

# Claydon & Clattercote **C**ourier

NOVEMBER 2010

## CLAYDON BONFIRE EVENT A SPARKLING SUCCESS

There was a healthy turn-out for Claydon's annual bonfire event on Saturday 13 November.



concluded with drinks, food and chat in the village marquee. A raffle, kindly organised by Anne Hoggins, sent many villagers home with prizes.



The Playing Field Management Committee, *Courier* and PCC wish to thank all those who donated time, effort and resources to make the evening such a success. A total of over £100 was raised for village funds.

**Mike Smith**

The evening started with the traditional lighting of the bonfire. Children's games followed in the marquee. Fun was had by all, bobbing the apples and eating sticky buns with hands tied behind the back. Caitlin Wadland and Tom and Natasha Spicer won the 'Make the Guy' competition, well done all.



Homemade soup, hot dogs, burgers and mulled wine were all popular 'fuel' on a fine, clear and dry autumnal night and the coloured glo-sticks on sale were particularly popular with the children.

A fifteen minute firework display lit up the Claydon sky and many villagers commented on the spectacular display. The evening



### In this issue...



- Remembrance Special
- Keith Hamilton celebrates 30 years in Claydon
- Allotment thefts
- Church porch renovation completed

# ALLOTMENT THEFTS AND BREAK-INS

It has been reported that produce has been stolen from plots on the allotments and that sheds have been broken into. If villagers have any information, and if they see any

suspicious behaviour on or near the allotments, please report it to any parish councillor (contact details on the village website: [www.claydonvillage.net](http://www.claydonvillage.net))



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## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2010



Churchwardens Keith Hamilton and Michael O'Donovan with Parish Councillor Anne Hoggins at Claydon War Memorial on November 14

The annual Remembrance Service took place on 14 November. Wreaths were laid in the Churchyard by Anne Hoggins (for Claydon & Clattercote Parish Council) and Keith Hamilton (for the Royal British Legion).

John Langridge took the moving service which included a two minute silence in memory of all those killed in battle. Over 20 people attended the service.

### IN MEMORIAM

Villagers will be saddened to hear of the deaths last month of **Ray Bullock** (Fenny Compton Road) and **Connie Lloyd** (Manor Park). Our condolences go their families and friends.

### SENIOR XMAS LUNCH

All Senior Citizens of Claydon and Clattercote are warmly invited to the Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch 2010 on **Tuesday 14 December**, from 12.30 for 1pm.

Following the success of the lunch last year, the venue will once again be The Bell Inn, Great Bourton. The cost will be £12.95 per person. This includes a delicious four-course menu with a choice of starters and deserts.

Please let us know if you would like to come along. RSVP to 690452 as soon as possible. Thanks.

David & Jo Hill



## CLAYDON'S WAR DEAD - INFORMATION APPEAL

Before moving to live in Claydon, in mid 2009, I researched the lives of the men commemorated on the War Memorial of the village in which we previously lived – Little Harrowden in Northamptonshire. My efforts contributed to a booklet about those men, recently published to coincide with the unveiling of a new memorial window in the village. I had previously put on an exhibition about the Memorial and the men.

I also researched a number of men who were not commemorated on the Memorial but who died in the First World War and had a link with the Harrowdens. I succeeded in visiting the graves of most of the 30 or so men commemorated in, or linked with, the village.

I am interested in researching the lives of the men on the Claydon War Memorial in the same way.

Two house moves in 12 months have left me with very little time to do any research. However, I have already acquired limited knowledge of the men on the Claydon Memorial.

I have established that **William Berry** was the son of William (a carrier) and Hannah (nee Hemmings). The 1901 census shows him living with his parents and six siblings, in Claydon. William died on 28 September

1915, whilst serving with the 5th Battalion of the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, and is buried at the large Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery at Etaples on the French coast.

**Maurice Prew** (sadly killed close to the end of the Second World War) was the son of John and Annie Prew. I believe that Maurice Prew probably has relatives still living in the village, as I note that a photograph of him seems to have been placed in the church relatively recently. He died on 18 May 1945 and is buried in Rangoon.

