

Claygate Courier

ISSUE 53 / FEBRUARY 2023

FOOD STORE PLAN FOR CAR PARK

A food store and residential units are proposed for the Torrington Lodge car park. While details of the proposed development are confidential at this stage, Elmbridge Borough Council has confirmed the basic outline and said that some parking provision will be retained on site for the public and users of the store.

Claygate Parish Council's Planning Committee has been seeking clarity on plans for this village amenity and received confirmation of the outline from the Borough Council in December but was told that a report on the site was confidential and therefore the Parish Council could not be provided with a copy.



This project is at an early stage and the Borough Council has yet to enter into any formal agreements. When commercial confidentiality allows, Elmbridge confirmed that it can provide parish councillors with more details.

The Parish Council's Planning Committee meets every four weeks to review planning applications and discuss any planning issues that arise, proposing action as appropriate, and will be keeping a close eye on this development.

ELMBRIDGE LOCAL PLAN

The Parish Council has been updating residents in previous editions of the Courier regarding the progress of this plan and how it might affect Claygate. Elmbridge Borough Council said in November that responses to it were being collated and reviewed. Before submission to the Planning Inspector, the Draft Local Plan and a summary of the representations received will go to Elmbridge Cabinet and Council.

So far, submission, examination and adoption dates have yet to be agreed. The plan is strongly supported by the Parish Council because of its commitment to protecting the Green Belt and the limited impact on Claygate itself. The

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The Courier is available in digital form on the Parish Council website:
www.claygateparishcouncil.gov.uk

Please also visit our page on [Facebook](#) for latest news

END-OF-TERM MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Gil Bray, the current chair of Claygate Parish Council, offers some thoughts and observations ahead of this May's elections

This is the last issue of The Courier in the current municipal year, as well as the last to be issued in the term of the current Parish Council, since both come to an end in May.

As such, I will conclude these remarks with some "end of term" comments, but, before that, would just make a few observations on current Parish Council business.

Chief among these is the budget for the year 2023-24. In this regard, the main point is that councillors have been minded – given current cost-of-living pressures – to keep the cost of the Parish Council to each household in the village ("the Precept") at the same level as last year, namely £14.15 (for Band D properties). You will find more



details on the budget on Page 4.

The other main issue is that the four-year term of the current Council expires in May, and so a new Council needs to be elected. Again, a detailed article, which I commend, appears on Page 5. Being a parish councillor is an exceptional way to contribute to the community and I urge you to consider standing.

Finally, and as regards "end of term" comments, I'd like to say a few words about our Parish Clerk and Responsible

Financial Officer, Sally Harman. The Council, and we, the residents of Claygate, are, I believe, more than fortunate to have Sally as our Parish Clerk. She is immensely capable – doing a great deal of work quickly and to a very high standard. But, beyond this, she is always positive and enthusiastic. She makes a significant contribution to the life of our community in ways that are largely unrecognised. I hope you will join with me in an appreciation of Sally's work on behalf of us all.

SPEEDWATCH MISSION IS TO EDUCATE DRIVERS

Speeding traffic is one of the banes of modern life and the behaviour of some drivers has an impact on us all, especially in a supposedly quiet village like Claygate. To help remind and educate drivers that the speed limit is 30mph in Claygate, the Parish Council and Surrey Constabulary operate a joint initiative – a long-running Speedwatch team made up of Claygate residents who monitor traffic at six sites in the village on a regular basis.

The Speedwatch volunteers undergo a series of online training sessions and exams to ensure a common approach across all such teams in Surrey and beyond. They then undergo a practical training session in Claygate, after which they are added to the team roster. There are now seven trained volunteers and we would like two more. Anyone interested can email clerk@claygateparishcouncil.gov.uk The aim is ultimately to have two rotating teams of three, running six one-hour sessions a month at the three most sensitive points in Claygate.

It is the job of Surrey Constabulary to enforce the speed limits; it is the task of the Claygate volunteers to educate



and remind our residents and incoming drivers that there is a 30mph speed limit throughout the village.

When people ask why we do this, there is a simple answer: if a pedestrian is hit at 40mph there is a 90 per cent chance they will be killed; at 35mph this reduces to a 50 per cent chance of being killed; at 30mph there is a 20 per cent chance.

