



Clay Cross
update
Clay Cross Parish Council News

Summer 2015

**Residents' views on
Kenning Park *see page 3***

Welcome to Clay Cross Update

My first duty must be to welcome three new councillors to Clay Cross Parish Council, Councillors Kathy Rouse, Terry Marples and Garry Skinner, who will I am sure become important members of the team at a challenging time for the council.

During the next few years the fabric of the town will change considerably because of the development of houses on the former Biwater site, and other sites, bringing in large numbers of new residents which will put pressure on schools, surgeries and hospital facilities. At the moment the future of Clay Cross Hospital is still undecided but I would like to see the other ward opened and services expanded.

As I welcome in the new faces to the council, I must also say farewell to three long serving members Arthur Jackson, Ken Savidge and Pete Riggott who did not stand for re-election, and also to our Administrative Assistant Nicola Bonsall who made an important contribution during her time with us.

It is pleasing to note that another of our councillors, Tracy Reader, raised £11,000 for the Fairplay charity through her Appeal as Chair of North East Derbyshire District Council.

It was great to see such a good response from residents to our questionnaire over the future of Kenning Park, and look forward to improvements there, as the soon to be established Friends group consider the suggestions.



Councillor Gerry Morley

From my own observations it is satisfying to report that Craig and Mark have done a sterling job in bringing people into the town centre since they re-opened the Three Horseshoes public house, and that the pub scene has been revitalised, and I am also pleased to see that attendances at the Sharley Park Leisure Centre have grown significantly recently, thanks partly to the new gymnasium established there.

Finally, I hope you are looking forward to the Clay Cross Gala in July and will give it the support the organisers and volunteers deserve.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G Morley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Councillor Gerry Morley.
Chair, Clay Cross Parish Council.

Friends of Kenning Park

As a result of a good response to a questionnaire in the last issue of Update, Clay Cross Parish Council will be looking for volunteers to form a Friends of Kenning Park group.

Many residents reacted with enthusiasm to the request from the Council to put forward their ideas on how to improve facilities at the park and the task of the Friends and the Council will be to decide which way to go forward.

Ideas submitted included improved play facilities, reinstate the pitch and putt golf course, better paths for walkers/joggers, a path by the brook and many conservation projects.

One resident suggested schools be involved in identifying wildlife and cleaning up the park – it would, without doubt, be useful for volunteers to

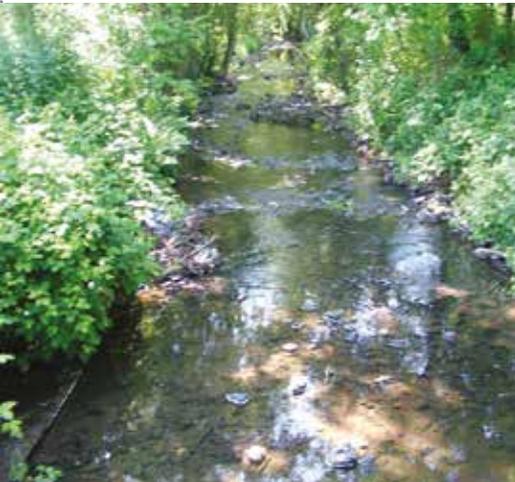


catalogue all the wildlife, fauna and flora that the park contains, for comparison over the years.

Someone else wanted a Last Night of the Proms, and others supported some form of annual Clay Cross Show, with bands, entertainment and craft and vegetable competitions.

One resident said: "Can we have field games for youth groups."

- A 'Slaying the Balsam' event will be held on Thursday 3rd of September with the Rykneld Homes Community Improvers group which hopefully will include other volunteers and residents who live along Press Brook
- Last summer over 2,000 daffodils were planted by volunteers in Kenning Park, providing a colourful display in Spring as illustrated on the Front Page.



St Barnabas Book Club

Over the past four years a second hand bookstall has been in operation at the St Barnabas Centre in Danesmoor. For a small donation of between 10p – 50p members of the community can escape into the world of a good book and as a wonderful by-product the donations raised (on average £400 per year) are put towards the holiday activities that are provided, every summer, for local children.