Although he was an officer (and officers are usually easier to research) I have so far not managed to identify **William Shaw**, but I hope to visit the National Archives next year to see if I can find out more about him.

I hope that, as a newcomer, my interest will not be seen as intrusive. I would welcome any information about the men on the Memorial, how the Memorial came to be constructed and placed and about any other persons with a link to Claydon who have a claim to be commemorated.

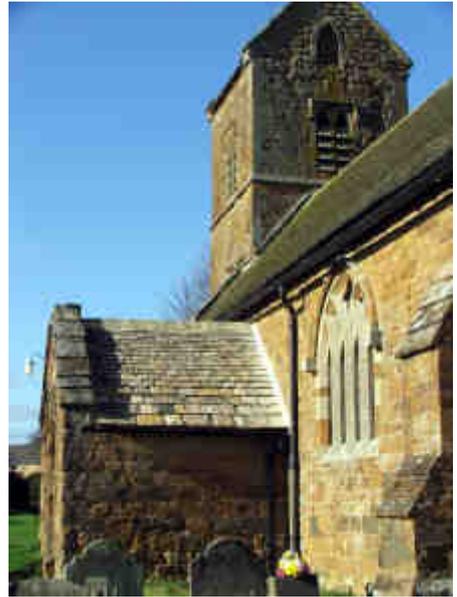
**Simon Bull**

The Brambles, Main Street, Claydon  
Tel : 690210  
Email: [simon.bull@btinternet.com](mailto:simon.bull@btinternet.com)

## CHURCH PORCH WORK COMPLETED



During the renovation



Porch re-roofing completed

Many villagers will have seen the maintenance work being carried out to the Church porch roof. The Parochial Church Council is delighted that church renovation specialist, PR Alcock & Sons, has now completed the required reslating work.

The PCC confirms that the project will have cost under £10,000 and that the full amount will be funded by grants awarded for this specific purpose.

The next major project will be to automate the winding of the church clock - maintaining the integrity of the existing mechanism, but removing the need for daily winding. Again, grants will be pursued to cover the full cost.

**Tim Cozze-Young**

## CLUSTER CARE FUNDRAISER - ALL WELCOME

The Cluster Care Group is holding a fundraising concert on **Friday 10 December** at 7.30pm in Hanwell Village Hall. IMPROMPTU will be providing a mixture of old, new and seasonal entertainment. Tickets will be £5 on the door to include tea/coffee and a mince pie. If you have heard IMPROMPTU before you know you are in for a great evening's entertainment. If you haven't heard IMPROMPTU before, come along and find out what you have been missing! We look forward to seeing you.

**Margaret Atkins**

## ISLAND HOPPER

This month's entry for the *Courier's* travel competition comes from our youngest ever entrant, Georgia Smith of Walnut Gardens, who was just six months old when she was snapped holding the *Courier* with dad Mike in front of Corbiere lighthouse, Jersey in August.

Mike said: "This was her first time 'abroad'. She was fascinated by the sea, but wasn't so sure about getting her feet wet!"



## MOBILE MENACES

Several villagers have commented on the large number of drivers passing through Claydon while holding a mobile phone handset. - which is illegal.

Drivers of large farm vehicles have also been spotted doing this and the consequences of one of these vehicles running out of control in our small village could be horrific.

Anyone who is concerned about these road users will be pleased to

know hat offenders can be reported to a Thames Valley Police hotline. Simply note the vehicle registration, make, time and location, then call 0845 850 5505.

The Police can access the driver's mobile phone records and from these it can often be proved that the driver was phoning and driving. If so, they are likely to be prosecuted.

## CLAYDON CALENDAR LAUNCHED

The Jubilee Group hosted a launch 'party' for the 2011 Claydon Calendar on Saturday 9 October in the Church Room. The twelve photographs of our picturesque village were on display.

Villagers enjoyed a glass of wine and nibbles and good old chat on an autumnal afternoon. Profits from the sale of the calendar will be spent back in the village. There are still some calendars available to purchase at £5 each from Dorothy Beckett on 690322 or Thelma Tibbets on 690574.



