

Claydon with Clattercote Newsletter

March/April 2016



**A new water feature springs up in the Mollington Road.
Heavy rain overnight on 8th March, continuing into the morning of the 9th
caused difficulty when attempting to leave the village**

BUS SERVICES WILL CONTINUE FOR A SHORT TIME LONGER

Oxfordshire County Council has indicated that all bus subsidies will continue until 20th July to coincide with the end of the school term. The operators of both the 277 and County Connect services have not commented so far, but it is expected that they will continue until at least this date.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council Meeting on 8th March was attended by County Councillor George Reynolds and District Councillor Ken Attack. The following further items were discussed:

PARISH COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION FOR 2016/2017

Although it had been hoped to appoint a new Chair in advance of the May meeting, there were no nominations for the position. Councillor Millward felt that he could not afford the time and Councillor Hoggins felt that her lack of on-line access would be a great disadvantage.

PARISH CLERK

Interest in the position of Parish Clerk has been expressed by the very experienced clerk of several villages in Warwickshire and Northants, who could take on a further 10 hours work. The salary expected would be in excess of the amount budgeted at £11.50 per hour, but this would be for a very professional candidate who has taken a Certificate in Local Government Administration. It was agreed that the Chairman would arrange a meeting with the rest of the Parish Council.

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (OCC)

Councillor Reynolds announced that there would be a cabinet meeting to confirm the discontinuation of all bus subsidies on 20th July. It was to be followed by a consultation on usage figures, but it was unclear whether this could result in a positive outcome. There has been no response from the individual bus operators on their plans.

Some cluster villages are organising themselves to take on roles previously undertaken by OCC such as grass cutting. Councillor Reynolds stated that a meeting had been organised in Wroxton for various parish councils to discuss enterprise schemes. Although grass cutting outside the villages may be discontinued, OCC still has a responsibility to clear the sight lines. Cllr Reynolds confirmed that although OCC claims that it does not have a budget to clear pathways such as the blue brick path, it is still responsible should someone fall.

The devolution argument revolves around the Government requirement for a devolved authority to have a mayor. OCC is more in favour of a unitary authority.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL (CDC)

Planning

Councillors were each issued with summary leaflets part 1 and 2 on the Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031. The consultation on the key issues outlined in part 2 runs until 11th March. The Chairman reported that a meeting at Bodicote House on 23rd February had provided an opportunity to discuss planning issues with representatives of neighbouring parishes and CDC. The issues for Claydon were the clear demarcation of the village boundaries and enforcement action over planning breaches.

The new housing along the Southam Road has placed considerable pressure on Cropredy, as it is designated to be in the catchment of the school and the surgery.

A review of the unmet housing need for Oxford of 15,000 houses is under way. As a result Cherwell is expected to accommodate around an extra 3,000 homes in addition to those in the current Local Plan.

Leys Farm The planning application from Mr & Mrs Stothard for a 2 storey rear extension and internal alterations to the house plus alterations to an ancillary barn has been granted. As it is a listed building there are several conditions specifying the materials to be used.

1 Bignolds Close An application for a Certificate of Lawfulness of Proposed Development has been submitted. It specifies the erection of a rear garage extension, the demolition of a conservatory and erection of a single story extension to serve as a garden room.

CLAYDON ALLOTMENTS

There are currently 3 vacant plots. Letters have been sent to the tenants of several plots informing them that if the plots have not been tidied by 31st March, the tenancy will not be renewed for 2016/17.

Councillor Millward volunteered to take over the responsibility of collecting rents, and checking on the state of cultivation of the plots.

VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

Nigel Prickett has been appointed to cut the village verges on a flexible basis (i.e. the grass will not be cut if it is unnecessary).

A quotation is awaited for the lopping of the lower branches of the horse chestnut tree on the Village Green. Two villagers have suggested that the higher branches be lopped and the lower ones left alone. Councillors agreed to concentrate on the tree rather than reseeding the grass.

