

Claydon with Clattercote Newsletter

January/February 2016



**The first noticeable snowfall of the year on January 17th,
but only a light dusting**

ENCOURAGING TRANSPORT NEWS

Dial- a Ride

Users of the Oxfordshire County Council Dial-a-Ride service will not be left high and dry when the scheme closes at the end of March.

The Banbury Dial-a-Ride scheme has secured funding to operate a daily service in the Banbury Area.

The service operates from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday to Friday and bookings can be made the day before the journey is required. Bookings for regular journeys may also be made in advance.

Registration is completely free and a registration form must be completed before using the service.

The service is for people with mobility problems whether age related, disability, wheelchair user or those who find it difficult to use conventional public transport.

It is also available to those who have little or no bus service to their village.

Concessionary bus passes may not be used and the fee for a return journey from Claydon to Banbury will be £5.

Tel: 01295 257715 or Kevyn Powell the Coordinator on his mobile 07798 922712.

Claydon Car Service

Pom Broughton has kindly volunteered to take over the running of the [Claydon Car Service](#) .

The [Claydon Car Service](#) operates for the benefit of villagers who require transport to attend a medical appointment, collect a prescription, attend a social gathering, etc but are unable to drive themselves. Some residents will find using a local taxi service as cost prohibitive

Volunteers are needed who are willing to use their own vehicle (only occasionally times and on best endeavours) to assist fellow villagers.

Please contact co-ordinator Pom Broughton on (01295) 690378 or 07963 646123 if you can help as a volunteer or if you have a need to use this Claydon community provided service.

Stagecoach 277 Service

Following the decision by Oxfordshire County Council Cabinet to withdraw all subsidy from bus services, including the 277, a meeting was held with Steve Burd of Stagecoach Midlands to discuss the viability of the service.

It is clear that the service provides insufficient revenue to operate as now, but Mr Burd agreed to check whether any specific journeys carried

sufficient passengers to justify their continuation. Although Concessionary Pass Holders (CPH) do not pay on board, the amount that the company receives per CPH is equivalent to only 0.4 paying passengers.

Any qualifying journeys are likely to be on Thursdays and Saturdays. Continuing to use the bus on these days can only help the cause.

PARISH PRECEPT

At the Parish Council Meeting on 12th January the Budget for the 2016/17 financial year was set at £10,505. This represents a large increase on previous years in order to partly compensate for a reduction in services by Oxfordshire County Council. This includes £1050 to fund the cutting of the village verges and £1900 to assist in providing a subsidised bus service. There are legal constraints regarding use of the latter.

The other main items of expenditure are as follows:

Elections £850, Parish Clerk's salary, PAYE and expenses £1350, Insurance £790, Annual Audit £140, Subscriptions £250, Publications £100, Seminars £150, Church Room Hire £80, Grant to Church Room Committee £200, Grant to PFMC £1455, Grant to PCC £700, Grant to Village Website £40, Grant to Cluster Care £100, VAT £400, Village Maintenance – Grit Bins £250, Village Green £600, Notice-board £100.

The amount budgeted for grit bins will allow for either one supplied, installed and filled by the county council, or two to be installed and filled by the parish.

The possibility of installing dog waste bins was discussed, but discounted on the grounds that villagers may dispose of poo bags in their own wheelie bin or in the Playing Field wheelie bin. New litter bins were discussed but no agreement was reached following a suggestion that they are unnecessary.

Cllr Millward agreed to ascertain the cost of pollarding the lower branches of the horse chestnut tree on the village green and removing the waste.

It was agreed that Cllr Millward would refurbish the notice-board and add a polycarbonate sheet to provide additional cover.

Additional income of £1176 New Homes Bonus will be paid.

With a current bank balance of £6282.51 and committed expenditure to 31st March of £1514, the Parish Precept was set at **£7000**.

OTHER PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council Meeting on 12th January was attended by County Councillor George Reynolds and District Councillor Ken Attack. The following further items were discussed:

Parish Council Administration for 2016/2017

Although the election of the Chair normally takes place in May of each year, the Chairman, Councillor David Hill requested that this year it should be brought forward to March to allow for as long a transition as possible in the event that he leaves the village. There is a great deal of legislation and administration involving a considerable workload, particularly in the absence of a Parish Clerk. If no-one comes forward to undertake the role, Councillor Hill will continue for a short period only.

Parish Clerk

There have been no applications for the position of Parish Clerk. The role involves attendance at 6 to 7 meetings per year, minute taking, account keeping, submitting the VAT return and the annual audit plus liaising with the County and District councils on legal matters in order to give advice to the Chair. The local parishes have been contacted and enquiries have been made at Cherwell District Council regarding the vacancy. The new clerk on Bourton Parish Council is learning and is unlikely to undertake the role at this stage. Councillor Reynolds indicated that increased bureaucracy was a deterrent to interested candidates. Councillor R Jones suggested that it may be necessary to increase the salary in order to make the role more attractive.

