



# CLAVERING NEWSLETTER

## CLAVERING PARISH COUNCIL

Issue 46. July 2010

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**WELCOME TO July 2010's edition** of the Clavering Parish Council newsletter. We must apologise that the mailed version of the June was not sent due to a communication breakdown! Although late, it has been included with the mailed version of this edition. The email edition was sent as usual. If you'd like to ensure you receive your copy, and are among the first to receive it, please let us have your details.

This edition has a summary of the latest Parish Council meeting and advice from Neighbourhood Watch. If you would like reports about your organisation or event to be included in future editions, please email them to [clavering.news@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:clavering.news@tiscali.co.uk).  
Nigel Cook, Editor

### Parish Council News

Clavering Parish Council Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> July 2010

It was agreed that the Council will have a recess in August as the Clerk and a number of Councillors will be away. The next meeting will therefore be in September.

- A parishioner enquired whether the Council received any grants towards the upkeep of the greens in Clavering; he had received an interesting document from Nigel Russell. Cllr Patmore would go through the documentation and advise the Council.
- The same parishioner gave the Council a copy of the survey report on the Scarlet Malachite Beetle from Bug Life.
- The Council was advised that the Dick Ball Meadow would be cut on 30<sup>th</sup> October.

**Highways:** Bend sign at Bank View: A letter was sent to the owners requesting cutting of their hedge which is obscuring the bend sign.

Railings; Colehills/Lower Way: Urgent report sent to Highways regarding the broken rails at this location and at Mill End.

Sheepcote Farm Road; Report sent to Highways regarding state of road.

**PROW (Public rights of way):** Cllr Stanford will be contacting ECC regarding accessibility of Elm Street Lane.

**Footbridge at Colehills:** It was agreed to spend £380.00 as an emergency measure (under Financial regulations 11c) to carry out the necessary repairs to Colehills Bridge and then next year obtain estimates for a full repair so that it can be budgeted for.

**Tenders:** Cllr Patmore and the Clerk will be liaising to gather tenders for cutting back the hedges at Colehills Bridge.

**Seats:** Following an update by Cllr Couchman about the poor state of the seat by the Bridges. Cllr Allan volunteered to arrange for its removal as soon as

possible. The Council will get quotes in the spring to replace it.

**Skeins Way Phone Box:** Cllr Couchman updated the Council on progress, and reported that BT had offered to pay for the electricity for this phone box.

**Village Greens:** Cllr Carter stated that there had been some confusion as to the ownership of the Village Greens. Having checked the Village Greens status with various local sources, including Saffron Walden Town Clerk, Malcolm White and Jacky Cooper, and the Land Registry and a letter of 1998 from a previous Clerk which states that the lease should be consigned to history as it is superseded by the 1965 Commons Act, the Greens are owned by the Parish Council on behalf of the village. Cllr Couchman circulated the registration documents that the Council hold for Hill Green.

### Planning :

UTT/0987/10/FUL – Chapel, Hill Green; The Parish Council agreed in principle to support this application; however there are a few reservations. The council agreed that they would request a site meeting to discuss the concerns with the planning committee c/o District Cllr Eggie Abrahams to request a site meeting with the full committee, with a list of reasons, and that Council would like to speak on the matter at the planning meeting.

### Planning Investigations Advised to Council:

#### New Cases:

- Hill Green Farm - Contravention of conditions

#### Under Investigation:

- Wicken Road; Opened sawmill and adverts on roadside and logs for sale. Having fires and making a lot of noise.
- Funstons site/Rouse Joinery; Breaches of conditions: increase in outside joinery and number of tractors on site
- Saphal, Wicken Road; Gates and piers erected over 6' without planning permission

- Land adjacent to Peacocks, Arkesden Road; Breach of conditions: Non erection of fencing and obscured glazing not installed at rear elevation

**Parish Plan:** Following a review of the outcome of the Parish Plan, the Parish Council's Working Party reported that they would be investigating 4 areas that had been highlighted by the Parish Plan;

1. Lack of activities for 60 – 75 year old group
2. Lack of activities for 11 – 16 age group
3. Family social event
4. 30mph speed limit

**Blacksmith's Corner:** The Council gave a vote of thanks to Mr. Whyman for the donation of flowers; Mr and Mrs Clare for the watering of them; and Mr. Howland for his hard work at Blacksmith's Corner.