## NEW ARRIVALS

Welcome to the village to **Garry, Pamela and Alex (3) Putt** who have moved into Main Street.



Garry, who works for Land Rover, is already a keen supporter of village life and has volunteered to be a member of the Playing Field Management Committee. Pamela works for the Southern Central Ambulance Service. We hope they settle in well to their new home.

**Leigh and Louisa Smith** have just moved into Walnut House, Walnut Gardens from Redhill, Surrey.

Leigh is a UK business development manager in the optical industry and Louisa is a primary school teacher. They are very much looking forward to village life and have already been made to feel most welcome. 

## EXTRA MEETING

There will be an Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council on **Tuesday 23 November** at 7.30pm in the Church Room to discuss Manor Farm Buildings. 

## GET PAMPERED

Due to the success of my first Claydon beauty evening in the summer, I will be holding a 'Christmas Pampering' event on **Tuesday 7 December** from 2pm-4pm and 6pm-9pm in the Church Room.

To help get us all in the Christmas spirit, I will be providing mini manicures, hand and arm massages and nail paints. I shall also be able to do make-up or mini pedicures, but only for those who book in advance.

So, if you'd like to join me for some special Christmas treats, please call me asap to book, or just turn up on the day and see what you fancy, even if it's just to socialise.

Please call 07765 019476 or 01295 690559 to book. I look forward to seeing you.

**Abbie Ronaldson**

## FESTIVE XMAS FAYRE

Cropredy School is holding a Christmas Fayre on **Saturday 20 November** from 2pm-4.30pm to raise money for a new outdoor play area

There will be a Santa's grotto, children's activities and games, stalls, raffle and lots more. Entrance is £2.50 per adult (kids go free) and includes tea, coffee or mulled wine and a mince pie. 

# Claydon People

From dodging flying bullets in an attempted African coup, to working in Dubai for the Saudi Arabian Royal Family, Crossing Lane resident **Keith Hamilton** has lived a varied life.

The 60-year old husband of Janice and father of three arrived in Claydon back in December 1980, and his journey here was far from dull.

Born in the shadow of Hadrian's Wall in 1950, six year old Keith and his family swapped rural Northumberland for the hustle and bustle of urban Newcastle. Keith and his two elder brothers came from four generations of miners and his father was adamant his sons would have a different life.

"My father didn't want his boys to go down the mines: he wanted us to get a trade. We hated the city but we got used to it," says Keith.

After leaving school he served a five year apprenticeship and as a cabinet maker with an established and well respected firm.

But only a year after qualifying, he chose to relocate. "I thought I'd prosper better down here," he says, "I wanted to go self-employed so I decided to move to Beaconsfield." It was here that he met his wife to be Janice in 1972. "We stepped out

for a couple of years and I was 24 years old when we got married," remembers Keith.

The happy couple then moved to Oakley in Oxfordshire. Keith started getting contract work which involved long periods of living and working overseas.

"I started to work in West Africa and got a contract to supply and install furniture for the state residence and Queen's house in Nigeria," he says. "While I was in Lagos there was an attempted coup right outside the building where we were working. It was very scary. At first I thought the loud sounds from outside were from a car backfiring, but it was actually the president's army generals firing machine guns at his car at the traffic lights outside the building. We stayed in the building and hoped for the best."

Presidential retribution was fast and brutal: the next day Keith witnessed the public execution of the supposed perpetrators. So he was glad when shortly after he was transferred to Saudi Arabia.

There he worked in the royal family's palatial private residence. This was less eventful than Nigeria, but it was getting ever harder to leave home. Contracts could last anything from three to eight weeks

at a time and his first daughter Kate was born in 1976. "It was so hard, I missed our Kate's first steps," he says, "it was an adventure working overseas but I was missing out on my family. When Greg was born in 1979 I decided to give it up."

The following year saw the young family follow Janice's parents.

Their move to a farmhouse in Bishops Itchington resulted in the Hamilton's move to a small two bed-roomed cottage in Claydon. A third child -

Ross - was born here in 1986.

