

Claydon with Clattercote Newsletter

March 2012

CELEBRATION OF THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

Funds Available for Festivities

Village groups wishing to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee and strengthen community spirit can apply for a grant of £100 up to £500 to assist the celebrations. The money may not be spent on items such as food, drink and fireworks, but it can cover entertainment expenses and hire of equipment. Full details are available on www.cherwell.gov.uk/jubileefund. The Parish Council has also budgeted £250 to add to the fund.

In addition the Playing Field Management Committee (PFMC) will make available the marquee, generator, lighting, BBQ etc to any Claydon village groups that would like to use them as part of their celebrations.

To arrange this please contact PFMC member Garry Putt on 690941.

Free Mugs for Younger Village Children

Commemorative mugs will be donated by the Claydon Trust. To qualify children must reside in the village and be aged 11 and under on 5th June. In order to ensure that no one is missed, parents are requested to fill out and return a registration slip which will be delivered with this Newsletter. If you do not receive a registration slip and there are children who qualify in your household please telephone 690510.

A small number of mugs will also be available for sale on the Jubilee Weekend at £4 each.

Diamond Jubilee Raffle

The Claydon Trust is donating the prize money (£100 first prize plus four other prizes) for a raffle in support of the Church Room Refurbishment Project. If only a small number of tickets are sold, the Trust is also guaranteeing that the project will receive £100. However, the raffle provides an opportunity for villagers to show their support by buying tickets and also selling them to friends and work colleagues. It could make a huge contribution to the fundraising target of £13000.

If you are able to sell tickets please contact the promoter by ringing 690510 or by e-mail to theclaydontrust@gmail.com.

Music and Monologues Evening

There will be a programme of popular songs from the musicals by the group 'Impromptu' and monologues by Sue Cherry in St James' Church

starting at 7.00 pm on Thursday May 31st. The evening is organised by the (Golden) Jubilee Group and all proceeds will go to the Church Room Refurbishment Project. Limited space means admission will be by ticket only. Contact Dorothy Beckett on 690322 or Thelma Tibbetts on 690574. Tickets are £6 each, which includes a drink during the interval.

1952 History Exhibition

The History Society will be mounting an exhibition of the village in 1952. This will show how it was when the Queen came to the throne. It will be available for viewing in the Church Room during the Jubilee Weekend.

Special Church Service

On Sunday 3rd June there will be a special service in St James' Church with patriotic hymns and readings by representatives from all of the groups who have supported the Church Room Project.

CHURCH ROOM PROJECT UPDATE



The last tile goes into place.

Phase One of the project, the roof being stripped and replaced, was completed on Wednesday 14th March. Phase Two, to put in new ceilings and increase the insulation, will be completed soon.

The Church Room Committee is working closely with Claydon builders Smith & Ronaldson to ensure that while the work is taking place, disruption is minimised for users of the Church Room.

Michael O'Donovan, Chairman of the Church Room Committee, commented that this is an exciting development and sends out a very positive message to villagers that real improvement to the Church Room is happening. He expressed his thanks to the various village organisations including the Parish Council, the Claydon Trust, the Claydon History Society, the Parochial Church Council, the Jubilee Group and private individuals who have provided financial support for this important community project. About £6000 has been raised towards the target of £13,000 and more work will happen when sufficient funds are available.

PLAYING FIELD NEWS

The Playing Field Management Committee (PFMC) have recently suggested building sheltered seating near the play-area to be 'opened' as part of the Jubilee celebrations. However at the Parish Council Meeting following the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 13th March a decision by the Trustee was postponed until their next meeting on 8th May. At the last meeting in January there had been no shelter in the schedule, with drainage being the top priority. The following concerns were raised by the Parish Council: There is seating already available in both the main field and the play area with an additional bench waiting to be installed. The open sided structure suggested would provide little protection from strong wind and rain, and could be a focus for antisocial behaviour by outsiders. No one had requested a shelter in the recent Playing Field Survey. The cost (at least £2400) would significantly deplete reserves. It was confirmed during the Annual Parish Meeting that there are problems with repairs to the Springer and there are no current plans to replace it.

BUS SHELTER

The Chairman had received a petition of 22 signatures from mainly bus users or parents who meet the school bus. Although the Village Green is the preferred location, other suggestions by the Parish Council included an open porch on the Church Room and a partially enclosed canopy at the bottom of the Church Room steps. Councillor Jones was nominated to progress the project. County Councillor George Reynolds indicated that there was no money available in the Bus Shelters Grant Scheme for 2012-13, but a hard standing base for a shelter could be funded from the Area Stewardship Fund.

