

Claxton Parish Newsletter

Winter 2021

Welcome

Your Parish Council felt that now was as good a time as any to bring you up-to-date with what is going on in Claxton, not least because a third lockdown has once again restricted opportunities to meet up with friends and neighbours. We all hope that there will soon be a gradual easing of restrictions which will allow a modest amount of social contact, with all the Covid precautions we have become accustomed to in the past 10 months or so.

Parish Council

The Parish Council continues to meet over Zoom. Members of the public are welcome to dial in and join all such meetings. Access details are on the agenda which is published on the website the week before the actual meeting. Our next one is on 3 March.

STOP PRESS : Carla Petersen has resigned as Parish Clerk with effect from 8 March. We are looking for a successor - please see the flyer enclosed with this newsletter for details.

In November we co-opted **Jos Harwood** into the vacant Parish Councillor position. Jos has lived in Claxton for 25 years and takes a keen interest in the welfare of its residents. She has already contributed to the debate on current issues and we look forward to more from her in the years ahead.



On 1 March we expect to see the **SAM2 speed monitor** back in Claxton after its 3 month spell in Langley with Hardley. The Parish Council will be asking LwH Parish Council for their findings,

though a joint meeting will not be possible until current pandemic restrictions have been lifted.

Thanks go to the Pits Trust for agreeing to fund an unexpected need for tree surgery on the **large oak** at the front of the Village Hall. The need was identified after the budget had been agreed and the Parish Council would otherwise have had to raid its reserves to pay for this, which would in turn have led to a larger increase in Council Tax provisions than we would wish.

The Council has learned that there is at least one **drone** being flown over Claxton (and probably further afield). It is hoped that the owner/operator is aware of all the legal requirements for such activities. While there is no wish to spoil drone owners' enjoyment of this pastime, they should also be aware that such activities can be intrusive, not least if private property is being filmed during flights.

Claxton Parish Pit Charity (Pits Trust)

The Pits Trust has continued to function during the various lockdowns although there have been no face-to-face meetings, with contact by e-mail and Zoom.

This is a good place to remind readers that the Trust is there **to help residents of Claxton**. Apart from funding the tree surgery (see above) the Trust was also recently in contact with all families in the village with school-age children to see whether it could assist with the provision of **equipment to aid home schooling**. Although to date there has been no take-up of the offer, the Trust is happy to consider applications from any qualifying families.

Plans for a **Community Orchard** on the land behind Nos 1-4 The Warren are moving ahead. This was previously the site for the village allotments but demand for allotment space has now gone completely and it seemed to be a good use of this space, with the agreement of Claxton Manor, which owns the land as well as the access strip from Mill Lane behind Nos 5-12 The Warren.

Village website: claxtonpc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

Parish Council: Chair: Pat Clare 01508-480317 patc.claxtonpc@gmail.com, Vice-Chair: David Hamblin 01508-480422 david.claxtonpc@gmail.com, Jason Cantrill 01508-480879 jason.claxtonpc@gmail.com, Mike Balmer 01508-484162 mike.claxtonpc@gmail.com, Jos Harwood 01508-480741 jos.claxtonpc@gmail.com. **Parish Clerk:** **VACANT AS OF 8 MARCH** clerk.claxtonpc@gmail.com

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The plan is to plant a variety of fruit trees with the emphasis on traditional Norfolk apple varieties, undersown with meadow flowers to encourage pollinating insects and wildlife. This is a medium-to long-term project involving all three partners (Manor, Trust, Parish Council), aiming to create an amenity in the village by re-establishing a traditional Norfolk orchard.

Claxton & Carleton St Peter Village Hall

The past 10 months have seen a reduction in activities at the Hall as various lockdowns have forced its closure. We are grateful for the support grants from government, which will ensure that we can re-open in good shape, eventually.

The Hall has now been redecorated and we look forward to welcoming visitors once restrictions allow, and hope they will be pleased at the facelift designed to brighten up the Hall, and make for a more enjoyable experience in it.

Apart from redecoration, the **refurbishment** group has several ideas to make the Hall a more attractive venue, some of which will have to wait until we can re-open.

Thanks to financial support from both the Parish Council and the Pits Trust, the Hall continues to provide (free) **high-speed broadband** for all visitors. The password is displayed on notice boards, and this opens up the Hall to any number of possibilities in the future. We are hoping to run the **200 Club lottery** from the spring, if permitted, although selling tickets will be more challenging while the Community Café remains closed.

Enclosed is a separate flyer about a **Book/DVD exchange** being launched at the Village Hall from next Monday 15 February. This will be at the front steps and will observe social distancing throughout.

Claxton Social Club

The Social Club remains closed while the current lockdown is in place, but will look to open as soon as Claxton moves into a Tier which allows this.

St Andrew's Church

Sunday 31 January was Candlemas, marking the end of the seasons of light that began on Advent Sunday. It was encouraging to see many village windows decorated during Advent which together with the carol singing and mulled wine outside the Village Hall, provided for a donation of £200 to St. Martin's Night Shelter in Norwich. The Church is currently open for private prayer. Services have now gone on-line and details of future services and service packs can be obtained from Rev. Nick Garrard at nickgarr39@aol.com.



Spring flowers in the churchyard

Claxton is fortunate to have its bridleways, footpaths and tracks criss-crossing the village providing opportunities for walkers to engage with nature and the environment. Marsh, fen, farmland surrounded by hedgerows and studded with copses are on our doorsteps. Why not try the Claxton circular walk as advertised by Norfolk County Council and walk to the churchyard, an ancient space with its Grade 1 listed Norman church, and observe the spring flowers as they start to emerge from their winter dormancy?

Claxton Community Café

The café was a major victim of lockdown and is unlikely to restart until customers and volunteers alike are at low/no risk of catching Coronavirus.

Village Website

Plans to launch a separate village website are on hold until we have recruited a new Parish Clerk.

If you would like an alert whenever a new story is posted on the site, simply find **Subscribe via Email** in the right-hand column of any page on the site and follow the instructions.

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