

Claydon with Clattercote Newsletter

May/June 2014

PLAY AREA ENHANCEMENT PROGRESSES

A Play Panel, the first item of equipment in the Play Area Enhancement Programme has been purchased and is awaiting installation. It will be the first addition to the Play Area since the installation of the Multiplay in 2006.

Fund raising for the project is continuing, with the recent Jumble Sale raising £300. The amount is likely to be increased by the sale of the remaining items, and match funding of the total. Villagers are thanked for their generous support of donations of jumble, help with the event and attendance on the day. Thanks are also due to the Rev. Hilary Campbell for allowing the use of the church.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting took place at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 13th May. It followed the new format introduced in 2013 of village organisations submitting their reports in advance and taking questions from the public at the end of the meeting rather than reading out their reports. The first part of the meeting contained items of specific interest to the village.

Police Community Support Officer Tom Bailey on Neighbourhood Policing

The Police Neighbourhood Team consists of 1 Sergeant, 3 Police Constables, and 3 Police Community Support Officers. They cover 44 hamlets and villages bordered by Claydon, Wardington, Duns Tew, Hook Norton and Epwell.

Most of the incidents in this area have been number plate thefts at Clattercote Reservoir, but there has been an opportunist theft of a strimmer from a front lawn while the owner took a break indoors for a cup of tea. The police are having difficulty in tracking the culprits, thought to be from Birmingham, of several crimes in the area as although the vehicle used has been identified it does not have a registered owner and is thought to be shared by various offenders.

There has been confusion in the past with use of the 101 telephone number, as calls were routed to the incorrect call centre, but this has now been rectified. (Dialling 999 in the village, from a mobile phone, is still a problem with the calls usually being routed to Northampton).

PCSO duties also include working alongside Social Services in the area of adult protection.

PCSO Bailey is currently co-ordinating the use of the Speed Indicator equipment with Councillor Mutch. He also agreed that large car transporters should not be travelling through the village, and the models of car and the transport firm should be reported via Councillor Mutch.

Claydon Church Room: Future Management and Plans

The Church Room is now listed as an Asset of Community Value with Cherwell District Council. This means that should the Parochial Church Council or the Diocese ever consider disposing of the room the village has the legal right to make a bid to buy it.

Spencer Prestidge has decorated the porch and the toilet which has been extended in order to accommodate a wheelchair user.

There was no-one present who could give any further information. Although the two committee members from the community (Dorothy Beckett and Rob Jones) were in attendance, they had not been party to any discussions, nor been invited to any meetings since 2012.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would write to the Parochial Church Council suggesting that a new committee be set up in line with that agreed by Rev Freeth in 2011. The principal users of the Church Room should be represented and the committee should be allowed to manage its own finances, with no debt transferred from the PCC.

There is currently no-one responsible for the day to day running of the building. Areas requiring immediate attention are the lock on the toilet door and the power point on the far wall. The lock is so stiff that it is difficult to use. This has resulted in both accidents and many refusing to lock the door. Councillor Mutch offered to fit a simple bolt if the situation cannot be resolved.

Proposals for a Claydon Bus Shelter

Shelters had been sought to provide maximum protection from the wind and rain. At the time of the meeting quotations were available for two types of bus shelter.

Wooden shelters were the most expensive with 2 models priced at £7,245 and £8,795 exclusive of VAT and installation.



The more expensive of the wooden shelters

A modern glass shelter was also suggested, priced at £3,200 exclusive of VAT and installation.

The modern version was squarer than the wooden models and could accommodate more people. This would be beneficial for mothers with pushchairs meeting the school bus and for schoolchildren who were no longer allowed to take raincoats to school.



The modern glass shelter. The support posts could be ordered in green to blend in with the surroundings

The feeling in the room was that there was far more chance of raising the lower amount. It was not expected that the Village Precept would be significantly increased to fund a shelter as a referendum (costing around £1000) would be required to do this. However, it was suggested (but not agreed) that the village has received £1100 in New Homes Bonus that was not included in the budget and this could go some way towards the funding.

