Claygate Parish Council Elections

Why not stand for election to become a Claygate Parish Councillor?

Elections are scheduled to take place on Thursday 7 May to elect Councillors to Claygate Parish Council. This election will take place on the same day as the General and Elmbridge Borough Council Elections. All of these elections are conducted and overseen by Elmbridge Borough Council. There are 10 Parish Council vacancies and Councillors are elected to serve for four years.

If 10 or less candidates are validly nominated then they will automatically be declared elected and there will be no voting on the day. If there are less than 10 automatically elected then any remaining vacancies will be filled at a later date, either via a by-election or if a by-election is not requested, the Parish Council will advertise for residents to put their names forward for consideration and any vacancies will be filled at a full Parish Council meeting by a vote of Parish Councillors.

If 11 or more candidates are validly nominated there will be an election for the Parish Council on Thursday 7 May. Residents will be able to vote for up to but not more than 10 candidates. Residents do not have to vote for 10 candidates if they do not wish to do so, they can vote for as few or as many as they like up to a maximum of 10.

This is your Parish Council and an active Parish Council helps to protect and enhance our Village. Can you contribute your particular skills and enthusiasm to make a difference?

Your Parish Council hopes that there will be sufficient interest from residents and that more than 10 candidates will come forward to enable a vote to be held on Thursday 7 May. If any resident wants any information on what your local Parish Council does, the role of a Parish Councillor and how to get involved please contact either the Parish Clerk by email parishcouncil@claygate.info, telephone 01372 467000, or contact any of your current Parish Councillors (contact details on the back page).

What do you need to do to be validly nominated as a candidate for the Parish Council?

1. Elmbridge Borough Council, Electoral Services Department can advise individuals on their eligibility to be a candidate or go to www.elmbridge.gov.uk/council/elections/

2. Nomination papers are available from Monday 2 March. These along with other information related to nomination and also the election can be obtained from Elmbridge Borough Council, Electoral Services Department, Civic Centre, High Street, Esher KT10 9SD. It is strongly recommended that residents call 01372 474180 to make an appointment to collect nomination forms and additional information.

3. A candidate requires a proposer and a seconder who must be residents of Claygate who are on the electoral register as a local government elector.

4. Completed nomination papers must be returned no later than 4.00pm Thursday 9 April. It is strongly recommended that they are returned to Elmbridge Borough Council Electoral Services as early as possible and that an appointment is made to do so with Electoral Services.
Welcome to another issue of your Claygate Courier.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS
As noted on the front page, on Thursday 7 May, there will be elections for your Parish Council. I would like to take this opportunity to say a big ‘thank you’ to those Councillors who have decided not to stand again for election. They have worked consistently to look after Claygate’s interests, always seeking to do their best for our community and spending a lot of their spare time not just at meetings but undertaking various activities on behalf of our Village.

ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING
The Annual Village Meeting is being held on Thursday 28 May at 7.45 pm at the Village Hall. This will be an opportunity for local residents to meet their new Parish Councillors, hear about the Parish Council’s work over the past 12 months and most importantly to ask them questions.

PARISH COUNCIL GRANTS
Is your group or organisation planning a project to benefit the local community? If so the Parish Council may be able to help by offering a small grant. To apply contact the Parish Clerk. E-mail parishcouncil@claygate.info or telephone 01372 467000. Grant applications can only be considered by those organisations based in Claygate.

BOROUGH WARD BOUNDARIES
In response to a request approved by Elmbridge Borough Councillors, the independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England and Wales has confirmed that it is minded to recommend a reduction in Borough Councillors from 60 to 48. It is now seeking proposals from EBC, local organisations and residents on revised borough electoral ward boundaries. There are two public consultation stages. The first stage runs until Tuesday 31 March. Residents may receive this Courier after this date (the consultation was only announced in early February). After this the Commission plans to publish draft recommendations in June 2015 for public consultation through August. Further details are available at www.lgbce.org.uk and www.consultation.lgcbe.org.uk

Your Parish Council will be providing input into this process and aims to keep residents updated on status.

If you have any issues, concerns or ideas please do contact any of your Parish Councillors – we will do our best to help.

ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

Hare Lane Pumping Station
Three sewers merge under the man hole covers on the Rythe Bridge in Raleigh Drive; a single output sewer runs parallel to the Rythe northwards to the sewage treatment works.

The three sewers are designed to support foul drainage only, not storm water. At the corner of Hare Lane Green, between the stream and kiosk, is an Inlet Tank for the northbound output sewer. When this tank fills up at times of high flow, surplus foul water flows by gravity over a ‘weir board’ into the large Holding Tank, some 15m deep, under Hare Lane Green (see diagram).