Unfortunately on Thursday 5th January the donations box was stolen from the Centre and as a result for the first time the book stall was packed away and for over a month there were no books available.

“To say we were disappointed is an understatement,” said Centre Manager Steve Smart.

“However I am a big believer of turning a negative into a positive and we decided to relaunch the book stall from Tuesday 24th – Thursday 26th February with a pop-up book store. We were totally blown away by the way our community rallied around to donate second hand books, DVD’s, CD’s and magazines so that we could have a fully stocked book store and many of them joined us to find a good book, have a cup of tea and a chat about what we do here at the Centre. Councillor Tracey Reader donated over 500 books! And the support we received from the members of our Parish Council and the Clerk, Dawn Kershaw, was humbling.

“Special thanks must go to Lin Debenham from the Enable Group who donated boxes and boxes of books and to Councillor Ted Mansbridge who donated the complete series of Poirot on DVD (which was sold within minutes of the book store opening!)



Steve Smart pictured with Councillor Ted Mansbridge and Councillor Mick Holmes at the Book Club relaunch.

“As a passionate advocate in the power of books and of reading, it has given me great pleasure to see that enjoyment passed onto others and, with the help of our fabulous community, we managed to raise £120 in just two days. With this money we were able to purchase a secure donations box and put the remainder of the funds into our holiday activities pot. Our second hand book stall is now thriving and all are welcome to come along and pick up a fantastic read! It was excellent to meet some new friends through our love of reading and the community.”

To contact Steve, ring 01246 250599 or email steve@stbarnabascentre.co.uk

The Memorial Garden

An over 50s group based in Clay Cross has assisted in the funding of a Memorial Garden at Sharley Park Junior School, Local councillors, members of the group, staff and pupils attended the opening ceremony held recently.

As a result of the work done, the Memorial Garden is now accessible to all children including the disabled, along paved pathways amongst the raised beds of flowers, vegetables and rose bushes. Seating and fencing has also been provided.

The work has been organised by the Clay Cross and Surrounding District 50+ Forum, which was established in 2009 and now has over 100 members from as far away as Shirland and Loundsley Green.

Funding and support was provided by Rykneld Homes, Derbyshire County Council, Tesco, Apollo and North Wingfield TARA.

Forum Secretary Ann Burnham said: "Some Focus groups are more pressure groups, but we are mostly about social activities. Our members seem



Councillors Frank Rodgers and Ted Mansbridge with 50+ Forum Chair Linda Henstock and Ann Burnham.

to like it better that way, meeting people, making new friends, getting them out of their homes. Our members are aged from 50 to 101 and in the last few months we have had quite a few new members, simply by word of mouth."

The group meet four times a year, including two social events, and will be holding a Christmas market at the Clay Cross Social Centre on Wednesday, November 18th, and membership and outings are Free.

The Memorial Garden project was part of the group's intergenerational work, and other activities with school children have included a trip to the Mining Museum at Wakefield. "It was half and half members and children and although they were quiet at first they were soon getting on. It works well," said Ann.

For more information on the 50+ Forum contact Ann on 01246 469293.



Clay Cross Martial Arts

A Clay Cross teenager won double gold at the national Ju-Jitsu championships in Walsall. Olivia Tomkins won gold medals for endurance fighting and random attack.

Youngsters from the Clay Cross club confirmed their status as some of the best young Ju-Jitsu contestants in the country with another haul of medals, three gold, two silver and five bronze.

“Clay Cross people should be proud of what these youngsters have achieved,” said Sensei Malcolm Shaw, who runs the club at the Social Centre every Tuesday evening.

It is the fourth year running that the club – which

gets a £200 grant from Clay Cross Parish Council - have won gold at the nationals.

Malcolm, who lives and works in Clay Cross, has been involved in Ju-Jitsu for 27 years, says the sport keeps young people off the streets, keeps them fit and teaches them self respect and self discipline.

A Ju-Jitsu club for children aged from five to eight years old is also doing well. The Red Dragons meet at St Barnabus Centre on Thursdays and Holmgate Community Centre on Tuesdays, 5.30 to 6.30pm. You can find out more from Malcolm’s fellow instructor Hanshi John Rake, who is on 07816 423579.

If you are interested in joining the Clay Cross club, contact Malc on 07891 181609.



