

Claydon with Clattercote Newsletter

May/June 2017

CAMPAIGN BEGINS TO RAISE £10,000 TO STABILISE THE CHURCHYARD WALL



Pom Al-Anazi standing next to the growing crack in the churchyard wall

The crack in the churchyard wall is familiar to most residents as it is clearly visible when entering the village along the Mollington Road. It originally gave no cause for alarm, but in the last few weeks the increase in size has raised worries that it may cause the wall to collapse, along with that part of the graveyard it supports, onto one of the main entry points into the village.

To create a collar around the damaged corner, and insert rods to stabilise the wall and the graveyard, is estimated to cost in the region of £10,000.

The wall retaining the older part of the churchyard is built of more substantial Hornton stone but the brick wall originally surrounded the school playground. Once the school moved to a larger and more suitable building in 1877 the playground became available for burials.

Fundraising kicked off on 6th May with a Spring Jumble Sale in the Church Buildings organised by Pom Al-Anazi. Villagers were very generous in donating items and then coming along to spend money. A total of £535 was raised. Many thanks to everyone who supported the event.



Helpers Emily, Pamela, Mandy, Vicky, Ellie, Pom and Jessica

Thanks to the helpers shown above and also Angela, Beth, June, Margaret, Martin and Liz.

CLUSTER CARE – room for one more!

There is a rare vacancy for another client at Cluster. The group meets every Tuesday from 10 until 3. If you or someone you know would benefit from a day out of the house every week, for some social interaction, a good meal and a variety of entertainment why not consider joining us at Cluster Care. It's great fun. Transport can usually be arranged. If you are interested and would like more details please contact Mo Sayer on 01295 369533.

COUNTY CONNECT BUS SERVICE

The Parish Councils of Claydon, Cropredy, Mollington and the Bourtons have agreed to subsidise the County Connect Service to their villages for a period of one year from 8th May.

The service runs between the hours of 7.00 to 19.00 on Monday to Friday and 8.00 to 18.00 on Saturdays. Anyone can use it, once they have registered by calling 0345 456 4474 or logging on to www.county-connect.co.uk. Registration is free and sometimes free vouchers are enclosed with the registration pack. The fares are based on the distance covered. They are more expensive than the local Stagecoach and Catteralls services, but bus passes may be used after 9.30 on weekdays and all day on Saturdays..

Journeys may be to any of the designated stops in many of the local villages or 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 and Morrisons, Sainsburys and Tesco supermarkets.

Bookings may be made either by telephone, or online. Call the number above or the cheaper number 01522 553088 between 9.00 to 18.00 on Monday to Friday and 9.30 to 17.00 on Saturday. Same day bookings may be requested from 7.00 on weekdays and 8.00 on Saturday. Requests for journeys can be made online at any time, but confirmation will only be given within the telephone booking hours. Book on-line by logging onto the website above and completing the booking form.

Journeys must be booked at least an hour before travel is required and can be booked up to 7 days in advance. However, it is strictly first come first served, so it is advisable to plan well ahead. The exact time requested cannot always be met, so some flexibility on the passenger's part is required, and remember that the bus may arrive up to 10 minutes later than the booked time so take this into account too.

BE A CLAYDON TRUSTEE

New Trustees are urgently required for co-option to the Claydon Trust. It would involve considering grant applications to support village causes.

If you live in the village and are interested, please contact Jenny Jones on 690510 or jjonesclaydon@btinternet.com.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting took place on 9th May, immediately preceding the Parish Council Meeting. 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

Receipts in the financial year 2016-17 were £12,048.97, with expenditure at £8,916.89. The Council ended the financial year with a bank balance of £10,987.57. The budgeted spend for 2017-18 is £10,486 with reserves of £8,000.

A parish survey was recently distributed to all parishioners and 55 responses were received. The information from the responses will help inform future decisions such as the replacement of the litter bins.

Claydon Playing Field Management Committee (PFMC)

There are currently 4 active members of the PFMC: Pamela Putt (Chair), Emma Gallagher (Secretary), Garry Putt, and Mike Smith (Treasurer). The PFMC is always trying to increase the numbers on the committee. 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.

Fundraising events during the year have included the Kids' Christmas Party, the Easter Treasure Hunt and Afternoon Tea and the Claydon Games. 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. Unfortunately the annual bonfire event did not take place due to a lack of volunteers. The PFMC would like to thank the sub-committee and the villagers who regularly help at events and without whom the Playing Field would be unable to continue.

The wood of the Games Wall was rotting and resulted in it being blown over by Storm Doris early in 2017. Thanks to the villagers who gave up their time to cut it up for disposal.

There was a rare episode of antisocial behaviour with teenagers from outside the village holding a party and drinking in the Play Area. They left a variety of detritus and the play equipment was left muddy but undamaged. Thanks to everyone who helped to clear up the rubbish. People are requested to remain vigilant and report any anti-social behaviour to the Police on 101 and to a member of the Committee.

