

# Claydon with Clattercote Newsletter

November 2013

## IS THERE A NEED FROM CLAYDON VILLAGERS FOR HOUSES HERE?



At a special meeting of the Parish Council on 21<sup>st</sup> October, Fiona Brown and Craig Knight of Cherwell District Council (CDC) addressed the possibility of building two 2 bedroom houses on the plot currently occupied by two garages between no.s 1 and 2 Fenny Compton Road.

Fiona, the Development Officer for Cherwell Community Land Trust explained that CDC has started its own housing development programme using small pockets of land such as the piece on Fenny Compton Road. The housing would be affordable and partly self-finish with the Council constructing the shell and the purchaser supplying labour for the internal work, for which a discount would be applied to the purchase price. Any profits would be ploughed back into the community, though at this stage it was unclear whether that would mean the village itself or the wider Cherwell community.

Sketches were presented of the possible housing, with the design in keeping with that of no.s 2 to 7 Fenny Compton Road. Planning permission would be required with all of the necessary opportunity for the Parish Council and other interested parties to submit their views.



**One two storey and one single storey house**



**Two two storey houses**

The Chairman stated that planning permission had been refused for a proposed house on that site in the past. He also reported that an email had been received from one of the garage owners who indicated that they had no alternative for housing a vehicle other than to build a garage on their own property in front of the current building line. It also pointed out that the garages have asbestos roofs and the site also features an original pump house which was built at the same time as the houses in the late 1940s. Concern was also expressed for the protection of the trees on the boundary of the site.

At the meeting some residents were dubious that the site was large enough for two houses with potential parking difficulties if each household owned two cars. The idea of a construction site in that position for a long period was unpopular but Fiona indicated that the build needed to be completed by March 2015, with commencement early in 2014. An offer was made for the Parish Council to discuss the designs with an architect.

The Chairman was unsure whether there is a need in the village, with no shop, no public house and inferior public transport. However, he was informed that there are residents with grown up children living at home as they cannot afford to move out.

Events have progressed very quickly since the meeting. The garage owners were contacted regarding the termination of their leases and advertisements were placed on the village notice-board and the village website looking for interested parties with a connection to Claydon or an adjoining village. The houses will be for sale with an equity loan of 20% interest free for 5 years, thereby reducing the amount of the mortgage required. A further discount could be obtained through undertaking the internal finishing, but this is not mandatory.

Villagers were informed at the Parish Council Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> November that interest has been expressed from parties in Cropredy and Mollington but as yet there has been no interest from anyone with a Claydon connection.

If you are interested in applying please contact the Build! Team at Cherwell District Council on **01295 221615**.

The Community Land Trust will be submitting a planning application.

## **PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY**

Due to the resignation of Mark Simmons there is a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. As no election has been requested, the Parish Council will co-opt a villager for the remainder of the term. An advertisement for the vacancy appears on page 10 in this issue.

## **BROADBAND**

Work on improving Broadband reception in the village has been fragmented up to now, but the Parish Council resolved to set up a sub-committee to include the 6 people who had recently expressed an interest. It was suggested that Paul Gallagher should chair this committee. Paul advised that the long term fix is likely to be fibre optic, while satellite is accessible in the short term. The costing for the satellite option will be made available on the village website.

It was agreed to hold off any further work until after the Parish Council Liaison Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> November when Sue Smith (Chief Executive of CDC) was planning to make a statement on rural communities not covered by the Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) rollout. In the absence of Sue Smith due to illness, Kevin Larner (Countryside and Communities Manager) announced that CDC is prepared to query the logic of the OCC rollout in some areas. It may be possible to help the villages that are losing out, most likely via satellite or wi/fi. Further information has been requested from parishes by December 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **MANOR FARM BUILDINGS PLANNING APPLICATION**

A special Parish Council Meeting was held on 29<sup>th</sup> October to discuss the application for the demolition of the majority of the barn and the extension to the existing dwelling. It was attended by District Councillor Ken Attack.

The Chairman, David Hill declared an interest and withdrew from the meeting after making an observation as a member of the public.

Following the Chairman's withdrawal the remaining Parish Councillors and all of the public in attendance were unanimous in their rejection of the application. The reasons given included:

The site is outside the village boundary.

It is not in line with the Cherwell Local Plan where the only building allowed in the village is infill or conversion.

It would set a precedent for anyone wishing to build a house in a steel framed barn in the countryside.

It was also pointed out that there were several errors in the claims made in the application.

The Parish Council therefore resolved to object to the application.

