

PARISH NEWS



Clare
Parish Council

ISSUE ELEVEN - OCT 2010



Congratulations Clare - Suffolk Village of the Year 2010

Despite the fairly dismal August weather it has been another great summer in Clare with various community inspired events providing great fun and interest for all.

The swimming pool was open for extended hours this year and proved a great attraction in a relaxed setting for families to enjoy the summer. The organising committee hope, based on this year on year success, to open the pool again in the summer holidays next year.

The Clare Open Gardens attracted a large number of residents and visitors who enjoyed the various gardens on what was a glorious weekend. Enthusiastic exchanges of ideas and tips could be heard in all the gardens amongst the groans of 'I wish my garden looked like this'.

Working parents had some relief this year from the work/home life balancing act when the Clare Summer Club opened for three weeks in the Country Park. A large number of children of all ages could be seen



enjoying the summer in the Country Park engaged in outdoor games and enjoying arts and crafts activities.

The jewel in the crown this summer however must be the much coveted 'BT Suffolk Village of the Year' award. Chair of the Parish Council, Keith Haisman said 'Just to get to the final is a huge accolade for any village, but to actually win this is a tremendous sign of recognition

for all the hard work that the clubs and societies and volunteers do, not just through out this year but each and every year'.

The award reflects all the good things that go on in our community and proves that Clare really is a good place to live, work and visit. The town and its community can justifiably take pride in this award. Congratulations to all!

Parish Council takes up the 'Housing Needs Challenge'

The findings in the Clare Community Plan confirmed what every young person in Clare knows – that housing costs make it almost impossible for young people to remain in Clare. For the future vitality and viability of the town it is essential that our young people can remain to contribute to Clare's future should they wish.

The Parish Council therefore instructed Suffolk Acre to conduct a housing needs survey. The results unsurprisingly suggest that there is demand for more affordable housing in Clare.

The Parish Council is now seeking expressions of interest for suitable small scale developments from Housing Associations who have expertise in providing housing solutions to rural communities.

The Parish Council envisage that one or more of the sites in the Local Development Framework Plan could be used but full consultation will take place with the community on any housing proposals before they are finalised.

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- Holiday frolics in the Country Park
- Late Night Shopping
- Clare brings home the Cups!
- Christmas Lights Switch-On
- Chapel Restoration
- Parish Councillor Vacancy

Don't forget to visit the Clare website at www.clare-uk.com



Holiday frolics in the Country Park

The 'Clare Summer Club' cared for and entertained many local children during August. The club was a great success despite the weather and the club would like to thank the Park Rangers for their help, support and the fantastic events they provided.

Visitors to the club included the local police team, the fire service, a farrier and a reptile expert who brought with him lots of

creepy crawlies! All the guests were able to delight and inform the children in the idyllic surroundings of the country park.

The Clare Summer Club will open for business again next year on 1 August. Meanwhile, Clare-Clubs continues to support parents in Clare and the surrounding area with the opening of Clare's 'Before and After School' club.



Summer Fun Club and 'Before and After School' club - More info can be obtained from Danielle at clareclubs@yahoo.co.uk or on 07833 717302.

Disappointing response to call for volunteers

Community Speedwatch

Speeding in Clare was raised as a major concern in this year's Community Plan. Despite this,

volunteers have not come forward to support a Speed Watch Campaign.

Speed Watch is a national campaign designed not to catch speeding drivers but to raise awareness in areas of concern through a high profile presence.

The data collected will be used to determine whether a true problem exists. Should the data prove there is a real problem of excess speed in an area of concern this will prompt police enforcement action.

If you are concerned about controlling speed on our roads and you have some time to spare, please support this initiative and contact the Parish Clerk at parishclerk@clare-uk.co.uk or telephone 01787 277559.

Late Night Shopping

For those of you without the luxury of browsing during normal opening hours, Clare is once again offering the opportunity to do your Christmas shopping at a more leisurely pace.

On Thursday 2 December, many of the shops and services will remain open until 8pm. Come and support your local businesses under the glow of the Christmas lights and you may even get a festive treat or bag a bargain.

Spotless streets

The Parish Council's Environment Committee is nearing the completion of the first stage of planned improvements to street cleaning in Clare.

