

PARISH NEWS



Clare
Parish Council

ISSUE SIX - JULY 2009



Clare is the best place to enjoy the summer!

There are a host of events taking place in Clare this summer providing fun, sport and amusement for visitors and residents alike. Dates for your diary:

JUL
20

20 July for 3 weeks.

Summer Fun Club in the Country Park for 2 – 12 year olds. Contact Danielle Taylor on 01787 277723.

JUL
20

20 July to 16 August

The heated swimming pool in Clare Middle School will be open each day from 9-12 a.m. and 2-5p.m. Children under 10 will need to be accompanied by an adult. Entry £1 per person/session. Children under 5 years old free.

JUL
20-22
AUG
3-5

20-22 July and 3-5 August

Tennis coaching, sponsored by CLASP, is being held at the Middle School for children aged 8 - 14. Places are limited - to book call Jane Haisman on 01787 279182.

JUL
23

Thursday 23 July at 2.30pm

Anglia in Bloom judges will be visiting Clare. Make sure your hanging baskets are well watered!

AUG
1

Saturday 1 August 2pm

Historical Guided Walks of Clare with a fully qualified guide. Accompanying children free. For further details and to book contact the Bury St Edmunds Tourist Information Centre 01284 764667.

AUG
6

Thursday 6 August 12.00-2.00pm

Free football skills training at the playing fields. Open to boys and girls aged 5-11. Call Robyn Sheppard or Tony on 01787 278516 to book a place.

AUG
7

Friday 7 August 2.00 - 3.30pm

Children's Treasure Trail in Clare Country Park - "The Quest for the Golden Dragon Egg". Call 01787 277491 for details.

AUG
23

Sunday 23 August 4.00pm

Family Outdoor Theatre organised by CADS. Children's games and activities from 2.30pm and the show begins at 4.00pm.

Housing in Clare

The next phase of the St Edmundsbury Borough Council's planning proposals for Clare will be published for consultation between 12 August and 7 October.

Please look out for notices on the Community Noticeboards and on the Clare website at www.clare-uk.com for details of how to make your views known.

Do you have events you wish to publicise?

Just go to the Clare website at www.clare-uk.com and look under "Local Events" in the left-hand menu. You can log in and post details of your organisations event and it's free of charge.



The Clare Town Sign - complete at last!

After many years of hard work by many members of the community we are delighted that the Clare Town sign has at last been erected on Nethergate Street. Let's hope that our residents and many visitors enjoy this introduction to our beautiful town.

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

Committee Profile - Environment Committee.

The Environment Committee was created from the Parish Council's reorganisation, amalgamating the former Street Cleaning and Cemetery Committees, to focus upon all matters relating to the town's environment.

The Committee has been operating for just short of a year and Chair, Cllr Alan Parsley, believes the town can already see the benefits of this approach.

Keeping the streets of Clare in clean condition and the infrastructure in good order are the major responsibility of the committee as is the maintenance of the cemetery and Nuttery. Clare now has two street cleaners once more and a significant improvement in the standard of street cleaning can be seen.

The grass areas of Clare are maintained on a contract basis by the County Council, and committee members, in partnership with other interested agencies, also manage the trees and fauna in the town area. There is currently an ongoing refurbishment programme of the benches in Clare.

The Committee Chair would welcome comments, and suggestions from the community to help the committee in their efforts to maintain our environment in the way parishioners would like. Parishioners can contact the committee via the parish office on 01787 277559 or by email to parishclerk@clare-uk.com

An example of how the committee can respond to parishioners concerns promptly is the successful 'dog fouling campaign'. The campaign has significantly reduced the levels of street fouling by dogs and most owners have responded positively and are using the new bins and free disposable bags that the Parish Council have provided around the town. There is a small minority of owners who still are not clearing up after their dogs and who run the risk of encountering the increased district authority Dog Warden patrols being deployed in the town and a substantial fixed penalty fine.