## **PLAYING FIELD TRUSTEE MEETING**

At the Playing Field Trustee Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> November, the sub-committee members were complimented on the professionalism of their marketing report on the proposed Play Area enhancements.

Concern was expressed regarding the safety aspects of the proposed equipment, particularly the trampoline. The insurance company had been approached and had indicated that a condition would be imposed that the Playing Field Management Committee inspect the equipment on a weekly basis, and also guarantee that all children would be supervised when using the trampoline. It was considered impossible to impose this condition on visitors.

The sub-committee was given the go-ahead to proceed with the project, but also asked to indicate the priorities of equipment to be installed if the grants obtained fall short of the total amount required. Clarification was also requested on whether the sums quoted include VAT.

## **OTHER PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

The Parish Council Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> November was attended by County Councillor George Reynolds and District Councillor Ken Attack. The following items were discussed:

### **ROAD SURFACES AND POTHOLES**

The Parish Council has been informed that Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Highways Asset Team has no budget for any further work on road edges. Potholes will be dealt with when reported to <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/potholes> or 0845 310 1111.

## **PLANNING ISSUES**

### **Point to Point Farm**

With the log cabin nearing completion, villagers were reminded that a condition of its occupation was the acquisition of sufficient livestock.

### **Lavender House**

There were no objections to the application for a replacement conservatory.

## **CHURCH ROOM**

The application for the Church Room to become an Asset of Community Value is progressing. Drawings have been requested to show the access to the building. If the Church were to be closed the responsibility for maintenance of the churchyard would fall on the Parish or District Council.

The report on the Parochial Church Council's investigation into various options on how the Church Room should be run (not necessarily as a separate charity) is apparently complete, but it has not yet been presented to the Church Room Committee.

The building work on the disabled toilet is now complete but the decorating remains outstanding.

## **ALLOTMENTS**

There are three vacant allotments awaiting clearance.

## **OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – FUNDING & GRANTS**

### **Councillor community budgets**

Councillor George Reynolds indicated that £500 will be awarded to the Playing Field Management Committee from his community budget.

### **Area Stewardship Fund**

The fund this year can only be spent on highway maintenance activities which must be approved by the Area Steward.

## **PARISH COUNCIL GRANTS**

In considering grant requests from the 2014-15 budget the Parish Council agreed a grant of £550 to the Parochial Church Council and £750 to the Playing Field Management Committee.

## ***Five Generations of the Taylor/Purdey/Johnson Dynasty***



**In the back row: from the left grandparents Hannah and Rob and father Dan Johnson**

**In the middle row: great-great grandfather Ray, great grandmother Veronica, mother Nicole holding Cody Raymond Johnson**

**At the front: aunt Kerys.**

### **Congratulations**

to Louise Aston, the Parish Clerk on the birth of twin boys Luke and Riley.

### **Request**

Please could users of the urn in the Church Room kitchen ensure that it is emptied after use.

## **Obituaries**

### **Les Fox**

Leslie John Fox was born at Butlin Farm in Claydon in 1922, the youngest of five children, and lived in the village for the whole of his life. He attended the village school and sang in the church choir as a child and as a young man. For many years Les worked with his brother Andrew to maintain the church and the churchyard. Together with Eric Bates he wound the church clock every day at 4.55 pm for 50 years.

Les was a true countryman. When he wasn't working on the farm he was invariably gardening. The interest in gardening developed at a very early age. He was just 8 years old when he had his first greenhouse and the passion continued throughout his life with many villagers benefitting from the superb vegetables that he grew in Claydon soil. During the Second World War, Les was a member of the Home Guard and in recent years he would entertain the family with his tales of those days.

Les had not been well for the last few years and in July went into hospital. He was always grateful for the care that he received in a long life. He died at Witney on 28<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Liz Siviter**

Liz was born in Camberley, Surrey in 1932, the second of four siblings and, according to her younger sister, the clever one. The major part of her school years took place during the Second World War and this had a great influence on her future career. After leaving school she rejected the expected career for a woman of either nurse or secretary and found employment at the Royal Aeronautical Establishment Farnborough where she worked as a scientific assistant. It was here that she became enthusiastic about a career within the RAF and in January 1954 she enlisted in the WRAF as an officer cadet and was commissioned in the following September.

She chose to train as an aircraft fighter controller and that led indirectly to meeting her future husband, Don. After her training she was posted to

Norfolk and based at RAF Coltishall were she first met Don at a Squadron party. As they both lived in the same Officers Mess, romance bloomed and they were married a few months later. She made great play of the fact that during their professional life that she was able to direct his movements in the air. A habit she found difficult to give up when he was on the ground!!

