



Clay Cross
update
Clay Cross Parish Council News

Summer 2016

The Six Halts *see page 6*

Difficult Decisions Ahead *see page 12*

Welcome to Update

Clay Cross residents face another difficult year as Government spending cuts attack us from all sides. Inside this issue of Update you will find a report on the reduction in the Government rate Support Grant to local authorities, which may mean an increase in the Council Tax householders pay, as well as possible cuts in council services.

You will also find a report on the admirable work of the Derbyshire Law Centre, and how they are helping increasing numbers of residents hit by welfare changes and cuts and housing problems.

I must also point out to you the Clay Cross Parish Council's concerns over the future of Clay Cross Hospital and the public meeting you are invited to attend at the Social Centre on Wednesday, September 14. Once again there are fears that the one remaining ward will close, which will threaten the whole future of the hospital.

The cemetery at Danesmoor is another concern for the Parish Council, as it is expected to run out of space within five years, so any suggestions of an alternative site would be welcome.

On a more pleasant note I would like to encourage people to take part in the bluebell and seed planting taking place in Kenning Park on Saturday, September 10, part of a continuing programme of improvements to the park and pond, whilst supporting a worthwhile charity event.



Councillor Gerry Morley.

It is my pleasure to thank all council staff and volunteers for their hard work during the year, and special tributes should go to Ann Green who retired after 35 years helping at the luncheon club, to Brian Lindley, the Social Centre Caretaker for so many years and to Lisa Spencer, administrative assistant, who is also leaving.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G Morley". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a short horizontal line.

Councillor Gerry Morley.
Chair, Clay Cross Parish Council.

Award-winning Ice Cream

You would think winning the Champion of Champions trophy would be the greatest achievement for any ice cream manufacturer.

Like to bet on it? I'll bet you a raspberry ripple to TWO vanilla cones that you can go higher than that.

I would win, of course. Because I have just been sampling the latest taste created by Clay Cross ice cream maestro Dominic Manfredi, Cider sorbet.

And while I was unable to speak because my taste buds were exploding, Dominic was explaining how earlier this year he won the National Ice Cream Best of the Best Award, which trumps the Champion of Champion Trophy, which, incidentally, he also won!

Dominic, 83, has won trophies before, but he has never had a year like this in all the 61 years he has been running the High Street business. "I can still hardly believe it," he said. "I wake up at 2am or 3am and say 'Did I really win all that?' and the wife says 'Yes, you did, go back to sleep.'"

The Best of the Best award, or National Ice Cream Champion, was decided by a panel of 18 judges who considered a selection of ice creams entered by each competitor. Manufacturers from all over the country took part in the event, held at Harrogate.

"I don't like to say it, but I am good at my job," said Dominic. "Our ice cream is a top quality product, made mostly from local products, including milk and butter from a Holmgate farm. All the materials I use are British."

As well as dairy ice cream which is his favourite, and vanilla, which his wife Louise likes best –



Dominic with one of his latest awards.

"she eats all the profits," said Dominic - the firm produces such unlikely ice cream flavours as Jaffa cake, cherry brandy, Bailey's Irish whisky, and the Woodpecker's Cider sorbet I enjoyed.

"I decide to create a new flavour, and if they sell well we carry on," he said. "I have never made one yet that doesn't sell."

As well as his wife, three of their five daughters – Tina, Lorraine and Gianina – help run the firm, the last two manning ice cream vans across North Derbyshire. They also supply shops, pubs and cafes and take orders for special events.

"I think we really put Clay Cross on the map with these awards; a small business like this competing with big manufacturers from all over the country," said Dominic. "I am very proud of what I do, and I enjoy my work. If I didn't, I would have packed it up years ago."

Extra Care in Clay Cross

Arthur Jackson is proud of his new home and delighted to be heading the Tenants' Association at Smithybrook View Extra Care Housing in Clay Cross.

It's been open a year now and residents like Arthur and his wife Marion are discovering that there is always something to do or someone to see, which can be great if you ever feel lonely.

"There's always someone around; there may be just three in the restaurant now but get to early afternoon and there could be 20 there," said Arthur, 84.

"Families come here a lot, particularly the children of the residents, sometimes for a meal. It's not expensive and it is good food."

Smithybrook opened a year ago; 90 apartments, four of which are now privately owned, the rest rented. Its success is measured by the fact that there are no vacancies and there is a waiting list.