Improvement and conservation work continues in both the cemetery and Nuttery areas. Ancient headstones have been reinstated in the cemetery with new wild flower beds

planned for around the perimeter. A small amount of graffiti has been removed from the old chapel and repairs are being carried out to the building.

An extraordinary amount of work has been undertaken to restore the Nuttery area, in particular by Cllr Keith Mison with the help of Big Lottery funding - see separate feature on the Nuttery.



The Environment Committee members are Councillors, Alan Parsley (Chair), Tony Sharp (Vice Chair), Les Warmington, Keith Mison, Jim Meikle and Olive Smith, lay member and former Council chair.

CLASP - doing good work 25 years on ...

Most Parishioners will be aware of the work of CLASP (Clare Liaison and Support Project), but may not be sure of its origins.

In 1984 groups from the four Churches in Clare got together in response to the need to combine the work of various initiatives to help older people in the Community. A co-ordinated programme of services in a social setting was seen to be the way forward.

So in September 1984 in the lounge of Churchill Close, CLASP was born. Many of the founder members are, sadly, no longer with us but their vision and dedication have been a vital part of Clare for many years. The result of that first meeting was the formal formation of CLASP.

Over the years CLASP has provided 'drop-in' sessions at the Old School, home visits for the house-bound, help for Parishioners to attend hospitals and dentists etc. The Wednesday

group continues to provide tea and coffee and a hot lunch at the Old School. Most recently CLASP has funded 2 defibrillators for the newly formed Clare First Responders.

CLASP has a mini-bus (available for hire only by other charitable organisations) and a band of drivers. The table sales in the Town Hall raise funds to help in this work.

CLASP, like all such groups, needs more volunteers and in particular they need more drivers and co-ordinators. If you feel you could help to continue this vital Community work please get in contact with:

Margaret Taylor

Chairman - 01787 277421

or

Cathy Ayello-Wright

Secretary - 01787 278338



The Nuttery 2008/2009 ...

It has been a busy year in the Nuttery in 2008/9 with much conservation and restoration work being completed.

Clare Parish Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council funded jointly an Interpretation Board which was unveiled by the Mayor of St Edmundsbury in October 2008. The board explains to visitors to The Nuttery what has been achieved and what they can see.

The Nuttery is located at the rear of Clare Cemetery and is accessed through the cemetery road and following the footpath around the edge of the cemetery.

The project received a Lottery Grant from The Big Lottery Fund in excess of £8,500 last June. This grant has enabled us to purchase a new fence which has been erected around the pond, and a new path created so that members of the public can access the site via a different route. The pond has been cleared so that wildlife has easy access, and the public can now see the pond clearly.

The lottery funding has also enabled us to purchase a carved wooden sculpture (Totem Pole) at the entrance to the Nuttery; this sculpture has been carved by a local Suffolk Artist.

The derelict hedge at the top of the Nuttery to the South Side has been cleared and a new hedge has been planted, also the ditch has been cleared, and a bridge installed into the adjacent meadow which is used extensively by walkers.

All this work has been carried out by volunteers and The Community Payback Scheme with assistance from Neil Catchpole, of The Dedham Vale AONB & Stour Valley Project.

In total this year some 750 Whips (small hedge plants) have been planted. These were



bought with funding from the Lottery, but again planted by volunteers.

During the autumn of 2009 we shall be starting a new small Wildflower Area at the bottom of the Cemetery leading towards the Nuttery.

We are now liaising with the Suffolk Wildlife Trust about also possibly locating Barn Owl boxes around the Nuttery.

2009/2010 promises to be equally exciting and we hope you will come and visit and enjoy the tranquillity of The Nuttery.

Primary School Plans Unveiled.

Suffolk County Council education planners revealed the blue print for the expanded primary school facilities at the end of Erbury Close.

As a result of the School Organisation Review process and a change from three to two tier education in the west of the County the primary school needs to be expanded to accommodate two additional years.

