

CLAXTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2017

Introduction

It's November already. The nights are drawing in and the leaves are falling. Clocks have gone back, meaning darker evenings. Christmas is definitely just round the corner.

This newsletter is for everyone in Claxton, and individual copies go through each door in the village. A copy will also go on the village website and on every notice board. We issue a new version every 6 months or so depending on how much news we have, and welcome comments and suggestions for future issues.

Fair on the Yare

This year's event was another stunning success, bringing in over £1,000 more for disbursement to the agreed charities than in 2016. The weather was perfect and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. The Committee has now agreed that the 2018 Fair will take place on **Sunday 3 June**, and will be taking a well-earned break over the winter before sharpening its focus in the spring.

Council Matters

At its regular meeting in mid-January the Parish Council will agree the level of **funding (the Precept)** it will request from South Norfolk Council for 2018-19. Before then individual Councillors will be looking at the draft budget produced by the Clerk and considering what, if anything, should be dropped or added. If you are at all interested in seeing the lowest level of local government in action, why not come along on 15 November or 17 January? Everyone is welcome.

While we have a full set of Councillors for the first time in ages, there is **one vacancy on the Council**, as Mike Balmer, the Parish Clerk, has decided to stand down by next May at the latest (but earlier if a successor can be identified), after 6 years in the job. The Parish Council will be advertising the vacancy very soon, so if anyone out there would like to learn about local government and get to know the village better, this might be the job for you. It's only 4 hours a week, at a reasonable rate of pay, and Mike will be around for training and advice going forward. Look out for the advert issuing before Christmas.

Village Hall events

It has been a busy summer with two additional Trustees joining the Committee in running the Hall. The event on 7 October for **Macmillan Cancer Support** raised a tremendous **£700** for this very worthy charity.

In the margins of the coffee morning the annual **Photographic Competition** was run, with well in excess of 30 entries across two categories (Adult and Junior). Congratulations to Jocelyn Carter and Kieran Button who won their respective category. As last year, we have taken the 13 photographs with the most votes for a **2018 Calendar** (see cover, below), which will be on sale at the **Community Café** on Tuesday 14 November.



The Committee has also been forging ahead with improvements on the fire safety and health & safety fronts, and will at some stage be investing to improve the acoustics in the Hall.

The latest new activity is an **Art Group** at the Hall on Mondays from 1130am to 1pm. All abilities are welcome and the cost is £5 per session. Just come along.

It is also considering running other activities, such as informal IT/computer/internet skills sessions. Any firm plans will appear on the website so don't forget to subscribe if you don't want to miss postings.

Community Café

The **Community Café**, which takes place on the second Tuesday of every month, is now a firm fixture in the village. Word has spread and several people from surrounding villages also come along regularly to enjoy the refreshments and cakes, and an opportunity to chat with old and new friends.

At the next Café on Tuesday 14 November there will be a representative from **Contact Care Lifelines** there to speak to villagers about their services (fuller details are set out under Pits Trust on the next page). The **2018 Calendar** will also be on sale for the first time.

Village website: claxtonpc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

Parish Council: Chair: Pat Clare 01508-480317 clarepv@gmail.com, Vice-Chair: David Hamblin 01508-480422 djlra@gmail.com,
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The **Christmas Café** on 12 December will once again run for an hour longer and offer additional food choices.

Café dates in 2018 will be published on the website and notice boards. They will be on the second Tuesday of each month, starting with **Tuesday 9 January 2018**.

Social Club

The **Social Club** continues to open on Friday evenings at 8.30pm and has entertainment on the last Saturday of every month. Why not come along and see what you're missing?

St Andrew's Church

Over the spring and summer months work on the church yard was undertaken by members of the PCC and friends of the church. Paths were cut through the grass and areas around some graves tidied. We were able to hold our first **Pet Service** on 27 August, and on a very hot bank holiday Monday we were joined by friends for a **Summer Picnic**. Again this year we have planned a **Wassail/carol service** on 10 December at 3pm. We would love to see the church full again this year! We were very grateful to receive a donation from the Fair on the Yare, and with this, together with other donations, we have decided to make repairs to the **East Window**. We hope this work will proceed early next year.

There was a **Remembrance Day** service on 12 November and details of the **Ceilidh** on 18 November are on the website and notice boards.

Broadband services

A number of villagers have signed up with **Wispire** and at least one has taken advantage of the government's satellite broadband voucher scheme, both of which are explained on the website.

In addition **B4RN East Anglia**, a private initiative to bring ultra high speed broadband to the area, is beginning to sign up prospective customers. If you are in any way interested, check it out at www.b4rnorfolk.org.uk.

Just to confirm what we've been told by the **Better Broadband for Norfolk** (BBfN) Programme Director, they have informed us that Claxton will be receiving 3 fibre cabinets between October 2018 and September 2019 to finally bring high speed (24Mbps) broadband to Claxton. Just think, this time next year some of us could actually have a fibre-optic broadband service.

The Claxton Parish Pit Charity (the Pits Trust)

The Trust has continued to rebuild financially so that it can go on helping people in the village, having used its reserves in 2015-16 to update its property at 3 The Warren.

Shown right ► is a flyer about **Contact Care Lifelines**, a 24-hour response service providing help and reassurance at the touch of a button. A representative will be at the **Community Café on 14 November** to speak about this scheme. The Trust has agreed to fund a roll-out of this service for elderly residents of Claxton, and is encouraging everyone who thinks this might be for them to get in touch with any Trustee.

The Trust would also like to remind residents that it can help with any number of issues which might befall families. Have a quiet word with any Trustee to see how the Trust can help.

Ducan's Marsh, a Site of Special Scientific Interest off Folly Lane which is owned by the Trust, has seen a lot of changes in the past year, in part due to a grant from the PostCode Lottery Fund. A further **Open Day** is being planned in the summer when all the improvements will be on view for villagers and visitors alike.

Litter Pick

It's that time again, or rather there is enough evidence of littering to suggest a further organised litter pick before Christmas. Watch out for a notice on the website calling for volunteers for this really worthwhile task. All tools and hi-viz clothing will be provided.

Planning Applications

There are none at the time of writing.

Village Website

The website (details at the foot of the page) is set up to be a **ONE-STOP SHOP** for all things Claxton. It is our hope that as many people in the village as possible will check it on a regular basis. But there's an easier way of ensuring you don't miss any stories. By subscribing to the village website you will get a weekly report every Thursday of all the stories which have been published in the previous 7 days.



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