Olivia Tomkins holding her medals, along with other tournament prize winners.

Christmas Lights

Clay Cross Parish Council are to fund new Christmas lights for the town this year, with more on High Street and on Market Street. It would be the first change in the lights for several years, and could attract more shoppers and visitors to the town.

The Council are bringing back the Creative Kids contest, where children from the two local primary schools compete to create a Christmas lights design, the winners of which are brought to life as 6ft square illuminations by a specialist company and used to decorate the outside of the Social Services building on the A61 High Street. There will be three winners from each school.



Clay Cross Library

Clay Cross Library at Kenning Park, Holmgate Road (01246 862592) is open Monday: 9.30am to 7pm, Tuesday: 9.30am to 5pm, Wednesday: 9.30am to 12.30pm, Thursday: 9.30am to 5pm, Friday: 9.30am to 5pm, Saturday: 9.30am to 1pm.

Services available: Books – including audio and large print, CDs available on request, DVDs, Fax, Free internet access, Health and Wellbeing zone, Home Library Service, Local studies and family history, Photocopier black and white, Story and Rhyme Time and Wi-Fi.

The library has a regular Story & Rhyme session for under fives every Tuesday morning 10.30 – 11am, and also has regular displays/exhibitions. Currently these include Ashover Light Railway Exhibition, 12 Months in Derbyshire, as part of the Made in Derbyshire campaign and a Local Walking Display, as part of the Health & Wellbeing Zone.

All library events/activities can be found on the Derbyshire County Council website, which holds the monthly event listings on the following link:

<http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/events/default.asp>

Swimmers to Train in Florida

Three Clay Cross swimmers will fly out to Florida in December to train at a swim camp, supported by a £450 donation towards costs from Clay Cross Parish Council.

They are among 17 members of the Rykneld Swimming Club, which swims at Sharley Park Leisure Centre, to be chosen for the trip.

The club originally opened at Sharley Park Leisure Centre in 1972. Its objectives are to promote the teaching of swimming, open water swimming and diving to a competitive standard.

It now has 189 swimmers, in two main sections of the club. The Main part of club with over 160 members is the swimming club (competitive swimmers who compete in galas at local, midland and national level). Syncro is an active competitive squad, who compete in major synchronised swimming competitions.

Swimmers have been selected on performance and training stamina to attend the swim camp. On 27th December 2015 they will fly out to Miami to embark on a two week swimming Camp (4 hours swimming and 1 hour land training per day). The facilities are excellent and are used by world class and olympic athletes. Parents are not permitted to travel as one of the aims of the trip is to promote independence. Along with training; swimmers will receive valuable lectures on Nutrition, Health and Fitness.

The three Clay Cross swimmers are Caomi Green, 15, photographed diving, Kelsie Geary, 13, (doing Butterfly), and Josh Pemberton 15 (preparing to dive), All attend Tupton Hall School.

A spokesman said: "We are always looking for new member; we have a waiting list but all children



Top: Kelsie Geary. Middle: Caomi Green.
Bottom: Josh Pemberton.

who wish to join have a trial and are then are assigned to the appropriate coach and squad."

For more information, contact Rebecca Hoyland on 07738 438209.

The Election Results

Natascha Engel was re-elected MP for North East Derbyshire in the recent Parliamentary Election.

She said: "It is absolutely fantastic to be chosen to represent North East Derbyshire again. It means the world to me. I want to thank everyone who supported me, but I also want to reassure those that didn't, that I will continue to represent and work for you to the best of my abilities. My office is open and available to everyone who lives in North East Derbyshire."

Natascha polled 19,488 votes compared to her nearest rival Lee Rowley's 17,605 votes. The UKIP candidate James Bush had 7,631 votes, David Batey (Lib Dem) 2004 votes, David Kesteven (Green Party) 1059 votes and Rob Lane (Ind) 161 votes.

In the North East Derbyshire District Council election, all Labour candidates were elected.

The Results

Clay Cross North:

Gerry Morley (Labour) 1533 votes Elected,
 Tracy Reader (Labour) 1492 votes Elected,
 Kathy Rouse (Labour) 1397 votes Elected,
 Derek Ball (Conservative) 887,
 Caroline Ellis (Conservative) 760,
 George Ramshaw (Conservative) 679,
 Danny Lane (UKIP) 678.