The plans which were available for public inspection at the primary school on the afternoon of 25 June, were viewed by a large number of parishioners with various interests in the plans and not just parents. County Council designers were on hand to answer any questions.

Larger classrooms and a hall are planned along with an expanded hard surface playground. Resource and support areas which are sorely tested in the present structure have also been somewhat improved.



However as expressed in some parents concerns the IT, Technical and Sports facilities available at the Middle School currently available for Year 8 and 9 pupils are not being replicated in the primary school design.

Clare Parish Councillors were disappointed that the plans did not include impact and environment assessments upon how the plans would affect the town and what compensatory measures were going to be taken.

Cllr Jim Meikle said, 'It is vital for the sake of children that the primary school expansion is ready on schedule and for the plan also to

be fit for purpose for the rest of the community. Therefore the Parish Council has written to the County Council requesting an urgent meeting to discuss the mitigation of the impact of the plans. It is essential that when the expansion plans go into the planning process they are sufficiently robust and inclusive to avoid any unnecessary delays.'

Parents and parishioners can view the plans in the primary school and are invited to comment upon them. Comment forms are available from either the school office, the Parish Office or from the County Council website.

Community Plan on track...

The first stage of the Clare Community Plan has been completed and everyone seems to have lots to say about how to improve our town!

Hundreds of postcards were returned to the suggestion boxes around Clare, and responses have been received from nearly all the community organisations and many of the businesses in the town. THANK YOU!

But that was only the first stage of the process, and if you still have not told the Steering Group what you or your organisation wants for the future of Clare it is not too late - contact the Chair, Nick Smith at Clare Pharmacy. The results are still being analysed but the main themes are emerging and some of the following topics seem to be important to a good proportion of people:-

- Facilities for young and old
- The environment
- Road Safety
- Shops and services
- Town management
- Housing
- Education

As a result of the success of the initial consultation process the creation of a Community Plan for Clare is still on track.

The creation of a Community Plan does not happen for free. The Steering Group is working on events that everyone can enjoy together to raise money - so look out for some great activities being organised in the months ahead. The first was the Clare Community Duck Race which ran alongside the Craft Fair at The Priory on July 11/12th. Later this year there will be music offered by a local band and a golf tournament at the Clare Park Lake Golf Course.



What's next? - The Clare Questionnaire for all.

The Clare Questionnaire will be designed with questions that are based on the results of the consultation process. A copy of the Clare Questionnaire will go to every household this Autumn, delivered by the enthusiastic volunteers who, last year, agreed to help. They will also need collecting. The Questionnaire is necessary to pick up everyone's views and turn them into statistics which can be used to guide decisions about Clare in the future. Let's hope everyone joins in!

Scarecrow Competition - A Community Winner!

The Scarecrow Competition held on 7 June was a great success with the whole of the Clare Community taking part. The idea came from the Clare in Bloom committee and funds raised on the day have gone to pay for future planting in Clare.

This is the first time that Clare has held the competition and it really captured everyone's imagination. People were encouraged to make scarecrows and bring them to the Country Park where they would be displayed during the afternoon and then judged for the "Best Traditional" and the "Most Imaginative". They were then to be taken home and displayed in gardens or windows.

During the two weeks before the competition scarecrows began to appear outside shops and in shop windows. The scarecrows provided much fun and amusement with most businesses taking part led by the Pharmacy. Clare in Bloom received many, many positive comments.

The Clare in Bloom committee was overwhelmed by the support with over forty scarecrows entering the competition. There were scarecrows in all shapes and sizes, one arriving on a stretcher (from the Doctor's surgery), a Fireman, a First Responder, a baker, a pharmacist and a live one in the shape of the Chair of the Parish Council.

Luke Sharp and Ellie Lovejoy were thrilled to be winners of the "Best Traditional" and "Most Imaginative" respectively and a special award was given to David Sleath as winner of the Best Business Scarecrow with his "Mr Hudgie".



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