



Chevron

Winter Safety in our Homes

In the light of the recent storm that resulted in many homes in Clare being without electricity it is again worth looking at actions that can/should be taken in emergency situations. If a very serious situation arose whereby people have to vacate property an Emergency Plan exists for providing shelter and warmth on a temporary basis in the Old School. If you lose power and have a medical need or you are elderly or infirm contact your doctor or ring 101 for help. In an emergency ring 999. If you have vulnerable neighbours pop in to see them to reassure and to help. If you think they need professional help then act accordingly. These situations are few and far between but being a good neighbour might be something to think about at all times. It's a great message for all of us, and hopefully one that we will remember should there be heavy snow or power cuts in the next few months. **If you are in trouble, please let someone know.**

Winter Safety on our Streets

It's great to see so many youngsters from Clare Primary School wearing their hi-vis jackets on their way to and from school now that the daylight hours are much shorter. The jackets, provided by the Town Council, send a clear message to drivers that there are vulnerable people on the streets and they really should slow down. It was a shock to read the results of a speed survey on Stoke Road carried out by the police in August 2011, which recently came into our possession. It showed that of the 27,522 cars using the road during one week, 72.5% were over the speed limit and 29% were travelling at a speed where they would be prosecuted if caught!

As we move into the season of icy weather, can we remind parishioners to take particular care on the roads and pavements? The grit bins have been filled for use on the roads (please do not use the stock to clear driveways) and Suffolk County Council are again running their campaign to provide insurance cover for anyone who clears the pavements outside their house. Just contact Claire Ebeling, our Town Clerk, on clerk@clare-uk.com to register your name so that you are protected.

Land East of the Granary/Medieval Kiln

It looks as if work is finally beginning on this development and many of you may have wondered why it has taken so long. One reason was the notable discovery by archaeologists of a medieval brick kiln. Much helpful discussion has taken place between the Town Council, Clare Historical Society, the Clare Society and the Developers on how/if this kiln could be preserved for the future and we are pleased to say that a good solution has been found. The kiln itself has no intrinsic structure so it cannot be relocated and covering it so that it is visible would leave it to soil conditions that would erode it rather than protect it. The kiln will therefore be carefully reburied and the land above it protected as a green space so that archaeologists with more advanced technology can investigate it in the future. Photographs, drawings and display boards will give current generations the chance to see exactly what has been buried and how the kiln would have looked when it was in use. Our thanks go to Peggy Smith and the Developer for promoting this successful outcome.

Another reason for the delay lies in the technicalities of Section 106 funding ("Planning Gain"), which were quite complex for this site. S106 funding is money that developers have to pay towards local, Borough and County infrastructure e.g. health, education, relocation of protected species etc. SCC and SEBC decide where the money goes and local views do not normally have much influence. The Town Council has campaigned strongly to make our views known to the planning departments and we were particularly concerned that a significant sum of money was being spent by SCC on a bus shelter when Stoke Road needs traffic calming measures (see above).



Our views on this matter were championed by Cllr Alaric Pugh at a recent SEBC Planning Committee Meeting and were supported by Cllr Mary Evans and many of the SEBC councillors present. Success! Clare parishioners will be protected by both traffic calming measures and a bus shelter near the site. A remaining concern is over the flood risk management and we will need to ensure that the solution agreed with the Town Council and other groups is properly implemented to prevent further flooding along Stoke Road.

Clare Playing Fields Association : CPFA

We are incredibly fortunate in Clare to have extensive playing fields and a fantastic sports pavilion situated on Harp Lane. Football flourishes and the pavilion is used for a range of activities and parties. For many years, these valuable town assets have been looked after by a team of Trustees, led by John Martin, and huge thanks go to them for all of the time and hard work that they have put in. A new group of people has now been encouraged to step forward to build on the excellent work of the CPFA and to investigate ways of increasing what can be offered to parishioners in the way of sport and recreation. Currently eight people are involved in this working party and we are looking for more people with energy and ideas to work with us. There is no obligation to become a Trustee in the future, but it is hoped that most of the group will become full Trustees at some point. Please contact gaylemallows@aol.com if you would like to join the group or if you have ideas that you would like to share. Many thanks.

Police Report

Sgt Gary Miller has joined our very effective team of officers in Clare and we are pleased to welcome him to our community. The recent arrest of a burglar at Wickhambrook is excellent news, but police are warning that this will probably not affect the continuing stream of overnight visitors to the villages in our area where oil tanks, vehicles and outbuildings are receiving unwanted attention. Officers report that there have been 4 crimes of particular note in Clare recently - a burglary at the Antiques Warehouse, theft from an unlocked vehicle in the Country car park, a beer barrel stolen, and copper piping stolen from a barn. Please check that windows and cars are locked and phone 101 if you have concerns or 999 if you think that crime is being committed.

Clare Combined Charities

This is a well-established Clare charity which began as 'The Common Pasture' charity in 1880, became an educational trust in 1905 and was then 'combined' with five other historic charities in 1924. Clare Combined Charities is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the Almshouses in Church Lane, the land on Clare Common, the allotments and the Upper Common. We will be explaining more of the charity's work over the next few editions of Chevron, but are focusing today on its education grant.

The Combined Charities advertises each **January** for students to request a grant to aid their education. Under the restrictions of the education part of the Combined Charities, grants can only be given to students who are not in full time education. They are available to individuals or to organisations only if they work for and benefit Clare. Grants may be given for the purchase of books and equipment to aid studies but not for the payment of education fees or general running costs. They are not eligible to help towards school trips for individual pupils. Past grants have been allocated for books for school libraries and equine medicinal studies. Please contact ron.longland@btinternet.com if you would like more information on these grants.

Need to publicise your organisation's events?

Please remember that you can advertise your organisation's events on the Clare website at www.clare-uk.com and then click on Local Events - it's free, easy to use and ensures that your events reaches as many people as possible both from Clare and wider afield

Season's Greetings from Clare Town Council

This year's very well attended Remembrance Day Parade will soon be followed by the switching on of the Christmas Lights, which is one of our community's highlights, and then all our minds will turn to the Christmas celebrations. Clare Town Councillors would like to wish all parishioners a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