Mark Tymieniecki

EXPANSION OF ULEZ ZONE MEANS £12.50 CHARGE TO VISIT SURBITON

The Ultra-Low Emission Zone is scheduled to expand to cover the whole of the Greater London Authority area from August 29. This means Claygate drivers of non-compliant vehicles visiting Kingston, Surbiton, Hook and Chessington, or crossing the Thames at Hampton Court, face a £12.50 daily charge.

This charge is meant to discourage more heavily polluting vehicles and is imposed according to their level of emissions, rather than their age. You can find out whether your vehicle is exempt by checking the Ulez page on the Transport for London website.

While recognising the desire to reduce emissions, Claygate Parish Council, Elmbridge Borough Council and Surrey County Council have expressed concerns about the potential impact on Surrey residents with non-compliant vehicles who need to cross in and out of Greater London.

So far, requests for mitigating actions for Surrey residents, such as extending the vehicle scrappage scheme offered to London residents, have not met with any success.

NETWORK RAIL BRIDGE WORKS

Drivers are facing significant diversions following the planned closure of Hare Lane between the junction of The Avenue and The Swan pub. The six-week closure from February 1 to March 13 was scheduled to enable essential maintenance work on the Network Rail bridge. Similar work was also planned at Esher Station and at the railway bridge on Claygate Lane, off Manor Road North.

Claygate Lane in Long Ditton was expected to be closed until March 31 and the work at Esher Station, where two-way traffic signals were to be installed, was scheduled from January 23 to April 28. Recommended diversion routes

PLANS AFFECTING CLAYGATE

Continued from Page 1

Planning Committee will update residents as and when it knows more.

Meanwhile, the Royal Borough of Kingston is consulting until the end of February over its Local Plan. Claygate Planning Committee has been reviewing Kingston's documents to consider their impact and has responded in support, as Kingston's plan also commits to preserving the Green Belt and does not appear to include developments that would impact negatively on Claygate residents.



should be in place throughout. The K3 bus will be diverted and not call at stops in Hare Lane, Milbourne Lane and Claremont Lane. Other stops in Claygate will be unaffected. Latest information is on the Parish Council website.

POTHoles

Surrey County Council says more than half of the reports of potholes on the county's roads occur during January and February, as cold and wet weather provide the perfect conditions to create them. We have plenty in Claygate, so please let Surrey know by reporting them online on its website at www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roadworks-and-maintenance/report-a-highway-problem/road-or-cycle-lane-issues – or call the Surrey contact centre on **0300 200 1003**. Callers receive a reference number for further follow up if necessary.

OVERHANGING BRANCHES, HEDGES AND SHRUBS

We kindly ask residents to show consideration for their neighbours by ensuring that any tree branches, hedges or shrubs on their property are cut back so they do not overhang and obstruct footpaths or impede sight lines for pedestrians, motorists or cyclists.

The Parish Council has, however, voiced its concerns over the suggestion that development might be permitted within the Green Belt if "very special circumstances can be clearly demonstrated and any potential harm resulting from the proposal is clearly outweighed by other considerations."

We have made clear that in the view of the Parish Council there are no circumstances in which new development should be allowed on the Green Belt. The response of the Parish Council has been submitted to the consultation on the Kingston Local Plan.

Michelle Woodward

PARISH COUNCIL KEEPS ANNUAL COST AT £14.15 PER HOUSEHOLD

For the eighth consecutive year, Claygate Parish Council is to keep the Parish Precept rate unchanged. The Precept is a levy raised on all council taxpayers based on the value of their property and their means. It is separate from the council tax which goes to Surrey County Council and Elmbridge Borough Council and separate from a levy raised by Surrey Police. For a Band D equivalent property, the Precept will be £14.15 for the year from April. All money collected is spent in Claygate, by Claygate residents, for Claygate residents.

For 2023/24 the Parish Council budget of £61,388 (mainly funded via the Precept and a £7,850 release from an Election Earmarked Reserve) has been allocated as follows:

- £26,142 covers the running of the Parish Council, including, the Parish Clerk's salary, councillor training, and insurance.
- £10,673 to cover the cost of running elections in May.
- £8,725 to Highways, Transportation and Environment. This covers additional maintenance of six prime Village Highway Garden Sites over and above the sum Surrey County Council provides – including The Green and the Foley Road Triangle, as well as summer and winter hanging baskets and troughs.
- £6,000 to Grants and Public Projects.
- £4,798 to Communications which includes the Courier Newsletter publications and website.
- £3,000 to Planning. This money allows councillors to access consultants (if required).
- £2,000 to the Staffing Committee.