The Chairman insisted that the views of the residents of all of the neighbouring properties be sought, as would happen with a planning application.

It was noted in the subsequent Parish Council Meeting that the village insurance premium (currently £651) will increase following the installation of a bus shelter.

The Jubilee Group remain poised to begin fundraising as soon as agreement for a shelter is reached.

The South Central Ambulance Service

Jenny Jones provided a map of the hospitals in the area, illustrating how, since withdrawal of General/Abdominal Surgery from the Horton General Hospital, Claydon has been disadvantaged by the administrative boundary of the South Central Ambulance Service, forcing patients to be transferred 35 miles to the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford when Warwick Hospital is less than 20 miles away.

The Parish Council agreed to complain to the relevant bodies.

The following summary contains details of the main points included in the reports submitted by the village organisations and any questions raised.

Claydon Playing Field Management Committee (PFMC)

There are 5 active members of the PFMC, Paul Gallagher (Chair), Garry Putt (Vice-Chair), Emma Gallagher (Secretary), David Wicks and Jess Reeve. Mike Smith acts as Treasurer.

Fundraising events during the year have included the Summer Fun Day & Dog Show, the Halloween Event, Claydon Bonfire Night and Italian Night. The PFMC also co-ordinated the Village Spring Clean. Thanks go to all of the volunteers who are always keen to help and without whom the events would not be possible.

In the last 12 months the Playing Field has continued to be in good condition with the grass cut regularly. The largest expenditure during the period was grass cutting at £900. In order to maintain this standard in 2014-15, the expected cost of grass cutting is £1,275, with £750 paid by the Parish Council and the remainder from fundraising and reserves.

Forecast expenditure for 2014-15 is £5,451, with £3,300 ring-fenced for the purchase of new play equipment.

Dates to remember in 2014 are the Summer Fun Day & Dog Show on 12th July, Claydon Games on 16th August, Halloween celebrations on 31st October and Bonfire Night on 8th November.

Claydon Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Following the period of interregnum after the departure of Rev Pat Freeth at the end of 2012, Rev. Hilary Campbell was warmly welcomed to the Benefice in October. Thanks go to local non-stipendiary minister Rev Lynda Alcock and the visiting clergy for their support during the interregnum period.

The Annual Parish Quota is in excess of £7,000, but with donations and fundraising, the full amount was paid to the Diocese. Funds have been raised by the Napton Bike Ride Refreshments, the 100 Club Draws and sharing the proceeds of the Summer Fun Day & Dog Show. Thanks are due to Vicki Smith who has helped in gaining match funding.

Sadly the village lost Pete Kearney at Christmas time. He did a wonderful job cutting the grass in the churchyard and during his time it never looked better. Max Goldsmith has taken over the grass cutting for this year.

A question asked was whether the planting of a wildflower section in the churchyard could be reconsidered. Last year it was clear that this idea had been misunderstood to mean just allowing the existing grass to grow wild. As there was no representative present to answer, the question will be conveyed to the PCC via the Parish Council. As the Diocese has distributed poppy seeds for planting by all of the churches, it is possible that the idea of a wildflower section would be viewed favourably.

Claydon Trust

There were no requests for funds and no activities co-ordinated by the Claydon Trust in the year ending 31st December 2013. At the end of the year the balance of the account was £1145.02.

Neighbourhood Watch

Residents are reminded to be constantly aware that the village probably receives more visits from potential thieves than from the police.

It is therefore important to keep property secure.

If it is not possible to use a landline to dial 999, the mobile phone connection will probably go to the Northamptonshire control room. It will be necessary to **INSIST** that Claydon is in the Thames Valley Police area.

Claydon Jubilee Group

The coffee mornings continue each month, giving villagers an opportunity to sit, chat and socialise. It costs just £1 for coffee, cake and a raffle ticket.

The sales of jams and knitted toys have raised money for the church flowers. The small book library has been discontinued, with the books donated to Katharine House Hospice.

