

# PARISH NEWS



Clare  
Parish Council

ISSUE TEN - JUNE 2010

## Cemetery Chapel seriously damaged in fire ...

Local fire crews were called during the early hours of Sunday 18 April to Clare Cemetery to find the Chapel building on fire.

The fire caused extensive damage to the roof and internal structures of the building. The contents were completely destroyed including the Parish Council's new street sweeping machine which was being stored in the building. Swift action by fire crews and the substantial construction of the outer walls prevented the building from collapsing.

Built in 1886 the Chapel was provided for funerals, prayer and reflection but in the last fourteen years only two funerals have been held. Whilst remaining available to anyone who wished to use it, the Chapel was being used as a store for Parish Council equipment.



Fire investigators and police remain puzzled as to the source of ignition for the fire as there is no heating in the building nor are main services connected to it. Some evidence of possible forced entry through the main chapel door was found therefore police are treating the fire as suspicious.

Police are appealing for anyone who may have been a witness or have information about how the fire started to contact them or contact Crime Stoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

The Chapel building is now a dangerous site and has been secured until decisions about its future can be made. The Parish Council are asking parents to please warn their children about the dangers of entering and playing in such a site.

## Chapel's future - your opinion ...

The Parish Council are now faced with the dilemma of deciding the future of the Chapel building and they would like to hear your views on that subject.

Parishioners are invited to contact the Parish Council before the 30 June to express their views or suggestions about what the future of the building should be.

A range of possibilities exist ranging from full reinstatement to demolishing the remains

using the site for another purpose such as a memorial garden.

What would you like to see happen? You can register your views or ideas by contacting the Parish Council by either:

Telephone: 01787 277559  
Email: [parishclerk@clare-uk.com](mailto:parishclerk@clare-uk.com)  
Write: The Parish Clerk, The Old School Community Centre, Callis Street, Clare, CO10 8PX.

## Inside this issue ...

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- Clare First Responders need new members
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## Speedwatch Volunteers Needed ...

One of the major concerns expressed by parishioners in the Clare Community Plan was the risk posed by speeding drivers in certain parts of the town.

The Safer Neighbourhoods Police Team already carry out speed checks but there is an initiative that they would like to run in Clare which also allows members of the community to become actively involved in monitoring speed. The Community Speed Watch campaign will equip and train a team of volunteers in Clare to do just this.

The campaign is designed to monitor the speeds of vehicles in various locations thought to be risk areas to establish if there actually is a problem and how serious it is. The data compiled is then used to determine when and how much police enforcement action is required or to dispel concerns. The presence of the team also creates a visible deterrent to potential offending drivers who can see they are being monitored.

If you can spare a few hours to help, then please contact the police or the Parish Clerk on 01787 277559.

## Like to get fit for the summer?

Then ladies, you are being invited by Clare Ladies Running Club to 'put your best foot forward' and join the club which now meets every Tuesday outside The Cock public house at 8pm. Miffy Warwick who organises the club said, "All standard of runners are welcome from beginners to regular runners, providing you with a great way to exercise, see the local countryside and make new friends".

They will be running every Tuesday evening during the summer months - so come along.

## Clare First Responders need new members ...

The Clare, First Responders, are seeking new volunteers to help keep this vital service running in our community. Since the First Responders were established in early 2009, the group has received a number of requests from the Ambulance Service, and has been able to respond quickly and effectively to life threatening situations.

First Responders are asked to attend an emergency by the Ambulance Service when they think a first responder will be able to arrive in advance of an ambulance. They then give initial first aid treatment. This early assistance can be critical in cases where survival rates are significantly improved by quick action such as a cardiac arrest. Emergency equipment (including defibrillators) is allocated to whichever of the First Responders is on standby.

The type of calls First Responders are asked to attend are life threatening emergencies such as heart attacks, chest pain, cardiac arrests, fits and breathing problems. They are not asked to attend traumatic incidents such as road accidents, fights or childbirth.