MORE THAN £20,000 FOR PROJECTS

The Parish Council can support local projects either through grants or via the Community Infrastructure Levy. This is a levy that Elmbridge Borough Council, the planning authority, can charge on new building. Money received by the Parish Council can be spent on projects that would not normally be covered by the Precept or other funding sources.

This year, the Parish Council has supported:

- £14,500 to Holy Trinity Church towards the refurbishment of Emmanuel Hall in Common Road.
- £4,746 towards a piece of playground equipment in the Recreation Ground.
- £1,000 to Claygate Youth and Community Hub.
- £500 to Claygate Village Association towards the cost of the stage at the Christmas Lights event on the Parade.

Any local group might be eligible for a Parish Council grant or Community Infrastructure Levy support. Visit the council's website claygateparishcouncil.gov.uk or contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@claygateparishcouncil.gov.uk to find out more.

VILLAGE MEETING

All villagers are invited to express their views and concerns at the Claygate Village Meeting in the Village Hall on Thursday March 2 at 7.30pm. There will be two short addresses from guest speakers on topics relevant to Claygate, followed by an open forum at which residents can have their say and ask questions.

CLEAN-UP DAY

Volunteers are needed to take part in Claygate's biggest rubbish event of the year.

Clean Up Claygate Day takes place on Saturday May 13 and anyone able to help is asked to assemble in the Hare Lane

car park, next to Champions

Timber, at 10am for a two-hour litter-picking exercise.



BRIAN RHODES COMMUNITY CUP

The search is on for the Claygate person who has made an outstanding contribution to the village in the past year, as nominations for the Brian Rhodes Community Cup 2023 are now open.

If you wish to nominate someone, first make sure that they meet the following criteria: they must live or work in Claygate and they must be prepared to give permission for their name to be put forward and publicised. Those nominating must also live or work in Claygate and they can nominate more than one person. Serving councillors are not eligible for nomination.

Nominations should explain in no more than 50 words why, and how, the nominee has made an outstanding contribution to the community in the past 12 months. Please send nominations to clerk@claygateparishcouncil.gov.uk by Friday April 28.

THE KING'S CORONATION

The Claygate Recreation Ground Trust is planning a Coronation Picnic in The Park on the afternoon of Saturday May 6, after King Charles's Coronation. It will feature stalls, music and activities for all the family. Look out on notice boards and online for details about this and other events over the bank holiday Coronation weekend. Anyone able to help should email admin@claygatercreationgroundtrust.org.uk.

WE CAN ALL MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THIS YEAR'S MAY ELECTIONS

The 10 seats on Claygate Parish Council are all up for grabs in the local elections on May 4, opening up opportunities for those seeking to improve the quality of life for the residents of the village.

Becoming a parish councillor is to become someone a community will look to for help, guidance and support. And seeing the community change for the better, as a result of decisions you have helped to make, is something that can give a great sense of achievement. Parish councillors are elected to serve for four years.

A parish council is the level of government closest to the community, with the district or borough council above it in the hierarchy. As the official body closest to the people, parish councils are usually the first port of call for individuals with concerns or ideas. They also make decisions on behalf of the people in the parish and have a responsibility for the well-being of its area.

Elmbridge Borough Council's Electoral Services Department can advise on eligibility to be validly nominated as a parish council candidate. In summary, candidates must be at least 18 years old on the day of their nomination and must be a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any member state of the European Union.

They must also meet at least one of four other criteria:

- they are, at the date of their nomination (and continue to be), on the electoral register as a local government elector for the parish;

- they have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the parish during the whole of the 12 months before the day of their nomination and the day of the election;
- their principal or only place of work during the whole of the 12 months before the date of their nomination and the day of election has been in the parish;
- they have lived in the parish or within three miles of it during the whole of the 12 months prior to their nomination and the day of the election.

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



NOMINATION PAPERS

Nomination papers, along with other information related to nomination and the election, can be obtained from March 2 from Elmbridge Borough Council, Electoral Services Department, Civic Centre, High Street, Esher, KT10 9SD. It is strongly

recommended that residents call the department on **01372 474182** to make an appointment to collect nomination forms and additional information.

Completed nomination papers must be returned no later than 4pm on April 4. It is strongly recommended that they are returned as early as possible and that an appointment is made to do so with Electoral Services.

If more than 10 candidates are validly nominated, voting will take place on Thursday May 4, between 7am and 10pm at Claygate Village Hall, Church Road.