The improvements, due to be in place by the end of October, involve the increased frequency and range of tasks on footpaths and some open areas.

This will be achieved through the extension of street cleaning hours, increased mobility and the mechanisation of litter and footpath and street cleaning.

Also incorporated into the first phase will be other aspects of environmental work to improve the appearance of the town including regular checks and repairs to street furniture and leaf and weed clearing.

These changes to the street cleaning activities coincide with the retirement of a well known Clare face, Street Cleaner Alan Hines. Alan has worked hard to keep Clare looking its best over the last 15 years. Clare Parish Council would like to thank Alan for his hard work and wish him a long and happy retirement.



Late night opening Thursday 2nd December

Shops open until 8pm.

Shop Local. Shop in Clare.
It's all on your doorstep

Clare
Business
Association
CBA



Clare goes to Châtillon and brings home the Cups!

Over 50 Clare residents made a return visit to Chatillon in July as part of the growing relationship between our two towns.

A 50-seater coach packed with our Under-14 Clare Town Lions and a group of students from Stoke College travelled to Châtillon for a four day visit. The organisers had managed to attract EU funding for the event and so the coach travel was free of charge and much of food was provided by our hosts.

One of the major events of the week was the European Market where Clare traders and residents had provided Suffolk food and drink specialities to sell.

During the week a painting of Clare Church was presented to the Châtillon Art Group from the Clare Art Club, and a similar gift was sent in return. It is hoped that this will lead to exchange visits between the two groups next year.

The main ambition during the trip was of course to regain the two trophies which had been won by the Châtillon Under-14

team during their visit to Clare in April. Our boys were absolutely marvellous and were rewarded with an exciting 3-1 victory which means both cups have come home to Clare.

A "Jeux sans frontieres" with teams from England, France, Italy and Bulgaria participating was held and the English players threw themselves wholeheartedly into the spirit of the games with the Clare team coming out clear winners of the day.

A very warm note of thanks goes to the marvellous team of organisers in Châtillon who worked tirelessly for months to prepare such an excellent programme. All the youngsters who went along on the trip need to be congratulated too. They were great ambassadors for Clare, taking part in all the activities with the right spirit and always well behaved. They were a credit to themselves, their school, their football team and to Clare.

The visit was a great success and there are discussions underway for cultural exchanges for the Clare Art Club and also for music in Clare Church for next year.

Clare in Bloom News

It has been a busy 12 months for Clare in Bloom with events such as crocus bulb planting by the town sign on Nethergate Street, the Pumpkin Lantern Competition, Clare in Bloom Open Gardens 2010 and the Scarecrow Competition. Not to mention the winter, spring and summer planting seasons! The summer floral display has been particularly interesting this year with a fantastic centre piece called Ricinus Communis - a form of castor oil plant.

Clare in Bloom has recently received the results of the regional Anglia in Bloom competition, and achieved a high Silver Award. The Clare Country Park won the Best Public Open Space Award, congratulations to John Laws and his team. The judges made special mention of the fantastic use of open spaces in Clare, particularly the Country Park and the Nuttery and paid credit to the tremendous community spirit which exists amongst Clare residents, businesses and other social organisations.

Clare in Bloom would like to thank all the volunteers and sponsors who have assisted at their events and maintained the floral displays around town. Volunteers weed and take care of the plant containers in town and the Parish Church border, we need one or two more volunteers to help us.

For further information on Clare in Bloom activities or to become a volunteer, please visit the Clare website or phone Jane on 01787 279182.

Clare Business Association Update



The Association has been in discussion with the Economic Development Department of St. Edmundsbury Borough Council exploring ways of promoting Clare as a great place to visit and shop, and looking at methods of sustaining and attracting investment for the local businesses we all depend upon.

The Tourist Forum continues to be strongly supported by the Business Association who are working with the various authorities to try and obtain tourist signage and an information leaflet to encourage more visitors to Clare.



Full details of the Clare Business Association's activities can be viewed at www.clare-uk.com/cba.

Christmas Lights Switch-On

Christmas in Clare will be upon us before we know it! Again this year the Clare Business Association, with the help of the Clare Parish Council, will be decorating the town with lights and a Christmas tree on the Market Hill to make our town a festive focal point. The switching-on event for the Christmas lights will take place on Friday 26 November.