Cllr Barrow commented that although he had only painted the bus shelter two months ago it already had football marks on the walls.

**Review of Clerk's salary and Pension:** Cllr Stanford updated the Council on the situation. It was agreed that a public notice to be put on display stating "As required by legislation, notice is hereby given that the Clerk will be admitted to membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme operated by Essex County Council, following the necessary 28 days public notice. This item will be included in the Agenda of the meeting of the Parish Council on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2010". Cllrs Allan and Stanford will complete with the Clerk her annual appraisal.

**Date of next meeting:** Monthly Parish Council Meeting; Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2010, 7.30pm at CVH.

### Correspondence for Meetings

Any items of correspondence that you'd like to be dealt with at a Parish Council meeting should be with the Clerk at least 3 working days before the meeting.

### NOTICE

For parents of young adults catching the school bus from Blacksmiths Corner and the young adults themselves!

The bus shelter on Blacksmiths Corner has recently been used as target for football practice. The marks have been painted over once already and it would be a shame if this had to be repeated. Could all individuals please curb their enthusiasm until either at school or meet after school on the Jubilee Field! Thank you.

On a lighter note; we would welcome any suggestions, to the newsletter, from the younger adults in the village of what the Parish Council could provide to enable them to better enjoy their spare time. This was identified in the Parish Plan as a provision gap in the village.

Rebecca Stanford, Vice Chair



### BT Telephone Scam

Can I please remind you of the scam that I described to you last autumn, since this scam appears to still be running. Details are as follow:

A professional sounding adult male phones the victim stating that he is calling from BT Collection Service because money is owed to BT. The caller states that the victim's bank has stopped Direct Debit payment and that outstanding monies are owed immediately and failure to pay will result in immediate loss of the telephone line. The amount owed is typically less than £10. The caller asks for the victim's credit card details so that payment can be made. The caller also "proves" he can easily cut off the victim's phone, telling them to hand up and try dialling out. It is then believed he puts them on "hold" so that the line is still connected, but of course the victim believes their line has been disconnected. The offender then phones them back and again attempts to obtain their credit card details. **The main object for the caller is not the payment of under £10, but the credit card information.**

Please be aware that you should never give your credit card information over the phone to anyone who calls YOU.

Should you receive such a call then you should immediately contact the BT Nuisance Call Bureau on 0800 411 422.

If you have any information about this incident or have any information which you think might be of help to the Police, please call **Essex Police** on **0300 333 4444**.

Rogue traders are a menace and, although we don't have a particular problem in our District, every now and again an incident rears its head and when it does it usually means a victim has forfeited a substantial amount of cash. They are difficult to prosecute for any criminal offence because the victim normally hands the money over willingly but Trading standards have had some notable successes in prosecuting rogue traders.

Rogue traders prey on the elderly and vulnerable, often conning them out of vast sums of money for work that is substandard, unnecessary and overpriced. In some cases no work has been carried out at all.

Rogue traders can have seriously adverse effects on a victim's health and confidence once the scam is uncovered.

The message is simple: if you're not sure don't open the door. If you are suspicious of them or they are persistent call 999 immediately. Essex Police is committed to dealing robustly with rogue traders and we would rather have a call that turns out to be genuine rather than no call at all.

Last year's national Rogue Trader operation saw nearly 200 people arrested, £200,000 worth of property recovered, 1,800 companies checked and over 10,500 vehicles inspected.

Police and trading standards give the following key crime prevention advice to protect against rogue traders and bogus callers:

- Never engage the services of a cold calling tradesperson.
- Don't be hurried or frightened into employing their services.
- If you require the services of a tradesperson, ask for recommendation from family or friends.
- Get three written quotes before choosing a trader.
- Check whether traders are members of the Local Authority Assured Trader Schemes ([www.oft.gov.uk](http://www.oft.gov.uk)) or the government Trust Mark scheme ([www.trustmark.org.uk](http://www.trustmark.org.uk)).
- Never pay cash up front.
- If you suspect a rogue trader caller is at your door dial 999.
- Please play your part by keeping an eye on elderly and vulnerable residents in your community. If you think they are being targeted by a rogue trader call us immediately.