CHRISTMAS SWITCH-ON LIGHTS UP CLAYGATE

After an enforced gap of two years it was good to be able to celebrate the festive season as a community at the Christmas Lights switch-on event.

The Parade was shut to traffic, local groups set up stalls and most shops stayed open. There was a wide choice of refreshments and things to buy – and a roundabout for youngsters. A temporary stage was brought in and the crowd of more than 2,000 was entertained by choirs from three local schools and music from Soul Runners. The lights were turned on by three schoolchildren and everyone joined in singing carols. A



firework display provided a great finale just before the rain arrived.

The event was largely paid for by donations from local traders, Surrey County Council, Claygate Parish Council, Holy Trinity Church and a bucket collection on the night. It is organised by Claygate Village Association and its committee would like to thank all the individuals and organisations who helped.

As well as staging the event, volunteers spend at least two mornings putting up and taking down all the trees above the shops. We are always looking for more help: anyone willing to get involved should email CVA@claygatevillage.org

GARDENING SOCIETY RETURNS TO FULL BLOOM WITH TALKS AND VISITS

Claygate Gardening Society got back into its stride in 2022, with a full programme of talks, visits and social events. Talks at the village hall in the winter covered “Spring Designs” (garden design and maintenance tips from a professional designer); “Woodlark Nurseries” (how a wholesale nursery works); “Claygate Youth Club” (to which the society has donated money for gardening activities); and “Bees”, a fascinating overview by local resident Tim Lovett, MBE, former President of the British Beekeepers' Association.



The summer visits began in May with Herons Bonsai Nursery, Lingfield, owned by Peter Chan, curator of Wisley's collection of bonsai trees. Peter demonstrated his techniques on a Japanese larch and donated it to the gardening society; it later made a superb raffle prize! Peter is pictured, left, presenting the tree to Ken Kilmister of the society. June saw the society in Bennetts Water Gardens, near

Weymouth, the home of the national collection of waterlilies, followed by an August trip to Lullingstone Castle and World Gardens in Kent, the creation of plant-hunter Tom Hart-Dyke.

The society also took part in village events including the Village Association's Community Day in April and the opening of the new pavilion at the Recreation Ground, where a native Claygate Pearmain apple tree, donated by the society, was planted in the family garden. The society's flower and vegetable show also returned after a two-year gap.

Another full programme is planned for 2023. Talks already scheduled include “Companion Planting” in March and “Orchids” in April. The October talk has yet to be arranged. A programme of visits is still to be announced.

After many years running “The Depot” in Vale Road, where members can buy products at great prices, John Ovenden stepped down, prompting debate over its future, and a vote which decided to keep it open. It will now be run by a small committee and continue to play a key role for the Gardening Society and Claygate Allotment Holders' Association.

The society now has a smart new website, www.claygate-gardening.org, where members can sign up and pay, share news and views and keep abreast of all events and activities. New members are always welcome. At £5 a year, it's a steal – with plenty of discounts and benefits!

BUSY SCOUTS GET BACK TO BUSINESS

It has been a hectic autumn and winter for Claygate Scouts. The annual fireworks display at the Scout Centre went off with a bang, while the ever impressive Remembrance Parade was again led by the 1st Claygate Scout and Guide Band and was attended by Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers as well as many residents. The band also played at the Lord Mayor's Show in November, joining with the Band of the Royal Marines to play a final piece – what a memory!

Before Christmas, the group resumed its “Carols around the Campfire” event and deliveries of Christmas trees. It assisted in decorating The Parade with trees and lights, while Scouts delivered cards – a great help during postal delays and high costs. And the popular jumble sales continue at the Scout Centre, with the next on April 22.

This year is shaping up to be full of adventure. The Group Camp takes place in May and the Esher District Camp in June. Explorers will be off to Scotland and the Scouts to Switzerland. And our website will provide updates on the Beer Festival we will host in September.

All our sections are full, with waiting lists for anyone keen to join. We welcome adult volunteers and anyone with relevant skills would be welcome to inquire. For more details on joining, visit www.claygatescouts.org/waiting_list.php. For news, visit www.claygatescouts.org or contact Group Scout Leader (Hugh Gostling) by email at gsl@claygatescouts.org

GIRLGUIDING CELEBRATES CENTENARY

Events were held to celebrate the 100th birthday of 1st Claygate in the autumn, with the Brownies and Owls (unit leaders) enjoying a sleepover at the Foxwarren HQ.

