

# Claydon with Clattercote Newsletter

March/April 2018



Hopefully the last of the winter snow on 18<sup>th</sup> March

## **FURTHER DOWNGRADE PLANS ABANDONED AND SLIGHT RAY OF HOPE FOR HORTON MATERNITY**

The apparent drive to turn the Horton General Hospital into a day clinic has ground to a halt with the surprise but extremely welcome announcement, by Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG), that Accident & Emergency and Paediatric services will remain.

In addition, after considering the referral of the closure of Consultant Led Maternity by Oxfordshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OHOSC), the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP)

has recommended that, “further action is required locally before a final decision is made.”

During the consultation which preceded the decision to close the unit, very little notice had been taken of the views of the patients and their elected representatives living across the Oxfordshire county boundary in Warwickshire and Northamptonshire. Warwick Hospital increased its capacity to take more births and also became the hospital of choice (as opposed to the John Radcliffe) for Oxfordshire patients living north of Banbury. However, patients living in Northamptonshire were faced with a journey to either Daventry or Northampton.

As part of the consultation several options were suggested as a means of continuing a full maternity service at the Horton. These options were presented in the Decision Making Business Case, but there was no opportunity to comment on or question the conclusions that had been reached in rejecting all of them, except closure.

The next stage will be the creation of a combined HOSC to look more closely at these options. The combined HOSC will include councillors from Oxfordshire, Warwickshire and Northants. It will also take into account the experiences of mothers, their families and staff who have been involved since the closure.

Although campaigners welcome the IRP decision, they are cautious that it may just be a delaying tactic rather than a means of regaining the service, as the IRP also recognised the difficulties of recruiting obstetricians, the main argument used for its closure.

Meantime, the decision on whether Keep The Horton General is allowed to appeal the High Court judgement, that the consultation was lawful, remains pending. This involves not only maternity, but intensive care, stroke service and the removal of beds.

# Moonrakers

www.moonrakers.net

Traditional and contemporary songs and tunes from the UK and beyond. "...mesmerising harp...wonderful gentle harmonies....an uplifting journey." (BBC), "startlingly talented..." (Oxford Times)



St James Church, Manor Park, Claydon, Nr BANBURY, OX17 1HH.

**St James Church**  
**Claydon, OX17 1HH**  
**Fri 27<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm**

Tickets: £10 from 01295 690367  
ajferguson22@googlemail.com

# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March was attended by County and District Councillor George Reynolds. The following items were discussed:

## **HEAVY VEHICLE ISSUES**

The siting of road signs to prevent transporters regularly travelling through the village, only to be forced to reverse, is not as straightforward as had been hoped. At a meeting in 2017 between representatives of Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Highways and the local parish councils, the preference by Highways was to use brown directive signage on the main routes in order to discourage drivers from travelling through the villages. The cost is likely to be £4 to 5,000 with an initial £1500 to fund a feasibility study.

BCA, the owner of the transporter site in Chipping Warden, has been approached to help with costs, but has not responded. Cllr Reynolds agreed to organise another meeting between OCC and the local villages and help with funding from his 2018 Community Allowance.

**Meantime villagers are requested to refrain from helping when vehicles become stuck on the local roads. Leave the companies themselves to organise and pay for the recovery, (rather than rely on the goodwill of a local farmer with a tractor). If a vehicle blocks the road, villagers are urged to call the police and state, “THERE IS A COMPLETE BLOCKAGE OF THE ROAD WHICH WILL PREVENT EMERGENCY VEHICLES FROM GETTING THROUGH.” The wording is important and should result in police attendance and subsequent prosecution.**

These actions may concentrate the minds at BCA to take more responsibility.

## **POTHoles AND DRAINS**

Residents are urged to use the Fix My Street service <https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/> in order to report blocked drains in addition to potholes.

It is recognised that there is significant lead time between reporting of a pothole and the repair. After reporting it will normally take 7 to 10 days for a surveyor to inspect the pothole, after which there will be a wait of around 28 days for the repair.

The Parish Council accepted the offer, by a parishioner, to fill the local potholes providing permission is obtained from OCC.

