

Chevron

A Happy New Year to all our parishioners. 2012 produced many challenges and much joy for the Clare community in the shape of the wet weather, the short summer, the economy, the Olympics, the Jubilee and much more. Through all of this our community was more active than ever and Clare remains a very vibrant town and a popular destination for visitors from far and wide. Having enjoyed a restful Christmas with family and friends, our attention turns to the opportunities provided by this new year. There is much to do and we hope that you will find the Chevron newsletter helpful in keeping you up to date with events as they unfold. On behalf of Clare Town Councillors, may we wish all our parishioners and their families a happy, peaceful and prosperous New Year.

**You should receive two important leaflets with this newsletter.
Please keep them safe for future reference.**

New Town Councillor A few months ago, Keith Mison, stepped down from the Town Council after over 24 years of dedicated support for the community. He has always been held in high regard for his thoughtful contributions, his incredible hard work and his great good humour. It is good to know that we will not be losing touch with him and that he will be as busy as ever within the community and working in the Nuttery. Following the co-option process we are delighted that Paul Bishop has been elected as our new town councillor. We know Paul well as he has acted as a lay-member on the Environment Committee for over a year. He brings many skills to the Council and it is good to have him as part of the full team.

HGVs in Clare The independent Lorry Action Group has done sterling work in highlighting the issue under the leadership of Bob Verguson. The Town Council has supported and liaised with the group in order to bring about change.

Their concerns are centred on the danger to our residents, the damage caused to properties, other vehicles, the highway and the services that run beneath these roads. There has been a marked increase in the size and numbers of HGVs using the roads through Clare. Clare is a residential area. It is a very old town with narrow roads and pavements not designed for large, articulated HGVs. The centre of Clare is a conservation area and listed buildings and other properties are being damaged in collisions. The Bell Hotel has recently been hit twice by HGVs, roof tiles have been dislodged from buildings, plaster shaken from walls. Recently a car was hit head on in the middle of the town by an HGV on the wrong side of the road negotiating Bell Corner.

The physical danger to pedestrians is real. It is interesting and indicative of the SCC Highways Management in our town that there are no pedestrian crossings despite the possibility having been raised by the Town Council. We have two schools in Clare and children and parents have to cross busy roads to reach both schools. Whilst crossings would help with safety, there would still be a considerable risk to pedestrians particularly at the two pinch points in the town.

It is a stated objective in our Town Council's four year plan to achieve a solution to the HGV problems that plague our town. We are seeking expert help in this field and our intention is to raise the profile of the problem which not only affects Clare but other communities in the Stour Valley. We are appealing to all parishioners to lend their support by either coming along to our Town Council meetings and telling us of their own views and experiences or to write to: Bob Verguson on vergy999@hotmail.com. Thank You

Hi-vis Jackets We are delighted that the hi-vis jackets for the children of Clare Primary School have arrived. These have been paid for by the council and we hope that they will help to keep the children safer as they walk to school.



Clare Country Park You will be aware that St Edmundsbury continue to play an important role in the upkeep of the green spaces and they have organised another volunteer working party for the last Sunday in the month from 10 a.m. onwards. You may wish to join them. A second oak tree celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee 2012 - a gift from St Edmundsbury District Council - has been planted in the Country Park: on the southern bank of the New Cut, just along from the spillway. **We expect to be updating you later in the month on progress with the transfer of the Country Park.**

Affordable Housing in Clare Hastoe Housing Association are looking to develop some affordable housing for both rent and shared ownership on land adjacent to Westfield, Clare. Priority for the homes would be given to those residents living in the parish of Clare and people with strong local connections. Hastoe have arranged an **Open Meeting on Tuesday 19th February at the Town Hall between 3 and 7 p.m.** to share the proposals and seek constructive comments before a planning application is made.

Clare Cemetery For many years, Councillor Leslie Warmington has provided sterling service to the community in his role as Cemetery Officer and we are enormously grateful to him for the time and energy that he has given to this important role. Several months ago he advised that the administrative side of this role could helpfully be incorporated into the work of the Town Clerk and Finance Officer. This seemed to be the right time to look at how other burial authorities worked, to consider whether or not we wanted to make any changes to the services that we currently offer, to plan how we might improve the cemetery itself and to see if we needed to make cautious changes to our fee structure which was last reviewed in 2008. This work is progressing well. We hope to establish the administrative changes from April onwards and hope to send out full advice to parishioners in February.

Helping to Prevent Flooding in Clare The Town Council and Clare Society met with Anglian Water before Christmas to discuss the problems of flooding, particularly on Stoke Road. It was a very informative meeting but we know that more needs to be done with other agencies such as Highways and the Environment Agency and that it will take a lot of time to achieve better surface and sewer drainage in this area. **In the meantime, you can help.** Anglian Water have produced a leaflet which you should receive with this issue of Chevron. Please keep the leaflet and take time to read it and follow the advice. Many thanks!

Emergency Leaflet You should also receive a leaflet explaining what to do in the event of a major emergency in Clare. Please read this and keep it safe as it contains emergency numbers. Hopefully we will never need it.....but it is best to be prepared.

Clearing snow from pavements. The weather forecasters predict colder weather is on its way. If you are the helpful sort of parishioner who clears snow from your front pavements then please contact the Town Clerk, Claire Ebeling, on 01787 277559 and she will register you on the Suffolk CC **public liability insurance scheme.** If you follow the guidance that Suffolk CC give you on how to clear snow, then you will be covered in the case of someone having an accident.

Local Thefts Parishioners may be aware of a spate of burglaries that took place before Christmas. We have been advised that a man has now been charged with these thefts. If you have any concerns about future problems then please ring 101 and take vehicle numbers if you have any suspicions.

Heating Oil Anyone interested in joining a syndicate for buying heating oil may like to contact John Knight for details on 01787 277810. The syndicate is based in Hundon, has no joining fee, and has been going for several years. Last year it placed orders for around £100,000 worth of oil which demonstrates its purchasing power.

Receiving the Chevron. Chevron is produced every one or two months and is delivered to people's homes. Some people also receive it by email. If you have previously requested that your details be added to the circulation list to receive email updates from the Clerk (either of Police Circulars, Rural Services Network updates or the electronic version of Chevron) please email the Clerk on clerk@clare-uk.com to update our records as previous email circulation group addresses are no longer in use. Thank You

