

Claydon & Clattercote Courier

SEPTEMBER 2008

VILLAGE PROTEST SCORES RESULT

A massive response from villagers is believed to be partly responsible for the last-minute withdrawal of a planning application for the Astell Farm House site. More than 50 villagers wrote to Cherwell District Council to object to the application, which would have allowed a wide variety of industrial and warehousing uses on the land and set a precedent for similar sites across the village.

But it was withdrawn, by site owner Geoff Wheeler of Cropredy, the day before it was due to come before district councillors on 28 August. Planning officials had already recommended the application should be turned down.

A decision at that meeting on whether or not to start enforcement proceedings that would stop the current use of the site as a depot for portable toilets was postponed for legal reasons and will now be considered at the next planning meeting on 18 September.

The controversy was aired on BBC TV news and radio throughout the

day before the August planning committee meeting and villagers opposed to the use of the land in this way stated their case. Mr Wheeler did not appear in the bulletins, but was reported as saying that he believes that he is entitled to use the land in this way.



If Cherwell agrees to start enforcement action at its September meeting the portable toilet business is likely to be given 3 months to vacate the site. **C**

In this issue...

- Heating oil consortium to go ahead
- Road sign disappears
- Bird expert Keith Jones on village life
- Goodbye Winnipeg

The Cluster Care Group

(Reg. Charity 1100948)

Harvest Festival Service and Auction of Produce

Tuesday 26 September
1.30pm

At Cropredy Sports Pavilion
Everyone very welcome.

EXAM SUCCESS

Congratulations to Andrew Miller (18) of Main Street on achieving the required A-level grades in Business Studies, Psychology and PE to attend the University of Gloucestershire to study for an Honours degree in Sports Development, Business Management and Marketing.

NEW SPONSOR

The *Courier* is delighted to have sponsorship support from Mr Plumb, plumbing specialist.

OIL SCHEME PROCEEDS

Thanks go to Main Street resident Paul Gallagher who has volunteered to co-ordinate a heating oil consortium for Claydon. More details about the community scheme, which promises to bring cheaper heating oil to villagers, should appear in next month's *Courier*. If, in the meantime, you would like to know more or register your interest please contact Paul on 690119 or email him at paul.gallagher@hotmail.com

WITH THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS...



Barn Farm Plants

Upper Wardington, Banbury, Oxon

You will find the complete gardening experience...
at your local friendly Garden Centre

Open 7 days a week

01295 758080

SMITH & RONALDSON BUILDERS

Specialists in stonework, extensions and
loft conversions
01295 690559
01327 261590

The Plough Inn

Quality home-made food
at reasonable prices

Southam Road, Little Bourton,
Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX17 1RH

Call Sam or Georgina on 01295 750222

Farnborough Garden Centre



Southam Road
Nr Farnborough
Banbury



01295 678444

KEITH HAMILTON

Workshop: Collins Farm, Priors Hardwick Road,
Upper Boddington, Daventry, Northants, NN11 6DN

Manufacturers of Bespoke Fitted Furniture
for the Kitchen, Living Room, Bedroom and Office

Telephone: (01327) 264692

Email: rose-cott@tiscali.co.uk

Mr. Plumb



All aspects of plumbing undertaken

From a leaking tap to a full bathroom installation with tiling & plastering

Fully Insured & References Available

24 hour call out - call Marcus on

T: 01926 614448 M: 07904 670055

Please mention the *Courier* when dealing with our sponsors. Thanks!

COFFEE MORNINGS PERK UP SUMMER SPIRIT



The monthly Jubilee Group-run coffee mornings in the Church Room have continued to be popular over the (rather damp) summer. All villagers are welcome - the next is on Wednesday 17 September, 10.30am - Midday.

HOLIDAY TIME CRIME

Two crimes were committed in the village in August - a relatively high number for Claydon, as many months can pass without a single incident being reported in the village. The first was the theft of equipment from a private car parked on Main Street. The driver's window was broken under cover of darkness.

In a separate incident, several acts of vandalism were recorded in the Playing Field, where fence panels were smashed, signage was damaged and the swings in the play area interfered with.

If anyone has any information please call Crimestoppers, anonymously if you wish, on 0800 555 111.



VALUATION EVENING



Monday 13 October
Church Room, 7.30pm



Enjoy an interesting evening with Simon Davies of Bonhams. Bring along your special items for valuation - you never know, they could be extremely valuable.