Keith's first impressions of Claydon were good. "As soon as I saw the garden and the outlook I knew this was the house for us," he says. The handyman went on to extend the house substantially and even put in a large swimming pool in the back garden.

When the family first moved in, Crossing Lane looked rather different. "Next to us was a market garden: our neighbour John Gardner used plots to grow fruit and veg. Sadly he passed away, and the land was then sold off for housing."

When asked how the village has changed over the last 30 years, Keith explains: "I think there were a lot more children in the village then. They were always playing down the field and Claydon even had its own cricket team. We had the Claydon festivals every other year of which Janice was a founder member. The pub was open, they were brilliant times with everyone

pulling together."

Keith adds: "We all liked village life and the kids loved it here. We only intended to stay for five years!"



He believes the village has recently become more outgoing. "There was a period when things were quiet and people weren't really getting involved which was concerning," says Keith, "but what with the *Courier* and the playing field things have really stepped up."

Keith believes its important to be an active member of the community and has spent the last 24 years on the Parochial Church Council. He has been a church warden for nine years and learnt at the knee of previous church warden Andrew Fox. Talking about the PCC, Keith says: "There's a fellowship and you feel a responsibility to other people. >>>

>>> If you don't do your bit you feel like you're letting them down. ”

Like many others, Keith believes the church to be the heart of the village. “Our church is wonderful. It's nearly 1,000 years old, we're so lucky to have it.

Whether you're religious or not we should be proud that we've got that building. We even have a few people who don't live in Claydon who come along to services and give regularly because they love the church. I'd hate to see it boarded up.”

His role as church warden involves liaising with fellow church warden Michael O'Donovan, organising services with the vicar, finding readers for services, making sure the church is set up for each service, being responsible for its maintenance and getting the births, deaths and marriages registers out of the strong box when required. “We generally just need to be around, and also organise the organist but seeing as it's Janice that plays, that's not usually a problem,” he laughs.

Keith is still very busy running his bespoke cabinet making and furniture business and counts various Lords and Ladies among his clients as well as well known actors, such as Sir Ben Kingsley and

radio and TV presenter Sarah Kennedy. He's done a lot of work for the Cadbury family as well as for Lady Wardington.

“I build libraries, bedrooms, kitchens and bathrooms, it's all bespoke. The prices are the same whoever you are.” All Keith's work is carried out from his workshop in Boddington and is generated by word of mouth with kitchen prices ranging from £5,000 to £20,000. “I work from my own designs, I make it and I fit it,” he says.

But it's Fridays Keith now most looks forward to. This is the day where he takes time out from work to look after his granddaughter Matilda who is obviously the apple of Keith (and Janice's) eye. Keith wells up with pride and says: “Lovely little Matilda, she's changed my life. It's amazing looking after her. If I don't see her for two or three days I get withdrawal symptoms,” he says.

Asked if he and Janice would ever consider leaving Claydon, Keith reflects: “The kids still feel like Claydon is their home and they don't want us to ever move away. I think we'll be here for a while yet.”



Keith in 1940's style for the WWII-themed Harvest Supper in October 2007

**Lisa Simmons**

# PARISH COUNCIL MEETING NOTES - NOVEMBER 2010

A Parish Council meeting took place on 9 November, with 5 villagers present, plus district councillor Ken Atack. The main points raised were:

**Standards** - Chairman David Hill said that declarations of interest would be taken more seriously than they have been in the past.

**Oxford Canal near Otter Hollow** - The number of boats and temporary buildings is now of concern. Cherwell council continues to work with British Waterways to bring enforcement actions against offenders.

**Manor Farm Buildings** - Cherwell council has granted a Lawful Development Certificate, despite the objections of the Parish Council and villagers. *[Also see page 7]*

**Point to Point Farm** - Another planning application has been submitted. It was rejected by Cherwell council.

**Blue Plaque** - Cllr Robert Adams was thanked for his efforts in securing the plaque. The Parish Council's contribution to the project is likely to be £60.