Residents are aged 55 to 96 and have either an assessed need for care or support, perhaps for physical reasons, or mental ill health or learning disabilities.

It is independent living with care and support available throughout the day and night. Residents wear pendants that can be used to call for emergency help.

Staff – on duty 24 hours a day - organise group activities through the week, complimented by events organized by the tenants, such as bowling, drafts, gardening, knit and natter and bingo. There are also guest speakers and advice sessions.



Martha Bacon and Arthur Jackson, both former parish councillors, with Cllrs Ted Mansbridge and Brian Wright.



Smithybrook View.



The dining area.

There is a residents gardening group that keeps the flower beds and shrubs looking colourful, and there are plans for a memorial garden for those residents who pass on. Four died in the first year.

The Tenants' Association are always there to help, explained Arthur. "If people have a problem, they can come to us and we will represent them," he said.

The restaurant is open to the public and as well as the all-day breakfast, you can get coffee and a cake for £2.50, two main lunch meals for £9.50 including fish and chips and lasagna, and a chef's special board.

When the restaurant closes in the afternoon, a coffee bar opens.

There's also a hair salon, spacious lounge area, and a sun deck on the first floor, and if you accompany a resident on the lift to the top of the building you can see Ashover Rock and Crich!

Note: Smithybrook is one of three extra care schemes that Derbyshire County Council has developed in partnership with Chevin Housing Association Ltd, a not-for-profit housing association which is a member of the Together Housing Group.



Residents relaxing in the lounge.



Arthur Jackson at home doing his chores.

"See it, Snap it!"

You might think that the last photo you would want to take would be that of a dog pooing, but that's what North East Derbyshire District Council want you to do. They have launched a 'See it, Snap it' campaign to encourage people who see dog fouling to report it on their website. It is aimed at clamping down on owners who don't scoop up the mess their dogs leave behind. You can send your picture of the location via an online form at www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk/self.

The Six Halts Development

Work is progressing well on a brand new pub in Clay Cross, which will create more than 40 new jobs in the town.

The Six Halts, which is being built by Marston's Inns and Taverns, is the first new building to be erected on the former Silkstone site, which eventually will accommodate 1,000 houses and a fast food restaurant.

The Six Halts will be 16th Generous George brand pub to open. The brand combines a contemporary and friendly pub atmosphere, serving proper pints of hand crafted ales, wine and fruity cocktails, Burgers and Bagels, pub favourites such as fish and chips, and hand-stretch stone baked pizzas, freshly cooked from the Pizza Kitchen

'The Six Halts' is named in honour of the area's rich railway heritage, and refers to narrow gauge railway built and opened in 1924 for goods traffic by the Clay Cross Company that ran from Clay Cross to Ashover Butts and had thirteen stops and 'six halts'.



Due to officially open on Monday 19th September, the pub will be the second new build Generous George.

St Modwens, the site developer, are in negotiation with a fast food restaurant to share the roundabout site with the new Marstons pub.

The company are also pleased to announce they are in talks with two major housebuilders, and hope to have the first planning application for new homes on the site submitted to the planning authority by the New Year. Eventually, the plan is to have 1,000 new houses built there.

The development may also include some small industrial units, although as yet there has been no interest.

An Aldi supermarket is to be built off the Tesco filling station roundabout. An Aldi spokesperson said: "Work to clear the site is underway and we will provide an update on progress in due course."



Free Advice at Law Centre

Clay Cross Parish Councillor Derrick Skinner has been co-opted to the management committee of the Derbyshire Law Centre which provides free legal advice for people on a range of problems including debt, homelessness, immigration, and community care.

The Law Centre is funded from local authorities, the Heritage Lottery Fund and charitable sources, and councillors felt that Derrick, a Welfare Rights Officer, had the right experience to make an important contribution to the Law Centre's work.

Derrick said: "I'm looking forward to it, because when we contribute money towards something it is important that we make sure our funds are used in the best way to help residents. Sometimes we are so busy with normal parish council responsibilities, the street lights etc, that we forget it is important to involve ourselves with organisations that are really valuable, like the Citizens' Advice and the Law Centre."

In some cases local people go to the Citizen's Advice Bureau in Clay Cross for free advice and are then referred on to the Law Centre in Chesterfield where they are seen on appointment.

