

Claydon with Clattercote Newsletter

March 2013



Signs of spring despite the winter temperatures

NEW FORMAT PARISH MEETING POSTPONED UNTIL 14th MAY

A different style of Parish Meeting will be held this year. It will include short addresses by County Councillor George Reynolds and District Counillor Ken Attack indicating the work of their respective councils and the cutback challenges that they are facing. It is also hoped that a representative from Oxfordshire County Council(OCC) Highways Department will be able to attend, and also Linda Watson, the Chief Executive of Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC) who may be able to offer some support in the way that the Church Room Project is moving forward.

Reports from village organisations will be submitted in advance and not read out at the meeting which will start at 7.00 pm. A short period (20 to 25 minutes) will be allowed for villagers to question representatives of the organisations. The deadline for submission of reports is 19th April.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the Parish Council Meeting on 12th March, attended by Councillors George Reynolds and Ken Attack, the following items were discussed:

RECYCLING BANKS

It was reported that a representative of CDC had visited the village to identify a suitable site for bottle recycling banks but there was some confusion whether this was the verge on the Cropredy Road or the lay-by on the Appletree Road next to the sewerage works. There was still concern about the maintenance of the site. The Clerk agreed to check on the proposed site and the frequency of maintenance provided by CDC.

ELECTRICAL RECYCLING

A new service which allows residents to recycle small electrical goods is being rolled out across Cherwell District. Households will receive a pink electrical recycling bag which when filled should be left on top of the bins. Any small electrical item which has a plug or batteries and fits inside a standard carrier bag can be disposed of in this way.

HOME FARM VERGE

Two of the bollards were originally installed in the wrong place. They have now been moved into the correct position.

VILLAGE TREES

OCC have agreed responsibility for all of the village trees. This includes the willow on the verge in front of the Folly, but not those at the back. There is a schedule of work, but no start date.

ROAD SURFACES AND POTHOLES

A repair of the large pothole on the Mollington Road has been scheduled. The Parish Council has also received a complaint from Boddington Parish Council regarding the subsidence of the road over the canal bridge on the Boddington Road. Although the Parish Council will report problems, residents are urged to inform OCC directly, as this speeds up the process. Call 0845 310 1111 or follow the instructions on <http://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/> .

A423 ROAD SIGNS

The repair of the road signs is not classed as a priority as OCC is awaiting payment of the corresponding insurance claim. Councillor Reynolds agreed to intervene.

PLANNING ISSUES

Butlin Farm

The application to replace the current metal windows with wooden ones has been granted by CDC.

Greenacre

The application for the demolition of the flat-roofed garage and the erection of a pitch roofed double garage plus an extension to the driveway has been granted by CDC subject to the condition that the existing trees may not be cut down.

Stable Block Corner, Farnborough

Although this site is not in the village, the Parish Council has commented on applications in the past. Councillor Atack reported that the application for further extension of the site has been refused on the grounds that there is no mains electricity supply.

Land adjacent to Otter Hollow

Councillor Atack reported that two of the plots had failed to comply with the conditions specified by the Planning Inspectorate, so enforcement is likely to go ahead.

Wind Turbines

EDF Energy Renewables has submitted an application for 9 wind turbines on land at Stoneton. The turbines would be visible from the parish. It was agreed that an objection would be forwarded to Stratford District Council.

CLAYDON CROSSING

The Parish Council has received correspondence from a company working on behalf of Network Rail asking for usage figures for the crossing, whether there are any safety accessibility issues, and whether there is a suitable alternative crossing point. Some train drivers are continuing to omit use of the horn when approaching the crossing. The Chairman agreed to follow this up with the Office of Rail Regulation.

ALLOTMENTS

Letters have been prepared reminding allotment holders that rents are due on 1st April.

FINANCE

Councillors agreed that they would continue to claim no allowances.

Following a request from the Cluster Care Group, the Parish Council has responded that it is unable to give a grant this year.

TRANSPORT NEEDS

The report on the Transport Needs Survey has been returned from ORCC. Councillor Jones reported that the concerns of the village had successfully registered with both OCC and ORCC. They were impressed that where the normal response rate to such surveys is around 20%, Claydon had managed 65%. Although the existing bus service is not up for review until 2016, pressure is being exerted to remove request status from the return trips to the village with the consequence of providing a lunchtime service to Banbury.

It was agreed that the report could be made available for loading to the village website. A few details and a bus timetable are included on the enclosed flyer.

Councillor Attack reported that Cropredy is to take part in the Volunteer Connect Transport Scheme operated by Banbury Citizen's Advice Bureau. Under the scheme, users pay the driver 45p per mile travelled, including the return trip from the driver's home. They are looking for 10 volunteer drivers. Anyone wanting to use the service would first have to be registered.

BUS SHELTER

In order to illustrate the need for a shelter, a photograph was shown of parents and children waiting for the school bus in the rain. Although there was general agreement that there should be a shelter, the proposed site of the verge at the end of Manor Park did not gain total approval. It was also proposed that any shelter should be sturdy and blend in with the surroundings. Cllrs Jones and Hoggins will make further investigations.



Is this the type of bus shelter that villagers would want?



HOME AND PET CARE



Are you looking for someone to take care of your pets and home whilst you are away? I offer a very competitive rate and for your assurance, I am vetted on a periodic basis. Please note, I cannot look after dogs as I work full time. I have recently moved to Claydon after living in Great Bourton for 17 years and have excellent references from present clients.

Please contact Carol at email cazandsteve@sky.com for further information.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

SPRING CLEAN 2013

Between 20th and 28th April, Cherwell DC are lending us litter picking equipment. If you would like to make an extra effort in keeping our village tidy please contact Rob Jones on 690510, at rb13jones@btinternet.com or at 13 Bignolds Close.