Work will begin on the noticeboard when the weather improves.

The Chairman agreed to obtain a quotation for the purchase of a grit bin.

MAINTENANCE OF THE CHURCHYARD

Councillor J Jones reported on a very constructive meeting with representatives from the Parochial Church Council and the volunteers. It had been agreed that Nigel Prickett would be employed to cut the grass 5 or 6 times during the season on specified dates and the volunteers would do as much or as little as they wished around those times.

CORRESPONDENCE

Council Tax: the CDC portion has not increased, while the OCC share has increased by 4%, the police by 2% and Claydon by 15.2%. The Claydon increase at Band D is £6.70.

The Chairman has been invited, along with the Chairs of two other parishes in Oxfordshire, to Buckingham Palace in May in recognition of the service given to parishes. Unfortunately he will be unable to attend.

New Law: From 6th April 2016 all dogs must be micro chipped.

FINANCE

The Chairman reported that with a current bank balance as at 8th March of £6282.51, expected expenditure of £75.50 for hire of the Church Room (£60.50) and the Remembrance Wreath (£15) and expected income to 31st March 2016 of £1176 New Homes Bonus, the expected bank balance at year end would be £7383.01.

AOB

The hedge at the rear of Bignolds Close was reported as obstructing traffic along the Cropredy Road. The Chairman agreed to check it out.

It was suggested that, as an unlit urban area, there should be 30mph repeater signs through the village.

It was agreed that details of the long term empty houses in the village would be passed to Cllr Atack who would enquire whether anything could be done.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 10th May following the Annual Parish Meeting

PLAYING FIELD NEWS

At the meeting of the Playing Field Trustee on 8th March, following the Parish Council Meeting, it was agreed that a survey of villagers (previously distributed on-line) requesting their opinions on future events would be extended to all. It is printed as an insert to this issue.

If it is decided to hold an event to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday, a grant of £100 will be available from Cherwell District Council for the hire of items, such as a marquee or tables and chairs, or the provision of music and entertainment. It may not be used for fireworks or refreshments. It will be necessary to undertake a risk assessment.

The Playing Field Management Committee were congratulated by the Trustee on having raised over £4,000 in 2015/16.

The Church Room

The room is available for bookings for private or village activities at a rate of £9 per session. The room is now governed and financed by a village committee and needs to create income to provide for maintenance. The aim is to improve the facilities and encourage a wider use of the building to the benefit of the village. To make a booking contact Clive Mutch (690610), regular bookings will attract a discount!

It is hoped that the surrounding churchyard can also be maintained to a high standard to make this centre of the village a more attractive prospect.

Don Siviter

RAILWAY BRIDGE

The recent incident of a truck becoming stuck while illegally using the railway bridge has been reported to the police.

POST OFFICE

The operation of Cropredy Post Office from the Chapel Schoolroom has currently been discontinued.

REMINDERS

Please keep dogs on a lead when using Public Footpaths through private land, if they cannot be controlled to stay on the path.

A number of red and white checked tablecloths have not been returned to the Church Room after use. Please can they be returned as soon as possible.

RAYMOND TAYLOR – 1924-2016



Great great grandfather Ray, head of five generations of the Taylor/Purdey/Johnson Dynasty, photographed in 2013

Ray lived in Claydon since November 2000, having come to the area from Isleworth, West London, very close to Twickenham Rugby Ground, where he had spent 14 years, after 62 years in South Willesborough, near Ashford, Kent

