

# Local Organisation Reports / Statements

From Parish Meeting held on 30th May 2024

If you would like information or contact information for any of the local organisations below please contact the Parish Council via email [info @ cliftonhampden.org.uk](mailto:info@cliftonhampden.org.uk).

## Surgery

Dr Rubin spoke about recruitment of potential partners with the aim of taking over from Dr Rubin when he retires and that the new surgery does make it a more attractive proposition for recruits. There is a possibility that Dr Steinbrecker may return to the surgery and a current doctor working at the surgery has shown interest in becoming a partner. They have recruited for an admin role to work with Amy Laker.

A question from the public asked what would happen if a new surgery wasn't built. Dr Rubin explained that the GMS contract (General Medical Services with the added dispensary licence is valuable as the NHS is no longer awarding new ones. If Dr Rubin retired without a partner to take over the contract then the likely outcome would be one of three options; that a nearby surgery would take it over as a satellite surgery, an organisation would take it over or the surgery closes and the GMS contract would be returned.

## The Close

Sanjay Drona gave an uplifting statement on the work The Close does and how it wants to be a part of the local community. An open invitation was given for all parishioners to visit, to think about having any public events at The Close and generally feel free to use the facilities. The Close holds functions during the year which are open to all - for example on the 7th September there is The Close Summer Fete from 11:00 to 16:00, including a dog show, bouncy castle, BBQ, cakes and much more! Having been to The Close myself, you can be assured of a very warm welcome!

Marc Juffkins

## Village Hall

David Williams said that the Village Hall is thriving in terms of bookings.

# Scouts and Beavers

The Scouts Troop continues to do very well with a membership of around 90 beavers, cubs, scouts and explorers. Fundraising for the roof is still ongoing.

# Coffee Mornings

This has continued steadily with regulars in attendance. Similarly to last year it has been lovely to see new people, regular people and parents with their children too. Thank you to the PCC for supporting this community event by contributing to the cost of the village hall. Attendance does fluctuate so in order to support the community further and keep prices low, this really helps cover costs. Whilst it can be a small number attending, it is a worthwhile and valued community asset with people saying how they enjoyed the morning. Thank you.

Huge thanks and gratitude go to those who bake and who help serve. It is a small team and we welcome any helpers and bakers even if for an hour. The shop have donated their cakes which are hugely popular and much appreciated. It is evident that frosting is key on a cake! We had the Christmas tree up again and had fun spending the morning decorating.

This now continues as last Friday of the month unless something else clashes. It is advertised in the village news email. The school are brilliantly involved again this year on 28<sup>th</sup> June with helping at the coffee morning as part of their compassion week. We look forward to welcoming another big attendance for this one as there will be lots of pupil helpers.

It is a pleasure to hold this event and it is always fun to catch up on village news.

# The Nutters WI

Our current membership is 21 ladies from CH, Burcot, Berinsfield and Nuneham Courtney.

Committee members, Antoinette Stassen - President, Sally Grimwood - Secretary, Carole Clark - Treasurer, Ciecla Bowden, Anne Brownstone, Val Smith, Diane McConnell - assistant Treasurer

Linda Champion our President passed away June 2023 and Antoinette Stassen was asked to take on the role. The year was unsettled as we adjusted to the loss of Linda who had been very involved with the WI for a number of years.

We have bi weekly craft afternoons at various ladies homes and coffee mornings / afternoons where who ever has a couple of hours free meet for a coffee and a natter.

We have had 10 in person meetings in the village hall with an average attendance of 15 members. Our speakers ranged from chair exercises, and ex Beefeater who regaled us with tales from the tower of London and the ladies that were imprisoned and lost their heads there. We were shown how to choose colours according to the colour me beautiful theory and learned

about George Gilbert Scott who was a prolific architect of the Victorian area and the most important architect since Wren. Among his buildings are Martyrs Memorial in Oxford and closer to home the Dorchester Abbey together with its lynch gate beginning 1861. George Gilbert Scott designed the bridge in CH with bricks made at Clifton Heath, the rood screen in the church 1864 and the Chapel of ease in Burcot.

Further we heard about the shells of the Philippines, Alpacas, chocolates and was entertained by a magician/mentalists. We had our Christmas meal at the White Hart in Dorchester and visited Greenfield Farm at Christmas common where we were delighted with the beautiful wild flower meadows restored from arable farming. They show case 30 species of butterflies and several wild orchid varieties.

Our meetings are open to all ladies who would like to join us for some fun filled evening and meet new friends.

## Flood Committee

On the 4th of January, Storm Henk flooded 5 households in Clifton Hampden and two in Burcot. The rain levels also affected areas of the high street, Abingdon Road and riverside. This is not the first time that the areas in question have been effected by flooding - The Crofts of Rosebank in Clifton Hampden in particular have been flooded twice since moving to the area. As devastating as a flood can be, how completely it can turn your life upside down - it is so easy to forget. As the waters receded and the sun comes out people move on. Although tonight - with it still raining 6 months later, forgetting is a whole lot harder to do. However it is still true that the measures we put in place today, don't last forever. The ditches become overgrown and roots grow through pipes, all the while building up the risk of future flooding.

