

# Claydon & Clattercote Courier

DECEMBER 2008

## STARS SHINE AT CLAYDON CHRISTMAS EVENT

Claydon's second annual Christmas Remembrance and Tree Lighting event took place in the Churchyard on the afternoon of Sunday 7 December.

Over 60 villagers turned out on a bright and cold, but dry, day. Children were thrilled by a visit from Santa, who handed out small presents in the Church Room.



The event got underway with Christmas music played by the Mollington Bell Ringers and festive songs performed by the Mill Town Singers.

Children then sang *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star* in front of the Christmas Tree before it magically lit up, revealing gold stars, each with the name of one or more loved ones. A donation was made to charity for each of the 70 stars, which will remain on the tree into January.

A short remembrance ceremony followed, when the names on the stars were read out by event organiser Lisa Simmons. Reverend Pat Freeth continued with a moving poem, before everyone sang carols in front of the lit tree.

Mulled wine and delicious home-made cakes were served in the Church Room before and after, with a variety also available for sale, all generously donated by villagers.

Money is still coming in, but so far over £300 for the Warwickshire & Northamptonshire Air Ambulance and the Church Restoration Fund. Thanks to all those who worked so hard to make the event possible, including Adrian & Jo Taylor, who donated the trees from Clattercote. **C**

**Event in pictures -  
see centre pages >>>**

### In this issue...

- Claydon teddies prepare for long-distance mission
- New church path explained
- Xmas event in pictures
- Parish Council welcomes new clerk

## ROAD RE-REPAIRED

Appletree Road is closed for a week in mid-December for surface repairs to be made

good, after the poor standard of work of the original job (in October) left bumps in the road and crumbling tarmac. 

### *The Courier is brought to you each month by:*

Anne Hoggins (690675)  
David Wicks (690267)  
Joan Taylor (690403)  
Karen Jackson (690015)  
Kate Wicks (690267)  
Lisa Simmons (690155)

Mark Simmons (690155)  
Paul Gallagher (690119)  
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# CHARITY TEDDY BEARS COME OUT OF THE WOODS

The Teddy Bear's Picnic at the Jubilee Group Coffee Morning on Wednesday 19 November saw around 40 teddies come out to play.

These teddies are getting ready to go on the long journey to Uganda with three British Nurses going over to help distressed children.

The "teds" have been created by knitters from around our villages with donated wool. The Cluster



Photo: Veronica Purdey

Care Group contributed the stuffing. All were made with love. Many thanks from the "teds", the children, Joyce Thornton and me!

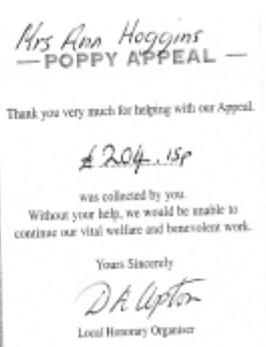
**Dorothy Beckett**

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## POPPY SUCCESS

The Poppy Day collection in Claydon this year raised £204.15. I would like to thank all those who contributed so generously.

**Anne Hoggins**



## IN MEMORY

On Remembrance Sunday (9 November) Cllr Clive Mutch laid a wreath on behalf of villagers and Cllr Anne Hoggins laid a wreath on behalf of the Royal British Legion. **C**



Photo: Anne Hoggins

The Remembrance Wreaths laid on 9 November

# NEW CHURCH PATH GIVES EASY ACCESS

Many of you will have noticed the improvements to the paths in the churchyard, but are perhaps unaware of why the work was done.

At the end of 2007 the Parochial Church Council (PCC) was asked if a disabled path could be provided to the church room. Recent legislation means that the PCC has a legal responsibility to provide disabled access not only to the church room but also the church.



So it was suggested that the existing tarmac paths, which were in a poor state of repair, should be replaced, together with a new path to the church room, all with wider, improved surfaces.

To secure the necessary planning and church approvals detailed plans needed to be drawn up, but it was found that there was no definitive plan of the churchyard. Fortunately, an outline plan was kindly provided by Robert Adams, at no charge, in March of this year.

It took several months to gain the necessary approvals, after which we applied for and received a grant from Cherwell District Council that covered much - but not all - of the cost, so we are grateful for a villager donation that allowed the project to proceed.

Heritage regulations mean that we were unable to use tarmac and were forced to use a bonded gravel surface. Our chosen surface - 'Cotswold Self Binding Gravel' - is



very similar to that used by the National Trust for their paths and has been approved by Cherwell. Gravel boards have been used to contain the gravel - over time they will blend in to give a natural edge to the path.

The surface has been compacted and hardens more with use. However, it will never be as solid a base as tarmac. Because of the gradient to the East Gate on Main Street we have had to incorporate a few steps so that the gravel is not

washed away in heavy rains. Disabled access is now available from the West Gate and the path from here links with the new path to the church room, which also improves access from the church to the church room for events.

