

Claydon & Clattercote Courier

JULY 2010

SUN SHINES FOR ST JAMES' CHRISTENING

Claydon's St James the Great Church was bathed in sunshine for the christening of the village's newest resident, Georgia May Smith of Walnut Gardens.



Rev Pat Freeth led a joyful and moving service on Sunday 4 July, attended by over 50 villagers, friends and family.



Georgia, who wore mother Vicky's family christening gown, behaved impeccably throughout the service and wasn't fazed by the font water.

The service was followed by a garden party in Walnut Gardens, where many commented on how much they enjoyed the intimate atmosphere of Claydon's church. Special thanks to Rev Pat who gave such a fine delivery, despite having almost lost her voice!



STOP PRESS: LOCAL PRODUCE STILL WANTED

There will be a stall selling local produce and products at Claydon's Fun Dog Show on Saturday 17 July (see p.5). Any donations of locally grown or sourced plants, eggs, cheeses, drinks, home made cakes, preserves, garden fruit/veg would be very much appreciated.

Please contact Vicky Smith on 690192 if you are able to give anything. All proceeds will go to village causes. Thanks in advance.

In this issue...

- Church £100 draw results
- Claydon Family Fun Day Saturday 17 July
- A423 speed reduction
- Wartime Claydon remembered

JULY/AUGUST WALKS

For more details of where the informal walking group that's run from Cropredy by **David Hawkins** will be going to in the next month, please call him on (01295) 758228. 

CONGRATULATIONS...

...to **Will Heaverman** of Fenny Compton Road on gaining a 2:1 in his BA (Hons) degree in music from Dartington College of Music. 

FIR TREE FALCONRY

OPEN DAY

Villagers are invited to bring themselves, their friends and families to the Open Day at Fir Tree Falconry, Warmington, run by Keith and Sandy Jones from Manor Park. (www.firtreefalconry.co.uk)

The event will be on Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 July and all proceeds will go to Katharine House Hospice. 

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

RED CROSS COLLECTION

Thank you to villagers who kindly donated to this year's appeal and to Lisa Simmons for helping out with the collection. A total of £113.47 was raised.

Although the Banbury centre is closed pending new premises a unit attends the Morrisons car park on Fridays between 10.30am and Midday. Anyone needing help can contact the Abingdon office on (01235) 552660.

Sara Heaverman

CLAYDON CONTACTS

OUT NOW!

All the contacts you'll ever need - in one handy place! Your latest copy of the A4-sized *Claydon Contacts* is included in this month's *Courier*. Extra copies can be downloaded from the village website: www.claydonvillage.net We hope you find it useful. Any feedback will be gratefully received - call Vicky Smith on 690192. 

TOP WORK AT TOP LOCK

Top Lock owner Phoebe Shaft will be launching her new gallery space on 31 July and villagers are warmly invited to come and view paintings, ceramics, textiles and jewellery. Organic veg, cakes and refreshments will also be available.

The gallery will be open from **10am - 4pm** on the following days:

- ➔ Sat 31 July - Mon 2 August
- ➔ Fri 6 - Mon 9 August
- ➔ Fri 13 - Mon 16 August

Top Lock is on the Oxford Canal towpath between Appletree Road and Boddington Road bridges. 

FESTIVE SPIRIT

Please join the special celebrations for St. James' Patronal Festival on Sunday 25 July. More details soon - watch village noticeboards. 

CHURCH CHANCE OF £100 WINNERS

The third St James the Great Church Chance of £100 draw was held on 29 June at the Claydon Summer Event meeting. The winners were:

- ☺ **1st (£100):** Celia Adams (Main Street)
- ☺ **2nd (£30):** Connie Lloyd (Manor Park)
- ☺ **3rd (£20):** Tony Gebbels (Fenny Compton Road)



The draw was a huge success and raised £295 for the Church. Thank you to all those who supported the draw and bought an entry number. Also a big thank you for the hard work of the collectors who did a fantastic job in ensuring we raised such a large total. We hope to repeat the draw in December 2010.