On Monday evenings, 4th Claygate rehearsed a version of “Brownies Got Talent”, performed to a full house, and the older girls in 1st Claygate and 3rd Claygate Guides (aged 10-14) enjoyed ice skating at Hampton Court, and a visit to Lush in Kingston. The Rangers group (14-18) organised Santa's Grotto at the Claygate Lights event, while younger girls (aged five to seven) were delighted that a Rainbow unit is starting up on Saturday mornings.

All girls are invited to visit and learn about Girlguiding. Please register at www.girlguiding.org.uk by clicking on the “Register a Child” button.

GARDENS OPEN FOR THE AFTERNOON - WITH A MUSICAL EVENING FINALE

Claygate Village Association is reinstating the Claygate Open Garden Trail this summer, offering a great opportunity for the community to come together and mingle in the most pleasant of surroundings – with an evening of wonderful music as a grand finale.



The return of this popular event takes place between 2pm and 5pm on the afternoon of Sunday June 25. Nearer the date the Village Association will send out details of the event

in a leaflet listing the gardens that can be visited, including a map, enabling visitors to enjoy strolling around the village exploring varied gardens of all sizes.

The Association is asking Claygate gardeners to join in and welcome visitors into their gardens and to share their love of plants and gardening. Whatever the size or style of your garden it will be of interest.

We suggest that in each open garden, the host places a donation box for contributions to the Village Association. In the past, some gardeners have also served refreshments and used the event to collect donations for their chosen charities.

FLOWER SHOW PREPARATIONS BEGIN WITH A CALL FOR EXHIBITORS

The preparations for this year's Flower and Village Show are under way and tickets and programmes will be available in the spring, along with information on how to enter exhibits. The show, to be held on Saturday July 8, includes a wide range of categories in which villagers can display their creativity and skills.

The show's roots date back to 1903, when it was founded as an exhibition of flowers, fruit and vegetables. This remains the core of the event, but there are also sections for photography, art and handicrafts.

It's free to take part and entries do not have to be perfect – cakes can be a little lopsided, some vegetables can be quite small and some flowers and flower arrangements can be past their best. But they all contribute to a great show.



Last year's event was well attended, but there is always room for more to be involved and for more exhibits in the main marquee.

So why not take part this year and support a village tradition that has been running for 120 years?

There will also be many other attractions and events throughout the afternoon – something for everyone of all ages. Don't forget to put the date in your diary now, especially if you missed out in 2022.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram (@Claygateflowershow) and watch out for some helpful tips on exhibiting as well as details of attractions nearer the time. Our website (www.claygateflowershow.co.uk) is being updated and will carry up-to-date information.



TRAIL TO END WITH OUTDOOR CONCERT

The Claygate Open Garden Trail will culminate that evening in a concert of musical theatre by our local opera group, KT Tenuto (above). It will be hosted in a garden in Foley Road, and concert-goers can bring a picnic, a rug or chairs and enjoy an evening of delightful singing in a local garden designer's garden.

The event will raise funds for King's College Hospital. More information about the concert will be available soon at www.kttenuto.com and on local Facebook pages.

Anyone who has opened their garden in the past has always said how much they enjoyed this event.

If you are interested in taking part, please contact the organisers by email or phone: linda@wellsandcompany.co.uk or 01372 462895

CHURCH AFTER-SCHOOL DROP-IN OFFERS WARM WELCOME TO LOCAL YOUNGSTERS

Holy Trinity Church Claygate has been running The Well, an after-school drop-in facility for local youth, since 2018.

Originally open one day a week, it has since expanded to three days – Monday, Wednesday and Thursday – from 3.30-6pm throughout the school term.



Emmanuel Hall: extensive improvements have created a vibrant space

Recognising that many young people had nowhere to go straight after school in the local area, the church opened a space that provided a warm welcome, community and a hospitality that felt the best way to care for young lives.

The Well opened up at Emmanuel Hall, in Common Road, which was already used and loved by young people who attended the church's Sunday groups.

Since The Well opened, Emmanuel Hall has undergone extensive improvements to ensure it is fit for purpose, creating a space that can be used more each week.

These works include a full kitchen refurbishment, upgrading of toilet facilities to make them more accessible, improved flooring, heating and insulation upgrades, and plenty of new furniture purchased to make the space more vibrant and comfortable.

This has been thanks to many grants and gifts from across Claygate, Surrey and further, including a large investment from our own Parish Council.