If you see any suspicious or unusual activity around your neighbourhood or have any information which you think might be of help, please call Essex Police on 0300 333 4444.

Lindsay Baillie, Essex Watch Administrator, Uttlesford  
01376 556 232 / 07837 341 683  
[Lindsay.Baillie@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Lindsay.Baillie@essex.pnn.police.uk)

To check up on up to date, local Policing information, visit [www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk). For Neighbourhood Watch information visit [www.uttlesfordnhw.org.uk](http://www.uttlesfordnhw.org.uk)

### **Mobile Library**

Tuesdays 27<sup>th</sup> July and 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> August, 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> September at; Village Hall: 10.15-10.45, The Mills: 10.50-11.05 & The Hyde: 11.25 – 11.40.

### **Clavering Rainfall**

Again we have experienced another dry month, the fourth in succession, with only 20.6mm (0.81ins) of rain. June 2010 was the driest since 2000 and we only had significant rain on 3 days in the first week of the month. We have to go back to 1996 to find a first half of the year with less rain than this year. Brian Barrow

### **The Bury Tour**

The guided tours of The Bury manor house on 11 July, sponsored by the Clavering History Group, were a great success. More than 50 people were spread over the four tours given by Essex house historian Anne Padfield, booked by the group to give an expert description of how this wonderful house was built. The Bury is one of the most important houses in England, precisely dated by dendrochronology to 1304, and a particularly good example of a medieval aisled hall as it is so well preserved inside. Anne brought the history of

the house to life and everyone enjoyed the tours very much.

In addition there was a display of church history, including the magnificent album compiled by the NADFAS church recorders. Rosanne Kirkpatrick, a former Clavering resident who organises the NADFAS church surveys, gave a talk about church history and this was followed by a walk around the church by myself pointing out some of the historical features.

We are most grateful to Rosanne for giving her time, and to Joy Barrow and her team for providing refreshments. Above all, we must thank John and Janet Hosford for opening up their home to so many people to tramp around - people felt this was a real privilege and it emphasised how lucky we are to have not only this amazing building but also such a wonderful couple who do so much for the parish church.

The idea of the open day came from them and as a result the History Group was able to give a cheque for £322 to Clavering Church. Thank you very much to everyone who supported our summer event.

The History Group's next activity will be a fieldwalking exercise searching for pottery sherds; if you would like to take part please ring or email as below.

Jacky Cooper, Clavering History Group  
[jacqueline.cooper@virgin.net](mailto:jacqueline.cooper@virgin.net) or ring 01799 550462

### **Nature Notes**

The fields are turning yellow as the grain begins to ripen and tall grasses growing in the ditches and hedgerows are also yellowing. The countryside is taking on a uniform colour when viewed overall. Closer up, the colours of summer flowers punctuate the view.

Knapweeds are showing their dark purple heads joining the Spear Thistles, and on chalk hills round us the big heads of Musk Thistle. Creeping Thistle is showing mauve flowers all of them used by bees and butterflies as nectar sources, and later when in seed as valuable food sources for birds.

Bright blue Field Scabious, and the small Scabious, are in evidence everywhere. If you want to walk up the track opposite the village hall past Hitchcock's barn, you will find them and also the dark blue flowers of nettle leaved Bell Flower. In the same ditch grows Marjoram, much loved by butterflies, and Bedstraw and the seed heads of white Bladder Campion can be seen.

As you drive about you will see clumps of pink Restharrow in bloom, these pink pea like flowers on their wiry stems make a lovely patch of colour.

Large white blooms of Bindweed are easily spotted, problem weeds in our gardens, but blue introduced relatives are grown in our gardens – called Morning Glories though they are no more beautiful than our white native plants. Smaller, and variable in colour from pink to white are the Field Bindweed – again a nuisance on our allotments but I have a mauve/blue version in my garden bought from a garden centre which is no more beautiful than its native counterpart.

White flowers of Yarrow, Vautrian and Bedstraw can be found and the yellows of Mellilot and Hawksbits, those tall Dandelion like flowers, which stand up so well.