Security lighting has been installed to aid safe passage on the path to and from West Gate, as it is the most used access to and from the church.

The cost of the path was £5,700, including repairing the gates and the new hand rail, and our thanks go to the contractor L S Landscapes for agreeing to undertake the job at a price within our budget. Only one other contractor was willing to do this work and quoted considerably more than this. An additional

£393.50 was spent on planning costs, signs and new lighting.

The financing of the project breaks down as shown in the box below:

<b>Church Path Improvements Cost Breakdown</b>	
Grant	£4,275.00
Donation & Gift Aid	£845.00
Parish Council Grant	£200.00
Church Room & Graveyard Funds	£773.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>£6,093.50</b>

Thanks to those who worked very hard to get this work done, which should provide good access to the church and church room for many years to come.

**Pat Freeth, Vicar**

## **Claydon Village Get-Together**



**Saturday 31st January 2009**

**1pm - 4.30pm**

**Claydon Church Room**



A date for your diary in January: why not come and meet your neighbours, learn about Claydon and have a cup of tea and piece of cake at the same time ?

We are organising a Village Get-Together at the end of January to stave off the Winter blues. There will be a history talk by a fellow villager, a raffle, book and cake stalls. Please join us to raise funds for the Courier & meet your fellow villagers !

Donations of unwanted books (contact Anne Hoggins, 690675) and offers of cakes for the cake-stall (contact Vicky Smith, 690192) would be gratefully received. Thank you!

# CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCE &



# TREE LIGHTING EVENT 2008

## Remembrance Stars 2008



Mike Pilkington	Lilly Baker
Denny Mackenzie	Philippa
Dorothy Matthews	Helmut
Andrew Fox	Mary Everitt
Guy Wilsdon	Fred Everitt
Sam Cozze	Ann Robinson
Dennis Whitlock	Andrew Evans
Ruth	Chris Albon
Sarah Sylvia	Jack Hampson
Thomas	Honora Hampson
Beryl Cook	Gerry Gough
Lucy Collinson	Tom & Win Gough
Thomas Collinson	Elsie
Charles Marsden	Mary
Harry (Bamber) Jinks	Kas
Bob, Syd & Dick	Hilda Taylor
Frank Hales	KD Spencer
Nancy Read	Nita Phillips
Tudor Jones	Bettie & Keith Jackson
Joan & Peter Wicks	Jill
Molly & Norman Wicks	Anne Massey
Irene & Stan Taylor	Pat Jones
Chas Hunt	Uncle Charlie
Don Paxton	Nana James
Ivor Gibbard	Grandad Conway
Florrie Gibbard	Fred Moore
Derek Wood	Flo Moore
Mark Skelton	Milly the cat
Alistair Meadwell	Whiskey the cat
Rita Creer	Hans-Alfred Hippe
Stanley Creer	Colin

### A Big Thank You to:

Adrian & Jo Taylor  
Anne Hoggins  
Bethan Reeves  
Christina Kennedy  
Diana Lambert  
Don Siviter  
Emma Clifford  
Joan Taylor  
John Bryer  
Kate & David Wicks  
Kate's Nan (!)

Margaret Atkins  
Marie Aston  
Marie-Luise Simmons  
Mill Town Singers  
Mollington Bell Ringers  
Neil Ronaldson  
Pete & Steph Kearney  
Playing Field Management Committee  
Rvd Pat Freeth  
Robert Adams  
Sue & Michael O'Donovan  
Tim & Julie Cozze-Young



**For more photos go to [www.claydonvillage.net](http://www.claydonvillage.net)**

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## 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](mailto:courier@claydonvillage.net)

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

**HELPING HANDS** - Jarvis (13), Rhiannon (13), Tee-Jay (11) & Tiffany (11) are four kids from the village offering to help out with any odd jobs you may have. Honest, reliable & friendly, they can help out with most things and are never late.

Please phone 690076 to have a chat with them. Thank you!

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

### TOILET DEPOT UPDATE

On Friday 21 November Cherwell District Council issued an enforcement notice that requires the operator of the toilet depot at the bottom of the village to close down its activities within three months.

This follows a large protest from villagers against the land being used in this way.

Landowner Geoff Wheeler of Cropredy has vowed to appeal.



# PARISH COUNCIL MEETING NOTES - NOVEMBER 2008

The last Parish Council meeting of 2008 took place on 11 November. 16 villagers attended. The main points raised were:

**Parish Clerk** – the Parish Council welcomed the new Parish Clerk, Sue Upton.

**Roads** – An engineer from Oxfordshire County Council's Highways division was present to answer questions about Claydon's roads and a number of items were discussed, including:

*Kerbing/Flooding Church Lane:*

Kerbing has been completed, but drainage has been found to be a larger project than anticipated and has been added to a list of jobs to be done. Unfortunately this is not a priority job and concern was raised that it would always be put to the bottom of the list.