**Allotments** - All payments have now been received but two signed agreements are still outstanding. Three plots holders appear not to be in use and the clerk has written

to holders asking for their cultivation plans. Cllr Anne Hoggins raised the issue of produce thefts and break-ins. *[See page 2]*

**Grit Bins** - The clerk has spoken to the chair of Farnborough parish council, which is responsible for the missing grit bin on Fenny Compton Road by the railway bridge. A suggestion that another (new) bin on the other (Claydon) side of the bridge should be paid for by Claydon was rejected and the parish council will ask Farnborough parish to provide both bins.

**Finances** - The 2011/12 budget will be discussed at the January meeting, when the level of the precept will be agreed.

**Concessionary Fares** - Oxfordshire county is consulting before it takes over running concessionary travel permits from district councils next year. Cllr Rob Jones reported that the Parish Council should recommend free travel should start at 9.30am rather than 9am.

**Extraordinary Parish Council meeting: Tuesday 23 November, Church Room, 7.30pm. All welcome.** *[See page 7]*

**Next Parish Council meeting:** Tuesday 11 January 2011, Church Room, 7.30pm. All welcome. 

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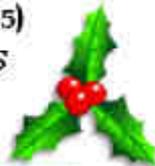
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# SEASONAL RECIPE

## Butternut Squash stuffed with Chestnuts and Pancetta

### Ingredients:

1 butternut squash  
100g pancetta, diced  
Olive oil  
1 stalk celery, chopped  
1 red onion, chopped  
1 knob of butter  
1 sprig rosemary  
1 pinch dried chilli  
1 pinch nutmeg  
Salt and pepper  
1 egg, lightly beaten  
Zest of 1 orange  
1 handful cooked chestnuts, chopped  
2 handfuls breadcrumbs

### Method:

First, slice the squash in half and discard the seeds. Using a teaspoon, scrape and hollow out most of the squash. In a pan, lightly crisp the diced pancetta in a little olive oil, then add the celery, onion, butter, rosemary, chilli, nutmeg and squash flesh. Cook slowly for about 5 minutes without colouring too much.



Remove from the heat and allow to cool, then season well to taste. Stir in the egg, orange zest, chestnuts and mix in enough breadcrumbs so the stuffing is not too sticky. Fill both halves of the squash skin with the stuffing, stick them back together and wrap the whole thing in a double layer of foil.

Bake the squash in the oven for 1½ hours on a rack next to a joint of meat, or simply have it on its own as a meal. To check its ready, push a small knife into it — if it goes in easily, it's cooked. Unwrap, slice and serve. **[Serves 8]** 

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## CHRISTINGLE EXPLAINED

The symbolic Christingle service (*to be held in Claydon St James the Great Church this year on Advent Sunday, 28 November - see back page*) depicts Christ as the 'Light of the World' and the fruits of His Creation. The Christingle Service developed in the Moravian Church was introduced to the Church of England by the Children's Society.



In this simple service the children and their families receive a Christingle orange which illuminates the darkness of the Church while Christingle songs are sung and the Christingle story is told. Everyone is welcome to come and celebrate the onset of Advent and share in the anticipation of Christmas!

**Rev Pat Freeth, Vicar**

(and not so local!)  
**PETE'S PINT** - A regular review of local hosteleries



**Fagins Ale and Chop House, Taffs Well**

Well Dear Reader,

I am sorry to say this is a small report on a NOT so local pub. I was, in fact, down in Wales visiting relations and Taffs Well is a good place for us all to meet up. The name of the place is Fagins Ale and Chop House, just north of Cardiff, off the M4 and Taffs Well is on the A4054.



go to the bar they ask how many pints you would usually drink and you buy tickets, each worth ½ pint. I think it worked out to about £2.70 a pint.

Not all beers were to our taste, some were fantastic, but that is the thing with Real Ale it is a living thing and the taste can differ day to day, depending on how long it has been there.

It is run by Anne and Simon and they do a cracking job. Simon is the Chef and comes from Bargoed only 15 miles away, and turns out some very good food, as well as being extremely great value for money. Anne is from Bonny Scotland and she is front of house and works at just about every thing else, too.