Once the level in the Inlet Tank returns to normal and/or the Holding Tank fills up, pumps operate to return the surplus foul water to the Inlet Tank and output sewer. The Pumping Station and Inlet Tank is monitored remotely by the Thames Water control room and the pumps will trigger an alarm if they malfunction. Target time to respond to alerts from the public is four working hours.

Waterproofing of the electrical components under the Green has recently been improved to the highest possible level.

The Oak Processionary Moth Caterpillar
The OPM is a native species of Southern Europe accidentally introduced to England that has been found here in Claygate.

The caterpillars defoliate oak trees and large numbers can strip whole trees bare leaving them vulnerable to other threats. This pest gets its name from the caterpillars’ habit of moving in a nose to tail procession. It is the hairs of the caterpillar that can cause a hazard to the health of people and animals. They are blown in the wind and can cause itchy skin rashes, eye and throat irritation and occasionally breathing difficulties in people and animals.

The greatest risk is May – July but nests should always be avoided because they can contain thousands of shed hairs.

The Forestry Commission, local authorities and land owners are working hard to contain this pest. You can help by reporting signs of OPM to forestry.gov.uk/opm or your local Council.

The Fountain on the Green
You may have noticed that the Fountain in the middle of the Green has had a facelift. Claygate Parish Council commissioned a local tradesman to clean, paint and repair it. Hopefully as it continues to be maintained it will be there for many more generations of Claygate residents.
The Village wide on-street parking survey conducted last year, amongst other things, identified some key problem roads. These were mentioned and ranked in an article in the August 2014 Courier. Not all these roads suffer parking problems throughout their whole length, so ‘snapshot’ visits were made to these roads, on random days at varied times, to try to get a more in depth, better understanding of the situation.

These visits indicated that four roads, Church Road, Hare Lane (between The Avenue and The Parade), Foley Road (between Albany Crescent and Claremont Road) and Gordon Road were heavily parked, posing a risk that through-traffic could be grid-locked.

Surrey County Council (SCC) is responsible for Highways and on-street parking. Members of the Parish Council have met with SCC representatives. The aim of the meeting was threefold: to outline/discuss the issues in Claygate, to seek some immediate solutions on the four roads through the implementation of short length controls to allow gaps to enable vehicles to pull into and ensure traffic free flow and to request a formal review of on-street parking in Claygate.

Recently the SCC Local Committee for Elmbridge agreed that the current annual review of on-street parking controls be replaced by a more strategic and holistic approach. This new SCC approach will involve overall parking reviews covering all parts of Elmbridge, to be undertaken over the next three years. We asked that Committee for clarification as to when they plan to address the immediate congestion issues and when a parking review will be conducted in Claygate. We are pressing SCC for action.

Meanwhile, SCC has continued its previous system of responding to needs put to it locally on an ad hoc basis. The agreed actions from the consultation in 2014 are due to be implemented shortly. This will result in short lengths of double yellow lines on both sides of Hare Lane at the railway bridge and Hare Lane by Foley Road. A proposal for double yellow lines at the junction of Foley Road and Claremont Road has been withdrawn due to a significant number of objections.

Road maintenance
SCC responds to reports of minor damage (go to www.surrey.gov.uk “Report It”), or by phoning 0300 200 1003. Increasingly potholes etc are rectified using a proprietary material which requires only one short visit, which means that teams can cover many more sites within their available time and budgets. When the faults are sufficiently widespread, or the road is subjectively poor, longer sections are refurbished from either the main maintenance budget or from a localised fund allocated to County Councillor Mike Bennison. Recently these have funded the repair of Aston Road, Simmil Road, Norfolk Road, The Avenue, The Roundway, Blakeden Drive and Coverts Road. Foley Road is imminent.

Street Lighting
Street lighting has been refurbished, with a new SCC contract, which includes maintenance. Report any lights that have not been replaced, visible damage or lights out, using the website/phone number above.

The Annual Village Meeting is being held on Thursday 28 May 2015, 7.45pm at the Village Hall. This will be a chance to meet your Parish Councillors, put questions to them and hear about the Parish Council’s work over the last 12 months.

The outlook for central Government funding support to Borough and County Councils remains bleak. In principle this means that, in the medium term, residents could be faced with the prospect of the loss of some valued discretionary services, unless the Parish Council or a voluntary organisation took them over.

One of the most important and most difficult decisions any local Council has to take each year is setting the Council Tax. The need to preserve and develop services and funding for local initiatives has to be balanced against the burden of taxation in times of economic hardship.