Tickets £5 each



includes cheese & wine and the valuation of one item. Additional items may be valued at a small cost on the night subject to time available.

There will also be a raffle.
Tickets are limited - book early.



Contact Christina Kennedy, Walnut House -690818

Or, Marjorie Fox, Butlin Farm

Proceeds in aid of St James The Great Church Restoration Fund

SIGN OF THE TIMES

aving noticed that the first 'Claydon' road sign on the A423 (Banbury direction) was missing, I contacted that Highways Agency. I have been advised that this is likely to have been stolen as it was made of metal, and the Highways Agency is currently inundated with reports of stolen signs across the country.



Photo: Emma Clifford

They advised they would send someone out to check, and that it would be replaced eventually... but due to the number of signs that are now missing, they do not have the budget to replace them all... and this may take some time.

Emma Clifford

BREKKIES ARE BACK

Village breakfasts return on Sunday 26 October at 9.30am in the Church Room. All welcome - more details next month.



HIDDEN VILLAGES?

The Director of *Hidden Britain South East*, an initiative which helps rural communities to benefit from tourism, is coming to talk through the possibilities and implications of increasing the profile of North Oxfordshire villages on Wednesday 24 September at 7pm in Cropredy Church. Anyone interested is most welcome. For more information go to www.hiddenbritainse.org.uk

Rev Pat Freeth

USED STAMPS

I would like to thank the people who have put their used postage stamps through my door. I am still collecting and sending them off to the charity.

If anybody else can remember to keep their stamps it will help to increase the number I can send.

If you have a problem getting the stamps to me at 11 Manor Park give me a call on 690950 or e-mail marion@paulmarion.plus.com and I will arrange to collect from you.

Marion Hill

HELP UNLOCK HISTORY

I am doing some family history and wondered if anyone has any records of a H Adkins who was a lock keeper and died May 1924.

Thanks. **Simon Blower**

simon_blower@btinternet.com



GOODBYE WINNIPEG

Like most other villages in the country, Claydon had a number of isolated plots of land in or near to the village itself. These were largely 'leftovers' from the enclosure awards of the 18th century and had remained more or less unchanged since that period. It was not until the 1960's, at least in Claydon, that they began to disappear.



The smallest of the two pieces of land which were sold by auction on July 30, as reported in last month's *Courier*, is a case in point and almost marks 'the passing' of this phenomenon (there are still one or two left). Situated at the junction of Cropredy Lane and Main Street and now purchased by a resident in Bignolds Close, it has, I suspect, lost its individual identity and status as an entity in its own right.

In recent years, until a short time ago, the Parish Council paid a peppercorn rent of £1 per year to its former owner. Goodness knows why? All they ever did with it really was to change its name to something that became very apt! They called it 'The Folly'.

For as long as I can remember and no doubt for a long time before

that, it was always referred to as 'Winnipeg'. Strangely incongruous sounding names to pieces of land crop up in rural parishes all over the country.

Eydon, a Northamptonshire village not more than five miles from Claydon as the crow flies, is a good example. It has an area known as Manitoba Way.

These names I would suggest date from the last quarter of the 19th century at the onset of the great agricultural depression which, except for the relatively brief periods covered by the two world wars, when the industry really came into its own and literally helped to save our bacon, has remained with us ever since.

In the 1880's the population of Claydon was drastically reduced like that of numerous other rural villages, when many of their younger inhabitants emigrated to the far flung corners of the empire. Most of them never returned. Winnipeg, like Manitoba, served as a reminder of their whereabouts, to the rest of the people who remained here in Claydon or Eydon.

Eric Bates

Claydon People

Keith Jones' enthusiasm is infectious. Whether it's about village life in Claydon or his life as a falconer, the Manor Park resident radiates positivity.



Keith, wife Sandra and their two children moved to the village over four years ago from Leamington Spa. The Wiltshire-born birds of prey specialist relocated when his fledgling falconry business started to take off. "We were commuting backwards and forwards to Warmington all the time and we wanted to be closer to the business," he explains.

A friend of Keith's in Claydon tipped him off about the house for sale in Manor Park and he put an offer in straight away. "We fell in love with the village and the people," he says. "Everyone's so friendly the welcome we got was fantastic."

Keith remains passionate about Claydon, but admits he'd really like to see a pub back in the village. "I

like to have a drink, a pub would get the community together more," he says. "I'd also like to see more village events like the festival held last summer. I always try to help the village out and will come along with the birds free of charge."

