

Claydon with Clattercote Newsletter

January/February 2017



A fieldfare, one of many winter visitors from Scandinavia

2017/18 VILLAGE PRECEPT SET AT £7,161

At the Parish Council Meeting on 10th January, the precept was set at £7,161. This represented the precept in 2016/17 of £7,000 plus an inflationary increase. The budget for 2017/18 was agreed at £10,486. The shortfall will be met from reserve funds.

COUNTY CONNECT BUS SERVICE

Discussions are currently being held to investigate the possibility of restoring the County Connect bus service to the village. It would not be subsidised by the County Council, and is likely to involve costs to both the Parish Council and to passengers (even holders of bus passes).

If there is a very small level of interest from villagers it may not make economic sense for the Parish Council to provide a subsidy. If you would be interested in using the service please inform a Parish Councillor. (David Hill – 690452, Anne Hoggins – 690675, Jenny Jones – 690510, Sylvia Ingram – 690629 or Richard Millward – 690686).

There is now a Saturday bus service running from Leamington to Banbury via Cropredy, unfortunately bypassing Claydon. Service 502 leaves Cropredy at 10:54 and returns from Banbury Bus Station at 13:35.

OTHER PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council Meeting on 10th January was attended by County Councillor George Reynolds and District Councillor Ken Attack. The following further items were discussed:

PLANNING

The Barnhouse

There were no objections to the application for the installation of a large underground drainage system with a large attenuation tank to store water for recycling. The drainage system will discharge into a pond with any excess water diverted into an adjacent ditch.

Top Lock

There were no objections to the application for the conversion of workshops to accommodation with a link extension to the original dwelling and the erection of open fronted outbuildings. However it was agreed to include a comment on the lack of access to the site and parking at Middle Lock.

The Brambles

The application for the replacement of the fence adjacent to the public footpath with a wall has been approved by Cherwell District Council (CDC). The occupants have gone to considerable length with the builder to devise a scheme to ensure that the footpath will remain open throughout the construction period.

Point to Point Farm

Councillor Attack is in contact with the Planning Enforcement Department at CDC regarding the log cabin at Point to Point Farm following the refusal to scrap the original conditions.

PROPERTIES

CDC's intention is that the house built as part of the *Build!* project, on Fenny Compton Road will be an affordable home, but at the higher end of the scale.

Regarding other empty properties, the dispute at 12 Manor Park is ongoing and is not expected to be resolved quickly. CDC is also actively involved in the situation at the Old School House.

BLUE BRICK PATH

There was a great deal of concern expressed regarding the state of the Blue Brick Path. In places it is extremely muddy and dangerously slippery causing villagers to walk on the road to avoid it. It was agreed that Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) would be approached to clear the path as soon as possible as a health and safety issue.

VILLAGE GREEN

The trees have been pruned and 195 aconites have been planted.

CLAYDON ALLOTMENTS

There are currently 4 vacant plots. The tenants of the two plots which have not been cultivated this year have been informed that if there is no further cultivation their tenancies will not be renewed in April.

BT PHONE KIOSK

There is a notice in the box stating the intention of its removal, with contact details for anyone to raise objections.

BROADBAND

The village has now been connected to fibre broadband via the Openreach cabinet on the Village Green. There was some confusion as to whether Boddington Road is included. Councillor Atack is happy to clarify the situation with CDC on behalf of anyone with a query.

LAPTOP

As the Parish Clerk is currently using her own laptop, as part of the risk assessment it was felt that adequate cover should be in place and a laptop should be purchased for Parish Council administration. Grants are available from the Transparency Fund for this type of purchase, in addition to software and a website. It was felt to be unnecessary to set up a new website as the Clerk will be able to access the village website if necessary.

SURVEY

It was agreed to organise a village survey from which it may be determined whether completion of a Parish Plan will be necessary.

HORTON HOSPITAL UPDATE

Consultant led maternity at the Horton continues to be 'temporarily' closed. The Oxford University Hospitals Foundation Trust (OUHFT) has been attempting to employ sufficient obstetricians in order to reopen the service, but it has recently been announced that it cannot reopen in March as there will only be 5 obstetricians in place out of a requirement of 9.

Meantime on January 16th phase 1 of 'The Big Consultation' opened with a proposal to make the closure permanent on the grounds of safety. It states, "Clinicians are concerned that even if they could recruit enough obstetric staff, the situation would not be sustainable and is likely to lead to another emergency closure".

Meetings are being held across the county and at the first, of the two being held in Banbury, the presenters from the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and OUHFT appeared to be oblivious to the traumatic experiences that members of the public related as a result of the closure.

The consultation document states that travel is "still within the recommended travel times" with the travel analysis on the website www.oxonhealthcaretransformation.nhs.uk showing that "nearly all patients are within 40 minutes of ambulance travel time." This figure was hotly disputed at the meeting.

At the meeting of the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) on February 2nd, the decision was made to refer the issue of maternity at the Horton to the Secretary of State for Health.

At this stage it is unclear what effect this decision by the HOSC will have on the consultation.

The consultation also includes making permanent the removal of 45 beds which took place in September 2016 as part of the exercise to prevent Delayed Transfers of Care. A pilot of an 'acute hospital at home service' is running in Oxford to support people at home in order to prevent them being admitted to hospital. The removal of so many beds (including 101) from the John Radcliffe Hospital has resulted in chaos at the A&E departments on both sites.

