

# Claxton Parish Newsletter

## Spring 2024

### Welcome to Spring 2024!

After such a wet winter, the recent sunshine and hopefully drier weather has been a welcome change, especially with the upcoming village events.

### Parish Council

The Parish Council meets every two months, the dates can be found on the Village website. Since the last newsletter councillors and Charlotte, our clerk, have worked alongside the playground working group applying for grants and tendering for the playground equipment. In addition the council has embraced the statutory requirements re biodiversity, see below for details of this important work.

### 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](http://claxtonpc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk)) and follow the instructions.

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

In recent times the Trust has instituted a more professional approach re Ducan's Marsh, an important site of special scientific interest (SSSI). The Trust has commissioned reports to support both current and hopefully future successful requests for occasional funding as managers of this important site. We now take a more active approach to managing the site and the significant flora and fauna it is home to, including looking for opportunities to support existing species on site and establish new species. Conservation work parties led by Trustees occasionally visit the site. The Trust has pledged £10,000 to the establishment of a children's play area on the village green for the use of all villagers, their children and grandchildren. With the playground committee of the Parish Council making good progress with fund raising activities, to support and encourage this the Trust has released monies for phase one of the playground project to commence. The Trust owns a house in the village and after a recent change of tenancy some important maintenance has been undertaken to ensure we remain good landlords and justify the rental fees which form the Trust's major source of income. The Trust continues to provide a small amount of health and welfare support to individuals within the

village. We are always open to receive requests from villagers for such support and these requests are considered both in confidence and in a timely manner.

### Claxton & Carleton St Peter Village Hall

Our well-equipped hall has hosted a range of events in recent months. In addition to our regular hirers there has been a village quiz; a fun event accompanied by a hot meal which proved a successful fundraiser. The Playground Committee ran a family ceilidh and a wreath making evening to raise funds for the playground. The monthly community café is always very busy, the hall also hosted one of St Andrew's all age services. The Social Club is open each Friday evening. Come along and enjoy a drink with friends at very competitive prices.

### Claxton Community Café

The Community Café is open each month, usually on the first Wednesday between 10am and 12 noon. We always have lots of customers but our extended sessions in December and January, when we provided homemade soup in addition to our usual fare, proved particularly popular, as did the Christmas craft stalls. It is good to see a complete range in ages each month with the children enjoying Judy's craft activities and adults enjoying chatting with friends and neighbours. We are a 'not for profit organisation' and are delighted that the café can facilitate fundraising activities. In October we raised £200 for Macmillan and £100 for the Village Playground in December. Raffles have also raised funds for St Andrew's. We offer bacon baps, home baked goods and freshly brewed tea and coffee. If you haven't visited us recently come along and give us a try.

### St Andrew's Church, Claxton

The churchyard is now bursting into colour as the spring flowers emerge in seasonal sequence starting with the aconites and snowdrops and moving to the narcissi and dog violets. These early flowers attract bumblebees and solitary bees as they emerge from their nests to find nectar and pollen. For the honeybees this is also when they replenish their food supplies which have sustained them during the winter months. The queen bee will lay eggs and new bee colonies will arise – new life symbolic of Easter like our traditional Easter eggs. The churchyard is one of the 'protected' areas in Claxton which is managed for its flora. It contributes to the Parish

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**Parish Clerk:** Charlotte Rust 07960 887791 [claxtonpc@gmail.com](mailto:claxtonpc@gmail.com)

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Council's legal obligations to prepare a biodiversity action plan and provides an amenity for visitors to enjoy the tranquillity of this ancient space as well as nectar for the bees.

### Ducan's Marsh

Ducan's Marsh is managed by a combination of grazing, mowing and 'slash & burn'. Why? Why not just let it do its own thing? If the rich biodiverse wet fen habitat of the site was commonplace, this might be a good idea. But the area is so rare and special, that we need to halt the constant encroachment of shrubs and trees. If the site were left, it would quite quickly turn into wet 'Carr' woodland, as has occurred on adjacent former marshland.

Some of this management requires volunteers. Please consider coming along when the next plea for help is advertised, probably later this year.

### Creating Claxton Playground

In 2023, the grand total raised through fundraising was £2,414.20; thank you to everyone who supported our events. The fundraising team had a well earned break after Christmas but now have lots of exciting plans for the year ahead – we hope that you can make some of the events, along with your families and friends. All events will take place at the village hall and can be found under *Dates for your diary* below. For more details, see the Claxton Village website, look out for posters, follow us on Facebook 'Creating Claxton Village Playground' or

email [claxtonplayground@outlook.com](mailto:claxtonplayground@outlook.com)

In February, the first stage of the fencing around the Warren was installed. We think it looks great and have received lots of positive feedback about it. Most importantly, the safety of road users and those playing on the Warren has been improved!

### Biodiversity in Claxton Parish

Under the 2021 Environment Act, it is now a statutory requirement that all parish and town councils must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity. The Parish Council has formed a Biodiversity Working Group (BWG) which is currently working on producing a Biodiversity Policy and Action Plan. One of the first steps is to find out just how biodiverse our parish is, so studies are ongoing to establish what fauna and flora we already have. For example, the group would like to monitor the populations of swifts, swallows, house martins and sparrows and are looking for volunteers to help with this,

particularly during April, May and July. In addition, keen ornithologists – please do let us know of any interesting sightings.

The BWG will report its progress at each PC meeting and is developing the village website to include up to date information, current action and how residents may help. If you would like to know more, have any questions or suggestions or would like to volunteer in any way then please do contact Sue ([sue.claxtonpc@gmail.com](mailto:sue.claxtonpc@gmail.com)), we would love to hear from you!

### Community Orchard

Although on private land, this is currently managed by the PC; when the trees are established we hope you will be able to enjoy this amenity. Sadly there is a large amount of dog fouling in the orchard making the necessary maintenance of the area both hazardous and unpleasant. We hope this will stop!

### Claxton Open Gardens 2024

We are planning another Open Gardens event on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, which is Mid Summer! We are inviting you to participate, either by opening your garden or helping to run the event. As well as gardens to enjoy, refreshments will be available at various locations and a floral display in the church. Also, an evening concert will be held in one of the participating venues. This will be a fund-raising event for the church and a chance for the various village organisations to work collaboratively to welcome visitors and to celebrate Claxton. If you can help in any way please contact Sarah Carter: 01508 480555, [carterclaxton@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:carterclaxton@tiscali.co.uk).

### Dates for Your Diary

#### April

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> Spring Fling and Bake-Off 2-4pm

#### May

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> Community café 10-12 noon

#### June

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> Community café 10-12 noon

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Quiz night 8pm

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> Open Gardens

#### July

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Community café 10-12 noon

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> Family BBQ and games afternoon from 12 noon

#### August

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Take-Over Café 10am-12 noon

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