Other agencies also refer people to the Law Centre, whether it is about debt (over 500 families in Derbyshire have been helped in this way), employment law, issues caused by unemployment, for hate and harassment advice, and difficulties arising from changes and cuts in welfare.

The Law Centre website states that: "Continuing welfare reforms, a rise in benefits sanctions



and the loss of legal aid for preventative work in housing have all taken their toll on Derbyshire residents, with the most vulnerable being hit the hardest.

"However, despite the cuts, legal aid is still available in Housing for those in crisis and on the brink of losing their home. As a result, the Housing team continues to provide specialist advice and representation to a high volume of clients; the majority of whom are facing eviction as a result of rent arrears."

Derrick has particular experience of a couple who initially sought benefit advice but had a number of other problems which left them on the verge of losing their home.

"It is often the case that people put their head in the sand and hope the problem will go away, but they then received a possession order and were referred to the Law Centre for advice," he said.

"For four or five months they were accompanied to court by a solicitor free of charge and managed to defer the eviction order long enough so that by the thinnest of margins they gained access to a council house before the bankers pulled the plug."

To contact the Law Centre, call Freephone 0800 707 6990.

Forthcoming Events at Clay Cross Social Centre

**CLAY CROSS PARISH COUNCIL AND THE
ROTARY CLUB OF CLAY CROSS DISTRICT
1220 PROUDLY PRESENT:**

'CLAY CROSS HAS TALENT' HEATS/FINAL

ON SATURDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2016

- DOORS & BAR OPEN FROM 7PM/COMPETITION STARTS AT 7.30PM
- ADMISSION FREE SO COME ALONG AND SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL TALENT!!
- ENTRY FORMS AVAILABLE NOW FROM CLAY CROSS PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE, CLAY CROSS SOCIAL CENTRE, MARKET STREET, CLAY CROSS (CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES: FRIDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2016)
- UNDER 18 CATEGORY: FIRST PRIZE £75, SECOND PRIZE £25, THIRD PRIZE £25
- OVER 18 CATEGORY: FIRST PRIZE £200, SECOND PRIZE £50, THIRD PRIZE £50

**CLAY CROSS PARISH COUNCIL & GARY
STARR PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS**

ALADDIN

ON FRIDAY 9 DECEMBER 2016

- DOORS OPEN 6PM/PANTOMIME STARTS AT 6.30PM
- TICKETS £2 EACH INCLUDING FREE KIDS CRISPS & POP
- ALL THE FAMILY WELCOME (CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT)
- ADMISSION STRICTLY BY TICKET ONLY: GET YOUR TICKET EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!!

CHRISTMAS CONCERT FEATURING SHIRLAND WELFARE BAND

ON SATURDAY 17 DECEMBER 2016

- DOORS & BAR OPEN FROM 7PM/CONCERT BEGINS 8PM
- TICKETS £4 EACH INCLUDING BUFFET SUPPER
- ADMISSION STRICTLY BY TICKET ONLY: GET YOUR TICKET EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!!



**Find us on
Facebook**

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

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

CHRISTMAS EVE SOCIAL MIXED SEQUENCE DANCE WITH PAULINE & JOHN STRINGFELLOW

ON SATURDAY 24 DECEMBER 2016

- DOORS & BAR OPEN FROM 7PM/DANCING FROM 7.30PM
- TICKETS £3 EACH OR PAY ON THE DOOR
- BRING/SHARE YOUR OWN BUFFET

CHESTERFIELD ROYAL MACMILLAN CANCER CENTRE CHARITY NIGHT

• *Featuring Rik Gaynor as Elvis*

AT CLAY CROSS SOCIAL CENTRE, MARKET STREET, CLAY CROSS S45 9JE

FRIDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2016

DOORS/BAR OPEN AT 7PM

ELVIS IN THE BUILDING FROM 8PM

TICKETS: £4 including Elvis themed supper!!

All raffle proceeds go to Chesterfield
Royal Macmillan Cancer Centre Charity

Macmillan Cancer Support, registered Charity in England
and Wales 261017

ADMISSION STRICTLY BY TICKET ONLY

TICKETS ON SALE NOW FROM:
CLAY CROSS PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE,
CLAY CROSS SOCIAL CENTRE,
MARKET STREET, CLAY CROSS
TEL: 01246 862812 or 01246 861406



**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**

Thank You Ann

A tribute has been paid to the work of a volunteer who has helped provide meals for the elderly at Clay Cross for over 35 years.

