



# Claxton Parish Newsletter

## Spring 2022



### Welcome to Spring 2022!

Our last newsletter was in the run-up to Christmas which thankfully was unaffected by further restrictions similar to those in 2020. Now that we have put winter behind us, we are looking forward and hoping 2022 will be a memorable year for all the right reasons.

### The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The 4 days 2-5 June have been set aside as public holidays to celebrate HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We are sure there will be lots of private celebrations - even some joint events involving several houses - but the village-wide celebration is taking place on **Thursday 2 June** at the Village Hall. A small sub-committee has been formed to run the event, and you will already have received a flyer through your door asking for help with a variety of tasks.

With the latest ElevenSays there was also a **brochure** explaining what is happening on 2 June. Please come along. In 2012 we held a very successful event masterminded by the then Chair of the Parish Council, Pat Clare. This year more people are involved in the organisation but we would really like to see as many of you as possible at the Village Hall during the course of 2 June, to help us mark a remarkable achievement.



We have had a number of pledges of financial support by village bodies which will help keep the costs down.

### Parish Council

The Parish Council is meeting face-to-face, but with adequate safeguards and social distancing to reassure those who might otherwise hesitate to come along. Under David Hamblin's chairmanship we have taken the agenda forward, focusing on a number of issues which are key to residents, such as **speeding in the village** and a **play area for children** (see below). On speeding, the rules don't allow us to impose our suggestions on the Highways people at the County Council but we do work with them. We are also in touch with the police to see whether anything more can be done with the data we receive from the speed monitor, which is with us until the end of May. Anyone who checks the website will know much of this, as it has been discussed at Council meetings and reported thereafter.

We currently have a full set of Parish Councillors, and for more than a year Mike Balmer has also been acting as (unpaid) Parish Clerk. He had hoped to spend December handing over to a permanent successor but our candidate subsequently withdrew, sending us back to Square One. This meant he had to close another financial year which has now been done successfully. The good news is that we have now interviewed again and can confirm we will have a new Clerk from 1 June, with Mike handing over during the course of that month and beyond.

### Claxton Parish Pit Charity (the Pits Trust)

Face-to-face meetings have resumed under the new Independent Chair, Terry Kendrick. The Trust is currently developing a strategy and plan for the coming years. As part of this activity the Trustees would like to hear from any parishioners who have ideas on future charitable activities which might be considered.

There is also a vacant Trustee post should you feel you can contribute on an ongoing basis. To find out more about becoming a Trustee or to offer ideas on the future direction of the Trust please contact David Hamblin at [david.claxtonpc@gmail.com](mailto:david.claxtonpc@gmail.com).

This is a good place to remind readers that the Trust is there **to help residents of Claxton** in times of need. As an example during the pandemic the Trust ran a project to help to provide residents with young families with **equipment to aid home schooling**.

The **Community Orchard** on the Manor-owned land behind Nos 1-4 The Warren is still under development, and general upkeep of the site continues on a regular basis.

It will contain a variety of fruit trees with the emphasis on traditional Norfolk apple varieties, under sown 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.

Village website: [claxtonpc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk](http://claxtonpc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk)

**Parish Council:** Chair: David Hamblin 01508-480422 [david.claxtonpc@gmail.com](mailto:david.claxtonpc@gmail.com),

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**Parish Clerk:** Vacant, Acting Clerk 01508-484162 [claxtonpc@gmail.com](mailto:claxtonpc@gmail.com)



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### Claxton & Carleton St Peter Village Hall

The Village Hall has once again become the centre of village-wide activity. The **redcoration** of the Hall has brightened the facility and made for a more enjoyable experience. That apart, the **refurbishment** group has several ideas to make the Hall a more attractive venue, which the Trustees are now taking forward. We have completed the remodeling of the front of the grounds (photo right) with a new notice board and seating areas for passers-by and others to rest and ruminate! The Hall Committee also decided to fund the new notice board on The Warren.



Several activity groups have also (re)started using the Hall since we officially came out of lockdown, and we currently have Aikido, Karate, Yoga and Pilates classes meeting each week. Surlingham Broadnotes Choir has also been meeting at the Hall for a while now, though their continuing presence in Claxton is not certain, and the Wildlife Group has been using the Hall a lot recently.

The Hall may be busier now but there is still plenty of room for any new activities. The Hall now has its **own website** ([www.claxtonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.claxtonvillagehall.co.uk)) which will attract even more users. Look out for news on the village website and notice boards.

The Hall offers (free) **high-speed broadband** to all users, with the password on notice boards, opening up the Hall to a range of possible uses. The **200 Club lottery** is now back for 2022-23, with tickets being sold mostly at the Café (see next item).

### Claxton Community Café

The café re-opened in September and is now open from 10:00-12noon on the **first Wednesday** of every month. Run by a mainly different team, the concept remains the same, with freshly home-baked goods and a friendly chat for all ages. Alongside this there are craft activities for children. It is proving popular, with very good numbers attending, including from neighbouring villages.

### Claxton Social Club

The Social Club is gradually returning to its pre-pandemic level of activities. Changes will be advertised on websites. A recent very popular innovation is the **food truck**, which comes to the Hall roughly once a month on a Friday evening. So far there have been pizzas, South African and Thai street food and Dirty Fries. Why not come along, place your order and have a drink while you wait? Keep an eye open for notices and check the website for the next truck, Peak Pizzas, on 20 May.

### St Andrew's, Claxton

Regular **services** have resumed following current Covid guidelines. Everyone is welcome to participate in communal worship or to enjoy the peace and tranquillity of a 12<sup>th</sup> Century Norman church and churchyard.

Following the new bench and cycle rack, a new **Information Board** is also coming soon. Claxton is the only church locally to participate in the Queen's Green Canopy initiative to celebrate Her Jubilee. A commemorative tree has been planted and will be dedicated by our Rector as part of the celebrations in June. Full details are on the website.



### Children's Play Area

Some of you will recall that discussion about establishing a children's play area in the village was underway when the first Covid-19 lockdown in March 2020 effectively halted progress. The Parish Council needed a group of volunteers to help drive this project, and the good news is that a **working group** made up mostly of parents of school-age (and below) children has been formed, and is making good progress.

### Village Website

Keeping in touch with village news is easy. Simply find **Subscribe via Email** in the right-hand column of any page on the website and follow the instructions.

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