This is what we want to avoid. And so over the last six months a group of effected home owners and other supportive parishioners have come together to form a working group. We have organised an S19 report through the SODC which is a very detailed survey of the area. This has been complied and submitted, we are just waiting for this to be published, hopefully soon - this will give us recommendations that we can act upon to defend ourselves in the future.

We are also proposing to create a flood committee.

The subcommittee purpose is to ensure that procedures for protecting people and property against flooding in the Clifton Hampden and Burcot villages are put in place and maintained. Activities could include - with consent of the parish council:

- Monitoring and maintaining existing defences
- Monitoring water levels and alerting property owners of potential risk
- Providing support, communication and advice during a flooding event
- Research, propose and manage and further remedial work

We have collated a terms of reference in order to propose forming a sub committee of the parish council. This was circulated this week and as no amendments is now ready for review of the parish council. If all being well we will officially form the sub-committee.

Please do reach out to me if you have any questions or would like to be involved.

## Tennis Club

### **An update on the tennis committee:**

Sarah continues as Chair with Mariam as Treasurer. Thank you. Jiri Ruang Oun continues to support effectively with the running of the website which we are very grateful for. Michelle has been supportive of the maintenance and social events and we are gathering a crew of volunteers who have come forward to help with the huge problem of maintenance of the surrounding bushes which creep onto the court. We still welcome anyone interested to come and talk to us about joining our small friendly team with a particular interest in fundraising.

### **Maintenance:**

The court is awaiting further repairs now scheduled for July as there is a backlog due to the huge amount of rain. There is an amount of strimming we will be doing as an ongoing basis for the brambles and hedge on the far sides. Sarah continues to weed kill as necessary and will set the volunteer team to work on re-digging and strimming the side of the court where there are significant brambles that worked their way onto the court.

We continue to monitor the court surface and intend to apply to the PCC for funds to help as the cost has doubled from £600 for the general moss treatment and patching to £1200. We also intend to ask a fellow member of the club if their handyman might help with some of the netting patching.

### **This year so far:**

- Sarah and Mariam organised another tennis social and sent out flyers
- Memberships continue to be welcomed from surrounding villages and school parents
- An advert has been placed in the local magazine The Bridge
- Pursuit of people interested in a tournament
- Website training to be agreed and a welcome letter automatically sent to those joining and re-joining
- Maintained membership fee
- The Tennis Social was quieter this year with apologies from several but was an enjoyable afternoon non the less with children using the court; there were more young people interested in playing and we are able to lend out rackets to children of families who have joined
- We have had new members join as well as continued memberships but are currently down overall from our 40% increase last time we updated.
- A new automated welcome letter was sent out ahead of the new season

### **Challenges:**

The court will need resurfacing within 4-5 years maximum with some significant works around the court to prevent underground weed issues. I have no idea how this can be funded.

A major challenge that remains is the tennis fence being used as a backstop for footballs either that go over the goals or because the goals have very holey nets, where footballs are powered into the fence causing it to bend, be pushed onto the court and have now broken the horizontal wires keeping it in place. We have heard there are new football nets to replace the old ones so this will make a huge difference.

### **Plans going forwards:**

- We hope to continue working on growing the club further by enhancing the social side and encouraging tournament participation of all standards with sporting consideration for the varied abilities
- By continuing communications, e.g. welcome letter, members will be more informed
- We need to consider future plans for the court due to the life of the surface. It is apparent that the tennis court is a valued asset in the village, there continues to be new interest in the use despite varied numbers of memberships.

The tennis court is a wonderful village facility to have and we thank all those who support it.

## **Cricket Club**

From May to early September if you take a walk to the recreation ground on a Saturday afternoon you will most likely see 22 people dressed in white clothing ... this is English Village Cricket and like the giant panda you could argue is an endangered species especially if you are a small village team.

We are fortunate to have one of the most picturesque grounds in the County as many visitors comment. This is maintained by a small team of volunteers throughout the year. But like many grassroots clubs we face a continuous battle for membership and finances.

In the main we run two teams. A midweek side who play the shortened T20 version of the game in the evening. On Saturday we compete in the Cherwell League playing a longer 45over aside format.

We regularly compete against much larger clubs in the area such as Didcot & Oxford.

We can provide competitive cricket in a friendly and welcoming environment. The club bar is open to all when we are playing at home. At this moment in time we don't have anyone from the village playing regularly. It would be nice to change that.

You can find us on [playcricket.com](http://playcricket.com)

# Church Key Rota

Thank you to those who commit to opening the church on a daily basis. We have one month in the calendar where we need a volunteer. Thank you to those stepping up as this is a daily commitment. It is an easy job, but as it is a daily duty, it could be shared by two people doing a half month each or weekends/weekdays. We can always welcome more volunteers!