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)

Cllr Reynolds stated that the likely increase of the county portion of Council Tax will be 3.99%, 2% of which must be spent on social care. Following the Government Spending Review OCC also has to find £20m more than expected over the next 4 years.

OCC is expecting parishes to club together to fund a subsidy if they wish to retain their local bus service.

Cherwell District Council (CDC)

It was reported that at the Parish Liaison Meeting held on 11th November 2015, in response to a question on subsidising bus services, Councillor

Barry Wood, Leader of CDC stated that CDC would be ready to facilitate discussion but it would not increase council tax to fund the County Council's failings. Councillor Reynolds commented that CDC was likely to spend between £30,000 and £40,000 on Dial-a-Ride.

Spring Clean

The CDC Spring Clean will take place between 19th February and 7th March. It was agreed that the details would be forwarded to the Playing Field Management Committee (PFMC).

Planning

A Planning application had been submitted for Mr & Mrs Stothard of **Leys Farm** for a 2 storey rear extension and internal alterations to the house plus alterations to an ancillary barn. The details were to be circulated for comment.

Claydon Allotments

There are currently 2 vacant plots. It was agreed that the Chairman would write to 7 tenants whose plots require attention, informing them that if the plots have not been tidied by 31st March, the tenancy will not be renewed for 2016/17.

It was also reported that the hens on plots 3 and 4 were in a disgusting state with no food, water or bedding. It was agreed that the tenant would be given until the end of the week to improve the situation.

It was suggested that at the March meeting a councillor should be nominated as responsible for the allotments. A suggestion that tenants should be required to pay a deposit, only returnable if the plot was vacated in an acceptable state, required further thought.

As vehicles have been driving across the Playing Field, a sign has been installed on the gate requesting that vehicle owners have respect for the field.

Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations

A letter has been received from the Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire suggesting that the parish may wish to consider a celebration to mark the Queen's 90th birthday on the weekend of 11th/12th June. It was agreed that details would be passed to the PFMC, the Jubilee Group and the Church Room Committee.

Congratulations

to **Rose Coleman** on reaching the grand age of 101 and to **Doris Beswick** on reaching 90

also to **Ellie Ronaldson** on winning second prize in the Banbury Rotary Young Chef Competition.

Playing Field News

Thank you to everyone who supported the Playing Field in 2015. We are in the process of planning new events and fund raising for 2016. We are looking at planning phase 3 of the improvements and investing in some obstacle equipment that appeals to all ages.

If you have been to the playing field lately you will have noticed how wet it is, we would just like to remind people not to drive on the field whilst it is so wet.

If you are interested in helping - either on the main committee or with the fund raising, please speak to Pamela, Emma, Garry, Mike or Vicky.

Pamela Putt

Pamela.Putt@yahoo.co.uk

07946 509174

CLAYDON CHURCHYARD

The village is grateful for the considerable effort that the volunteers made towards the upkeep of the churchyard in 2015. However some volunteers feel that they will be unable to maintain such a workload in 2016.

A competent and reliable contractor, has been appointed to perform 5 or 6 cuts of the churchyard in the coming season, beginning at the end of April.

CROPREDY POST OFFICE

As the Red Lion in Cropredy is currently closed, the Post Office has been temporarily relocated to the Chapel Schoolroom.

The opening times remain at 9.30 am to 1.30 pm on Monday and Wednesday.

Katharine House Festival of Open Gardens

We're celebrating the Hospice's 25th anniversary by organising our biggest Festival of Open Gardens to date. If you're proud of your garden, why not open it as part of this Silver Anniversary? Or get together with a group of friends from your street and all open on the same day? We will support you throughout and will feature every garden in our 2016 Festival of Open Gardens booklet, to be sent out with our next newsletter. Please contact Community Fundraiser Sarah Brennan on 01295 816484 or email sarah.brennan@khh.org.uk to open your garden and raise valuable funds for Hospice care. Closing date to register gardens - Friday 19th February 2016.

Diary Dates

COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 17th February at 10:30 am in the Church Room

HISTORY SOCIETY ENTERTAINMENT EVENING

Friday 26th February

A talk by Stephen Barker on

The Battle of Cropredy Bridge

At 7:30 pm in the Church Room. Refreshments included. Contact 690510 for tickets. Members £3, non-members £5

HISTORY SOCIETY MEETING

Monday 7th March at 7:30 pm in the Church Room when subscriptions will be due.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 8th March at 7:00 pm in the Church Room

OVER SIXTIES FILM

The next film showing will take place in the Church Room at 2:00 pm on

Friday 18th March

starring Robert Redford, Nick Nolte and Emma Thompson in

A Walk in the Woods

Edited and produced by Jenny Jones

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