The Over 60s films continue every other month on a non profit basis. Entry fees pay for the hire of the Church Room and the ice creams.

Claydon History Society

Illustrated talks during the year have been Cropredy in the 19th and 20th Centuries by Sue Lester from the Cropredy History Society, the Restoration Project of the Fenny Compton Brickworks by Steve Barlow, the National Secretary of the Guild of Bricklayers, and the role of the parish in English life during late medieval England by Professor Beat Kumin of Warwick University History Department.

The Society continues to research Claydon in the 19th Century and a picture is emerging of how Claydon was affected by agricultural depression in the late 1800s.

Claydon Village Website

ClaydonVillage.co.uk has been running since 14th February 2012. Statistics for the site during the past 12 months 3,739 total visits with 62.6% new visitors. Although the majority of visitors have been from the UK and USA, visitors have been located in 57 different countries.

The 'Claydon Village Website – Latest Updates ' mailshot has 374 subscribed members from Claydon and 51 surrounding villages. Some have attended Claydon events purely through being informed via the mailshot. One national estate agent chain has included a link to the website in its house sale literature.

Framework continues to be added to the site including myDonate button raising funds for new play equipment.

Claydon Poor's Land Trust

An increase in the rent for the field plus building society interest resulted in a total income of £502.39. A total of £469 was paid out in 41 payments to 52 recipients (a combined payment is made to couples).

Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch

23 Claydon residents enjoyed an excellent lunch at the Carpenter's Arms, Lower Boddington. The price of the three course meal was £13.95 with a good selection of choices for each course. Thanks go to Marks & Spencer, Morrisons and Tesco who all contributed towards the raffle prizes. The majority of the party made the return journey on the County Connect bus.

Claydon Car Service

Use of the Car Service has continued during the last year. Thanks go to the drivers who are generally available to take on the journeys. The numbers have recently reduced, so new volunteers would be welcome.

Claydon with Clattercote Parish Council

For the financial year 2014-15 the expenditure budget is set at £5641 incl. VAT, with a predicted income of £4612 incl. VAT. It is expected that around £1000 budgeted for statutory obligations will not be required and so the shortfall will be met. The village precept, forming part of the Council Tax, was increased by £100 but this was largely offset by a grant of £93.41 paid by Cherwell District Council under the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

This year the Parish Council awarded grants of £550 to the Parochial Church Council towards maintenance of the churchyard and £750 to the Playing Field Management Committee towards the maintenance of the Playing Field.

In January Pamela Putt was co-opted to fill the vacancy on the Parish Council.

Green Open Homes

On 24th and 25th May Phoebe Shaft of Top Lock opened her home as part of the Oxfordshire Green Open Homes project, to demonstrate how our bills and our carbon footprint could be reduced.



CLAYDON SUMMER EVENT & DOG SHOW

SATURDAY, 12TH JULY 2014



You are invited to the Claydon Fun Dog Show on the Village Playing Field on Saturday 12th July

Register on the day from 12:30 then enjoy the excellent BBQ, Bar, Produce stall & games

Don't own a dog? Come along & cheer for your favourite! Judging will begin from 13:30

The emphasis is on "**Fun**", so we invite you to try your hand (and paw) at a wide selection of class categories

1. Most Handsome Male Dog (any breed)
2. Prettiest Bitch (any breed)
3. Best Basic Training (free format, on lead)
4. Cutest Canine (under 24 months old)
5. Best Trick
6. Best Veteran (8+ years)
7. Waggiest Tail
8. Most Appealing Expression
9. Dog/Handler Look-Alike
10. Best In Show – The Judge's Favourite!



All classes £1.00. Register at the event on the day. Rosettes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd



All dogs **MUST** be kept on a lead and under control at all times. Organisers accept no liability for injury, damage or loss.

The Judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Dogs do not need to be KC registered.