Ann Green, 85, a former well-known and popular post lady in the town, started at the Luncheon Club run by Clay Cross Council when the Social Centre opened in 1981, and has now retired. At the presentation of flowers and a gift Councillor Derrick Skinner said: "You will be sadly missed by members and by the other volunteers."

The Luncheon Club provides lunch, tea or coffee, bingo and a raffle for about 50 elderly people each Tuesday, from about 12 noon, at a cost of £3.

There is a need for more volunteers, both for serving and for helping in the kitchen.

If you want to help contact the Parish Council office.



Ann Green with, left, Councillor Mick Holmes, and right, Councillor Derrick Skinner.

THIS SPACE CAN WORK FOR YOU!

If you would like advertise here in the next issue of Update, contact the Council Clerk. You will need to supply the text for the advertisement, and a logo, or your own art work.

Cost is £100 for a full page, £60 for a half page.

Clay Cross Social Centre

The ideal venue for birthday parties, engagement parties, wedding receptions, anniversaries, community events, 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.

You can hire the main hall from just £10 per hour including the bar, which is managed by Clay Cross Parish Council and offers fantastic prices.

WE HAVE A SELCTION OF 2016 DATES STILL AVAILABLE AND WE ARE NOW TAKING BOOKINGS FOR 2017!!

A regular programme of activities are also held at Clay Cross Social Centre and they include:

Unit 1 Kickboxing run their Kickboxing Club every Monday from 6.45pm. For further details contact Dave Cartawick on 07768 727722.

East Midlands Ju-Jitsu Association run their Do-Jo every Tuesday (during school term time) from 7PM. For further details contact Malc Shaw on 07981 181609.

Bingo every Wednesday evening from 6.30PM. Admission FREE. Books 40p each/Flyers 30p each.

Social Mixed Sequence Dance with Pauline & John Stringfellow every Thursday evening from 7PM. Admission £2 per person on the door.



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!

Right Track Soul Club Northern Soul Nights on the third Friday of every month from 7.30PM. Admission £3 per person on the door. Original DJs Steve Bright, Paul Bright and Mark Mellors. Memories of Wigan and Mr M's 100% Old School Northern Soul and Motown. For further details visit facebook.com/righttracksoulclubchesterfield

For further information and availability contact Clay Cross Parish Council during weekdays 9AM – 3.30PM on 01246 862812 or 01246 861406

Difficult Decisions Ahead

Clay Cross Parish Council has been forced into increasing council tax because of a continuing reduction in the grant provided by the Conservative Government.

Over the next three years, the council will lose over £33,500 in funding, and by the year 2020/21 there will be no Government grant at all.

That means services may have to be cut and the council is forced into considering more council tax rises in the future.

The council has been notified that for the current year 2016/17 the Grant Award is £33,506, next year it will be £20,130, dropping to £16,753, then £8,377 and finally £0 in successive years. This year the council increased their council tax by 1.9 per cent making a total council tax precept of £185,643, but the reduction in rate support grant meant there was still a shortfall of over £2,000 which had to be taken from council reserves.

North East Derbyshire MP Natascha Engel said: "The Government said it was protecting local services, but the reality is more cuts and deeper cuts everywhere but the wealthiest areas."

All levels of local government are facing cuts. North East Derbyshire District Councillors took the difficult decision to increase their portion of the Council Tax by 1.95 per cent in 2016/17 – the first rise since April 2013.

For next year, Central Government has cut the council's Revenue Support Grant by £675,000 and has withdrawn its financial incentives to

those Councils which do not increase Council Tax. There are further cuts in Revenue Support Grant of £590,000 from April 2017 and £365,000 from April 2018.

As part of its Localism Agenda the Government has made it clear that more costs will need to be picked up locally by authorities.

While the council has taken action both to reduce its expenditure and to increase locally generated revenue, it faces financial shortfalls of nearly £400,000 next year, rising to an identified shortfall of £1.9m in two years time.

Derbyshire County Council face the seventh year of Government austerity cuts to its budget. By 2020, the funding it gets from central government is expected to be more than a third less than in 2010.

