

Claxton Parish Newsletter

Summer 2021

Welcome

Our last newsletter was in February, deep into the third lockdown. Things on the Covid front are looking somewhat better now, 5 months on, and as the village begins the long journey back to normality (whatever that might look like) your Parish Council felt that this would be a good time to reconnect with everyone, assuming you haven't all disappeared on holiday of course.

Parish Council

The law allowing Parish Council meetings over Zoom lapsed on 6 May, so we now have to meet in person again, following the social distancing rules and other safeguards we have become accustomed to. The Annual Parish Meeting (that's to say your meeting) took place over Zoom on 19 May and the draft minutes are on the notice board and website for anyone who wants to check them out.

There was a further change to the Council at this meeting with our Chair, Pat Clare, standing down from the Council after 10 years as Councillor and Chair. It is a real challenge for anyone newly-elected to the Parish Council to be immediately elected Chair as well. Many would have hesitated but Pat took it on in 2011 and has led the Council with distinction over the past 10 years as we have worked to communicate better with all Claxton residents, to make it a nice, welcoming place to live and to be as open and informative as we can while doing so. Her energy and strong views on a number of issues will be missed - until she turns up at regular meetings of course.

Luckily our previous Vice-Chairman, David Hamblin, accepted the nomination to take over, and chaired the last meeting. David has been a Parish Councillor for 9 years already so has plenty of experience to bring to the role.

We have also completed the processes which have allowed us to co-opt a new Councillor (though we still need a new Clerk - see next paragraph), and on 7 July Susi Catchpole accepted our invitation to become a Parish Councillor. We welcome Susi and look forward to her views and advice as we go forward.

In our last newsletter we announced the departure of Carla Petersen from the role of Parish Clerk. Mike Balmer, who was Clerk from 2012-18, has taken over temporarily and has successfully guided us through the financial year-end and both internal and external audit, but he has no interest in taking the job back, so we are also looking for a new Clerk, with adverts appearing in the coming weeks.

On 1 June we transferred the **SAM2 speed monitor** to Langley with Hardley, where it will stay until the end of August. The data will help in any case for tighter controls on speeding in the village, which is one of our main priorities this year, along with the promotion of walking and cycling in the village.

Claxton Parish Pit Charity (Pits Trust)

The Pits Trust continued to function during the various lockdowns over Zoom, and has now returned to face-to-face meetings under the new Chairmanship of Terry Kendrick, who paid tribute to his predecessor, David Bissonnet, at the Trust's (Zoom) AGM on 5 May, the minutes of which are on the website.

This is a good place to remind readers that the Trust is there **to help residents of Claxton**. Apart from funding unexpected expenditure on behalf of the Parish Council, in the past year the Trust has run a project to help to provide residents with young families with **equipment to aid home schooling**.

The **Community Orchard** on the land behind Nos 1-4 The Warren is currently on hold, and we hope to have more news later this year. To remind readers, 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.

The aim 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

Village website: claxtonpc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

Parish Council: Chair: David Hamblin 01508-480422 david.claxtonpc@gmail.com,

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Parish Clerk: **VACANT AS OF 8 MARCH** clerk.claxtonpc@gmail.com

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the village by re-establishing a traditional Norfolk orchard.

Claxton & Carleton St Peter Village Hall

The past 15 months have seen a dramatic reduction in activity at the Hall as various lockdowns have forced its closure. We are grateful for the **support grants** from government, which will help ensure that we can re-open in good shape.

The Hall has now been **redecorated** and we look forward to welcoming visitors now that restrictions are easing. We 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, which the Trustees are now taking forward.

Thanks to financial support from the Parish Council and Pits Trust, the Hall offers (free) **high-speed broadband** for all users, with the password on notice boards. This opens up the Hall to any number of possibilities in the future. We have held off running the **200 Club lottery** for 2021-22 as there is no obvious place to sell tickets until the Community Café re-opens.

On Wednesday 1 September at 7.30pm the **Hall Committee has its AGM**. Everyone is welcome.

Cake, Coffee and Chat sessions have taken place once or twice a month on Wednesdays, beginning at 1030am. Everyone is welcome and there are books, DVDs, plants etc to swap or purchase. Most importantly it is a place where members of the village can come together **at a safe distance** (inside and outside) to catch up with each other. The next one will be on Wednesday 11 August.

Claxton Community Café

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

Claxton Social Club

The Social Club re-opened in May and is gradually returning to its pre-pandemic level of activities. Any changes will be advertised on the website. If you want to know what is happening at the Social Club, why not come along to its **AGM** at 7pm on Friday 6 August?

St Andrew's Church

St. Andrew's has resumed **regular services** following current Covid risk management guidance as directed by HM Government and the Church of England. All are welcome to participate in communal worship or to enjoy the peace and tranquillity of a 12th Century Norman church and churchyard.



High summer : St Andrew's Church, Claxton
Photo : David Hamblin

Norfolk Wildlife Trust will continue to survey the churchyard as part of the current arrangements for managing the space to maintain and improve the **diversity of**

flora which is currently at 84 species, excluding grasses, shrubs and trees. Thanks to David & Carolyn Moar for mowing pathways throughout the churchyard.

Norfolk County Council have recently replaced and re-sited the sign for the Claxton Walk and we plan to **replace the church bench** (now 27 years old and beyond economic repair) with funding from the Claxton Pits Trust, now that the Archdeacon has given faculty permission. It is good to see local residents displaying their **sunflowers** following the distribution of seeds in the Spring.

The next significant event at the church will be the Harvest Festival Service, Sunday 19 September at 9.30 am. See notices and *Eleven Says* for times of our regular services.

Village Website

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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