

Welcome to the March Chevron. During this month we are asking for your help with two important documents. The first is a questionnaire on the **Country Park**, which you should have already received. This will be collected by a Parish Council representative and a full report on the views of the parish will be available next month. The second document outlines our initial thoughts on the Parish Council **Four Year Plan** and we would appreciate you sending your views and ideas regarding this to Claire Ebeling at parishclerk@clare-uk.com. Your views are very important to us and we thank you in advance for taking the time to share them with us !!

Country Park : The public meeting on 8th February in the Town Hall regarding the **Country Park** was well attended. The decision on the future of the Country Park will be taken by Suffolk County Council, but views taken at the meeting will influence the judgement. SCC will not sell off the station house but transfer the park and all its buildings as one package. It seems likely that SCC will keep ownership of the park for up to one year from April 1st and invite St Edmundsbury BC to provide park management. Occupation of the station house is a priority to prevent deterioration. The Parish Council was asked to produce a single business plan taking into account the views of all Clare residents. The official report of the meeting will be published as soon as it is received.

Snow Clearance : It was great to receive an email from Tracy Snow praising the hard work of Warren Rodwell, who spent all day on 5th February clearing the roads of snow for the community of Clare. Like many in the community, we would like to join with Tracy in sending our thanks to Warren and also to Brian Watts and Colin Smith who were also up at the crack of dawn to clear the snow.

Jubilee events 2012

The Queen celebrates her Diamond Jubilee as monarch from 2 - 5 June, the last two days being public holidays. In Clare we are planning several activities. Trees will be planted in various locations, including an oak from a Royal Park. An exhibition of children's self-portraits will be installed, part of 'Face Britain'. Earlier in the week, there will be a performance in the Town Hall of "The Hollow Crown", readings from the lives of English kings with music.

On Sunday 3rd, the Parish Church of SS Peter & Paul will remember the Queen in the normal morning service. A Big Lunch aka Clare's Big Picnic will be held in the Country Park, with live music and hog roast. The Parish Church will hold a pageant with music and readings in the late afternoon. On Monday 4th, there will be a High Tea for older citizens in the Town Hall. After dusk, the Beacon in the Country Park will be lit as part of a nationwide celebration.

Volunteers, other events and inquiries please to Phil Gryce (phil@gryce.co.uk).

Jubilee Street Parties : If you are hoping to hold a street party to celebrate the Jubilee, then it would be well worth your while visiting the Suffolk CC website using the links below, and planning well in advance.

<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/TransportAndStreets/RoadApplicationsAndLicences/StreetPartiesandOtherEventsRestrictingtheHighway.htm>

Police Presence The Parish Council was pleased to receive a report from Inspector Peter Ferrie on police cover in Clare. It was reassuring to learn that the Police Station will remain in Clare and the police presence is being increased with the appointment of a new PC (Rob Sippett) and new PCSO (Christopher Shields). Rob will be tasked with being very pro-active in Clare ensuring that any emerging crime or ASB issues are dealt with firmly and quickly.

Annual Parish Meeting - Town Hall at 7pm on Tuesday 1st May - to receive reports from the Parish Council on work this year and updates on the Country Park and possible relocation of the Library. All welcome. Tea and coffee will be served.

Emergency Planning - Can you help? A major emergency is unlikely to happen in Clare. However, it is important that we are prepared should a situation occur where residents need to leave their home and/or need help. Help that perhaps you can provide. Do any of the following categories match you?

Do you live in or near Clare AND have first aid skills and accreditation OR have a tractor or a 4 x 4 vehicle OR would volunteer to make tea and coffee for displaced residents in the Old School ?

If so, please get in touch with us to give your contact details.

Ring The Parish Clerk 01787 277559 or Email parishclerk@clare-uk.com

Nick Leppard at **Stour Valley Community School** is keen to hear from anyone who would welcome having a full **Sports Hall** built at the school for use by the community when lessons are not in session. He is aiming to put together a Sports England bid and letters of support from the local community play a big part in helping to determine the success of these applications. The Community Plan survey highlighted the fact than many people would welcome such a space to use e.g. for badminton, 5-Aside football, so if you feel that you would be willing to write a short letter in support, then please contact Nick at nleppard@stourvalleyeducation.org.

Work continues on improving **Clare Cemetery**. Recently Cllr Keith Mison and volunteers cleared the ground opposite the Chapel and planted a laurel hedge. In time, the compost area will be screened and a shrub bed created. Cllr Mallows is keen to hear from anyone who has a rotovator and who could help with turning over the land where the shrubs will be located as there are some entrenched nettle roots that need to be removed. Please email parishclerk@clare-uk.com if you can help. Thank You

Councillors are taking a keen interest in **recycling** as part of the proposed 4 year plan and several visited a recycling centre before Christmas. They came away with the following TOP TIPS (no pun intended !!) that you may find useful :

- Use the Scrunch Test to check if plastic can be recycled. If you can scrunch it in a ball then it can't be recycled.
- Newspapers, magazines, brochures, junk mail, yellow pages, directories, catalogues, envelopes, office paper and books (separate the hard cover) can all be recycled.
- Cardboard boxes, cartons, packaging (e.g. cereal packets), greeting cards can all be recycled.
- Plastic bottles from milk, drink, shampoo, detergent etc. Yoghurt pots, margarine and spread containers can all be recycled. (Remove tops and put in loose.)
- Cans and Tins from food, drink and pet food - clean and squashed, can also be recycled.
- Aluminium foil - clean food containers and tin foil but NOT polystyrene.
- Remember to **Wash it - Squash it - and always put it in LOOSE.**
- Take plastic bags back to major supermarkets where they will be recycled.
- 'Freecycle' Why not give away larger articles that you don't want but that are too good to throw away - sofas, kitchen gadgets, books, CDs etc. Visit www.freecycle.org for your local group.