



'Oyez' - Clapham Parish Council Quarterly Newsletter - January 2024

A Message from the Chairman, David England

My first newsletter message as Chairman comes to you with your parish council in fine fettle, which is in no small part due to the excellent stewardship of Councillor Terry Gale. Terry has held a steady helm for some time and although he has regrettably stepped down as chairman he continues to share his wisdom with the council, for which we are hugely grateful.

The council continues to work with residents—as well as our colleagues at district and county level—to maintain the quality of life we enjoy in our village. This past year has seen more than its fair share of successes for our community, including the application to build on the Old Gravel Pit being refused. I know many residents put a great deal of effort in to helping with that.

As the cost of living unfortunately continues to rise for so many, the council too has seen its costs rise, and this will be reflected in the precept that we receive from Arun District Council. We work hard to make sure that finances are tightly controlled but some of our responsibilities now cost considerably more than even just a year ago, and this is reflected in our budget for 2024/25.

There is much to do in the year ahead to make things even better for all residents and visitors to our village, but in the meantime I wish you a safe and peaceful new year.

All Change at The Junction!

“Hello, I thought I’d give myself a little introduction. I’m Hayley Croome and I’m very proud to have taken ownership of The Junction very recently.

I’m wife to Will and mum to Olivia (21) and Marty (5) who attends the Clapham and Patching C of E Primary school. Marty is in his second year there and we love it so much, I now run the PTA for them and I’m about to start an after school crochet club for them. In time, I also hope to run the school’s breakfast club for them at The Junction as well.

We really love the local area and have always loved visiting The Junction. When the lovely Yvette asked me if I wanted to buy it, I knew I needed to try and take it on. So I sold my Sing and Sign (baby signing) franchise and bought it.

I know how important this space is to the local community and I really hope I can do it justice and offer a space that really benefits the local community and school. I’ve got lots of ideas, but I know it’s important to start small and build it up. So the cafe is now open Wednesday till Friday 8.30-4.30 and Saturday 9.30-12.30. Hopefully once the cafe is running smoothly I can start to run the shop. Then work on some events too! Do pop in and say hello! Rufus (the Cavapoo, 8 months old) would love to welcome you. I have a lovely new coffee machine waiting to make you some lovely hot drinks!”

A Message from Clapham and Patching C of E Primary School

A very busy new year has started at Clapham and Patching C of E Primary School. The school continues to thrive and is now oversubscribed which is great news for our community. This term we will be visiting Clapham Lodge and St Mary's church. We will also be reading with our band of kind volunteers from the villages led by Louise Salewski.

You may well also see us wrapped up warm, out and about walking up to forest school and around our beautiful villages. Happy new year!

South Downs National Park Authority – Newsletters

If you have not already done so you may like to visit their website to sign up for the newsletters which they regularly send out to subscribers. The December Planning Newsletter has an interesting [feature](#) about the failed appeal to relocate Lansdowne Nursery to the site of the Old Gravel Pit. For those of you who may not have already seen it, it's on our website too.

Parish Council Meetings in 2024

Members of the public are very welcome to join all or part of any Council meetings that take place throughout the year. They are usually held every other month and on the last Thursday of that month at the Village Hall with a 6.30 p.m. start. Just occasionally the date may change or we may have an extra meeting, although details are posted to the Parish Council website and we add the agendas to our noticeboards on the Recreation Ground and near The Common with at least three clear days' notice so you can see what matters are under discussion. Our next Parish Council meeting is Thursday 29th February.

Sussex Local magazine reports small extracts of meeting minutes, even occasionally confusing us with other Clapham parishes! However, if you wish to read them in full, they are always published on our website, usually within 14 days of a meeting but often much sooner.

Budget Setting and the Parish Precept 2024/25

The Parish Council has now set its budget for 2024/25 and submitted its precept requirement to Arun District Council, which collects this money on our behalf. Please do visit our website for full details of next year's precept. It is the only usual source of income for Clapham and the one part of your council tax which you can be sure will actually benefit the parish. In the past the parish has also received 'CIL' money paid by developers or residents for property developments, and benefited from other grant funding including the Government's 2019 Pocket Parks scheme and National Lottery Funding in 2022 and 2023. We continue to explore other funding opportunities for possible traffic-calming measures on the A280, identified as a priority as part of the Parish Priority Statement in 2023 for the South Downs National Park Authority's Local Plan Review.

Consultations and Surveys – Have Your Say!

[Rampion 2](https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010117) - <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010117>

You can visit the government website to find out more about what is happening, in addition to which both West Sussex County Council and Arun District Councils have details on their own websites.

Remembering Gilly Gale

Gilly moved to the parish in 2004, where she later married Terry. Her love of Clapham meant she then devoted her time and enthusiasm as part of a local village group, delivering first Clapham's Neighbourhood Plan and more recently its Parish Design Statement. Gilly sought to protect the parish for future generations and this work continued as she focused her efforts and expertise in tackling the garden centre application, and even its appeal in Autumn 2023. Gilly's friendly face at Council meetings and her dedication to the Parish made her a special part of our community and her contribution has ensured an enduring legacy. We will miss you Gilly.