For 2015/16, after budgeting as economically as possible for the calls on our funds, your Parish Council has voted to increase the Band D Equivalent Rate for the Parish Precept (Parish part of the Council Tax) by 0.3% from £14.11 to £14.15 for the year. We have been able to slightly reduce our publicity and administrative costs, even after making provision against the costs of future elections. In the light of anticipated needs, we have increased the funds available for making grants to local organisations and projects by 25%. Similar increases have been made in the budgets for Highways and Environment, to allow for additional projects to be undertaken by the new Council after this year’s election.

The Claygate Community Cup will be presented at the Annual Village Meeting on Thursday 28 May.

This Cup is awarded by the Parish Council to the individual judged to have contributed most to community life and well-being in the past twelve months. Please send your nominations for the Cup, giving brief reasons for the nomination, to the Parish Clerk by Monday 27 April.

The award will be decided at the Parish Council meeting on Friday 15 May.
Start preparing your exhibits now

Saturday 11th July 2015

Claygate Flower & Village Show

Put Claygate’s biggest event in your diaries and start preparing your exhibits...Photography, Art, Handicrafts, Cakes, Jam, Wine, Flower Arranging, Fruit & Veg, and many more!

Full details of all classes and how to enter will be available on our website and in the show programme (available early May at various Claygate locations). Schools can enter too! If you’d like further information, please call:

Flowers          Fruit & Veg
Judith Gascoigne 01372 463067
Diana Kale       01372 465844

Floral Decoration
Sue Nordemann    07702 342408

Domestic & Crafts
Juliet Bagnall   01372 464448

Art & Photography
Margareta de la Touche 01372 811931

Junior Classes
Katherine Rumsey 01372 464911

Hire of Stalls  General Enquiries
Bonnie Fitzpatrick 01372 466735

@ClaygateShow www.claygatetowershow.co.uk Find us on Facebook
In the Heart of the Village

120 mainly Claygate residents completed a survey about last year’s Claygate Flower & Village Show. Here are some of the results:

- People love the Show for its community spirit and friendly, family feel.
- Large majority feel that the Show is good value for money.
- Most popular areas of the Show are exhibiting and seeing the exhibits.
- Visitors want to see new entertainment and activities around the ground, reflecting a traditional village show (watch this space!).
- The Stalls Village is very popular, with people wanting more local produce and crafts.
- The Funfair (a traditional part of the Show, with prices reduced in 2014), gives enjoyment to many.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the survey. Every point is being reviewed by the Claygate Flower & Village Show Society.

GIG ON THE REC 2015

The Flower Show Marquee, Claygate Recreation Ground

Sunday 12 July at 6.00pm

ABBA MANIA

Courtesy of Handshake Ltd

From the West End Stage, around the world and now here in Claygate. Highly regarded as one of the finest Abba tribute acts

also featuring

Claygate’s very own Tracy Jane plus Hinchley Wood Secondary School band plays ABBA in brass plus Claygate Primary School Choir will perform some songs with ABBA MANIA on the evening

Hosted by

Neil Long - Radio Jackie Breakfast Show Host

Look out for further details and ticket information coming soon!
It all began in 1952 when the Claygate Flower Show asked the Claygate Group of the English Folk Dance and Song Society to organise some Morris dancing at the Show. None of the existing local groups could be there so a bunch of locals taught themselves and performed four Morris dances at the Show on the Recreation Ground on Saturday 19 July.

They liked it so much they carried on practising as Mid Surrey Men’s Morris. This was changed to Thames Valley Morris Men at a meeting at The Foley on Friday 1 May 1953.

Fortunately for us one of our members started to keep a log book from October 1952 and these notes were typed and now appear on our website at TVMM.org.uk.

There has been Morris dancing in the area at least since 1507 (in Kingston) but our dances mostly come from the Cotswolds, where they were written down by Cecil Sharp and others around the end of the 19th Century. Our tunes are mostly traditional, including carols at Christmas, played on traditional instruments - melodeon, accordion, violin and whistle.

We teach new members the dances and they’re expected to end their apprenticeship by “dancing in” with a solo dance (jig) usually on Boxing Day. In 2014 two new members danced in and they’re now entitled to wear our full kit, which includes a tree of life embroidered on the back of a blue waistcoat.

Dancing round the five Claygate pubs - The Swan, The Foley, The Hare & Hounds, The Winner and The Griffin - on Boxing Day is one of our traditions. We also try to get to the Claygate Flower Show every year; and we spend every August Bank Holiday at Withington in the Cotswolds.

