

Claydon with Clattercote Newsletter

November 2012

MANY VILLAGERS UNAWARE OF COUNTY CONNECT BUS SERVICE

Most villagers appear to be unaware of the County Connect bus service. The usage figures back this up as only 12 trips to or from Claydon were reported for the past 6 months, compared to 278 from Cropredy and 114 from the Bourtons.



County Connect is a request service which runs between the hours of 7.00 to 19.00 on Monday to Friday and 8.00 to 18.00 on Saturdays. Anyone can use it, but they must first register by calling 0845 456 4474 or logging on to www.county-connect.co.uk. Registration is free and sometimes free journey vouchers are enclosed with the registration pack. The fares are based on the distance covered. They are more expensive than the Stagecoach service, with an adult single journey to Banbury costing £3.80 compared to £2.45 on the 277. Bus passes may be used, but only after 9.30 a.m.

Journeys may be to any of the designated stops in many of the local villages or Banbury. The pick-up point in Claydon is near the sign post opposite the church. In Banbury the main pick-up point is on Bridge Street, opposite Debenhams, but other points include the Horton Hospital, the railway station, Tesco, Morrisons and Sainsburys.

Bookings may be made either by telephone, online or by text. Call the number above between 9.00 to 17.30 on Monday to Friday and 9.00 to 16.00 on Saturday. Requests for journeys can be made by text or online at any time but confirmation will only be given during the telephone booking hours. To book by text, text 'CountyConnect' followed by a space and the request to 82727. Book on-line by logging-on to the website above and completing the booking form.

Journeys must be booked at least an hour before travel is required and can be booked up to 7 days in advance. However, it is strictly first come first served so it is advisable to plan well ahead. The exact time requested cannot always be met so some flexibility on the passenger's part is required and remember that the bus may arrive up to 10 minutes later than the booked time, so take this into account too.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council Meeting on 13th November was attended by County Councillor George Reynolds and District Councillor Ken Attack. In the absence of the Chairman, David Hill, the meeting was chaired by Councillor Mutch. The following items were discussed:

HOME FARM VERGE

The damage to the verge in front of Home Farm has been caused by 44 tonne vehicles turning into the yard of the Leys to make deliveries. Agreement had been reached with Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) that wooden bollards would be installed on the verge to prevent further damage. However Mr Clifford Fox of the Leys offered to fund the widening of the road at this point in order to facilitate easier access to the yard. It was agreed that Mr Fox would make a formal proposal to be considered by the Parish Council and discussed with OCC.

DRAINS

A great deal of dissatisfaction was expressed that after the disruption to traffic plus the work and considerable expenditure by OCC, the first heavy rainfall has shown some of the drains to be ineffective. The problem appears to be that everything drains to soakaways and the heavy clay soil cannot cope with intensive downpours. Councillor Reynolds felt that it was extremely unlikely that OCC would be prepared to take any further action.

OTHER OCC ISSUES

A representative of OCC Highways Dept. had visited the village and discussed the outstanding issues with Councillors Hill and Mutch. It was confirmed that the Parish Council is responsible for the trees that it has planted in the past and OCC is responsible for the lower part of Crossing Lane beyond the back entrance to Manor Park. However OCC claim that an old agreement is still in place to leave the hedges and verges uncut. There were several complaints from the floor that vehicles using this road had been damaged by the overhanging brambles.

Councillor Reynolds has agreed to release money from the Area Stewardship Fund for the blue brick path to be cleared and sprayed when the time is right.

It was reported that the grit bin near the railway bridge needs to be topped up. Councillor Hoggins is still storing plenty of salt from last year, for use on the communal paths and highway only.

The pot holes have been marked in preparation for filling in.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL (CDC) ISSUES

The Oxford Canal has now been designated a Conservation Area.

A new copy of the Electoral Role is due to be issued to Parish Councillors. In the village, 40% of the households have changed during the last 10 years.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

The appeal for a wind monitoring mast at Stoneton has been upheld.

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (WCC)

WCC's response to requests from the Parish Council to clear the footpath on the railway bridge was that it is not a priority. Micheal O'Donovan reported that having slipped on the path himself, he returned with the necessary equipment and cleared it.

TRANSPORT NEEDS SURVEY

Councillor Jones reported a very good response to the survey with over 70 forms having been received by the time of the meeting.

BROADBAND

Although broadband users in the village are receiving average speeds of less than two megabits per second (Mbps), (the official figure for reasonable use of the internet), prospects for an improvement are slim. There is no commercial benefit for British Telecom to upgrade the Farnborough-Claydon line to fibre optic. The satellite solution is expensive and allegedly 4G will not work inside buildings. OCC's consultation on *Better Broadband for Oxfordshire Residents* ends on 31st December. To take part go to <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/broadband-oxfordshire>.

ALLOTMENTS

Letters had been sent to the holders of allotments where the weeds were in danger of spreading to neighbouring plots. As little had been done, and the letters were deemed to be officious by one allotment holder present, it was agreed that Councillor Simmons would contact the holders of the offending allotments personally.

SEWERAGE WORKS

Thames Water have scheduled the work on clearing the ditch adjacent to the sewerage works to begin in the week commencing 12th November.

FINANCE

Payments were agreed of £204 for the Parish Clerk, £51 for HMRC PAYE, £15 for the Remembrance Day Wreath and £540 for Playing Field Maintenance. The latter amount will be refunded less VAT by the Playing Field Management Committee. The method of paying invoices via the Parish Council in order to avoid VAT has been queried by CDC, but agreed after checking with HMRC.