In the last 12 months the Playing Field has continued to be in good condition with the grass cut regularly. Bird spikes have been added to the basket swing and replaced on the swings to deter roosting on the equipment. The largest expense during the period was grass cutting. Regular cuts will be continued in 2017, but with a change of supplier.

The PFMC would like to install Twizzle Sticks in the Play area, but is also considering replacing the old matting under the see-saw and swings as it becomes slippery in bad weather. An initial quote for the see-saw is £3,000.

Claydon Poor's Land Trust

Rent for the field plus building society interest resulted in a total income of £503. A total of £399 was paid out in benefits to 46 villagers, with £104 added to the Contingency Fund.

Claydon Trust

At the end of the year (December 2016) the balance of the account was £1153.63. In 2017 a grant of £115 was awarded for the framing of the Churchyard Map. The current trustees, Robert Adams, Ashley Broughton and Jenny Jones were duly re-elected at the meeting. Additional trustees are required

Neighbourhood Watch

The report was issued prior to the recent burglaries, reinforcing the view that we should all be suspicious of any activity that is unusual or involves someone you do not know.

If anyone is interested in taking over the operation of Neighbourhood Watch please contact Clive Mutch on 690610.

Claydon History Society

The History Society is currently working on a project to publish a booklet updating information gained since the previous publication in 2000. Funds are limited and it may be necessary to apply for grants or donations to complete this important record. Society members pay a subscription of £10 and the current balance is £513.90. New members and donations to this project would be very welcome.

Claydon Church Room

During the last year a new door has been installed and the last window replaced. The new double glazed windows will be easier to maintain and help to reduce heating costs. Although for years, the operation of this amenity was seen as a liability on the Parochial Church Council, since the present committee was formed all operating costs of £1100.62 and the installation of all except two windows (covered by a grant from the Co-op) have been funded from income.

Claydon Car service

The Claydon Car Service operates for the benefit of villagers who require transport to attend a medical appointment, collect a prescription or attend a social gathering, but are unable to drive themselves. With the great reduction of the local bus services this is an essential community service as many people will find the cost of a taxi to be prohibitive.

The service is free and can only operate if a volunteer is available. There are currently two volunteers and more are required who are willing to use their own vehicle to help meet future demand.

The Co-ordinator is Adele Broughton on 690378 or 07963 646123.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council Meeting on 9th May was attended by County Councillor George Reynolds and District Councillor Ken Attack. Both councillors had been thanked during the Annual Parish Meeting for the support that they had given the village during the past year. The Parish Council was sad to hear that this would be Councillor Attack's last Parish Council Meeting, as he will be operating from a distance in future, but Councillor Reynolds will also cover district issues. The following items were discussed:

NEW COUNCILLOR

Veronica Purdey was co-opted to fill the vacancy on the Parish Council.



PLANNING

Top Lock

The application for the conversion of workshops to accommodation with a link extension to the original dwelling and the erection of open fronted outbuildings has been granted.

EMPTY PROPERTIES

It is planned to remove several trees from the front of **The Old School House**, to allow access for a skip to be used for work on the house.

The house built as part of the **Build!** project, on Fenny Compton Road is under discussion by CDC.

TRANSPORTER DAMAGE

Further meetings are being held with representatives of CDC, OCC and the neighbouring villages to address the problem of transporters directed through the village by their satnavs.

PARISH SURVEY / ROADS

There were 55 responses to the Parish Survey. The major concern expressed was the state of the roads. Councillor Reynolds was not surprised by this result. He was also in agreement with a statement from the floor that the standard of repair of potholes in the side roads is poor. Apparently following the recent County Council elections, the highway maintenance section has been reduced. Councillor Reynolds also stated that a bollard which appeared in the road near the BT Kiosk was considered dangerous by the County Council and promptly removed.

BLUE BRICK PATH

The path was reported to be in good order apart from the overgrown section near the entrance to Dog Lane. It was hoped that the bricks now spare, following the extension of the driveway near the BT Kiosk, would be used under the Noticeboard.

PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE

We are now at the time of year, with long days and good weather, when residents can obtain maximum enjoyment from their gardens and leave windows open to allow fresh air into their homes.

However, this enjoyment can easily be spoiled. There have been reports of the use of noisy gardening equipment early in the mornings while most villagers wish to sleep, and lighting bonfires at a time when the wind blows smoke onto neighbours in their gardens, or through their open windows.

Please remember to be considerate when engaging in such activities.

Diary Dates

HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday 18th June BCP Holy Communion, 8.30am at St. James' Church

COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 21st June at 10:30 a.m. in the Church Room

HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday 25th June 9:30am at St. James' Church

EVENING PRAYER

Sunday 2nd July, 6pm at St. James' Church

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 11th July at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Room

followed by

PLAYING FIELD TRUSTEE MEETING

HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday 16th July BCP Holy Communion, 8.30am, followed by the PCC providing refreshments for visitors taking part in the Napton Bike Ride

Edited and produced by Jenny Jones

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