## **GRIT BINS**

The wall on the Top Village Green, next to the planned site of the grit bin for Manor Park, requires repair due to the damage caused by adjacent trees. The owner has agreed to organise and fund the repair.

## **TREE FELLING**

There has been a complaint by Thames Water that the removal of the Leylandii has damaged the fencing to the sewerage plant and left the site insecure. Over the years there have never been any attempts by Thames to cut back any trees growing through the fence, or requests to the Parish Council to cut back the trees. As, without the trees, the fence would have required replacement during the intervening period, the Parish Council agreed that it was not liable for the cost.

*Editor's comment: After recent comments regarding the possible lack of information and notice of the decision to remove the Leylandii, it's necessary to look back more than 10 years to when the decision was made to fell them.*

*At that time the Playing Field Management Committee recognised that the trees would become a problem in the future and resolved to remove them as soon as practicable. Alternate trees were felled immediately and that year the village experienced an extra large bonfire. The remnants of the trunks can clearly be seen on inspection of the tree line.*

*The deciduous trees and shrubs were then planted in order to provide a replacement screen to the sewerage plant. However, it had to be left to grow. The odd tree was felled each year for the bonfire, but in recent years there had been no activity and the trees had experienced such rapid growth that they had become dangerous.*

## **DEFIBRILLATOR**

It was proposed and agreed to install a defibrillator in the village, with the Church Room as the chosen site. Permission will be required from the Church Room Committee. If granted, the Clerk will apply for a grant to cover the cost.

## **DOG LANE**

Although the registration of Dog Lane as a public right of way is not essential, it is necessary to identify the owner, as the overhanging trees need to be cleared.

## **Tesco Bags of Help Grant Scheme**

The Playing Field Management Committee has been awarded £1,000 from the Tesco Bags of Help Grant Scheme. Thanks to everyone who used their tokens in the vote.

## **COMMUNITY GROUP**

A parishioner is interested in setting up a group that would aim to improve the lives of the people in the village. An event will be organised for villagers to discuss the scope of the group and whether they would be willing to be part of it.

## **CROPREDY SCHOOL JUMBLE SALE**

**Saturday 28th April, 2pm - 4pm, entry is  
just 20p**

**If anyone has anything that they would like  
to donate, please contact Pamela on 07946  
501974 or [pamela.putt@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pamela.putt@yahoo.co.uk)**

# WARNINGS

There have been several recent burglaries in the area. Please ensure that all doors, windows and outbuildings are secure.

Thefts may also be linked to unlicensed scrap metal dealers. All licensed collectors must display a license with a silver/red hologram section on the reverse. If you receive cold callers you believe to be collecting scrap metal unlawfully, please inform the Cherwell District Council Licensing Team on 01295 753744 or email:

[Licensing@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk](mailto:Licensing@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk). If you have goods removed from your property without permission, please call the Police on 101.

The old problem of not clearing dog poo is still with us. Please be a responsible dog owner / walker, please pick up after your dog, please DONOT throw bags into hedges or leave at the side of the road, hoping someone else will dispose of it. TAKE IT HOME - PUT IT IN YOUR GREEN BIN. Remember the minimum fine is £50 for not clearing the poo and £75 for littering with a poo bag.

Does anyone know who is dumping rubbish in the hedge at the entrance to the village on the Mollington Road? A small section of the mess is shown below.



# *Diary Dates*

## **HOLY COMMUNION FOR EASTER DAY**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April 9.30 am** at St James Church

## **UNITED BENEFICE COMMUNION**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April 10.00 am** at Cropredy

## **EVENING PRAYER**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April 6.00 pm** at St James Church

## **COFFEE MORNING**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 10:30 am** in the Church Room

## **LITTLE LIGHTS GROUP**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April 10.30 to 12.00** for pre-school children and carers in the Church Room

## **BCP HOLY COMMUNION**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 8:30 am** at St James Church

## **MOONRAKERS CONCERT**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 pm** at St James Church

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April 9.30 am** at St James Church

## **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 7:30 p.m.** in the Church Room

*Edited and produced by Jenny Jones*

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