When they turn up to The Well at Emmanuel Hall, young people find it filled with games to play, from consoles or board games to a pool table, table football, table tennis and more. There is a large menu of food options, at very reasonable prices, with hot chocolate by far the most popular – and it's free!

The Well also has a designated quiet space to relax and get creative, or to use a laptop and printer to complete homework. But most importantly it comes

with a caring team of adults who are there to serve and support our local youth.

Our employed youth workers and a team of volunteers provide regular contact and encouragement for local youngsters.

We also offer targeted support, such as our Academic Support, which offers young people help on topics from professionals in our area, and our Mental Health Matters initiative, which includes regular opportunities to be open about how they are doing.

We now expect to see The Well continue to grow and widen its support, thanks to the amazing team that supports The Well, the funding we receive both through members of Holy Trinity Church and larger grants from near and far, and the continued investment from our partner Relational Hub, which supports youth centres across the country.

Our goal is to be open five days a week – to provide a safe and consistent space. But, more importantly, thanks to the empowered youth that come each week, and to our new Youth Advisory Committee, we hope to start more projects that will help build up our team of young people to learn and to grow their skills.



If you would like to know more about The Well, or know any young people who would like to visit and enjoy this space, either come and see us between 3-6pm on Monday, Wednesday or Thursday at Emmanuel Hall, or email us at:

thewell@htclaygate.org

CLAYGATE CENTRE BRINGS ACTIVITIES AND DISCOUNTS TO THE OVER-50s

There is much more to Claygate Centre in Elm Road than meets the eye: from the fact that membership is open to everyone in the village from the age of 50, to the huge variety of activities that take place there.

Anyone from the age of 50 is eligible to become a member. There is a modest charge of £18 a year for Claygate's over-50s (or £28 for non-Elmbridge residents), and this gives access not only to all the services and activities run from the Centre, but also to a Community Discount Card that provides discounts at select local retailers – which can more than offset the annual membership fee.

Sitting opposite Capelfield Surgery, Claygate Centre is much more than just a place for the older people in our community to gather. There are too many services and activities for the over-50s to list here, but they include a pedicure or manicure, or use of the hairdressing salon. Complementary therapies such as Reflexology are also available.

For those looking to be more active, there are Keep Fit, Zumba Gold and Dance Exercise classes as well as chair-based yoga and exercise



classes suitable for less mobile people. There is also the opportunity to play table tennis.

Day outings are arranged at periodic intervals mainly during the summer months and entertainment is provided on Thursday afternoons, including a monthly Film Afternoon. There are also items for sale such as greetings cards, stationery and wrapping paper, all at good-value discounted prices.

In addition, a freshly cooked three-course lunch is available each weekday for £5.40. Good wholesome food at a great value price. And anyone seeking company and conversation will find plenty of like-minded people to talk to at the Centre, where a coffee bar is available – a facility that is open to all residents.

Some activities and facilities are subsidised by Elmbridge Borough Council and others by Friends of Claygate Centre, a charity that supports Claygate Centre. Some require prior appointment, but all represent good value for money.

Those needing help getting to Claygate Centre can request transport by calling the Centre at **01372 463476** for more information.

**John Bamford, Treasurer,
Friends of Claygate Centre**

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO KEEP SERVICES RUNNING SMOOTHLY

The Centre is dependent on volunteers to keep things running smoothly. On any weekday, up to 14 volunteers are needed to operate the front desk, coffee bar, help serve lunch and provide the meals-on-wheels service.

Volunteering is a great way to meet people and help our community. Help is particularly required for the weekday meals-on-wheels service, especially from those with a car. New helpers will be accompanied by an experienced volunteer until they feel happy to do the job themselves. It takes between one and two hours from 11.30am,

depending on the round, and is done once a fortnight (or more for those who can spare the time).

There is always a very warm welcome given to volunteers by people who use the service, some of whom have precious little daily contact with anyone other than carers and volunteers on a day-to-day basis.

To learn more, call in at the Centre or phone **01372 463476**. The Centre is open weekdays between 9am and 4.30pm.

COMMUNITY POOL PUBLIC OPENING SCHEDULED FOR THE END OF MARCH

The Claygate Community Pool project is nearing completion, with a public opening scheduled for the end of March, and work having been done on allocating swimming sessions to the various groups of users.