Born in South Willesborough on 25 January 1924, one of six children, four boys and two girls – he has a surviving sister, Joy, living in Australia. Joy remembers his immense kindness and the protection he offered her as a child from the older boisterous brothers. Their mother joined the Salvation Army during their youth and he and his brothers all played musical instruments – Dad the cornet – in the Salvation Army Band. He attended Newtown School and Ashford North Secondary Modern School. Ray left school at 14 and worked as a butcher's boy – to the end he knew every cut of meat from any animal. He had some hair-raising times assisting farmers with pitchforks escorting surviving German aircrew after they had crash-landed in fields near their home. During the latter part of the war, he worked in a munitions factory and met his wife at a Christmas dance he attended with his friend. It was a fruitful dance for both men as apart from winning a raffle and a bottle of gin, which they consumed with relish (a 3 day hangover followed) they met and later married sisters, Ray to Kath and Arthur to Win. They remained firm friends throughout their lives until Mum died, spending many happy holidays together, the last in 1981 in Vedbaek, Denmark

At the end of WW2 he was a chef in the RAF, a time he really enjoyed, then worked with his brothers in a logging, farm and road haulage business. He drove a tractor, ploughed fields, etc. With brother Chris, I had a happy childhood either going out with Dad when he was lorry driving and delivering or riding on the back of the tractor whilst he was ploughing or visiting his workshop when he was working on repairing the lorries. Not much health and safety in those days and we survived. When the brothers eventually all fell out, as families do, he worked with a company making moulds for things like the Channel Tunnel and Hammersmith Flyover and other major construction projects. He recognised the company's handiwork in the multi storey car park in Bolton Road, Banbury

In 1984 his beloved wife Kathleen died and later that year he took early retirement. After making round trips of about 160 miles each weekend between Ashford and Richmond for some time we decided to sell up our properties in Ashford and Richmond, Surrey and buy a house of suitable size where we could all share together with enough space for all to live comfortably.

Once Nicole was expected, we had to enlarge the house to make extra bedrooms. Whilst the house was being extended, Dad took himself off to Orkney and stayed with Chris and Jen. When there he helped Chris with haymaking and there's a fabulous picture of him swinging from the rafters on Orkney.

Although his philosophy was always anything for the quiet life, Ray had never been one to be idle and involved himself in lots of projects improving the house, helping to keep our cars on the road, teaching Rob to drive, helping Rob with his Banger Racing. He took charge of cooking for us while I was still at work and Rob still at school and continued cooking until I had to retire through ill health, carrying out essential repairs when things went wrong, refurbishing bathrooms at our Isleworth house, building new bathrooms when we moved to Claydon, putting a timber floor in the loft at our Claydon house, looking after the animals and building shelters for them, looking after the garden and just generally being busy and amazing. Building chicken houses (2), a play shed for Kerys, most recently a shelter for his compressor and starter unit and fuel for the mower. He enjoyed his ride-on mower and keeping our lawns and verges neat and tidy. He also kept enough wood cut to keep our fire burning, cleaning the grate each morning, and enjoying the fire when it was lit.

He always had much more energy than anyone else and was much loved by Hannah and Rob, great grandchildren Nicole, Kerys and Kacey, and Rachel, Hannah's sister who helped with his care in his final months, and Nicole and Dan's children, Cody and Rubie – Dad's great, great grandchildren.

His funeral took place on 18 March and he is now buried in St James the Great Churchyard. May he rest in peace.

Veronica Purdey

Diary Dates

HISTORY SOCIETY ENTERTAINMENT EVENING **Friday 8th April**

A talk by Professor Beat Kümin on

"Going for a Drink"

- a pre-history of Public Houses

at 7.30 pm in the Church Room. Refreshments included.
Contact 690510 for tickets. Members £3, non-members £5

COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 20th April at 10.30 am in the Church Room

OVER SIXTIES FILM

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

Friday 22nd April

A Walk in the Woods

starring Robert Redford, Nick Nolte and Emma Thompson

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Tuesday 10th May at 7.00 pm in the Church Room

followed by

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

at approx. 8.00 pm.

HISTORY SOCIETY MEETING

Monday 16th May at 7.30 pm in the Church Room.

Edited and produced by Jenny Jones

Contact: **tel. 690510**, e-mail clayclatnews@btinternet.com