OTHER PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

SEWERS

Thames Water have confirmed that they do not have any mapping of the sewer layout in Bignolds Close but they are responsible for any main sewers shared between properties, whether it runs at the front or rear of

the property and then drains into the public network. For any issues regarding sewer lines the 24 hour Customer Contact Centre can be reached 7 days per week on **0845 9200 800**.

TREES AND VERGES

Work which was scheduled to take place on trees around the village will not happen due to the cuts by Oxfordshire County Council.

It was noted that some of the verges are eroding due to traffic damage, particularly the one on the corner of Main Street and Mollington Road.

PLANNING

Far Close

The application for three chalet bungalows in the garden of Far Close has gone to appeal. The Parish Council is working on a response to the Planning Inspector, to be lodged by Monday 10th April. Although letters to residents state that the Planning Inspector will take note of previous objections, the Parish Council recommends that residents write again.

Wind Turbines

The Parish Council agreed to lodge an objection to the appeal to erect a wind mast between Stoneton and Wormleighton as it would be visible from the village.

THE CLAYDON UNDER 5s GROUP

meets on the 2nd Friday of every month. It is an informal opportunity for small children and their parents to meet up and mutually enjoy the village. The next session takes place on 13th April at The Covert, Main Street. For further information contact Tara on 690695 or taralawumi@hotmail.com.

OVER SIXTIES FILMS

Unfortunately the scheduled film

Paint Your Wagon

starring Lee Marvin, Clint Eastwood and Jean Seberg in

A musical depicting events in a mining community during the California Gold Rush.

had to be cancelled because of equipment failure.

Funding has still not been confirmed for films from June onwards. The Newsletter will publish an update of the situation in the next issue.

Congratulations

to Emma and Paul Gallagher on the birth of Eleanor Constance, a sister for Jacob.

and to Sam and Ashley Broughton on the birth of Charlie Jack, a brother for Harriet

HISTORY SOCIETY

The next meeting of the Claydon History Society will take place on Monday 16th April at 7.30 pm in the Church Room when annual subscriptions of £10 per person will be due.

COMMENT

Hearty congratulations to the Church Room Committee but ...

now that the first phase of the improvements to the fabric of the Church Room are complete there is a real need for someone, or a team of people, to ensure that users of the building leave it in a proper condition for the next group.

They could also be contacted if something unexpected occurs which needs prompt attention.

The Village Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting took place on 13th March in the Church Room. This is a summary of the main points raised by most of the organisations represented.

CLAYDON WITH CLATTERCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Councillors

David Hill, Chairman of the Parish Council reported that at the time of the election only 5 candidates stood so they were duly appointed without a vote being necessary. He thanked Robert Adams who did not seek re-election for all his help and efforts since becoming a councillor in 2002.

Parish Clerk

Louise Ashton who works full time for South Northants and Cherwell District Councils took on the part-time role from 1st September. Sue Morgan, the previous clerk, who resigned in May last year for personal reasons, was thanked for her efforts and wished well for the future.

Finance 2011/12

David Hill reported that a budget of £4422 was set in January 2011, with a predicted income of £3962. Although there was a £460 shortfall between income and expenditure the village precept was reduced by £200 to £3800. To date actual income is £4619 while actual expenditure to date has been £3259 plus a further £1674 committed, leaving a shortfall of £314 thus reducing the projected balance for the Council at year end to £1190 plus £456 in the reserve account.

Finance 2012/13

In January this year the Parish Council set the expenditure budget at £6559 excluding VAT with the income predicted at £4384. There is a shortfall of £2175 between income and expenditure, but the Council has taken a pragmatic view that it will probably not spend over £1000 of the budget due to statutory obligations such as £959 for the election of a new councillor. The budget includes a grant of £500 towards the Church Room Project and £250 for any co-ordinated village Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

The precept which forms part of your Council Tax was increased by £200 to £4000. This means an extra 1p per week from most village households.

Allotments

All of the 17 allotment plots continue to be let. Rents for 2012/2013 are due in April and the rent continues to be £5.00 per plot.

CLAYDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Keith Hamilton reported that in addition to funding their normal running expenses and the £7000 quota set by the Diocese, the PCC has agreed a donation of £400 towards the Church Room Project. A new contractor has also been employed to cut the churchyard.

CLAYDON PLAYING FIELD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (PFMC)

Mike Smith, the Treasurer reported the resignation of Paul Jones. Paul Gallagher has now been appointed Chairman, with the other members being Emma Gallagher as Secretary and Garry Putt.

Fundraising has been very successful during the year with a net total of £932 raised from the summer dog show and the bonfire.

The field has been in a much better condition over the past 12 months with the grass being cut regularly. Costs for each cut have increased in 2012 to £75. With 16 cuts needed the cost for the year will be £1200 of which £1000 will be covered by the grant from the Parish Council. The remainder will be met by fund raising and reserves.