After training by the Ambulance Service, each volunteer contributes as much or as little time as they are able, receiving support from the rest of the group. There is a local coordinator who arranges the rota and the day-to-day running of the group and there are regular meetings to enable volunteers to exchange views and experiences, to coordinate activities and to update training. Support is given to the group by local ambulance staff.

If you are interested to learn more about the



scheme or would like to become a Responder, please contact the coordinator **Martin Lewin** on **01787 277961** or administrator **Roy Draper** on **01787 277747**. You can also email the group at [clarefirstresponders@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:clarefirstresponders@hotmail.co.uk).

Leaflets describing more about the work of the First Responders are also available at Clare Pharmacy.

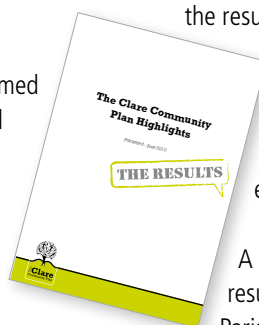
## Community Plan Publishes ...

After many months of hard work by the Clare Community Plan team of volunteers, the Community Plan is ready to be published. Coming through your door soon will be your summary of the full plan which gives highlights of the survey results and details of the action plan that has been put in place as a result of the findings.

The plan will now be used as a basis of opinion for medium to long term planning by the Parish, Borough and County Councils and

as a driver for the future provision of services and facilities in the town.

The planning team have now formed a monitoring committee who will meet regularly throughout the coming years to monitor the progress of the plans objectives and encourage the development of the various ideas that have not yet been achieved.



The task of undertaking the survey, quantifying the results, writing and editing the report was an enormous challenge and on behalf of the community and the Parish Council would like to extend their gratitude and appreciation to everyone involved for their hard work.

A full version of the plan and survey results can be viewed in the library, the Parish Office or on the community web site at [www.clare-uk.com](http://www.clare-uk.com).



## Clare wins the hearts of French footballers ...

Our new friends from Châtillon-sur-Indre, France came to Clare in mid-April to challenge Clare Town Lions to a friendly football competition. Clare families accommodated young footballers, parents and the Mayor of Châtillon in their homes for the week whilst they participated in an exciting programme of events.

These events were launched with 10-pin bowling and swimming for the young footballers whilst the adults attend a civic reception hosted by the Mayor of St Edmundsbury, Councillor Patricia Warby, in Bury Cathedral.

That evening, Clare Town Lions, with support from the Parish Council, hosted a celebratory dinner in the Community Centre. All the arrangements and cooking for 68 people was expertly undertaken by Clare Lions' Mums and Dads. The Community Centre was turned into a sea of red, white and blue flags and decorations and this was a fabulous welcome for our French visitors.

The main event of the week, the football tournament, kicked off with three under 14's teams - Clare Town Lions, Châtillon and Bures

United - competing for the new Invitation Trophy which is sponsored by the Clare Business Association. A match between Clare and Chatillon also took place for a trophy provided by Les Amis de Chatillon et Clare, the French community group who put so much effort and support into the programme. With a very strong team and having scored some excellent goals, Chatillon beat both Bures and Clare and took both cups - at least for the time being!

Not wanting to miss out on the action, the Clare Lions under 7, 8, 9 & 10 teams also played exhibition matches in front of large crowds of supporters.

After some quick-thinking and reorganisation, our guests rounded off their week of activities with an unplanned excursion to Portsmouth to get a ferry to France as they were unable to fly home due to the volcanic explosion in Iceland!

We hope that our French guests will have fond memories of a special few days spent with new friends in Clare. Michel Hetroy, the Mayor of Chatillon, summed up the week by saying "Chatillon may have won the trophy, but the people of Clare have won our hearts".



## Annual Parish Meeting a success ...

This year's Annual Parish Meeting in Clare was a huge success with over 60 parishioners attending for the second year running.