*Appletree Road:* still in poor condition; engineer to visit.

*Mollington Road:* Safety issue - the parish must fund posts.

Blue brick path: OCC will put right defects and spray weeds.

*Crossing Lane:* has been assessed and put on list for work to be done

*Portable speed sign:* meeting has occurred and we are awaiting sign.

**Planning** – A number of issues were raised - full details in the formal Parish Council Meeting Minutes..

**Knibb Brothers** – Cllr Robert Adams was pleased to announce that the village has received approval for a Blue Plaque for the Knibb Brothers and a discussion took place regarding the best location for the sign.



**Tourism opportunity** – A meeting will take place in Cropredy on 29 January to discuss the opportunities for promoting tourism in the area. *[More details next issue. Ed]*

**Cutting comments** – Cllr Clive Mutch complained that a number of knives had been found in the village bonfire which is irresponsible considering the site is on the Playing Field.

Next Parish Council meeting:  
Tuesday 13 January 2009, Church Room, 7.30pm.

**Karen Jackson**

## XMAS SAVINGS

Tips to keep down Festive costs:

Redeem loyalty points (Nectar, Clubcards) and use to buy food. Also

check each shop's in-store magazine for money-off coupons to use at the cash desk as you pay for your shopping!



## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### Sticky Toffee Pudding



#### Ingredients:

1lb pitted dates  
1lb plain flour  
1lb caster sugar  
6 eggs  
1½ packets butter, melted  
3tsp bicarbonate of soda  
Pre-heated oven at 180° C

#### Method:

Lightly grease two large cake tins or a large deep oven tray.

Place dates in a large saucepan. Just cover with water and put on heat to boil.

Meanwhile, in a big mixing bowl, mix flour, sugar, eggs and butter together until smooth, with no lumps.

When dates are boiled, add the bicarbonate of soda, then add to the mix, beating hard so that the eggs don't cook.

Add to baking tins and cook for 30-45 minutes at 180° C or until mix is full set (when knife is removed from cake it should be dry).

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

## ANIMAL FACTS:

### WILD BIRDS



Wild birds will appreciate fresh water in a small shallow tray or large bowl, where they can drink and bathe. The water should be changed every day. You can feed them bird nuts, bird seed, fat balls, raisin mix, fruit, bones, raisins, sultanas and bread.

You can get feeders to hold nuts, seed and fat balls from your local pet shop, which you can hang from trees.

If you don't have a bird table use a large box or drum to place the food on.

**Anne Hoggins**

## BIN COLLECTIONS: DECEMBER/JANUARY

### GREEN BIN

Fri 19 December

**Wed 31 December**

Fri 10 January



### BLUE & BROWN BINS

Fri 19 December (*Not brown*)

**Sat 3 January** (*Blue only*)

Fri 16 January



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

# Village Diary



December 2008 / January 2009

- Tuesday 23 December**                      **Mobile Library visits**  
 Corner Church Lane/Main Street, 12.40pm - 12.55pm
- Tuesday 6 January**                      **Mobile Library visits**  
 Corner Church Lane/Main Street, 12.40pm - 12.55pm
- Wednesday 7 January**                      **Beetle Drive**  
 Church Room, 2.30pm - 4pm
- Tuesday 13 January**                      **Parish Council Meeting**  
 Church Room, 7.30pm (All Villagers welcome)
- Wednesday 21 January**                      **Jubilee Group Coffee Morning**  
 Church Room, 10.30am - Midday
- Saturday 31 January**                      **Courier Village Get-Together**  
 Church Room, 1pm - 4.30pm

If you would like an item included in Village Diary  
please pass on details to any member of the *Courier* team (see p2)

<p><b>Weekly Church Services at</b>                  21 December: 6.30pm Carol Service                  24 December: 4pm Crib Service                  25 December: 9.30am Xmas Communion                  28 December: 10am UBS Service, Croppedy</p>	<p><b>St. James Church, Claydon</b>                  4 January: 9.30am Holy Communion                  11 January: 8.30am Holy Communion                  Wednesday mornings: 10am Holy Communion</p>
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## December

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

## January

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

# Courier Comment

For more  
village info go to  
[www.claydonvillage.net](http://www.claydonvillage.net)

## Season's Greetings

Christmas is a time to celebrate the positive things in life and here in Claydon we have much to be thankful for. Whatever your beliefs and outlook on life, we wish you a happy and peaceful festive season and that your hopes for 2009 are fulfilled.

The Courier Team



### 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](mailto: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 January 1 2009.**