Clay Cross South:

Ted Mansbridge (Labour) 1249 votes Elected
 Brian Wright (Labour) 1196 votes Elected,
 Mark Heald (Conservative) 454,
 Yvonne Norbron (Conservative) 376.



Natascha Engel was re-elected MP for North East Derbyshire in the recent Parliamentary Election.

£11,000 Raised for Fairplay

Clay Cross Parish Councillor Tracy Reader raised £11,000 for Fairplay through her charity appeal as Chair of North East Derbyshire District Council.

The money has been raised through donations and a huge variety of events including and a variety of events including an abseil, a charity Auction, quiz night and a hamper raffle.

Fairplay is a local charity that supports children and young people with disabilities and additional needs, and their families across North Derbyshire. More information about Fairplay can be found on their website: www.fair-play.co.uk



Councillor Tracy Reader presented the cheque to representatives from the Fairplay charity.

Brian and his Litterpicker

After numerous complaints from residents and members of the public about the litter in the car park behind the old Soap Box premises and calls for the owners of the whole site on Market Street to react to the problems without any response it was clear that the only way forward was 'direct action'.

This was the opinion of Councillor Brian Wright, who decided to take on the task himself, so, with black plastic bag in one hand and a trusty litter picker in the other a Friday morning in early 2015 was the day to clear the site. Altogether Brian filled 20 bags of litter, plastic bottles and drinks cans from the site and was thankfully assisted by a local resident who, after Brian explained why he was



Councillor Brian Wright cleans up the litter in the car park on Market Street.

litter picking, decided to help. Thank you Brian and our unnamed resident.

National Volunteers Week

As part of 'National Volunteers week 2015' the St Barnabas Church & Community Centre, Pilsley Road, Danesmoor held a 'Vintage Afternoon Tea Party' on June 4th to honour the volunteers who support the centre.

Guests were treated to various finger sandwiches, cakes & scones and much more. The event had a 1920's / 30's theme with music and a quiz from that era, along with the odd vintage style costume to add to the flavour of the day! With thanks to Cliff Williams, there was also an opportunity to look at some old photos and information from the local area. There were also some homemade vintage cards on sale, donated by a local person, and the proceeds went to charity.

National Volunteers Week is organised by the 'National Council For Voluntary Organisations' (NCVO), a body that champions the voluntary sector and volunteering.

NCVO recognise that "each day, millions of people make a difference to the causes they believe in through voluntary organisations, various groups and churches.



Aileen Power, Yvonne Heywood and Amanda Lewins.

The St Barnabas Church & Centre took part in this national recognition and would like to thank all of their volunteers, both past and present for their contribution. Volunteers play a significant role in supporting the centre to achieve its aim to serve the local community.

For more information about the St Barnabas Centre and/or volunteering, contact Steve Smart on 01246 250599, or Aileen Power, Community Development Worker on 07935 305029.



Vera Harris and her sister June.



Karin Mark pouring tea and serving exceedingly good cake.

Clay Cross Social Centre

Clay Cross Social Centre is the ideal venue for birthday parties, engagement parties, wedding receptions, funerals, craft fairs, public meetings and much more.

Clay Cross Social Centre has one of the finest dance floors in the area. It is spacious and comfortable, with a furnished lounge area adjacent to the bar and a fully equipped kitchen. In good weather there is an outdoor seating area and during the evening and weekends a large car park.

From the 1 March 2015 to 30 April 2016 we are lowering our main hall hire charge by half to just £7.50 per hour including the bar, which is managed by Clay Cross Parish Council and offers fantastic prices. Come along and book your function now to take advantage of this great offer.

WE HAVE A GOOD SELECTION OF 2015 DATES STILL AVAILABLE AND WE ARE NOW TAKING BOOKINGS FOR 2016!!

For further information contact the Parish Council office on (01246) 862812 or visit our website at www.claycross.gov.uk



The fantastic dance floor with dancers at the regular Thursday event.



Find us on
Facebook

Clay Cross Social Centre now has a Facebook page so please visit us soon!



