

Claxton Parish Newsletter

Autumn 2023

Welcome to September 2023!

We hope you have all had an enjoyable summer. There have been several social events since the last newsletter including the Coronation celebrations and a number of fundraising activities supporting *Creating Claxton Playground*. Very many people who attended commented on how lovely it was for the community to get together on these occasions and acknowledged the hard work of all the organisers involved. Details of future events are included below and also can be found on the village website and social media pages.

Parish Council

There are three new faces on the parish council following the May elections: Sue, Adrian and Andrew. David continues as chairman with Jos as vice chair. Charlotte has settled in well to her role as clerk and we are all looking forward to working together. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mike and Jason for their invaluable contributions to the PC during their terms of office. Councillor contact details are both in this newsletter and the village website, which also lists meeting dates, agendas and minutes.

Village Website

To keep in touch with village news, including future newsletters, simply find Subscribe via Email in the right-hand column of any page on the website (claxtonpc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk) and follow the instructions.

Claxton Parish Pit Charity (Pits Trust)

The Pits Trust welcomed three new trustees to the team in May: Sue, Adrian and Andrew. Its three main sources of income (Ducan's Marsh, Number 3 The Warren and a share of the Village Hall solar panel revenue) continue to provide regular income for the Trust, thus enabling grants to support the health, welfare and education of all Claxton residents. As well as providing grants towards travel to college attendance and the Contact Care scheme, the Trust contributed towards the Coronation celebrations in May and more recently towards the proposed Claxton play area. If you have ideas on future charitable activities which might be considered please contact David Hamblin at david.claxtonpc@gmail.com.

Claxton and Carleton St Peter Village Hall

The Village Hall is well used by the local community with many regular activity groups and

one-off functions such as weddings and parties. Its profile has been raised by a combination of the new website (claxtonvillagehall.co.uk) and social media. The running of the hall is undertaken by a committee of trustees; there are currently vacancies to fill so if you are interested in joining the team, or would like to know more about what's involved, then please contact the chairman, Adrian Gidlow (adrian.claxtonpc@gmail.com).

Claxton Community Café

Open on the first Wednesday of every month from 10am to 12 noon at the Village Hall, Janice, Sarah, Rosie, Judy and Sue provide hot drinks, tasty baked goods, along with bacon/egg baps cooked by John, while Margaret keeps things running smoothly by doing the washing up. Simple lunches at a later time are offered during the winter months. With toys and craft activities available for children, and a warm welcome, the café is popular, and customers' ages range from 0 to 80+ years. The café team are most grateful to all those people who help out when they are short staffed or put on a special event. If you are able to bake, wash up, help set up or clear away on an occasional basis then please let one of the team know or email Janice (janicedix81@gmail.com).

Claxton Social Club

Open on Friday evenings from 8pm the bar has a variety of beers, wines, spirits, non-alcoholic and other delectable drinks. Why not pop along and catch up with your neighbours? Look out for the occasional food vans. Details can be found on the Village Hall website.

St Andrew's Church, Claxton

Following the latest survey of our Grade 1 listed church, a crack was identified in the flint masonry above the arch of the belfry on the west side of the Tudor tower. After a successful application for funding to the Benefact Charitable Trust, arrangements have now been made for a local specialist contractor to complete the repairs towards the end of August 2023.

Creating Claxton's Playground

A small group of volunteers from the village are working hard to fundraise towards some much needed play equipment on The Warren. The village BBQ in July, with delicious food, garden games and summer raffle was well attended by over 100! It was so lovely to see very many different people

Village website: claxtonpc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

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

Vice-Chair: Jos Harwood 01508-480741 jos.claxtonpc@gmail.com; Sue Wallis-Garcia 01508-484132 sue.claxtonpc@gmail.com;

Adrian Gidlow 07971-006505 adrian.claxtonpc@gmail.com; Andrew Mussell 07974-722773 andrew.claxtonpc@gmail.com.

Parish Clerk: Charlotte Rust claxtonpc@gmail.com

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and age groups coming together, raising an amazing £865 towards the project. A further £338 was raised at the summer holiday café in August, again with a fantastic turnout. Huge thanks to all who attended both events, helped out, donated food or prizes and bought raffle tickets. Future fundraising events are listed in the *dates for diary* section below including the fun sponsored walk around local footpaths to discover Ducan's Marsh (Sunday Oct 8th 1.30-4.30pm) Keep an eye out for posters or email claxtonplayground@outlook.com for more information or a sponsorship form. Start and finish at Claxton Village Hall where refreshments will be available.

Norfolk County Council Climate Strategy

In May this year Norfolk county council published its Climate Strategy (see norfolk.gov.uk). The Parish Council is looking at ways to reduce its carbon footprint, such as avoiding unnecessary journeys and printing, and we are open to suggestions both on an individual and village level so please get in touch if you have any ideas you wish to share.

One aspect is to “ensure nature has a space to recover and grow”. Within Claxton we already have a number of initiatives underway:

In December 2021, the **Parochial Church Council** achieved the Eco-Church Bronze award for St. Andrew's church, due to the sympathetic management of the site for biodiversity and further surveys of the churchyard have been completed by Norfolk Wildlife Trust.

The site behind The Warren, formerly used for the village allotments, is being managed as a **community orchard**. Various trees funded by the Pits Trust, provide a range of fruit bearing species, some of which are local to Norfolk. This work continues as a project to develop an amenity which reflects Claxton's market gardens' heritage.

Ducan's Marsh is Claxton's biodiversity gem in these times of environmental concern. The site is owned and managed, with advice from Natural England, by the Pits Trust, supported by South Yare Wildlife Group. Because of its flora and other wildlife, it is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and also carries two European and one global conservation designation. See *dates for diary* to find out its link to **Creating Claxton's Playground!** In early spring this year, a small group of enthusiastic volunteers planted around 200 mixed native hedge saplings along the rear boundary of

the **Village Hall** grounds. Other ways of increasing biodiversity at the site are under consideration.

Keeping safe on Claxton's roads

After a summer break, the Speedwatch team is resuming activity supporting road safety in The Street. The team welcomes any new volunteers. Concerns have been raised by both drivers and pedestrians about visibility in Folly Lane, particularly when the verges were uncut earlier in the year. As Autumn approaches and the nights draw in, visibility is an issue for different reasons so we would urge all road users whether on foot, two or four wheels (or legs!) to take extra care to be clearly seen on Claxton's roads.

Use it or lose it

The **mobile library** service is once a month, next date 6th October, stopping opposite the village green at midday. A full list of dates can be found on the village website, along with the current **bus service** timetable. Please try to support these two vital local services.

Dates for your diary

September

Saturday 30th Harvest Community Supper to raise funds for St Andrew's Church tower repairs.

October

Wednesday 4th Community café (10am-12 noon) in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Sunday 8th sponsored walk for playground funds

November

Wednesday 1st Community café with lunch (11am-1.30pm)

Sunday 12th Remembrance Day service at St Andrew's Church

Friday 24th Ceilidh at the Village Hall in aid of playground funds (7-11pm)

Thursday 30th Christmas Wreath Workshop at the Village Hall for playground funds (7.30-10.30pm)

December

Wednesday 6th Christmas Community Café with lunch (11am-1.30pm)

Saturday 9th Quiz night at Village Hall

Sunday 17th Wassail at St Andrew's Church

January 2024

Wednesday 17th Community Café with lunch (11am-1.30pm)

Sunday 21st Special accessibility service at Village Hall

February 2024

Wednesday 7th Community Café (10am-12 noon)

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