A one-off cost of £580 was incurred for hedge cutting, ditch clearing and hole filling in the Children's Play Area. Further expenditure will be incurred by erecting a fence along the open side of the Play Area.

The PFMC are currently organising a weekend where volunteers from the village get together to do some general maintenance work like painting the swings and treating the fences. The Committee are also actively pursuing opportunities for further development and enhancement of the field that will benefit the village.

CLUSTER CARE GROUP

Veronica Purdey presented the Cluster Care Group report on behalf of Hazel Paxton, the Chairman. Cluster meets at 10.00 am on Tuesdays in the Pavilion in Cropredy for a good chat over tea or coffee and biscuits followed by entertainment such as a film, or a talk. There are also armchair exercises to help with movement and co-ordination and word games or a quiz to keep the brain as active as possible. A two course lunch is cooked by the Plough at Little Bourton. After lunch there may be card games, bingo, or whist. Members are also taken out twice a year, once when the Pavilion is in use for Fairport weekend, and in December for a pre-Christmas lunch.

Although Oxfordshire County Council pays for the hire of the Pavilion, the paid staff and the insurance, all of the entertainment expenses have to be met by fundraising. The Parish Council was thanked for its donation of £50.

JUBILEE GROUP

Dorothy Beckett reported that the Jubilee Group continues to hold its coffee mornings as they have done for the last 10 years providing a great opportunity for a get together and a chat. Everyone is welcome

For the price of £1 there is coffee, a scone with cream and jam and a raffle ticket – outstanding value for money and one of the few things that have stayed the same price for such a long time. Scones (and mince pies at Christmas) are donated by Glenis Doran, raffle prizes are given by the group themselves. A small profit is saved for a donation to a charity of particular significance to the group. This year everyone has their minds on the Church Room Project, to which £200 has been donated.

VILLAGE WEBSITE

Paul Gallagher has started a new website www.claydonvillage.co.uk. He is contacting all village groups and individuals who can supply information to make it truly representative of the whole village.

CLAYDON TRUST

David Hill reported that during the past 12 months the Trust had received a donation of £100 from the Jubilee Group, resulting in a balance of £1451.78 at year end. This year as in 2002 the Trust will provide a free Commemorative Mug for all children aged 11 and under. The Trust will also co-ordinate and finance a draw to be held on the Jubilee Weekend. A loan, if needed, of £200 is also available, to the Church Room Committee to be repaid within 12 months through its own fundraising.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Clive Mutch reported that Paul Gallagher has joined the team of co-ordinators. The current main concerns are metal theft and theft of number plates. Screws to prevent the latter can be bought from Halfords. Telephone scams are also on the increase and can be reported to the Fraud Hotline on **0300 123 2040**.

POOR'S LAND TRUST

Eric Bates reported a total income of £422.58 with £480 being paid out in benefits. The shortfall (£57.42) was taken from the contingency fund leaving reserves of £989.80. Payments are currently made to over 65s, widows and widowers. Some villagers have opted out, but 32 currently receive benefits.

CLAYDON CAR SERVICE

Thelma Tibbetts reported that use of the Car Service has increased during the past year with occasional trips for one person to the Luncheon Club in Cropredy and a weekly short journey within the village itself. Please ring Thelma Tibbetts on 690574 if you need to use the service to attend a medical appointment or for a prescription to be collected etc.

SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS LUNCH

David Hill reported that 16 villagers attended a very enjoyable Christmas Lunch on 13th December at the Bell Inn, Great Bourton, at a special price of £12.95 per head. The lunch has been held in various venues since it was started in the 1980s by John Lloyd and Iris Allen. If any group would like to organise the lunch or has new ideas, please let David Hill know on 690452.

COURIER

Vicky Smith reported an active year supported by an array of sponsors.

CLAYDON ART GROUP

Pete Kearney thanked villagers for their support at the Art Festival which enables the group to survive and thrive. Another two members have joined but as with 90% of the Group they are from outside the village.

The current teacher is a local professional artist who is helping members to significantly improve.

The exhibition this year will be on Sunday 26th and Monday 27th August.

CLAYDON HISTORY SOCIETY

David Hill reported a successful first exhibition on 25th July and thanked all villagers who contributed facts and photographs to help make the event such a success. £110 (50% of the profits) was donated to the Church Room Project. Clive Mutch is in the process of arranging the material to give a record of the village in the 20th Century linked to a timeline of key events elsewhere.

The Society is taking on two projects for the Diamond Jubilee – the first to produce a plan of Claydon in 1952 with appropriate photographs and the second to draw up a plan of the Churchyard showing the graves and the names of their occupants. The latter is an ongoing project and is unlikely to be completed by 5th June.

Written and produced by Jenny Jones

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Whilst every care is taken the Editor accepts no responsibility for errors, omissions or their consequences.