A senior citizens party in full flow at the Social Centre in March.

Forthcoming Events in Clay Cross

HALLOWEEN NIGHT FEATURING SPOOKY TUNES

BY PAUL STEERS 'BLUE HAZE DISCO'

- SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER 2015
- DOORS/BAR OPEN FROM 7PM
- ENTERTAINMENT STARTS AT 8PM
- TICKETS £2 EACH
- HALLOWEEN GAMES
- FANCY DRESS OPTIONAL: PRIZE FOR BEST DRESSED ADULT AND BEST DRESSED CHILD
- FREE BOTTLE OF POP AND BAG OF CRISPS FOR UNDER 12'S
- CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT
- ADMISSION STRICTLY BY TICKET ONLY

CLAY CROSS HAS TALENT – HEATS/FINAL

- SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2015
- DOORS/BAR OPEN FROM 7PM
- ADMISSION FREE
- COME ALONG AND SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL TALENT!!
- ENTRY FORMS AVAILABLE FROM THE CLAY CROSS PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE, CLAY CROSS SOCIAL CENTRE, MARKET STREET, CLAY CROSS
- UNDER 18 CATEGORY: FIRST PRIZE £75, SECOND PRIZE £25, THIRD PRIZE £25
- OVER 18 CATEGORY: FIRST PRIZE £200, SECOND PRIZE £50, THIRD PRIZE £50

ASHGATE HOSPICE & PROSTATE CANCER UK CHARITY NIGHT

FEATURING TOP FEMALE
VOCALIST 'BLUE SAVANNAH'

- SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2015
- DOORS/BAR OPEN FROM 7PM
- ENTERTAINMENT STARTS AT 8PM
- TICKETS £4 EACH INCLUDING PIE & PEA SUPPER (VEGETARIAN OPTION AVAILABLE ON REQUEST)
- ALL RAFFLE PROCEEDS GO TO PROSTATE CANCER UK (Reg Charity No. 1005541) & ASHGATE HOSPICE (Reg Charity No. 700636)
- ADMISSION STRICTLY BY TICKET ONLY

CHRISTMAS CONCERT FEATURING SHIRLAND WELFARE BAND

- SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER 2015
- DOORS/BAR OPEN FROM 7PM
- CONCERT STARTS AT 8PM
- TICKETS £3 INCLUDING LIGHT SUPPER
- ADMISSION STRICTLY BY TICKET ONLY: GET YOUR TICKET EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!!

CHRISTMAS EVE DANCE (SOCIAL MIXED SEQUENCE) WITH PAULINE & JOHN STRINGFELLOW

- THURSDAY 24 DECEMBER 2015
- DOORS/BAR OPEN FROM 7PM
- DANCING FROM 7.30PM
- TICKETS £2 EACH, AVAILABLE IN ADVANCE OR ON THE DOOR
- BRING/SHARE YOUR OWN BUFFET

**FOR TICKETS AND FURTHER
DETAILS ON ALL THESE EVENTS,
TELEPHONE 01246 862812 OR
01246 861406**

Your Clay Cross Parish Councillors



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Clay Cross Parish Councillors at work.

North East Derbyshire District Council Councillors representing Clay Cross:



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12 Carlton Close,
Danesmoor S45 9RP.
Tel: 01246 866856.



Councillor Gerry Morley
140 Market Street,
Clay Cross, S45 9LY.
Mobile: 07970 184620.



Councillor Tracy Reader
15 Chavery Road, Clay Cross
S45 9LN. Tel: 01246 864102.



Councillor Ted Mansbridge
8 Nightingale Close,
Danesmoor, S45 9SE
Mobile: 07703 184166.



Councillor Kathy Rouse
North East Derbyshire District Council,
2013 Mill Lane, Wingerworth S42 7NG.
Tel: 01246 231111.

Derbyshire County Council councillors representing Clay Cross:



Councillor Kevin Gillott,
Member for Clay Cross South
11 Elton Close, North Wingfield S42 5HQ.
Tel: 07786 702230.



Councillor Brian Wright,
Vice Chair of Planning
12 Carlton Close, Danesmoor S45 9RP.
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Member of Parliament for North East Derbyshire:



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