They have a very large bar area with a huge wood burning stove that looks great with the flames ticking over just pumping out the heat. Behind the bar there are usually six real ales in the barrels. On the bar is cider on draught and some more bitters.

The restaurant has about 15 tables but you can use this as an overflow for a sit down, if they do not need the tables. We timed our visit for their Real Ale Festival. They had a total of 18 beers to sup and you paid for this with tickets. When you first

I could name all 18 beers they had on offer, but that would be a waste of time. A few do spring to mind though. Bays Breaker @ 4.7%: very tasty. Brecon Breweries Ysbrid Y Ddraig @ 6.5%: quite dry. Moor Beer from Somerset IPA @ 9% (yes 9%!): that was very slow to go down but just perfect. These beers were from all over the country so the choice was very big, we each got a ½, then we tried each others, very nice. Five of us had a meal as well, as we already knew that the grub is great. We only had the main courses, the whole bill was a massive £35.70, you can't beat that for value, can you?

The main bar is large enough to take a live group on some nights and they regularly do, not my scene though. I know that many Claydonians will not find their way down there, but you never know, do you?

Cheers!

Pete

## CHRISTMAS EVENT SET TO SPARKLE

The annual Claydon Christmas Tree Lighting and Remembrance event will take place on **Sunday 5 December** in and around St James the Great Church. Please come and join us for this very special seasonal event which will celebrate and remember family, friends and even special pets who are away or no longer with us. Mulled wine and delicious treats will be served in the Church Room, where Santa will also be handing out presents.

The event will start around the tree where village children will delight us by lighting the tree and singing a carol. If your child would like to be involved, please contact Louise Bryer. All children are welcome! Our special guests are the Mollington Hand Bell Ringers and The Mill Town Singers, who will play and sing seasonal carols and songs in the Church.

As in previous years, shimmering golden stars will adorn Claydon's Christmas tree with your loved ones' names on them. These will be made in advance, so please let me know as soon as possible how many you would like and the name and (short) message to be written on each star. You can either call me on 690155, pop a note through the door at 5 Bignolds Close, or email me on [lisa.pilkington@rbi.co.uk](mailto:lisa.pilkington@rbi.co.uk) A few stars will be available on the day, but I recommend getting them made in advance.

We're asking for a donation of £3 per star. All proceeds will be split 50:50 between this year's special charity: BARKS (Banbury Animal Rescue & Kindness Service) and Claydon's Church.

We would really appreciate any generous donations you can make of either red wine and/or home-made cakes to be sold on the day.

Please feel free to contact me for any further information. I look forward to seeing you there!

**Lisa Simmons**

### CLAYDON CHRISTMAS EVENT 2010

Sunday 5 December

St James the Great Church

**3.30pm** Refreshments served in the Church Room + Santa visit!

**4pm** Introduction, children singing and tree lighting

**4.10pm** Remembrance ceremony: reading of names on stars

**4.15pm** Remembrance thoughts

**4.20pm** Mollington Bell Ringers play festive tunes

**4.30pm** Mill Town Singers lead Christmas songs

**4.40pm** Carol singing by all

**4.45-5.15pm** Hot drinks and festive cakes in Church Room

# Coming up...

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

- **Saturday 20 November, 2pm-4.30pm**  
**Cropredy School Christmas Fayre**  
Cropredy [See page 6]
- **Tuesday 23 November, 7.30pm**  
**Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting**  
Church Room [See page 7]
- **Sunday 28 November, 10am**  
**Christingle Service**  
St James the Great Church [See page 13]
- **Sunday 5 December, 4pm onwards**  
**Claydon Christmas Event**  
Churchyard/Church Room [See page 15]
- **Friday 10 December, 7.30pm**  
**Cluster Care Fundraising Concert**  
Mollington Village Hall [See page 5]
- **Friday 17 December, 5pm-7pm**  
**Carols By Candlelight**  
Boddington Village Hall  
*£3 adult, £2 child, including seasonal drinks and nibbles*



If you would like an event included on this page please contact us (details below)

## ***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 and will always try to publish material received.

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

If necessary, we may edit or reduce content to fit the space available.

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

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**Deadline for the next issue is December 1.**