Over the years TVMM has settled into a pattern of dancing “out” in the summer and practising through the winter. Mostly we dance in Surrey but there have been many adventures to other parts of the UK and Europe. There were annual camping holidays in England, Ireland and Scotland in the early years, and visits to festivals in France, Germany and Holland which still continue. In particular we have visited the July wine festival at Krov on the Mosel several times and have fond memories of dancing in the street and on the floating stage on the river. And, oh yes, the beer and wine.

We have maintained our close relationship with Claygate throughout our life and in fact held our Tuesday night winter practices at The Foley for 35 years until the recent refurbishment. For the last couple of years we’ve found a new practice home at All Saints Church, Weston Green, just down the road. We can also be seen around Claygate from time to time, usually at one of the pubs. What is it about Morris Men and beer?

As our name implies, we are a men’s dance club, but we have no hang-ups about women “dancing the Morris”. We currently have an excellent female musician, and often enjoy dancing sessions with local women’s sides.

If you would like to join us as a dancer, musician or both please get in touch with John Elkins on 01372 460765 or john.elkins@hotmail.co.uk.

And try our website - tvmm.org.uk
It’s all go at the 1st Claygate Scout Group

In the run up to Christmas the 1st Claygate Scout Group carried out a number of activities including events which raised funds for others. This year the Scout Troop suggested; Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), (Doctors Without Borders). MSF have been providing emergency medical aid across the world since 1971 and go wherever the need is greatest.

The whole Group adopted this as their charity as they all wanted to support their work responding to the Ebola outbreak.

There have been activities by the Packs, the Troop provided the Christmas Post Service, the Band and other members of the Group went carol singing and they had a collection at the Carol Service. In all the 1st Claygate Scout Group raised a Grand Total of £1,500.

Mathew Redman: Medal for Meritorious Conduct
At the going up ceremony on Saturday 7 February the County Commissioner Roxanna Bostock joined us to present Mathew Redman with the Scout Associations Medal for Meritorious Conduct.

Mathew has been on a terrific Scouting journey with the Group joining Panther Pack and progressing through the Scout Troop to Explorers. It was really great that so many people were at the event to see such a presentation.

It was also a time for thanks, thank you to Mathew’s Parents and carers for committing to activities, thank you to Mathew for taking part and a thank you all of the young people who have been with Mathew during the adventure.

Hugh Gostling the Group Scout Leader thanked all of the leaders who have helped Mathew along the way, it is very much appreciated.

1st Claygate (Chimaeras) win Esher District Scope Trophy
The Scope Trophy is a series of competitions between the eight Explorer Units in the District. Points are awarded for each competition and the Unit with the most points at the end of the year wins the Trophy! The actual trophy is a large felling axe.

The competitions include: Cross Country, Ready Steady Cook, Ratless Race, Shooting Competition, 5-a-Side Football and a Games Competition.

The Trophy events are designed to be good fun and challenging and provide a way in which Explorer Scouts can meet in the spirit of co-operation and friendly competition.

Well Done 1st Claygate Explorer Scouts and their leaders.

1st Claygate Scout and Guide Band
The Claygate Village Association together with Claygate in Bloom will be holding their annual bring and buy plant sale and would be grateful for any donations of plants and cuttings to sell on the day.

The sale will take place on Saturday 9 May at the entrance to Torrington Lodge car park between 10.00am and 12 noon.

All monies raised from the sale will be used for projects around the village.

If you have any plants you wish to donate please contact Judy Forster on 01372 463137.

Summer Soccer School
A fortnight of footballing fun and games with Claygate Royals FC Monday 20 to Friday 31 July at The Claygate Recreation Ground.

Full details from www.claygate-royals.org.uk or e-mail chairman@claygate-royals.org.uk

School Holiday Cricket Club
Claygate Cricket Club will be hosting professional cricket coaching courses for both girls & boys during both the Easter & Summer holidays. For further details please email russ.pam@btopenworld.com

Claygate In Bloom
Plant Sale
The Claygate Village Association

Pretty Plants and Pots

All monies raised from the sale will be used for projects around the village.

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Ten Times Table
Thursday 16 to Saturday 18 April 8.00pm
Claygate Village Hall

Dramatic Fete for Chaotic Committee
Alan Ayckbourn’s timeless classic comedy Ten Times Table is the story of a project doomed to failure. When a group of local worthies decide to put on a pageant based on a somewhat vague event in local history, the Massacre of the Pendon Twelve, there is only one way the celebration can end - in chaos! With a left-wing teacher and the right-wing wife of the chairman on the committee it is a recipe for war. The Pageant inevitably develops into a rallying point for the opposing factions, culminating in a disastrous and farcical event. A riotous evening is guaranteed.