Mike Smith

Courier Contact



From Name & Address supplied,

Roll On Winter... as when winter arrives I can shut my doors and windows and enjoy a more peaceful life without the intrusion of the constant barking of dogs. I have always understood "doggie communication" to be a warning of someone approaching, a hello when owner returns home, please let me in or out or, if continuous, a sign of distress in the dog!

I am sorry that the village seems to contain a lot of dogs in the vicinity of Main Street and Manor Park whose owners seem oblivious to their constant yapping/distress. Some dogs are left alone in the house, clearly unhappy as they bark and howl. I frequently hear dogs in the garden - even when the owners are at home - who are allowed to bark uncontrollably. Many days that should have been enjoyed outside have been spoiled by certain dogs just not stopping barking all day.

As with everything disagreeable in life it seems that some people's thoughtlessness spoils it for others. If some control their animals (I'm very much aware that some do and thank them sincerely for this) why can't all? Please may we be allowed to enjoy a few peaceful days in the garden and then I won't have to wish so hard for winter?!

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Monday 2nd August 2010
Saturday 8th August 2010
MORE DATES ONLINE!!!

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A423 VIEWS STILL COUNT

Although the official deadline for views on the A423 Southam Road speed reduction closed on 9 July, Oxfordshire County Council will still consider comments sent to: road.safety@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Courier BEACHED

This month's entry for the *Courier's* travel competition comes from Stef and Pete Kearney of Manor Park, who took an issue with them to Portimão, on Portugal's Algarve coast.

Pete says: "The sea is the Atlantic, fantastically rough and cool. Even so, we waded out and got cooled off after cooking in the sun. The very best thing about our time there, apart from the local wines, were the people. They were fantastic, very informative, wanted your side of the story as well, not just your dosh!"

Why not take a photo of you/your family with the *Courier* on your summer holiday and send it to us (details on back page). 



CLAYDON FAMILY SUMMER FUN DAY

Saturday 17 July

Afternoon

for Dog Lovers & Fun Seekers

BBQ & Licensed Bar from
12.30pm

Fun Dog Show from 1.30pm

Children's Activities & Raffle

FREE ENTRY

(£1 per class per dog for dog show entries)

Evening

for Dancing & Socialising

BBQ Supper & Licensed Bar
from 6.30pm

Barn Dance from 7.30pm

Additional Activities inc. Raffle

£6 Adults / £3 Children

**Tickets (include burger/hot
dog) on sale now - call Vicky**

Smith on (01295) 690192

Funds raised shared equally between the Church, the Playing Field and the *Courier*.

EVACUTED TO THE SAFETY OF CLAYDON AWAY FROM THE RAGING WAR

Former Claydon resident, David Webb, now lives in Perth, Western Australia. Early chapters of his autobiography, *Ten Bob Pom*, have been shared with the *Courier*, and we are delighted to have permission to reproduce extracts here.

In September 1940, a year after Britain and the Allies entered the war against Germany, my brother Jack and I were put on a train at Paddington Station and sent off, the two of us, as evacuees to Oxfordshire. I was just a month short of my sixth birthday while brother Jack, seven years older than me, was already a teenager.

Earlier that day my mother had seen us off, putting us on the bus at the nearby Newport Road School to take us to Paddington. I don't remember the departure, but I believe there was a bus full of kids from where we lived in the Leytonstone district of London E11. We all wore short trousers, jumpers and school caps, and had the inevitable gas masks strung across our shoulders. And when we reached Paddington and were herded on the platform, I'm told the air raid siren sounded, warning of an imminent visit by German bombers. That may have been unusual because I could only remember such attacks being made at night under the cover of dark. I believe it was a grey, dull day, nothing unusual for London in that era of smog and poor visibility. Maybe that was the reason why the Luftwaffe chose to make a daylight raid.