All among them can be seen bees and butterflies, though not in the numbers of yesteryear. Our insects need a lot of help if we are not to lose them, and flower rich areas of grassland left undisturbed until they have completed their life cycles in the Autumn are increasingly hard to find. Any area which can be left to nature will help.

Our greens have been cut, and on Stickling Green a few days before this I found a Pyramid Orchid in bloom. Common Spotted Orchids were blooming on Lower Hill Green prior to cutting.

The Scarlet Malachite Beetle was found on Stickling Green between May 7<sup>th</sup> and June 21<sup>st</sup> in similar numbers to last year. I was unable to find the time to search Lower Hill Green for it as I had hoped but perhaps next year I will be able to. I would like to confirm that it is still there.

The Dick Ball meadow is still showing its late summer flowers and the butterflies that go with them and is worth a visit. It is a tranquil spot and a few minutes walking round will sooth the soul! The Clavering Countryside Group are arranging the annual work party there on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October to cut the grass and clear it up. Do come and help if you can.

We will all be taking our holidays soon, and hopefully we will be able to enjoy the natural world at the same time. There is much to see and enjoy.

Michael Rowley, Clavering Countryside Group.

### **Fund Raising for New Community Facilities**

When Parish Councils or voluntary organisations aim to raise larger amounts of funding, they invariably approach the Big Lottery Fund. Some are lucky, but most are not – the Lottery programmes could spend all of their funds many times over, and the chances of securing a grant must seem to be as high as they are for winning the jackpot itself.

However, in addition to the Lottery, there are around 9,000 grant giving Trusts in the UK and, even in a recession, the largest bodies give over £3 billion annually to projects that meet their charitable objectives. The question is "which organisation to approach?" Not all Trusts support new community facilities, the majority only offer very small grants, and an offer of £5,000 is not an awful lot of help when you're looking for a quarter of million!

This is where CSC Regeneration can help: we are a long established regeneration consultancy, and offer a

variety of services that have helped our clients, including Parish Councils, realise their ambitions. These are described in a little more detail in the attached document, which I hope is of interest to you. If you are now – or are considering – raising funds for new local facilities, then please get in touch as we may be able to take a lot of the leg work and stress out of the process.

David Axford, Director  
CSC , 01435 884 313, [www.cscregen.co.uk](http://www.cscregen.co.uk)

### **Clavering Cricket Club**

Upcoming Fixtures:

July 18 <sup>th</sup> :	Stocking Pelham	Away	2pm
25 <sup>th</sup> :	Woodcutters	Home	2.30pm
Aug 1 <sup>st</sup> :	Camden	Away	2 pm
8 <sup>th</sup> :	Stocking Pelham	Home	2.30pm
15 <sup>th</sup> :	Hatfield Heath	Home	2.30pm

During the game on 25th July, we shall be entertaining the club's Vice Presidents to a special tea. This will be hosted by Mrs Marshall, whose teas are legendary and who was awarded 'Player of the Year' last year. In the event of the game being cancelled, tea and a cricket chat will take place at The Bower House at 5pm. Ben Gill, Captain 01799 550212

### **This Newsletter**

Repeated from last issue

We have been producing the Clavering Parish Council Newsletter for nearly 4 years. In this time we have collated a list of email addresses for those who wish for an electronic version – about 35% of the village. We also have a list of all the addresses in the parish for the copies that are mailed.

Due to data protection reasons the mail addresses do not have names, and the email addresses are not linked to names or postal addresses. This means that it is not always easy for us to cross-reference the two lists, and is why some households receive both electronic and postal versions.

I can only apologise if you are one of these recipients, and request that you let us have your name, address and email in order that the lists can be cleaned up. Nigel Cook, Editor

Any items for inclusion in the next issue to be received by 15<sup>th</sup> September 2010

### **YOUR PARISH COUNCIL**

Chairman: Nigel Cook; 550947, Vice Chair: Rebecca Stanford; 550668, Clerk: Amanda Wenham; 542052  
Councillors: Des Abrahams; 550731, "Eggie" Abrahams; 550267, Jenny Allan; 551120, Brian Barrow; 550527  
Richard Carter 550364, Jon Cooke; 550583, Ron Couchman; 550006, Mike Patmore; 550450, Philip Smith; 550648

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