Council leader Councillor Anne Western said: "Cutting services is the last thing anyone involved in local government wants to do – these are quality services that have taken years to build up, run by skilled and dedicated staff and valued and relied upon by local people. But we simply have no choice. If we don't balance our books then the Government would take over.

"We'd prefer not to raise council tax but we feel we have no choice other than to consider it because the funding we get from Government is being rapidly cut and the Government has made it clear that raising council tax is what it expects us to do."

New Act of Remembrance

Beginning this year, on Armistice Day Friday 11th November 2016, there will be a new Act of Remembrance at the Danesmoor War Memorial. It will start at 10:50am to commemorate the ending of the First World war at 11:00am, on the eleventh day of the eleventh month. It is to remember all who have fallen in the service of their country as a result of war and everyone is welcome to participate.

It is especially for those who live and/or work in the Danesmoor area. Instead of holding your own two minutes silence by yourself why not come and join us so that we can remember together? Afterwards everyone is welcome to stay for refreshments in the St Barnabas Centre.

On Remembrance Sunday there will now no longer be a parade in Danesmoor. This will enable us to concentrate on the traditional parade in Clay Cross, which will continue as normal, led by the Clay Cross Air Cadet Band, together with the Remembrance Sunday Service at St Bartholomew's Church followed by the Act of Remembrance at the Clay Cross War

Memorial. There will still be a Remembrance Sunday Service at St Barnabas Church, in the St Barnabas Centre. So, as previously, you can decide which Church to attend for Remembrance Sunday.

We hope that this will enable all those who live and work in the parish to participate in an Act of Remembrance whether on Remembrance Sunday or on Armistice Day or both.

Do you value our Clay Cross Hospital?

Is it good sense to have a hospital with NO beds?

Do you want it to close?

Is it all about saving money?

What are they doing with our NHS!!!

WE NEED A LOCAL HOSPITAL FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

Why don't you come along to a Public Meeting
and

HAVE YOUR SAY

at

**Clay Cross Social Centre
Market Street, Clay Cross
on Wednesday 14th of September
from 6pm until 8pm
(Doors open at 5.30pm)**



Kenning Park Progress

The mother of a brave Clay Cross girl who died in 2013 aged 13 after a three year fight against cancer, hopes that local people will support a bluebell planting operation in Kenning Park in aid of the Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice at North Anston, Sheffield, that gave so much support to her daughter.

"Elliesha was so brave and never once complained," said Tracey Hind.

Tracey and many family members and friends have raised thousands of pounds for the hospice ever since. "People really pull together when you need them," said Tracey.

One of Tracey's friends Joanne Burton completed a wing walk and raised £1,301.50 for the hospice. As a result of this the Bluebell Planting event came about to fulfill a promise to plant bluebells for every donation received.

"It was Tracey who inspired me to raise money for the hospice, seeing her strength from day to day is truly amazing," said Joanne.

Community volunteers of all ages are needed to attend the bluebell planting on Saturday September 10th at 10am, at the Fishes Lane entrance to Kenning Park. Come and join in and bring a spade! Six hundred bluebell bulbs and 200 seeds will be planted, including 500 bulbs from the parish council and the remainder supplied by Joanne Burton.

There will be a hospice gazebo, fundraising tombola, Smiths award winning ice cream and a balloon release.

This is all part of the improvements planned for the park by the Kenning Park Community Group and Clay Cross Parish Council. Ambitious plans for a new play area at the park have taken a step forward with quotes sought from companies who might supply and install the equipment.

The Community Group hope to obtain funding from organisations including the Tesco Bags of Help campaign, and Clay Cross Parish Council will be supporting the project.

Bags of Help is a local grant scheme where the money raised from the Government's 5p bag charge is being used to fund a number of local projects to create or improve green spaces. These will range from building new parks and sports facilities, to woodland walks and community gardens.

Tesco work with environmental improvement charity Groundwork, which specialises in transforming local green spaces for the better and will be helping to administer the scheme.

A decision was expected at the end of August, and if the Kenning Park project application wins the prize is £12,000. Second place gets £10,000 and third £8,000. Community Group Secretary Nicola



Elliesha Hind

Bonsall said: "We are really excited about it."

Some of the award could also go towards picnic benches in the park.