Much later that day Jack and I stood on the playground of the small school at the village of Claydon, along with twenty or so other kids from London. In what must have been a kind of market-day-with-a-difference, children were looked over and billeted out to those village families who had already offered to take evacuees, giving their preferences for boys or girls and how many they were prepared to take. As it happened, Jack and I were the last to be given a billet. And I think we were probably the luckiest. Fred and Ada Talbot and their grown-up daughter Edie had said they would take two children, preferably girls, so when we were the only two kids left on the playground they signed the documents and took us away.

The Talbots leased Sundial Farm, 100 acres of mixed farming which ran to some twenty milking cows, as many beef cattle, a small flock of sheep, a hundred or so chickens, two pigs, a flotilla of ducks and a mix of grain and fodder crops. Such was the lifeblood of most people in the region. All the farms at Claydon abutted the two narrow roads that ran through the

village, spreading out from the radius of thatched-roofed cottages and vegetable gardens which, along with the ancient parish church, the Rising Sun tavern and the village pump, were central to the theme of Claydon life.

Sundial Farm was the most central of all the farms, just a two-minute-walk down the road from the school. On one corner opposite was a stone cottage, on the other the curved stone wall of the church cemetery. Street entry to Sundial was via two large timber gates, flanked on one side by a high stone garden wall which stretched 100 metres down the road. On the other side of the gates were the outside walls of the horse stables, a large barn and the milking sheds. On the street pavement outside the barn was the terminus for the Midland Red bus service to Banbury, seven miles away. It operated two services one day a week - taking people to the markets in the morning and returning them home in the afternoon. A timetable in a large red frame fixed to the outside wall of the barn seemed an unnecessary addition for this one-day-a-week service.

As a kid from London suburbia, Sundial Farm seemed enormous to me. Its fields stretched endlessly away from the farm house as far as the eye could see. I remember on that first day Fred Talbot pointing to the Oxford Canal which wound through the middle of the farm half-a-mile away. It was a small sliver of water in the distance, the image that stuck most in my mind in what I suppose must have been a day of considerable drama.

.....

The Italian POWs were real. They were driven to the village each weekday day in large, camouflaged army trucks, to work on the farms. They seemed to quite enjoy their new environment, or perhaps they were just glad to be out of the war. They would sing and joke as they piled in through the back of the covered truck at the end of a working day on their way back to the prisoner-of-war camp a few miles away. They were always well fed with generous chunks of cheese in their lunch packs which caused comment among the local folk, not nearly as well treated by the restrictions of war rationing. Among the prisoners was a tall, handsome Italian, Giovanni Zambon. I thought he had a voice like Gigli's.

When the war was over, John Zambon as we later called him, wrote to the Talbots and asked if he could return and work for them, which he did. While his voice was impeccable, he still had problems with his English. One night he took out a young woman friend of the Millins whose perfume obviously hit the target. Later she reported with some mirth how he had complimented her. "You stink beautiful," he had said. John stayed at Sundial for two years before returning to Italy.

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TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL CAR BOOT SELLING

If you need to raise money and have a good clear out, you may well want to try taking your items to a car boot sale. You'll usually pay around £5 for a pitch and then anything you earn is profit.

Make sure to take a good table (folding pasting tables are ideal) and lay your items out so customers can clearly see them. Value each item highly to start with - you can then reduce the price if you need to and your customers will feel they have got a bargain.

CALLING ALL VILLAGERS!

If you have unwanted items, but don't fancy car booting yourself, we'd be very grateful for them, as the *Courier* Team will be going to the Fairport Car Boot on 15 August to raise funds for the *Courier*. Please contact Pete Kearney on 690571 if you can help. We can take almost anything, including items charity shops can't take, like unwanted make-up and small electrical goods.



HOW TO CUT JUNK MAIL

Hello Dear Readers, I am on Page 9 as well as page 11 this month with just a bit of info for you all. The Post Office is going to start or may have already started to deliver more "Unaddressed Mail" (junk mail to you and I).

It will rise to about six a week so I have been told by a Post Office personage, (not our Tim by the way).

Now if you don't want it, this is what you can do: you can phone them on 08457 950 950 (Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm) and use option 1. Give them your name and address, etc and they will send you a form to fill out and it also explains a few things as well, then you sign it, that is to say that you understand it all or some of it anyway, it should do the trick. Or write to the address below and they will send you the same letter, lots of info in that. Save a phone call, why not.

