

CLAXTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2018

Introduction

We hope everyone is enjoying the warm weather after what seems to have been the longest winter. The evenings are getting lighter and everyone is looking forward to summer.

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

Date for your diary - **Sunday 3 June from 12 noon to 4pm at Claxton Manor**. Come along and enjoy everything the Fair has to offer. The Committee is hoping to exceed last year's record takings which go to the nominated charities. If you fancy helping out but haven't already offered your services, phone Carolyn Moar on 480714.

We have also been informed that after 4 years at the helm **Carolyn Moar** will be stepping down as Chair of the Fair Committee after the 2018 event. The Committee will be considering who might step in and take over, and if anyone out there is interested in managing this event going forward, they should let Carolyn know (on 480714).

Parish Council Matters

We are now in the last year of the current electoral cycle with Parish Council **elections** due in May 2019. We will be looking for a broad range of candidates for the 5 seats on offer so have a think about whether to put your name forward when the time comes.

In the next newsletter we will be highlighting the plans to mark the centenary of the end of hostilities in the **First World War on Sunday 11 November 2018**. There will be a beacon lighting at the village hall and a commemorative ceremony at the same time. Look out for more details nearer the time.

Work has been progressing to acquire a **defibrillator** for the village, to be located at the Village Hall. The Parish Council has secured a £500 grant from our District Councillor and a pledge from the Pits Trust for the majority of the rest of the cost. Progress reports will appear on the website and during upcoming Council meetings.

Planning Applications

There are none at the time of writing.

After 6 years in the job, Mike Balmer is stepping down as Parish Clerk on 31 May. We are pleased to welcome **Carla Petersen** as his successor. Carla is already Clerk to Langley with Hardley Parish Council and thus knows what the job entails. Mike and Carla are handing over in May.

On Wednesday 16 May the **Annual Parish Meeting** takes place, followed by the meeting of the Parish Council where the Chair and Vice-Chair are appointed for the coming year. If you want to hear what the various bodies in the village have been doing over the last year, come along at 7.30 that evening.

We have a steady turnover of families in Claxton, with a number of new residents arriving in the past year or so. The Parish Council is looking to develop a small **Welcome Pack** which will be delivered to each new family shortly after they move in. Ideas for information to go into this pack are invited. Most houses retain their names on a permanent basis. This year however we have seen a formal renaming for the first time in a while, with Cremers Drift - opposite the entrance to Mill Lane - now called **Pheasants Roost**, in homage to one of our most commonplace wild birds.

Village Hall events

The Committee has been moving forward with some of the improvements it wants to make to the Hall, the first of which is to improve the **acoustics** so that it is easier for people to have conversations during events. They have a wish-list which they aim to tick off as the funding becomes available.

This year the Hall launched its own **200 Club**, a **small lottery** where half the monthly proceeds are given away as prize money with the other half going towards the Hall's development plans. **£12** gets you a number in the draw for the whole year. Call or e-mail Mike Balmer (01508-484162 mbalmer@btinternet.com) or speak to any of the Committee.

The Committee has also delivered a **Questionnaire** to every house in Claxton and Carleton St Peter to get an idea of what everyone would like the Hall to be doing. This consultation will run to mid-May and they hope that everyone will take the opportunity to make their views known.

The next major event will be the annual **Quiz Night** on **Saturday 16 June**. Put the date in your diaries. More information will issue in the next few weeks. We hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Village website: claxtonpc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

Parish Council: Chair: Pat Clare 01508-480317 clarepv@gmail.com, Vice-Chair: David Hamblin 01508-480422 djlrrha@gmail.com, Mary Button 01508-480580 countrytastes@hotmail.co.uk, Jason Cantrill 01508-480879 Jason.Cantrill@StruttAndParker.com, Sarah Kennedy 01508-480560 enquiries@marshpig.co.uk, Parish Clerk: Carla Petersen 01502-730166 claxtonpc@gmail.com

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Sunday 16 September is the date for a **50-50 Auction**, the first such event in Claxton in many years. Again, more information will issue nearer the time.

The Committee hopes to run the third annual **Photographic Competition** after the summer holidays so don't forget to take your camera with you wherever in the area you find yourself. The aim is once more to collect enough high quality photos for our 2019 **Annual Calendar**.

While there are a number of new regular activities in the Hall, including the Art Group on Monday and Yoga on Thursday, there is always space for more.

Community Café

The **Community Café**, which takes place from 10am-12pm on the second Tuesday of every month, is now a well-established activity providing somewhere for everyone in the village to come and talk to others, along with sampling the refreshments and delicious cakes.

By the time you read this we will have drawn the winning number for April's Village Hall **200 Club** at the Café meeting on 8 May. **£11** will give you a stake in the draw for the rest of the year.

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

2018 being the centenary of the **end of WWI**, the PCC would like to mark the event by planting a small copse of trees to commemorate the 3 fallen servicemen from Claxton.

Also, a decision has been made to **repair the east window** and dedicate this to benefactors from the village. Donations received from the Fair on the Yare will also be used to help finance this work. It is hoped that an official 'unveiling' can be arranged with members of the Diocese being present.

On 22 September we are hoping to organise a **Musical Picnic**, featuring a children's event run by Laura 'the musical explorer' Carter, and 'Reed All About It', a local saxophone quartet. Details to follow. Our annual St. Andrew's Day **Ceillidh** will take place on 1 December. Look out for further information about these events and details of the regular church services.

Broadband services

There was great excitement in March when a lot of painted markings appeared on the road at the junction of Folly Lane and The Street. As suspected, this is to do with the installation of the **first fibre-optic cabinet in Claxton**, sometime in the last quarter of 2018. This cabinet will serve 68 households, ie every house from Claxton Mill to just short of the Manor, and deliver high-speed broadband. 2 further cabinets are due in 2019 to cover the rest of the village.

Wispire has now been bought by a company in Suffolk but its offer is unchanged, as is broadband over satellite. We wait to see how far **B4RN East Anglia** can get into the county, with its first connections being made in Scole. If you are interested, check it out at www.b4rnorfolk.org.uk.

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 to update its property at 3 The Warren two years previously.

The Trust has been in contact with **Contact Care Lifelines**, a 24-hour response service providing help and reassurance at the touch of a button. 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.

As mentioned elsewhere the Trust will be meeting a majority of the cost of a **defibrillator** for the village.

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 they 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 tentatively planned for **Sunday 17 June** when all the improvements will be on view for villagers and visitors alike.

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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