Councillor Mutch expressed concern that his operation of the current system of PAYE for the Parish Clerk could be left exposed if anything happened to him as there is no backup plan. The operation was taken on in order to avoid administration costs but from next April HMRC will be imposing a fine of up to £1000 if the return is late.

A request from the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for £50 for grass cutting of the churchyard was refused on the grounds that the cutting season is now over.

The Parish Council had adopted a new form which village organisations could use to request grants from the Parish Precept. A deadline of 1st October was set in order that the Parish Council could consider the requests and discuss them at the November meeting, ahead of the main budget meeting in January when the precept will be set for 2013-14. The deadline was missed by all three organisations that had submitted requests, so councillors, having just received the forms, were not in a position to discuss them.

DANGEROUS DOGS

The Rottweiler, which had shown aggression to both people and dogs whilst walking in Crossing Lane, is no longer living in the area.

PLAYING FIELD NEWS

The Claydon Playing Field Committee would like to say a big 'Thank You' to all those villagers who attended this year's bonfire & firework event. Despite the wet weather, over 70 people attended and an excellent night was had by all. A lot of positive feedback has been received on the excellent fireworks & music. All costs were covered and a small profit was made, which will be used to fund future PFMC run events. A special thank you to those kind villagers who helped organise and run the event – without your support the event would not have been possible.

Claydon PFMC

FROM CALIFORNIA TO CLAYDON



Last month members of the Claydon History Society welcomed Heather and Marty Acree from Fesno, California to the village. They had come to walk in the path of Heather's ancestors. Heather is descended from the Boremans who were a prominent Claydon family during the sixteenth century (the parish records show eight baptisms of children to three different branches of the Boreman family from 1570 to 1585). They visited the church, the old vicarage (ie Claydon House) and walked around the grounds at Clattercote Priory.

Unfortunately the society had been unable to identify any graves in the churchyard but they did find a probate inventory of Thomas Boreman's farm taken in 1579/80 showing a total value of £27 5s 2d. It covered the farm animals and machinery, the produce, the furniture, kitchen equipment, bedding and even Thomas' clothes. A horse was valued at 10 shillings, while two heifers were £3 and the corn in the barn £4. The clothes (one hat, one night cap, two coats, two jerkins, two trusses, two pairs of socks, three shirts and one pair of shoes) were valued at £1.

THE COFFIN BIER

Visitors to the church in the last few weeks may have noticed the coffin bier which has been painstakingly restored by Clive Mutch.



The bier was handmade by F Simon & Son of Banbury in 1935. It consists of an iron chassis, with no sophistication in the steering gear, no bearings just a liberal application of grease between the two circular iron plates. The detachable coffin carrier is made of good quality English oak with iron hinges to the handles and brass hinges to the side rails. The chassis and wheels were originally painted black and the oak carrier varnished. After 77 years the bier still had its original paint and varnish.

No record has been found of the cost of the bier, or the number of times that it was used. Doris Beswick remembers that it was used at her mother Beat's funeral in 1951 and this may have been the last occasion. The bier was loaned to the Bygones Museum and sometime after the museum closed it was returned to the church.

Clive then took on the extensive job of restoration. The following explains a small part of the work needed.

In order to remove as much rust as possible it was necessary to completely dismantle the chassis. Wheels, springs and steering gear were all removed and the job of sanding down commenced. Cleaning and sanding the spokes of the wheels took around three hours per wheel.



During the cleaning operation it was found that the wheels had brass hub and oil caps. Brass and bright steel parts were polished while the rim and spokes had two coats of rust protecting paint applied.



Best Wishes

to Dorothy Beckett after two operations on her elbow following a fall.

ARRON UPDATE

Martin Broughton thanks all of the villagers, the people of Aston le Walls primary school and the staff and teachers of BGN school, who took part in the video Christmas card that he has sent to Arron in Afghanistan. Arron has been promoted to acting Captain while on operations. He is stationed in Nahr-e Saraj district of Helmand Province where several recent casualties have been sustained. Corporal David O'Connor of 40 Commando killed on the 24th October was one of Arron's troops during training in Taunton and had only moved to troop 8 after arrival in Afghanistan. Arron had taken his troop through the same area only 1 hour ahead of the gunfight that resulted in the deaths of Corporal O'Connor and female medic Corporal Channing Day. During a telephone conversation with Arron on the night of 5th November Martin could hear Taliban gunfire in the background, but Arron reassured Martin the destination target was the reformed Afgan police compound next door, as they had less sophisticated weapons with which to retaliate. So called "Green on Blue" incidents are the biggest cause of British casualties in the current conflict. The resulting "lockdown", with "30 troops in a scout hut for days on end", whilst MOD officials carry out investigations, gives rise to frustration amongst the troops at not being out and about.

At the next coffee morning, on Wednesday 19th December, it is planned to show a 10 minute video of Arron's training

CHILDREN'S PARTY

There will be a Children's Christmas Party on Friday 14th December from 3.00 to 5.00 p.m. in the Church Room. The cost will be £1 per child to cover hire of the room. Father Christmas will be appearing and parents may bring a small gift to be given to their child. Contact Tara on 690965 for more details.

OVER SIXTIES FILMS

The next film showing will be on Friday 7th December at 2.00 p.m. in the Church Room.

'Love Actually'

Starring Hugh Grant and Martine McCutcheon

CHURCH ROOM UPDATE

The fund matching of the Jubilee fundraising total and other contributions have resulted in sufficient money to pay off all outstanding loans and consider the next phase of the project. However, some members of the Committee and members of the public are concerned that a disabled toilet may significantly reduce storage space and obstruct access to the main room and kitchen.

CRIME WAVE CONTINUES

One of the fluorescent light strips was stolen from the marquee on the afternoon of 4th November while the marquee was drying out.