There is another way to stop unwanted junk mail. These are the types that DO have your address and keep sending junk because you bought something from a sister company 20 years ago. You need to get yourself onto a computer, get a friend or neighbour to do it for you if you're not so keen on modern technology, who can blame you, it is 100% free and this also works well, it is more selective for your needs. It is: www.mpsonline.org.uk As recommended by the Post Office in one of their communications...

Cheers,

Pete Kearney

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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

FREE RANGE EGGS - for sale, will deliver in Claydon. Call Anne on 690675 or 07870 352949.

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ANIMAL FACTS - SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

If you are going out this summer in the car and have to take your dog, make sure you leave the window open a good amount to allow plenty of fresh, cool air into the vehicle.



Park in shade and go back to the car frequently to check on the dog. Give your animal a little walk before leaving.

Don't leave your dog tied up outside a shop on its own.

Anne Hoggins



Oxfordshire County Council wishes to bring the **Community Support Fund** to the attention of voluntary organisations and community groups in

your area. The CSF is often a valuable source of funding each year for about 30 organisations. The purpose of the grants is to increase the capacity of small voluntary groups; especially those which support and promote strong communities so that people can live their lives as successfully and independently as possible and to provide effective and efficient support to the most vulnerable. Groups can apply for amounts up to £800 and priority is often given to those with limited funds.

For more information call Angela Barnett on (01235) 553465 or email angela.barnett@oxfordshire.gov.uk



The Castle, Edgehill

Dear Reader, you find me today on your behalf at the Castle at Edgehill, not too many miles from sunny Claydon. You can park your car outside but the road is a bit narrow - you could lose a mirror - or down the side driveway, but the best place is the car park almost opposite the pub on the other side of the road.



but they never do, lucky if you get a choice of three, though they do have lager and cider, too. Bitter is £2.85 and the rest is £3.20 a pint. You are served by a youth that looks like he slept in his clothes and just got out of bed and his hair is a stranger to a comb, plainly not wanting to be there,

no hello, no eye contact, just how much he needs for the beer.

The place was first built as a residence in 1750. It took eight years to build, they moved in on the 3rd of September, 100 years after Olly Cromwell's death. It was turned into an inn some time in 1880. It is now and has been for a long time a Hook Norton pub, you can stay the night there in the tower, I think they have 2 or 3 rooms at £70 per night.

The bar itself is very small, just like a buffet car on a train so you soon get a queue. I suppose that folk like ourselves only go there for a pint or two and carry on our journey so the staff do not waste time interacting with you as they think they will never see you again, just like a road side café.

The main thing about the place is the very large garden with lots of tables, also some info on what happened in the Civil War, but the very best thing is the view over the valley. You can see on a very clear night from the balcony, that seats about 15 to 18 folk on a range of unmatched chairs and tables, clear across to the GPO tower in Birmingham and beyond, to the left they reckon you can see Wales.

The landlord seems only interested in sorting out the food and shouting at the folk in the kitchen, he will not bother himself with you otherwise, the meals look OK, small plates looks a lot... The window of the kitchen opens onto the balcony with the view, so you can't help but hear it all, mind you the food smells good. I have been there three times this year and it is the same each time: the beer is ok, the view is fantastic, when it is clear, but the rest?

As to the pub itself they say they stock a full range of Hooky beers, yes

Cheers!
Pete

Coming up...

For more
village info go to
www.claydonvillage.net

- **Saturday 17 July**
Family Summer Fun Day
Playing Field [*See p.5 for more details*]

- **Late August Bank Holiday**
Annual Flower Festival
St James the Great Church [*More details next month*]

The Courier is brought to you each month by:

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Claydon & Clattercote Courier

Be part of your ***Courier!*** We welcome all contributions & will always try to publish material received.

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

We retain the right to edit or reduce content to fit the space available.

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 Paul Gallagher on 690119 or talk to any of the team.

Deadline for the next issue is August 1.