For any further details contact: Tim (01295) 690139 or visit www.claydonvillage.co.uk/2014-summer-event-dog-show

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council Meeting on 13th May was attended by District Councillor Ken Attack. The following items were discussed:

PLANNING

Manor Farm Buildings

There has been a delay by CDC in considering the application to build a larger property inside the existing barn, and knocking further windows into the walls. New Planning Laws in relation to redundant agricultural buildings need to be taken into account.

Fenny Compton Road

The application for a new house on the site of the garages in Fenny Compton Road, has been approved and CDC is looking to begin work on the development this year.

Clattercote Priory Farm

A new application for a grain store at Clattercote Priory Farm has been approved subject to some landscaping conditions.

Point to Point Farm

The Portakabin, which is considered to be an eyesore, is currently being used for storage and is due to be removed following the building of the remaining barn.

3 Bignolds Close

The Parish Council had no objections to the application for a front extension to the garage and the installation of a first floor dormer window.

Mollington Wind Turbine

The application to erect a wind turbine in Mollington has been refused. It is likely that there will be an appeal.

SPEEDING

At the time of the meeting temporary speed warning signs had been erected in the village with a view to leaving them in situ for a period of around 2 weeks. However, they all disappeared almost immediately.

The loan of speed indicator equipment is being co-ordinated with PCSO Tom Bailey.

In order to ensure that further action will be taken, there are strict requirements when operating the equipment. The equipment will register the speed at which the vehicle is travelling but 3 volunteers are needed in order to take note of the registration number of the vehicle, its make and colour and the sex, and an estimate of the age of the driver. Owners of speeding vehicles will subsequently receive a letter stating the date, time and place of the offence.

HIGHWAYS

A number of potholes have been marked to await repair. The Parish Council will continue to press for repair of the road edges in several places around the village.

Complaints from the floor included the split in the tarmac on the Appletree Road and the overhanging trees on the Cropredy Road near Lambert's Barn. The Parish Council will contact Cropredy Parish Council regarding the latter.

ALLOTMENTS

A new tenancy agreement has been drawn up specifying the requirements to access the plots by driving around the the perimeter, rather than straight across the field, keeping the gate locked and paying for clearance of the plot if it is not kept to a satisfactory standard.

There has been some confusion regarding the type of livestock which may be kept on the allotments as work on one allotment commenced before a tenancy agreement was issued. The agreement, based on national guidelines, allows for a small number of hens and rabbits for personal consumption.

There are currently 4 vacant plots. If anyone is interested in taking on a plot please contact the Parish Clerk on 07810 441682 or claydonwithclattercotepc@yahoo.co.uk.

SPRING CLEAN

Thanks to Paul Gallagher for co-ordinating the Village Spring Clean, and the volunteers who took part. A total of 2 tonnes of rubbish was collected in the CDC district.

PETE WELLS

The Parish Council expressed sadness on hearing of the death of Pete Wells of Astell Farmhouse.

Diary Dates

HISTORY SOCIETY MEETING

The next meeting of the Claydon History Society will be on **Monday 2nd June** at 7.30 pm in the Church Room.

OPEN GARDEN

As part of the National Garden Scheme Ken and Sandra Atack will be opening their garden at Eaves Cottage, Williamscot on **Sunday 8th June** from 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm. There will be homemade teas and a plant stall. Parking will be available nearby. The entrance fee will be £4 for adults with children admitted free. Proceeds will be donated to the National Garden Scheme Charities and Pancreatic Cancer.

OVER SIXTIES FILMS

The next film showing will take place in the Church Room at 2.00 pm on

Friday 13th June

Starring Terence Stamp as the grumpy husband of terminally ill Vanessa Redgrave in

Song for Marion

also starring Gemma Arterton, Christopher Eccleston and Anne Reid

PLAYING FIELD TRUSTEE MEETING

Tuesday 8th July at 7.00 pm in the Church Room

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 8th July at 7.30 pm in the Church Room

SUMMER EVENT & DOG SHOW

Saturday 12th July from 12.30 pm on the Playing Field

Written and produced by Jenny Jones

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