

Claydon with Clattercote Newsletter

September/October 2017

SEWAGE LEAK CAUSES CLOSURE OF PLAY AREA

On the weekend of 19th August the Playing Field Management Committee was forced to close the Play Area due to the leaking of sewage from a point at the side of the slide mound. Grey slime and worse was pouring from the mound across the Play Area and into the car parking area. Thames Water eventually responded and stopped the leak, leaving a fence around the point of leakage (as shown in the photograph below) for some time.



A new manhole cover was installed but the slide and tyre swing area remained taped off until confirmation was received from Thames Water that the area was safe. It took some time and a letter to the Chief Executive but the area has now been declared safe to use.

The blockage was apparently caused by residents pouring waste fat down their sinks.

DON'T POUR FAT DOWN THE DRAIN - FEED THE BIRDS

Villagers wondering what to do with left over fat could provide a service to the local birds by making a homemade version of fat balls. Melted surplus fat can be poured into yoghurt or cream pots, with various other ingredients added, left to set, tipped out and then used in bird feeders which can hold fat balls. Another option is to pour the fat into half a coconut shell and when set hang it upside down outside. Ingredients to add to the fat could be seeds, nuts, grated cheese or raisins.

A pudding for birds could also be made in the same way as flapjacks by combining the fat with porridge oats, a little flour and water and baking at 180°C for about 30 minutes. The resulting pudding can then be crumbled and placed on bird tables.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED FOR SPEEDWATCH

Speeding was one of the areas of concern expressed in the recent village survey.

Although signs in the shape of children were suggested at the previous Parish Council Meeting further investigation has indicated that they could inadvertently pose a danger when removed, as motorists used to the signs may not be on the lookout for real children.

The Police have suggested that a Speedwatch team could be trained in using equipment to record the identity and speed of vehicles travelling through the village. The results would not result in a prosecution, but official letters would be sent to any offenders.

If you are interested in helping please inform the Parish Clerk on cwcclerk@outlook.com or Parish Council Chaiman Sylvia Ingram on 690629.

New Notice Board has been installed



The new notice-board has now been installed providing the facility for all notices to remain under cover and eliminating the need for them to be laminated. It is proving to be very popular and has already become crowded. As a result a maximum size for a notice is to be set at A5. If it is to be displayed long term it should be small and basic with contact details for more information. Residents posting notices of events are requested to remove them afterwards.

OTHER PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the Parish Council Meeting on 12th September the following further items were discussed:

CAR TRANSPORTERS

There are still instances of Satnavs directing car transporters into the village. The Parish Council is not satisfied by the response of Oxfordshire

County Council (OCC) to the problem. Councillor Millward will therefore investigate whether Warwickshire County Council would act differently, which may aid the arguments with OCC.

WASTE BINS

The Parish Council agreed to purchase two black 40 litre open topped litter bins for placement next to the BT kiosk and on Main Street outside the church. The three bins currently in place will be removed.

ALLOTMENTS

The vegetation on the vacant allotments is now dying down. There will therefore be no further activity during the current season.

EMPTY PROPERTIES

The new house on Fenny Compton Road has now been purchased by someone with building experience and a connection to the village.

PARKING

Complaints have been received regarding the parking of vehicles on the Village Green and in Manor Park.

There is concern regarding damage to the trees on the Village Green, caused by the weight of the vehicles compacting on the roots. It is also a registered Village Green on which it is illegal to park. The new owners of Claydon House will be informed of this restriction.

A number of cars and a trailer have apparently been parked on the pavement in Manor Park, thereby allowing insufficient space for a mobility scooter to pass. Residents are requested to be considerate.

VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

The Blue Brick Path has been cleared outside Bank Cottages. The verges have been cut regularly and the contractor has been made aware of the situation after having inadvertently cut part of the lawns of private properties in Fenny Compton Road.

When identifying maintenance requirements outside the village boundary, such as the overhanging vegetation in Crossing Lane, residents are advised to request action by Oxfordshire County Council.

HORTON HOSPITAL UPDATE

The Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) met on 7th August to consider the proposals by the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) of how it planned to proceed following *The Big Health Care Consultation*. It was clear that no notice had been taken of the wishes of the public and the plan was to bulldoze ahead with the original suggestions to downgrade the Horton.

