



'Oyez' - Clapham Parish Council Quarterly Newsletter - January 2023

A Message from the New Chairman, Terry Gale

I am pleased to report that the Parish Council is now back operating at full strength following a rather uncertain period when there were just two Councillors.

Whilst we could not officially meet for several months, our day-to-day work continued including a temporary appointment by Arun District Council allowing us to co-opt three new members. Thanks go to those at Arun District Council including Councillor Paul Bicknell who worked with us during this time.

Councillors Mike Monger and Jaci England were co-opted at our October meeting, and then, in December, Councillor Sheila Holmes was also co-opted. Each brings with them a wealth of experience from very different backgrounds and it is good to see representation from across the parish too.

Planning Matters

The Parish/Village Design Statement, so meticulously prepared by a small working party, was officially adopted by the South Downs National Park Authority at its November 2022 Planning Committee meeting. Members specifically commended the work of those involved in producing what will be a very important supplementary planning document for the Parish Council when reviewing applications. Our thanks to everyone involved.

Clapham Parish Council was also represented at the Planning Committee's December meeting when our Clerk spoke on its behalf during the public session to oppose the proposed development on the site of the old Gravel Pit. The application was unanimously refused.

Celebrating the King's Coronation, May 2023

Following on from the events that ran in both Clapham and Patching celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022, a community-led event is currently being organised across both parishes to mark the King's Coronation with the Village Hall as the venue.

We appreciate there are alternative views on how best to celebrate the Coronation so do please let us know your thoughts. You can do this by emailing Sarah, speaking directly with one of the Councillors or alternatively responding to our online survey by the end of January.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/P5358C9>

Clapham ♥ Careful Drivers

We would like to take this opportunity to respectfully remind everyone of the importance of driving with extreme caution in the village, which of course includes visitors, delivery drivers, workers and ad hoc contractors.

The sad reality is that even a momentary lapse of concentration can have devastating consequences and we share the concerns of residents regarding inconsiderate driving. This will therefore be discussed at our next Council meeting, including the possibility of some bespoke signage as a reminder to drive with care. If you have any other suggestions do please either join the meeting or let Sarah know beforehand.

Around the Parish

A Message from The Junction

The Junction Rescue Team continue to try to find a way to keep our facility going. The events over the past few months are managing to pay the current fuel bills. Times are hard and keeping it as a meeting room with events seems to be the present way forward. Any help gratefully received - please contact Yvette.

A Message from Clapham and Patching C of E Primary School

On Thursday 8th December, the children of Clapham and Patching C of E Primary School wrapped up warm and walked to their neighbouring church of St John the Divine in Patching village to perform their Christmas nativity to friends and family.

Musical Director Mr Doolan wrote the script and taught the children the songs that they would sing to bring the performance alive. These included old favourites such as 'Away in a Manger' and 'Little Donkey', along with a selection of traditional carols and newer compositions.

The youngest children were in costume as the main characters, and were joined by an innkeeper popping through her door and a very busy Christmas tree!

In true Clapham and Patching style this was no ordinary Nativity performance. Mrs Chubb had involved the whole local community, and the children were joined in the church by Ella and Morgana, two real Southdown sheep from the nearby Nepcote flock!

We look forward to sharing more exciting news from the school in 2023.

Coppice Volunteers

The South Downs National Park Authority is looking for volunteers to join the woodland coppice team at Clapham Woods on a Thursday, so if you are interested in finding out more then please either email volunteering@southdowns.gov.uk or visit www.southdowns.gov.uk/volunteering.

Litter Picking

Special thanks to all those volunteers who work so hard to keep the village free of litter.

Community Matters

- New support available from Southern Water for struggling customers
<https://www.southernwater.co.uk/account/what-if-i-can-t-pay-my-bill>
- Government's Household Support Fund
<https://www.gov.uk/cost-living-help-local-council>
- Arun District Council has now approved a Community Transport Plan and Community Transport Sussex needs help in gathering detailed information from across the district to identify gaps in the availability of transport locally and the particular needs of individual communities. Some residents participated in last year's survey and details of their new survey is awaited. You can find out more about Community Transport Sussex by visiting their website <https://ctsussex.org.uk>
- West Sussex County Council has also developed a new online reporting tool for highway issues, replacing 'Love West Sussex' as the first step in their new process to improve the customer experience.
<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/make-an-enquiry-or-report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement/>

Contact details

Clerk@clapham-wsx-pc.gov.uk or via the website www.clapham-wsx-pc.gov.uk for meeting dates and past minutes