Claygate Dramatic Society perform Ten Times Table at Claygate Village Hall, Church Road, Claygate KT10 0JP on Thursday 16, Friday 17 and Saturday 18 April from 8.00pm. Tickets, £10, are available from box office on 01372 466621, annehennings@hotmail.co.uk, or in person from Grosvenor Billinghamurst, 2 The Parade, Claygate, between 11.00am and midday on Saturday 4 April and Saturday 11 April, or download a booking form from the CDS website claygatedramaticsociety.co.uk

Play an Active Part

7
PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Parish Council meeting dates plus Environment, Highways & Transport and Planning meetings to the end of July 2015 are as follows:

April
2nd Planning Village Hall (c/room) 8.00pm
9th Environment Village Hall (c/room) 8.00pm
23rd Planning Village Hall (c/room) 8.00pm
30th Highways & Transportation Village Hall (c/room) 8.00pm

May
15th Parish Council Annual Meeting Small Village Hall 7.30pm
21st Planning Village Hall (c/room) 8.00pm
28th Village Meeting Main Village Hall 7.45pm

June
4th Planning Village Hall (c/room) 8.00pm
11th Environment Village Hall (c/room) 8.00pm
18th Highways & Transportation Village Hall (c/room) 8.00PM
25th Planning Village Hall (c/room) 8.00PM

July
9th Parish Council Meeting Small Village Hall 7.30pm
23rd Planning Village Hall Comm Room 8.00pm

The Parish Clerk and a Councillor will be available 15 minutes before all meetings. Please check the community notice boards located outside the Village Hall and next to Boots (formerly Wakefields) pharmacy for Agenda and confirmation of date and time. This information is available during the week prior to the meeting. Anyone wishing to speak at a meeting should let the Clerk know prior to the meeting. Copies of past minutes are available to read at the Village Hall, Church Road.

CLAYGATE PARISH COUNCILLORS & CO-OPTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS

BILL CHILCOTT
Environment Committee (co-opted)
Highways & Transportation Committee (co-opted)
Telephone 01372 468777

ALEX COOMES
Parish Council (Vice Chair)
Planning Committee
Communications Working Party
Email alex.coomes@claygate.info
Telephone 07802 316389

DAVID COWIE
Highways & Transportation Committee (co-opted)
Telephone 01372 200674

SUSAN HARDING
Planning Committee (co-opted)
Communications Working Party (co-opted)
Telephone 01372 463465

GEORGY HERBERT
Planning Committee
Highways & Transportation Committee
Communications Working Party
Email geoff.herbert@claygate.info
Telephone 01372 819788

KEN HUDDART
Highways & Transportation Committee (Chair)
Planning Committee
Email ken.huddart@claygate.info
Telephone 01372 462578

NOEL ISAACS
Planning Committee (Chair)
Communications Working Party
Email noel.isaacs@claygate.info
Telephone 01372 468240

HELEN MAGUIRE
Communications Working Party (Chair)
Highways & Transportation Committee
Email helen.maguire@claygate.info
Telephone 01372 462422

CAROL MANLEY
Environment Committee (co-opted)
Telephone 01372 462571

MARY MARSHALL
Environment Committee (Chair)
Communications Working Party
Email mary.marshall@claygate.info
Telephone 01372 289365

MICHAEL O’BRIEN
Planning Committee
Email michael.obrien@claygate.info
Telephone 07790 481620

HELEN BELGRANO OPERTO
Environment Committee (co-opted)
Telephone 01372 466036

VANESSA RELLEEN
Environment Committee (co-opted)
Planning Committee (co-opted)
Telephone 01372 463740

MARGIE RICHARDSON
Planning Committee (co-opted)
Telephone 01372 462579

ANTHONY SHEPPARD
Environment Committee
Highways & Transportation Committee
Communications Working Party
Email anthony.sheppard@claygate.info
Telephone 01372 468897

CAROLINE STEVENSON
Highways & Transportation Committee (co-opted)
Telephone 01372 462120

TOM SWIFT
Planning Committee (co-opted)
Telephone 01372 800160

MARK SUGDEN
Parish Council (Chair)
Email mark.sugden@claygate.info
Telephone 01372 463085

TO CONTACT THE PARISH COUNCIL

Telephone the Parish Clerk Freda Collins on 467000 or email her at parishcouncil@claygate.info.

Freda is available on Mondays between 9am and 1pm (telephone 01372 467000). Messages left on the answerphone will be answered within 24 hours.

Our Borough and County Councillors

ELMBRIDGE
Mary Marshall 01372 289365
Geoff Herbert 01372 819788
Alex Coomes 07802 316389

SURREY CC
Mike Bennison 01932 866367