The consultation also includes the removal of the acute stroke service and the intensive care unit.

The sweetener is bringing more outpatient and diagnostic appointments to the Horton, but this will mean the loss of the above services.



The likely result if the consultation goes through

Illustration by Declan Ingram

The Keep the Horton General Campaign Group is warning the public to be very careful how they fill in the consultation questionnaire as it appears to be skewed to give the CCG the answers it wants. It is possible to respond instead by letter using the Freepost address from the consultation questionnaire.

Phase 2 of the consultation will take place later in the year, but if consultant led maternity is lost in phase 1, it will have a bearing on A&E and the children's ward.

The changes form part of the Transformation Programme for Oxfordshire which is part of the Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) for Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB). Although the BOB document reports in very general terms, it does single out the Horton Hospital for change.

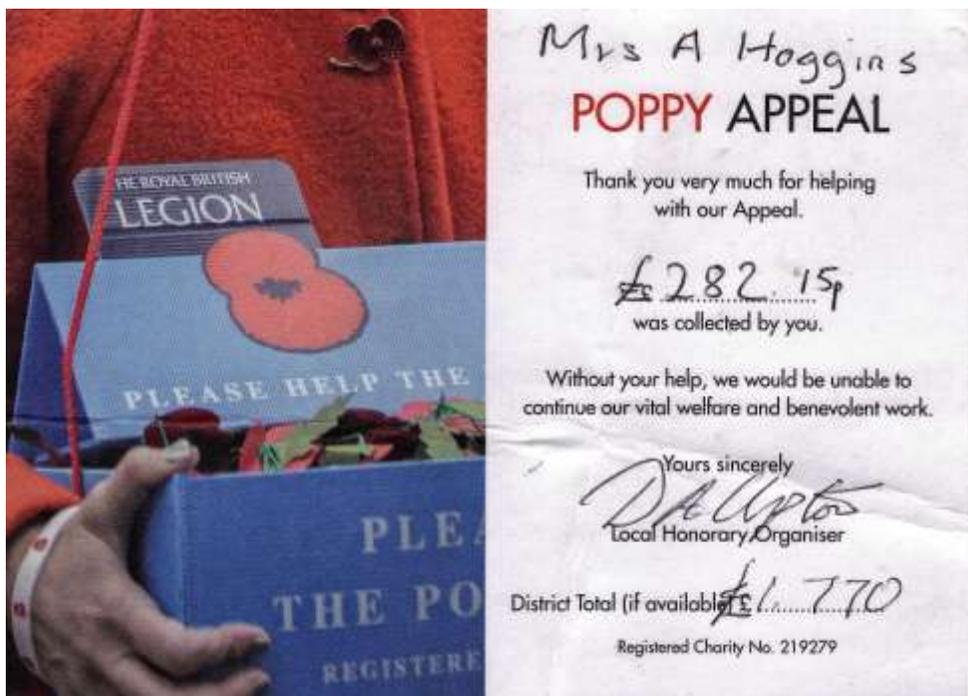
To find out more attend

the Keep the Horton General Awareness Meeting

at St. Mary's Church, Banbury

on Thursday 2nd March from 7.30 to 9.00 pm

POPPY COLLECTION



A total of £282.15 was collected for the Remembrance Poppy Appeal. Thanks to Anne Hoggins for making the collection in Claydon and Don Siviter for collecting in Clattercote.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

On the evening of January 27th a party was held in the Play Area. It also spread into Blgnolds Close.

There was rubbish left in both the Play Area and Bignolds Close and the grass in the Play Area was churned up. The party goers appear to have wiped their feet on the benches and on the play equipment. Dangerously they also left broken glass in the grass of the Play Area.



Some of the broken glass which was gathered out of the grass

CAN YOU VOLUNTEER FOR KATHARINE HOUSE?

Our volunteers are a vital part of the work we do for people and families facing life-limiting illnesses in our community. They help us with everything from catering to complementary therapies, and they save us around £400,000 every year. We're always looking for volunteers to help us, and we'd love to hear from you if you have some time to spare. Volunteer roles include:

Catering Assistants - Kitchen Assistants – Receptionists
Complementary Therapists - Patient Drivers - Shop Volunteers
General Day Hospice - Ward Clerks - Gardeners

For more information please telephone Joanna Morris, Volunteer Co-ordinator on 01295 811866

email volunteering@khh.org.uk, or visit www.khh.org.uk/volunteering

Diary Dates

COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 15th February at 10:30 a.m. in the Church Room

HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday 19th February 8:30 a.m. at St. James' Church

HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday 26th February 11:00 a.m. at St. James' Church

HISTORY SOCIETY MEETING

Monday 27th February at 7:30 p.m. in the Church Room.

PANCAKES AT THE VICARAGE

Tuesday 28th February 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Vicarage, Cropredy

HORTON HOSPITAL AWARENESS MEETING

Thursday 2nd March 7.30 to 9.00 pm at St. Mary's Church, Banbury

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 14th March at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Room

followed by

PLAYING FIELD TRUSTEE MEETING

Edited and produced by Jenny Jones

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