The transformation of the pool at Claygate Primary School from an outdoor amenity to an all-year indoor facility is proving enormously popular. The full complement of 1,000 local registered swim members has been reached and a waiting list established. These community members will be the lane swimmers and family users, and a range of sessions has been allocated so that as many as possible can take advantage of the pool. The scheduling of sessions has been a challenge and this is something that will be reviewed once the pool has been in use for a few months.

Claygate Primary School children will be able to enjoy

THE CLAYGATE COUNTRY 5 RUN

Claygate's annual five-mile run is scheduled for Sunday July 2. Runners of all ages and abilities are welcome to join the race, which will begin at 10.30am.

It starts and finishes at the Recreation Ground and follows a route which, apart from the roads used for the first few hundred yards and the final mile, is on footpaths on and around Claygate Common and Arbrook Common. Only moderate hills are encountered during the run.

If this event has passed you by in previous years, why not give it a go in 2023? Newcomers to the race are often surprised at the attractiveness of the countryside on the village's doorstep. Alternatively, spectators can cheer on the runners as they approach the finishing line or at any point along the route.

There are four age categories for both male and female runners. The first three to finish in each class receive a trophy to retain. In addition, there is a Family category, pairing father/son, father/daughter, mother/son, mother/daughter. The pair with the lowest combined finishing places in each category wins the honour of being family champions.

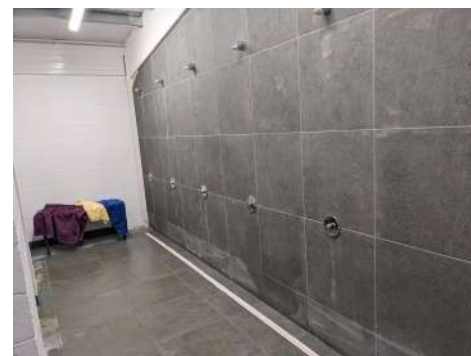
Volunteers are also needed to help with marshalling on the day. Please contact John Bamford at jbamford18@icloud.com for further information.

regular swimming lessons during term time and Kingston Royals Swimming Club will work with regular swimming squads and teaching. Swimming lessons will be available at parent and toddler sessions in the late mornings, as well as Aqua Aerobics for adults of all ages. It is also expected that Claygate Scouts, Holy Trinity Church's Connections group, and other local organisations will be able to use the pool.



An element of the funding for the project has been provided to encourage fitness and activity in the community and the pool will therefore also be used on a regular basis to assist with health improvement through Capelfield, our local surgery, and two local physio companies – The Physio Company and Peak Physiotherapy Practice.

Visitors to the school will have noticed the new fencing and gates that create a new dedicated access route to the pool. This is now complete and new external signage and lighting has been installed. Internally the new changing room and Community Room area has been completed and the new pool liner was booked for installation to commence at the beginning of February. Final completion and public opening is scheduled for the end of March.



FUNDRAISING CONTINUES

There have been many generous donations from within the community, with the target now very close to being achieved. Donations should be made through the [gofundme/claygate-community-swimming-pool](https://www.gofundme.com/claygate-community-swimming-pool) fundraising page.

We also continue to look for volunteers to help manage the completed facility and particularly with locking up at the end of each day's sessions. Please contact claygatecommunitypool@gmail.com

GREAT ENTERTAINMENT IN THE POPULAR FORMAT OF TWO ONE-ACT PLAYS

Unexpected Encounters Thursday April 20 – Saturday April 22, at 8pm

Claygate Dramatic Society returns to the Village Hall in April with its popular format of two one-act plays with a fish and chip supper between. The plays were due to be performed in 2020 but were cancelled due to the pandemic.

In *The Allotment*, by Gillian Plowman and directed by Kim Groom and Jilly Moss, four women are serving community punishment orders by growing vegetables for soup kitchens. The appearance of their new probation officer prompts revelations that expose the realities of their lives – and a long-held secret.



Cast members begin rehearsals

A Little Box of Oblivion by Stephen Bean, directed by Juliet Bagnall, opens with Cool Guy sitting peacefully on a park bench.

A woman appears with a cardboard box that she places in his care before rushing off, emphasising that it must not be touched or tampered with. Passers-by then come up with more and more lurid

theories as to what it contains, finally pushing Cool Guy to lose his temper.

Tickets are £20 and include a fish and chip supper. A cash bar will be available and the box office opens on March 6. Contact belitacharrington@hotmail.co.uk, or phone **020 8398 8660**.

