahoo.co.uk.

COUNTY CONNECT BUS SERVICE

New arrivals to the village may be unaware of the County Connect bus service.

The County Connect is not a scheduled service. It runs on request between the hours of 7.00 to 19.00 on Monday to Friday (except bank holidays) and 8.00 to 18.00 on Saturdays. Anyone can use it, but they must first register by calling 0345 456 4474 or logging on to www.county-connect.co.uk. Registration is free and sometimes free first journey passes are enclosed with the registration pack. The fares are based on the mileage covered. Bus passes may be used, but are restricted to after 9.30 am on weekdays and all day Saturday.

Journeys may be either to designated pick-up points in many of the local villages or to Banbury. The pick-up point in Claydon is near the sign post opposite the church. In Banbury the main pick-up point is on Bridge Street, opposite Debenhams, but other points include the Horton Hospital, the railway station, Tesco, Morrisons and Sainsburys.

Bookings may be made either by telephone or online. Calls may be made to the above number between 9.00 to 18.00 on Monday to Friday and 9.00 to 16.00 on Saturday. Online bookings may be logged 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, but confirmation will only be received between the telephone booking hours. Journeys may be booked from a week in advance up to an hour before travel is required. However, it is strictly first come first served so it is advisable to plan well ahead.

The service is intended to connect with scheduled services rather than replace them. An example of use from Claydon would be to take the County Connect service to Little Bourton to then connect with the Stagecoach 66 service to Leamington. In cases such as this it is important to remember that the County Connect may arrive up to 10 minutes later than the booked time, so the booked time should be adjusted accordingly.

Claydon with Clattercote Parish Council

Clerk to the Council: Louise Aston

84 Byfield Road
Woodford Halse
NN11 3QS

claydonwithclattercotepc@yahoo.co.uk

NOTICE OF VACANCIES IN OFFICE OF PARISH COUNCILLOR

PARISH OF CLAYDON with CLATTERCOTE

Following the Parish Council elections for Claydon with Clattercote we currently have **TWO** vacancies.

If you are 18 years of age or over, an elector of Claydon with Clattercote, and interested in being part of your local council then the Parish Council has the power to co-opt you onto the Council without you needing to stand for election.

If you're interested in being a Councillor please send a brief summary about yourself, the skills you have and what you can bring to the Parish Council to the Parish Clerk by 1 June 2015

Co-options onto the Parish Council will take place at the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 14 July 2015.

**Louise Aston
Parish Clerk**

Dated: 13 May 2015

Claydon with Clattercote Parish Clerk
84 Byfield Road, Woodford Halse NN11 3QS
claydonwithclattercotepc@yahoo.co.uk

CONGRATULATIONS

to Hannah and Rob on the birth of Kacey Olivia, a new addition to the Purdey dynasty and a sister for Kerys and Niccole, on 19th March weighing 8 lbs 12oz.

Dial a Ride Service

There is a serious threat to the Dial a Ride bus service posed by Oxfordshire County Council's further austerity cuts. The consultation is expected to run from June to August. More details in the next issue.

Village Fete and Dog Show Meeting

Wednesday 3rd June 8pm - 9pm

Lindens, Main Street

This year we are extending the dog show and summer event and inviting all the groups in the village to make the most of this opportunity to raise monies for their funds.

There have been comments from some villagers that we have not had a truly village wide event for many years, so this year we want to extend the annual village dog show and summer event to make it even bigger than normal.

We would love people to get involved and run a tombola or face painting or a book stall or a cake competition or anything else that you can think of (do you have a "hook a duck" game lurking at the back of your garage? or a coconut shy or hoopla?) **All proceeds from your stall will go to your group.**

If you are not in a particular group, but would still like to help, then the PFMC is raising money for a basket swing that is suitable for all ages up to adult and we need help with marketing, running a bar, putting up the marquees, setting up tables and chairs etc.

If we get enough people wanting to come to the meeting, then I will move it to the Church Rooms, so please let me know if you are planning to attend so that I can keep you updated with any changes.

The actual Fete and Dog Show is planned for 4th July - so please put that date in your diary.

Pamela Putt, PFMC Chair, Pamela.putt@yahoo.co.uk

07946 509174, 01295 690941 (no answer phone)

Diary Dates

BEETLE DRIVE

Wednesday 3rd June at 2.30 pm in the Church Room

VILLAGE FETE PLANNING MEETING

Wednesday 3rd June at 8.00 pm. See previous page for details.

OVER SIXTIES FILM

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

Friday 5th June

starring David Tennant, Rosamund Pike and Billy Connolly in

What We Did On Our Holiday

SUMMER CONCERT

Saturday 6th June at 7.30 pm in St James' Church, starring **IMPROMPTU**.
Contact 690574 for tickets – price £6.

PLAYING FIELD SPRING CLEAN

Sunday 14th June at 9.30 am on the Playing Field

COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 17th June at 10.30 am in the Church Room

VILLAGE FETE & DOG SHOW

Saturday 4th July on the Playing Field

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 14th July at 7.00 pm in the Church Room followed by

PLAYING FIELD TRUSTEE MEETING

Written and produced by Jenny Jones

Contact: **tel. 690510**, e-mail clayclatnews@btinternet.com