There was a very full and interesting agenda with speakers including our local councillors, the local police and representatives from many of our community groups and clubs.

Highlights from the evening included the presentation of a summary of the results from the Clare Community Plan, details of the ongoing links with our French neighbours in Chatillon and a glass of wine for all parishioners after the meeting!

There are high hopes within the community for the coming year and the Parish Council announced plans to increase the frequency of the street cleaning in the town and the intention to provide continued support for community groups that benefit the residents of Clare.

## Summer Fun Club ...

A summer fun club will be held again this year in Clare Country Park.

The club will be open Monday to Friday for two weeks from Monday 9 August. Children from three years upwards can attend to take part in the wide range of activities including nature trails, water play, ball games and a mini beast hunt.

A full day session from 8am to 6pm will cost £18 whilst a half day morning or afternoon session will cost £10.

Drop into the Visitors Centre in the Country Park between 11am and 1pm on Saturday 3 July to book your child's place or contact **Danielle** on **01787 277723** or email **danielletaylor51@yahoo.co.uk**.

Danielle is also responsible for setting up the new before and after school club in Clare. Please contact her for more information.



## Come and join the Clare visit to Châtillon 11-14 July?

Following the great success of our French friends' visit to Clare in April, planning for the return visit in July is well underway.

The programme starts on Sunday 11 July and includes live broadcast of the World Cup Final on a Big Screen in the Champ de Foire.

On Monday there is an official opening ceremony with the raising of the National Flags and National Anthems. Entertainment includes historical pageants, a parade of Citroen 2CV's and visits to a local chateaux.

A major attraction on Tuesday will be a European Market with local and European specialities. 60 stalls from four countries are already booked and three will display Suffolk tourism, artisan work and food and drink.

For the U14 boys, there is the return football match against Châtillon where we hope to regain the trophy! For non-footballers there are other sports on offer including tennis, badminton and boules. The Tuesday evening will see a traditional Parade of Lanterns, regional dancing and musical entertainment.

Wednesday 14 July is the National Holiday when in addition to visits to local national parks and wine producers, visitors will enjoy the traditional 14 July parade followed by a dinner alongside the swimming pool and a firework spectacle.

A 49 seat coach has been booked, (and paid for by EU funding!), which will take our U14 footballers and a dozen pupils from Stoke College accompanied by a number of adults. This transport is entirely free to Clare residents, and there are still a few places available. If you wish to join in the fun but travel independently, then Châtillon is a six hour drive from Calais.

Help can also be given with accommodation in Chateaux style B&B's, gîtes or with French families to practice your French!

Please call **Ron Longland** on **01787 277769** or **Keith Haisman** on **01787 279182** for further information.

## Open gardens ...

The annual Clare in Bloom Open gardens event will take place Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 June.

Thirteen gardens will be open this year from 12 noon until 5pm. Tickets cost £3.50 and can be used on both days in order for you to take your time and enjoy the wide variety of gardens, plant stalls and other attractions. Entry for children under 16 is free when they attend with a full paying adult. To help keep them entertained, there will be a children's quiz with prizes for the winners.



Tickets and maps are available in advance from Clare Pharmacy and Hudgies Hardware store. Tickets can also be bought on the day.

The CLASP mini-bus, will operate a shuttle service each day to take people between the Country Park car park, Stoke Road and Hermitage Meadows.

The Clare in Bloom Open Gardens team looks forward to welcoming you to all the beautiful gardens. Look out for the sunflower signs around the town which indicate which houses are taking part.

## CAB Outreach Sessions



*The Haverhill Citizens' Advice Bureau will be on hand to give help and advice to any member of the community. No booking required, simply turn up at the Committee Room in The Old School Community Centre between 10am and 12pm. The next session will take place on Monday 12th July.*



**Clare**  
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Email [parishclerk@clare-uk.com](mailto:parishclerk@clare-uk.com)

**Don't forget to visit the Clare website at [www.clare-uk.com](http://www.clare-uk.com)**