His 'birds' total 30 in all and range from Peregrine Falcons, Gyr Falcons, Kestrels, Harris Hawks and Scopps to European Eagle Owls and Great Horned Owls which are all on display at Fir Tree Falconry in Warmington, just 2 miles from Edgehill.

Surrounded by camping and



caravanning facilities, the falconry nestles in to the side of a lush green hill above a fishing lake. It's here in this picturesque spot where Keith and Sandra spend most of their time flying the birds, welcoming school parties, holiday makers and corporate visitors on a daily basis.



then digitally used for films, TV and commercials. It was a long day though, it took 11 hours!"

But Keith is most proud of the documentary *Wings Over Warmington* which took 18 months to make and was filmed by award-winning cameraman Steve Downer who has

Keith's interest in birds of prey followed on from racing pigeons with his uncle and has progressed over the past 10 years into a successful business. Now an accredited examiner with a LANTRA approved centre his hard work is gaining recognition.

also worked on many BBC nature series including: *Planet Earth* and *The Blue Planet*. The educational film follows Keith as he visits schools to teach children about the birds, attends events and generally looks after his brood.

Film and TV work includes working with John Craven on *Countryfile*, a *Top of the Pops* video for Brit Pop band Suede, a horror film called *Samain*, which was shown at the Cannes Film Festival, and an advertisement for P&O ferries.

While walking around the falconry it is clear other Claydonian's appreciate the work Keith and Sandra are doing. Two couples from the village have >>>

"We've also just done a short film with a company called *Animals on Blue*," he says. "They shoot the birds on a blue background which are





<<<
'adopted'
birds:
Misty, the
white
Scopps

owl and Shadow the Harris Hawk.
"Anyone can adopt a bird if they want to," says Keith. "It's £50 for 12 months and people can come up and see the birds as many times as they like. They get a name plate and a certificate," he says.

Events at the centre include:
Hawking days, Owl evenings and birthday parties for kids big and small (although not recommended for under fives) where people can handle the birds under

supervision. Keith will even go to peoples houses with the birds for parties. "I'm pretty flexible," he says. When asked if his fellow villagers are eligible for a discount, he smiles and says: "I'm open to offers!"

For more information go to Keith's website at www.firtreealconry.co.uk or call on 07714 032543.

Keith and Sandra have kindly donated two Owl Evening vouchers - worth £50 - to the *Courier*. BBQ and refreshments are included in the event. The *Courier* will hold a coffee morning and raffle in January (more details nearer the time) where these vouchers can be won.

Lisa Simmons

This month's *Courier* is sponsored by

Mr. Plumb



All aspects of plumbing undertaken

From a leaking tap to a full bathroom installation with tiling & plastering

Fully Insured & References Available

24 hour call out - call Marcus on

T: 01926 614448 M: 07904 670055

9 Neales Close, Harbury, Warwickshire, CV33 9J0

Courier Classified

Classified adverts are FREE for villagers. Just give the text of your ad to any member of the *Courier* team or email it to courier@claydonvillage.net

GUINEA PIGS FOR SALE - Please call Abbie on 690559.

WANTED - Garage or out-building to rent. Please call 690671.

BABYSITTING - Responsible 15 year old available to sit on Friday or Saturday. Please call Abbie on 690559. Village only.

AVON COSMETICS - To receive the latest catalogue and order from your local representative call Abbie on 690559. Your order delivered direct to your door!

PENNIES FOR PUPPIES

Can your business or school help support Banbury-based Charity, Dogs for the Disabled, by donating £750 to purchase a puppy? Your donation will also help buy a puppy starter kit with bed, collar, lead and essential vaccinations for the latest recruits to be trained in advanced assistance skills.



In return you will receive a lovely photograph of your special puppy, an update as training progresses and the knowledge that you are helping make a positive difference.

For more information contact Julie on 690139.



Christina Kennedy

STOP PRESS: Thanks to all who helped out at this year's **Art & Flower Festival** earlier this month and to everyone who generously supported the event - more details next issue. *** **Village Bonfire Event** - Sat 8 November.

ANIMAL FACTS: TORTOISES

Tortoises can be bought from Yarton Garden Centre, near Oxford, (telephone 01865 372214) or the Reptile Centre (telephone 01865 377844).

It is no longer possible to buy adult tortoises. Baby tortoises cost around £140. They cannot go outside until they are 4 years old, so should be kept inside in a pen around 4ft x 5ft, with a lamp on it to keep it warm if the room is cold.