CHURCH ROOM COMMITTEE

As the Church Room moves to become self-sufficient volunteers are needed to join the committee to manage the day to day operation and to organise further development. If you would like to help please contact Michael O'Donovan on 690853.

ENRYCH Oxfordshire (formerly Ryder-Cheshire Volunteers) is looking for volunteers to help in enabling adults with physical disabilities to access leisure and learning activities such as crafts, cooking or computing. If you can help please contact Susan Linnett on 07518 300387.

THE KEEP THE HORTON GENERAL CAMPAIGN GROUP needs new members to help in the fight to save hospital services. Major changes, including the permanent loss of emergency abdominal surgery, will go to consultation in May. Contact Jenny Jones on 690510.

COFFIN BIER

More information has come to light about the coffin bier. The original cost was £30 which was funded by a door to door collection in the village.

AFGHAN TALES



Arron Broughton arrived at Brize Norton on 14th February for two weeks of 'Rest & Relaxation', though there was not much rest involved as he spent time catching up with friends and relatives.

Back in Afghanistan, danger is never far away and from unlikely directions. Local soldiers and police are motivated by praise and backslapping. So when one found a Soviet anti-tank mine he didn't want to leave it in situ and risk a colleague gaining the kudos. He dug it up, carried it to the checkpoint and delivered it to Arron by placing it on the desk under his nose. The translator was not present, so Arron's reaction by jumping up and shouting warnings for everybody to clear the area, followed by the flurry of activity as men evacuated the checkpoint was all understood as actions of celebration and congratulation.

The device was safely removed and detonated, averting casualties in an explosion big enough to destroy most of the checkpoint. We would have regarded this as a 'Green on Blue' incident, however unintentional. The Taliban would have claimed it as a glorious attack and the Afghan forces would have classed it as an act of insurgency.

Arron has been transferred from C Company, most of whom are now home as part of the withdrawal, to A Company where he has returned to the same checkpoint but is now under Ghurka command. He is due home by the end of April and we all wish him a safe return.

MADGE LA FONTAINE

1909-2013

Sadly the village has lost its oldest resident at the age of 103. Madge had many good friends in the village and was very supportive of various village organisations and fundraising events.

Madge was born in Smyrna (now Izmir), Turkey in 1909. Her parents were in Turkey together with a large number of English ex-pats for many years and were involved in various businesses including carpets. Madge lived in Smyrna until she was about ten. A few years later the town was completely destroyed by fire, as a result of fighting between the Turks and Greeks. Madge remembered her house there and how, at the age of about six, her parents let her walk several miles on her own to the station in Smyrna.

After moving back to England, Madge attended the Vyne School, near Reading, which is now a National Trust property. It was a lovely house and garden and Madge had photographs of it as a school with tennis courts in front of the house. She was a keen tennis player and saw Fred Perry winning at Wimbledon.

Madge trained at King's College Hospital in London as a physiotherapist. She must have been very good because she used to attend guests at Claridges, where she met some famous and interesting people. She never married but she had had her admirers. For many years Madge looked after her elderly parents. She obtained a driving licence before a test was needed and wisely kept it renewed while she lived in London without a car.

Madge retired to Claydon in 1971, with her friend Eve Bullock. As with so many of her friends Madge outlived Eve, who died in 1987. Madge was very much a part of life in Claydon, which included running the church cleaning rota for several years. Madge loved her garden which she established over many years. She loved animals and kept geese for practically all of her time in Claydon. She also homed many stray cats and welcomed visiting dogs.

Regarding her long life, Madge was taking no regular medication even at the age of 103. She applied her professional knowledge as a physiotherapist to herself and was disciplined and determined in keeping fit. Until her fall in November 2012 she would go up and down stairs several times a day just for the exercise. She was always so grateful and appreciative of the help she received and the friendship of so many.

CROPREDY POST OFFICE

Post Office Ltd is consulting on restoring Post Office Services on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9.30 to 13.30 at the Red Lion Inn. The service will be operated by the sub-postmaster from Easington Post Office.

EASTER EGG HUNT

There will be a Treasure Hunt in the Playing Field on **Easter Sunday, 31st March**, commencing at 11.00 am and culminating in an egg hunt in the Play Area. It will be a non profit making event with an entry fee of £1 just to cover costs. To take part please pre-register with Pamela Putt on 07946 509174.

HISTORY SOCIETY VALUATION EVENING

The History Society is planning to hold an evening for villagers to bring along an object and find out more about it from an expert. Watch for notices.

OVER SIXTIES FILMS

The next film showing will be 'Kiss Me Kate' at 2.00 p.m. on **19th April** in the Church Room. Funding for the remainder of the year has been confirmed so a flyer of the programme will be enclosed with this Newsletter for all regular filmgoers. Please call 690574 if you have not received one.

SAVE MONEY ON YOUR ENERGY BILL

CDC is offering residents the chance to join together in a collective energy switching scheme. Energy suppliers compete to make the best offer for a 12 month contract and the supplier with the best tariffs wins. There is no obligation for individuals to take up the offer but to be in with a chance they must register online at www.bettertogetheroxfordshire.co.uk or by phone on 0800 107 00 44 between **15th February and 8th April 2013**. You will need your energy bill details for information about your current tariff.

A361 RESURFACING WORKS

There will be speed restrictions on the A361 near Williamscot for approximately **2 weeks from 18th March**, with the closure of the Williamscot Road at one stage during this period.

Written and produced by Jenny Jones

with thanks to Martin Broughton

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