BEAUTIFUL REQUIEMS FROM THE CHORAL SOCIETY

Two gorgeous requiems feature in the next concert by Claygate Choral Society. First is the moving Fauré Requiem, written in the late 1800s, to be followed by Howard Goodall's beautiful "Eternal Light: A Requiem", described as a "stunning new requiem for the modern day".

The concert takes place on Saturday March 18 at Holy Trinity Church, Claygate, beginning at 7.30pm. The conductor is Tim Sandford and adult tickets are £15, with children admitted free.

Tickets will be available on the door, or book in advance by emailing secretary@claygatechoralsociety.co.uk or visiting www.claygatechoralsociety.co.uk.



Howard Goodall, composer

TWO TOP CLASS CLASSICAL CONCERTS IN THE CHURCH THIS SPRING

Two concerts in Claygate's Holy Trinity Church will showcase some of the finest young musicians in the UK. The first, in March, will feature music by Beethoven and Dvořák and the second, in May, a delightful programme of quintets.

They are the final two concerts in the Oxshott and Cobham Music Society's 2022-23 season, which stages all of its performances in Claygate.

On Saturday March 25, the Mithras Piano Trio returns to Claygate to play Beethoven, Bridge and Dvořák's "Dumky" Trio. These BBC New Generation artists and multi-award winners, came together in 2017 at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Then on Saturday May 27, Ensemble Mirage will perform a programme of clarinet quintets by Howells, Françaix, Tchaikovsky (arranged by Takemitsu) and Mozart. This concert had been scheduled to open the music society's season in September but was postponed due to the period of mourning for HM Queen Elizabeth.

Both concerts begin at 8pm, with doors open from 7.30pm. Tickets for each are £22, with free entry for members, children and students up to age 25 (on presentation of a valid student card). There is also an NHS staff discount, subject to valid ID.

Tickets can be booked online via the OCMS website at www.ocms-music.org.uk/, via WeGotTickets or via the Membership Secretary.

Membership fees are now reduced as the end of the season approaches. Contact the Membership Secretary on **020 8398 4377**.



Ensemble Mirage: clarinet quintets

PARISH COUNCILLORS

GIL BRAY

Council **chair** and ex officio member of all committees

MARK SUGDEN

Council vice chair; Highways, Transportation and Environment Committee; Planning Committee

GEOFF HERBERT

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XINGANG WANG

Highways, Transportation and Environment Committee; Planning Committee

JO COLLON

Highways, Transportation and Environment Committee; Staffing Committee

ANTHONY MARQUES

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BRIAN RAWSON

Highways, Transportation and Environment Committee **chair**; Planning Committee; Staffing Committee

JANET SWIFT

Highways, Transportation and Environment Committee; Planning Committee

MICHELLE WOODWARD

Planning Committee **chair**; Staffing Committee **chair**

SUE GROSE

Highways, Transportation and Environment Committee; Planning Committee

CO-OPTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PLANNING COMMITTEE

JOHN BAMFORD, MICHAEL COLLON

Tree Wardens: **VANESSA RELLEEN, GARETH JONES, JOHN OVENDEN**

HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**CAROLINE STEVENSON, MARK TYMIENIECKI
WILL HARRISON-CRIPPS**

PARISH CLERK

SALLY HARMAN

Email: clerk@claygateparishcouncil.gov.uk

or call **07741-848719**.

This is a part-time role and messages will be answered as quickly as possible

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday February 23, 7.30pm
Treetops Pavilion

ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING

Thursday March 2, 7.30pm
Village Hall - main hall

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday March 9, 7.30pm
Treetops Pavilion

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday March 23, 7.30pm
Treetops Pavilion

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday April 20, 7.30pm
Treetops Pavilion

HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT

Thursday April 27, 7.30pm
Village Hall - small hall

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday MAY 18, 7.30pm
Village Hall - main hall

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday MAY 25, 7.30pm
Village Hall - small hall

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday June 15, 7.30pm
Treetops Pavilion

HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT

Thursday June 29, 7.30pm
Village Hall - small hall

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday JULY 6, 7.30pm
Village Hall - small hall

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday JULY 13, 7.30pm
Village Hall - small hall

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday AUGUST 10, 7.30pm
Village Hall - small hall

Please check [the council's website](#) and the community notice boards outside the Village Hall and next to Boots pharmacy for agendas and confirmation of dates and times. This information is available, at the latest, three working days prior to each meeting.

Anyone wishing to speak at a meeting should let the Parish Clerk know in advance. Please also see our [Facebook](#) page.