Group member George Stevenson is conducting a wildlife survey at the park, and at a recent meeting shared a list of all birds sighted there, plus a list of birds, butterflies, mammals and bats from the Hilltop Farm area. A total of 77 species of birds have been identified so far, including whitethroat, spotted flycatcher, treecreeper, buzzard, woodpecker, three types of owl, kingfisher, osprey and kestrel.

Efforts have been made to make the public aware of the problem of dog fouling, and members felt there had been a big improvement, and hoped that it would improve further when the new play area was in use.



Kenning Park.



Joanne on her Wing Walk.

Fly-Tipping at Tesco

Recycling bins have had to be removed from the Tesco car park because of persistent fly-tipping, mostly by local people and traders.

Waste would be dumped near the bins, and no sooner had it been cleared than more would be dumped.

Environmental officers at North East Derbyshire District Council worked with Tesco to try and stop the problem, but without success.

A council spokesman said: "As Tesco initially wanted to retain the bins, we undertook an enforcement exercise over a number of months using CCTV.

"A total of 33 incidents of fly tipping were recorded. We were astonished to find that most of the offenders were local people who believed that it was acceptable to leave any items at this site, and



Rubbish dumped near the recycling bins.

to quote one offender: 'I thought that it was OK to leave it there with all the other rubbish as everyone else was doing it.'

Enforcement action was taken against those offenders caught in the act, most of whom agreed to pay a fixed penalty.

But the problem continued so the bins have now been removed by Tesco.

Tenants and residents

Many people wouldn't want to hear complaints and queries, but not David Lowe. For he's Chairman of the Holmgate Tenants and Residents Association, and they are here to help tenants with any problems. So no-one knows how many people will turn up for the monthly meetings, possibly 20 to 25.

One recent success was to work with Rykneld Homes over the replacement of windows: in many houses newly-fitted windows wouldn't open, which could have put tenants in danger if there was a fire. The Tenants and Rykneld Homes have co-operated closely on problems in the past and this was no exception - the company that fitted the windows have now agreed to replace the unsafe ones.

The Tenants Association is funded by Rykneld Homes, with a £100 contribution from Clay Cross

Parish Council. If you have any problems go along to the monthly meetings, which are always on the second Wednesday in the month, or call David on 07855 667116.

Danesmoor and Clay Cross Tenants and Residents Association also enjoy a close relationship with Rykneld Homes, who are always represented at their meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at the Community of Christ Church, Thanet Street, at 7pm. Parish and district councillors are also present to answer any queries from members of the public, who are all welcome. The organisation is again funded by Rykneld Homes, with financial support from Clay Cross Parish Council and North East Derbyshire District Council, and they also raise money from events such as the charity concert held last year. For more information contact Godfrey Kerry on 865390.

Litter Pick

Clay Cross Parish Councillors joined other volunteers in taking part in a litter pick organised by the Parish Council, which also provided bags, pickers, and safety waistcoats. Thirty bags of rubbish were collected from various parts of the town, including High Street, Market Street, the bus station area and footpaths.

From left, Andrew King (Clay Cross Town Centre Group), Cllr Tracy Reader, Sylvia Bailey (Resident), Cllr Ted Mansbridge, Shirley & Ray Mountain (Kenning Park Community Group), Cllr Andy Reader and Cllr Brian Wright.



A Splash of Colour



Landlady Mary James has a concise way of describing The Olde English pub in Clay Cross: "It's just a pub, it doesn't pretend to be anything else."

In an age when fast-food pubs dominate the landscape, that's why the Olde English is a bit special, for bang in the middle of the town it provides somewhere where local people can enjoy a good pint, watch good darts, have a game of pool and just chill out.

Whereas fast-food pubs often have a brief peak period, around lunchtime and early evening, pubs like the Olde English are somewhere to linger, all evening if you like, with no pressure to vacate the table.

This time of year it is particularly special because keen allotment holder landlord Alan James has put up his flower baskets, creating a splash of colour that delights regulars and passers by.

The couple have been in charge at the Olde English for 29 years. The pub has four darts teams



Alan and Mary James.

including one for women, and competes in a pool league.

The strength of support they get from local people illustrated by the fact that each year they raise hundreds of pounds for Macmillan nurses. In fact, over the last year the total was £4,300, and next year's target has already been boosted by the annual Fun Day activities, including two men who underwent sponsored chest shaves!

Your Clay Cross Parish Councillors



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Councillor Kathy Rouse
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