Pens can be bought from the above sellers or you can make it yourself. The pen should have clean hay, plenty of food and water in a dish.



When tortoises are old enough to go outside they should have plenty of food: grass, lettuce, tomatoes, cucumber, etc, and a dish of water. Put them in a box in a shed if cold at night. They will hibernate from October/November to March.

Anne Hoggins

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Dark Chocolate Crème Brûlée

Ingredients:

¾ pint whipping cream
3 whole eggs
3 egg yolks
100g caster sugar
175g dark chocolate



Method:

First, carefully melt the chocolate. Next, bring the cream to a very light boil. Whisk the eggs, yolks and sugar, then add the cream while whisking. Finally, add the melted chocolate. Pour into 2½ inch moulds. Cook for 15-20 mins until mix is almost set on a baking tray with a little water to protect the bottom of the brûlée (bain marie). Allow to cool, then glaze with two layers of icing sugar with a blowtorch or under a hot grill.

Supplied by **Sam Hoggins**, *Hyltons at the Moon & Sixpence*, Hanwell, Telephone (01295) 730544

BIN COLLECTIONS: SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

GREEN BIN

Fri 19 September
Fri 3 October
Fri 17 October



BLUE & BROWN BINS

Fri 26 September
Fri 10 October
Fri 24 October



Tear out this page and pin to your fridge, noticeboard, etc.

Village Diary

September/October 2008



- **Tuesday 16 September** **Mobile Library visits**
Corner Church Lane/Main Street, 12.40pm - 12.55pm
- **Wednesday 17 September** **Jubilee Group Coffee Morning**
Church Room, 10.30am - Midday
- **Tuesday 23 September** **Cluster Care Auction of Produce**
Cropredy Sports Pavilion, 1.30pm
- **Wednesday 24 September** **Hidden Britain Open Meeting**
Cropredy Church, 7pm
- **Tuesday 30 September** **Mobile Library visits**
Corner Church Lane/Main Street, 12.40pm - 12.55pm
- **Wednesday 1 October** **Beetle Drive**
Church Room, 2.30pm - 4pm
- **Monday 13 October** **Valuation Evening**
Church Room, 7.30pm
- **Friday 31 October** **Village Bingo Evening**
Church Room, 7.30pm

Kids (k)
Kourier
is still on holiday and will return in October.

If you would like an item included in Village Diary please pass on details to any member of the *Courier* team (see overleaf)

Weekly Church Services at St. James Church, Claydon
 21 September: 9.30am Holy Communion
 28 September: 10.30am All Age Worship for 'Back to Church' Sunday
 5 October: 6pm Harvest Festival Service
 12 October: 8.30am Holy Communion
 19 October: No service. *United Benefice Service at Mollington, 10am*
 Wednesday mornings: 10am Holy Communion

September

October

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
29	30						27	28	29	30	31		

Courier Comment

For more
village info go to
www.claydonvillage.net

United we stand

It's encouraging to know that over 50 of us cared enough to make our views known to the council about the (now withdrawn) planning application on the farm site near the entrance to the village. At times like this it's evident that there **is** a community spirit in Claydon.

Similar to the great turn out at the dog show, interest in the oil consortium and involvement in the

art and flower festival. To me living in a village and enjoying the community spirit is about getting involved.

Don't leave it to other people to make the effort, go on try it yourself... you'll find out how many lovely and interesting people live close by and together we can continue to make Claydon a place we are all proud of living in.

Vicky Smith

The Courier is brought to you each month by:

Anne Hoggins (690675)

Joan Taylor (690403)

Karen Jackson (690015)

Lisa Simmons (690155)

Mark Simmons (690155)

Paul Gallagher (690119)

Russ Jackson (690015)

Sue O' Donovan (690853)

Tim Cozze-Young (690139)

Vicky Smith (690192)

Claydon & Clattercote Courier

Be part of your **Courier**! Write, draw, sketch, paint, photograph - we will always try to publish material received and will return original items to you.

Drop contributions in to 5 Bignolds Close, (tel 690155), email them to courier@claydonvillage.net or pass them on to any member of the **Courier** team.

Advertising/Sponsorship

The **Courier** is totally self-funded and relies on the support of local individuals and businesses.

To make a donation, take out sponsorship or place an advert, please contact Russ Jackson on 690015.

Deadline for the next issue is October 1.