The children's parade will leave from outside the church on High Street at 17:45 and we hope you and your families will be able to join us. There will be glow-sticks for the children who join in the parade, which will walk to the Market Hill where the lights will be switched on at 18:00.

There will be children's fairground rides and entertainment, stalls, music, and refreshments including the firkin of beer won during the Village of the Year competition.



Chapel Restoration

The Parish Council continues to work with the insurers to have the Chapel in the Cemetery restored to its former glory as soon as possible.

The current plans for the building include a non-denominational 'Quiet Reflection' area open to the public daily during the hours of daylight, toilet facilities for families and relatives visiting the cemetery and the conversion of part of the rear of the Chapel to an operating base for our street cleaners.



The Parish Council would still welcome suggestions on how the Chapel can be best utilised. Call 01787 277559 or e-mail parishclerk@clare-uk.com.

The final plans will be made available to the community for consultation.

Vacancy for a Parish Councillor

Clare Parish Council has a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. We are a very active Council with significant plans to make Clare an even better place to live and work. To find out how you can make a difference please call our Parish Clerk Melanie Evans on 01787 277559 or our Chairman Keith Haisman on 01787 279182.

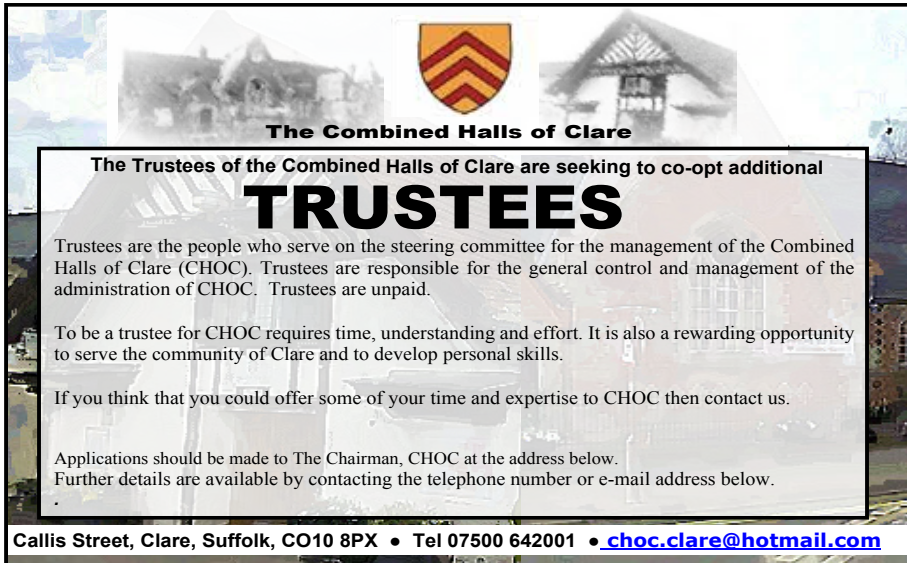

Clare Coffee Stop

Monday 8th November from 10.30am - 12 noon in the Old School Community Centre. Enjoy free refreshments in comfortable surroundings, meet with other people in your community and find out about services available to you.

This Churches in Clare initiative has been set up to help people of all ages become better informed about services, grants, entitlements and voluntary support which may be available to them. Representatives from voluntary organisations will be present including the Citizens Advice Bureau.

For more information contact Pauline Broad on **01440 785840**.

Look out for all the latest news and events on our website - www.clare-uk.com



The Combined Halls of Clare

The Trustees of the Combined Halls of Clare are seeking to co-opt additional

TRUSTEES

Trustees are the people who serve on the steering committee for the management of the Combined Halls of Clare (CHOC). Trustees are responsible for the general control and management of the administration of CHOC. Trustees are unpaid.

To be a trustee for CHOC requires time, understanding and effort. It is also a rewarding opportunity to serve the community of Clare and to develop personal skills.

If you think that you could offer some of your time and expertise to CHOC then contact us.

Applications should be made to The Chairman, CHOC at the address below.
Further details are available by contacting the telephone number or e-mail address below.

Callis Street, Clare, Suffolk, CO10 8PX • Tel 07500 642001 • choc.clare@hotmail.com



Clare
Parish Council

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Don't forget to visit the Clare website at www.clare-uk.com