The HOSC heard evidence from 20 people objecting to the downgrade. These included MPs Victoria Prentis and Robert Courts, ex MP Tony Baldry, the Right Revd Colin Fletcher (Bishop of Dorchester), several Cherwell District councillors, several members of *Keep the Horton General Campaign Group*, the Chief Executive of *Healthwatch*, Joan Stewart of campaign group *Keep Our NHS Public*, and Roseanne Edwards of the Banbury Guardian.

After due consideration HOSC warned OCCG that if it persisted with its proposal of the permanent closure of Consultant Led Maternity the issue would be referred to the Secretary of State for Health. The HOSC did agree to the proposal on moving stroke services to Oxford and the downgrade of the Intensive Care Unit to a High Dependency Unit. The closure of 45 hospital beds from the Horton was accepted as permanent, but plans to remove more in the future were refused.

Nevertheless at its meeting on 10th August, OCCG agreed to go ahead with the full downgrade.

Meantime, the two previous referrals to the Secretary of State were in the pipeline. The first made in February was about the 'temporary' transfer of consultant led maternity to Oxford. Since the meeting, a decision was made by the Independent Reconfiguration Panel, acting for the Secretary of State, that no further action would be taken on this referral, because there is another one regarding the permanent closure.

There is also a referral pending by Stratford District Council, due to lack of communication of the plans.

There has been better news following the application by the local councils for a judicial review regarding the consultation process being split into two phases. This was initially refused, but on appeal it was decided that the judicial review will take place in early December.

A request from our MP, Victoria Prentis at the Community Partnership Network Meeting on 26th September, and relayed to the OCCG Board, at the meeting on 28th September, to change its mind and revert to a single consultation, thereby saving two days in court, was firmly refused.

SHOPPING AT TESCO COULD SUPPORT THE PLAYING FIELD

The Playing Field Committee has put in a request to be considered for a Tesco grant for up to £4,000 to pay for new matting under the see-saw and swings. We expect to hear any day whether we have been successful and they it will be down to the people of Banbury to vote using their blue tokens. If we get to the podium, then we will be guaranteed either £1,000, £2,000 or £4,000. The new matting will cost just under £4,000.

If you shop at Tesco, please save your blue tokens for us and we will let you know when we will be on the voting podium.

We are also putting in a grant application to the Gannett Foundation to ask for enough money to remove and replace our mound slide. Unfortunately our mound is not a "standard height" and the slide is not a "standard length" but thankfully Wicksteed are able to provide a like for like replacement.

We are always looking for new people to join the committee and help with events, fund raising, form filling in or just checking equipment and reporting back. If you are able to spare perhaps an average of an hour a month, please contact Pamela, Garry, Emma or Mike.

Details: pamela.putt@yahoo.co.uk

Claydon Playing Field Management Committee

POPPY COLLECTION

Anne Hoggins will be touring the village collecting for the British Legion Poppy Appeal from Saturday 28th October to Saturday 11th November.

DOG OWNERS BEWARE OF SNARES

Martin Broughton recently discovered a fox in severe distress. Its front leg was severed and swollen with infection, having obviously been caught in a snare. It had been suffering for some time, and the response of the RSPCA and local agencies was significantly lacking. It was therefore destroyed by local residents.

Pet owners are warned to be careful when letting them run free as someone is setting traps in the Claydon, Wormleighton, Farnborough triangle.



JOIN THE BIG GET TOGETHER FOR KATHARINE HOUSE

It's an opportunity to get together with your friends or family and have some fun and one of the easiest ways to raise money for Katharine House.

Hospices across the South East have joined forces to invite you to be part of The Big Get Together during October; all you have to do is ask your guests to make a donation that will go straight towards providing hospice care in your local community. You could hold a bonfire party in November; a Christmas themed soiree in December or a New Year Get Together in January! You can be as sophisticated or as silly as you like! Sign up today and start planning your event! For more information, visit

www.khh.org.uk/bgt

Diary Dates

CLAYDON LADIES' NIGHT

Friday 13th October from 8.00pm

Chinese food from Southern Kitchen. Please contact Jess on 07533 540251 with food orders.

HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday 15th October 9.30 am at St. James' Church

COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 18th October at 10:30 am. in the Church Room

LITTLE LIGHTS GROUP

Thursday 19th October 10.30 to 12.00 for pre- school children and carers in the Church Room

also on

Thursdays 16th Nov, 21st Dec, 18th Jan

EVENING PRAYER

Sunday 22nd October 6.00 pm at St. James' Church

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Sunday 12th November at 10:50

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 14th November at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Room

followed by

PLAYING FIELD TRUSTEE MEETING

Edited and produced by Jenny Jones

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