Their life in the RAF was hectic and fun but eventually it had to end and as they now had two daughters, Debbie and Joanne, it was time to settle down. In 1969 both Liz and Don enrolled on Teacher Training courses at college and Liz settled down to teach less able children to read and write.

In 1990 Liz retired from teaching and relocated with Don to Claydon in order to be closer to their grandchildren, and become convenient babysitters. They lived first in Bignolds Close and then later moved to Clattercote. They supported village events and Liz was a very useful member of a quiz team. She also regularly attended and enjoyed the exercise class run by Sibylle Hippe. Later it became obvious that Liz had a problem that proved to be Parkinson's which over the years grew progressively worse. It was during these years that it was invaluable to be near family and friends

Although the last years of her life were difficult she was always grateful for the many happy years that she had with her family. We hear many complaints about the NHS and Social Services, but Liz had nothing but praise for the amount of care and help that she received. It was also invaluable to have the services of an excellent caring agency such as Greigcare. The care that was shown by the carers was greatly appreciated by both Liz and Don, and Liz would wish to express her deep felt thanks to everyone involved.

## **Contact County Connect**

When needing to contact County Connect from a mobile 'phone the cheapest number to ring is **01522 550 888**.

# **CLAYDON WITH CLATTERCOTE PARISH COUNCIL**

**A vacancy exists for a Parish Councillor to serve on the Claydon with Clattercote Parish Council.**

**This vacancy will be filled by way of co-option until full Parish Council elections are held in May 2015.**

**Any interested persons in the parish (aged 18 & over) should apply in writing to the Chairman, by Tuesday 10 December 2013. Applicants will be interviewed by the Parish Council.**

**For further information or to apply please contact David Hill. Tel No: 690452**

**Address; Claydon House, Mollington Road, Claydon, OX17 1EN**

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The main duties of a Parish Councillor include:

- Attendance at Parish Council meetings. There are six meetings a year held on the second Tuesday of every other month. In addition an Annual Parish meeting is held in May and special meetings are held as required, for example regarding a specific planning application.
- Prepare for meetings by studying the agenda and making sure that you are properly informed about the issues to be discussed.
- Take part in the meetings and form sound judgement based on what is best for the community and then to abide by majority decisions.
- Ensure, with other Councillors, that the Parish Council is properly managed.
- Represent the whole Parish.
- Maintain proper standards of behaviour as a representative of the parish.

A Parish Councillor on appointment has to sign a formal declaration of acceptance and register any specific financial and other interests that might affect your role as a Councillor. Similarly a Councillor must agree to abide by the Code of Conduct adopted by this Council.

David Hill  
18 November 2013

*In association with the Claydon History Society*

**Sue Lester**

Will give an illustrated talk on

## **Cropredy Past and Present**

On **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November** at 7.30 pm in the Church Room

with cheese and wine refreshments.

The last remaining tickets are available at £3 for History Society members or £5 for non-members -call 690510.

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An exclusive handmade quilt will be raffled at a

### **COFFEE MORNING**

in aid of the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance on

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November**

from 10.30 am in the Church Room.

The quilt represents 6 months of work and will fit a single bed. It is built up of triangles in predominantly red, but also including white and blue fabrics.

Visitors pay just £1 for a scone and unlimited ground coffee,

The event also includes a tombola and cake and bric-a-brac stalls.

# *Diary Dates*

## **CHEESE AND WINE EVENING**

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November** (see previous page)

## **CHARITY COFFEE MORNING**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November** (see previous page)

## **OVER SIXTIES FILMS**

The next film showing will be

Pam Ferris and Marc Wooton reprising their roles from 'Nativity' in

## **Nativity 2**

Also starring David Tennant and Joanna Page

at 2.00 p.m. on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December** in the Church Room

The school takes a road trip to the National Song for Christmas competition.

## **HISTORY SOCIETY MEETING**

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December** at 7.30 pm in the Church Room

## **SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December** at the Carpenters Arms, Lower Boddington

If you wish to attend contact David Hill on 690452 if you have not already done so.

## **COFFEE MORNING WITH MINCE PIES**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December** at 10.30 am in the Church Room

## **PLAYING FIELD TRUSTEE MEETING**

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2014** at 7.00pm in the Church Room

## **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2014** at 7.30 pm in the Church Room

*Written and produced by Jenny Jones*

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