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## East Clandon Parish Council - for the Annual Village Meeting Annual Report 2014 – 2015

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to our village's Annual Meeting where we review our activities and finances for the past year 2014 - 2015.

### Finances

Firstly, I wish to thank Graham Leech who with our Parish Clerk has held the reigns of our finances and produced all our reports over the last three years, and all pro-bono.

The Parish Council's finances are healthy with a total reserve of £6,504 at March 31<sup>st</sup> 2015.

**Our income** over the year was £12,887 in total and comes from three on-going sources:

- the Guildford Borough Council (GBC) precept of £7,200
- GBC Concurrent Functions Grant of £500
- income directly from the parish – the tennis court subscriptions of £771 (and accounted for last year, but runs over two years, income from rental of Tunmore Fields)

And other income i.a.

- Big Lottery (Heritage Fund) grant for Clandon Conversations of £3,100
- the Closed Churchyard grant of £260

**Our outgoings** for the year total £12,112. During the year, the ECPC funded

- Various playground repairs, maintenance of grounds & equipment including Jim Bacon's payments, verges and open spaces, insurances
- Replacing the fences on the Common with new access gates
- Cleaning and de-mossing the tennis court to improve its surfaces
- Major tree work on Tunmore Filed/ Sawpit Lane to improve safety
- Maintenance and improvements of the village pond
- Stipend for the Parish Clerk.

### Village Highlights

East Clandon is an example of community spirit and achievement, a wonderful close-knit village.

**The Village Fete** Our annual village fete was another great success raising over £5,000 for village charities. As ever, it was generously hosted and organised by Bug & Neil Robertson who are guiding lights of village spirit and generosity, as too all the volunteers who make the day go with such gusto.

### Our Open Spaces Maintenance

Jim Bacon, a long-time village resident, is responsible for the job of tending our open spaces, through all weather conditions, despite his recent illness. Ray Corstin, our Councillor, plays a major role in helping to maintain our village playground and in supporting Jim. We thank them both for their energy and their community spirit.



Our rector, Barnaby enthusiastically ringing in start of the Fete with our host, Neil Robertson

### FROST's Activities

The Friends of St Thomas of Canterbury (FROST) have provided a series of communal events which engage and entertain our villagers and the surrounding community – with the Safari Supper, the ever-popular Quiz Night and a series of talks.

## Village Projects

### Clandon Conversations - A Village History.

An initiative started by villager, Roger Nickolds and led by Ian Peacock with Jane Thorold, captures the history of life in the village through interviews and recordings from long-term residents (whether currently in the village or from as far away as Essex!). Congratulations to Roger for securing this Heritage Lottery Grant and to Jane & Ian for their inspired work to bring together so many villagers at the lovely inaugural tea party. Among the 26 attendees were former pupils of East Clandon's village school and former Hatchlands Estate workers. All in all everyone had a good chat and with more to come! When completed, the project will appear as a resource on the village website and also held at the Surrey History Society.



Villagers – current & former - sharing a delicious tea & stories



New fencing & gates for the Common completed

- **The Common – New Fencing:** At either end of the Common, new fencing and gates for access have been installed. Our thanks go to our former Councillor, Paul Richardson for his role in getting this done.
- **Road Safety:** Further work has been initiated to improve safety at the junction of New Road and A246. A new T-junction sign and better markings will be placed. Further, we thank Chris Ross for helping by gouging out his hedge to improve sight-lines at that notorious junction.

- **Village Litter-pick combined with a Church Spring-Clean:** During March on a sunny spring morning, over 30 of our spirited residents donned hi-viz jackets and armed with litter-pick spears helped to clean our highways & byways of litter. Another eager team polished and dusted our lovely old St Thomas of Canterbury and weeded the Church gardens. All were rewarded with cakes & coffee. Thanks to all for your energy.



"It's all rubbish!" say East Clandon villagers



- **Commemorating the Centenary of World War 1:** Two urns have been placed at our village War Memorial and will be refreshed at every season with red planting. Further, the Parish Council have been attendees at various events marking this important anniversary - a Drum Head Service at West Clandon and a Memorial Service to place a special paving stone in Guildford at Tunsgate Arch for Captain Francis Grenfell VC, an East Clandon resident who was the first awardee in WW1 of the Victoria Cross and born at Hatchlands.

- **Annual Village Meeting:** In encouraging more villagers to become involved with our Parish Council & community, Councillors invited Tillingbourne Brewery to talk at our annual general meeting (AGM) last year. We had a great turn-out of some 30 people to enjoy a masterclass in beer tasting. This year, the Earl of Onslow, a prominent resident of the Clandons will give a talk about the Onslow's titled "Four Paintings, Four Personalities".



Steve Dodds of Tillingbourne Brewery giving a beer masterclass to villagers at our village Annual Meeting May 2014

- **Angling Club:** Chaired by a villager, David Crockford, it has 15 village members and hopes to encourage more of our young villagers to join. It continues to thrive using the Hatchlands Sheepdip. To quote David, "I have been closely involved with the NT and would like to thank them for all the improvements that have been made to the sheep wash and its surroundings, turning it into beautiful area for both visitors and locals alike"
- **Snow Clearing & Common Mowing:** Skip McMullan as the village snow warden is thanked for his support as well as doing the mowing of the rough Common grass areas.

### Planning Applications

The rate of planning applications remains relatively low at an average of one per month.

A major concern for our village is the development of the new GBC Local Plan and the impact that these important decisions will have on our surrounding villages and the infra-structure requirements. Though our village appears to have no direct threat as it has been re-affirmed as a Conservation village within the Green Belt and with no extra housing requirements being made of it, we remain vigilant, and in touch with both GBC and our neighbouring parishes to help ensure a sensible outcome.

### Looking Ahead

The War Memorial will be cleaned and refurbished with improved lettering. This is an extremely costly exercise and Paul Richardson, though he has stepped down as a Parish Councillor, generously has offered to take this forward even to trying to obtain funding from various charities for this necessary work.

We are working with the new General Manager of Hatchlands National Trust Estate, Alex Bush, to look to re-open the gate and walk onto Hatchlands from Sawpit Lane only for the benefit of our villagers. This is to improve the quality of our walks for our villagers and in particular for those with young children and dogs.

### Meeting Attendance

The ECPC has met 9 times during the past year and Councillors' attendance is good.

### Thanks

Today, our wonderful Parish Clerk, Mary Leech, retires after many years in this important and central role in the village. We thank her very, very much for all she has done for us and wish her a happy time of increased leisure.

We thank Trina Abbot for stepping in, albeit she says temporarily, as our next Parish Clerk. Welcome Trina!

Further thanks go to

- Paul Richardson who has been a Parish Councillor for some 10 years. We thank him for his energy and for so much that he has done (and continues to do) for our village.
- Arthur Hunking for acting as our internal auditor
- Adrian Thompson for distributing the Village Welcome Packs to new villagers.
- Pix Pickering acting as Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator
- Bill Barker, our SCC Councillor, for his active support for our village
- To our GBC Councillors, Jenny Wicks and Jen Powell and in particular to thank Jen after many years of service to us and the wider community, as she retires at the forthcoming General Election.

Finally, I would like to thank my ECPC colleagues, Ray Corstin (Vice Chairman), Clare Goodall who recently joined the ECPC and for taking on the mantle of Planning guru, Al Mundy & Ian Peacock. To them, thank you for your support, advice and zest with which you attack the many tasks you undertake for our village. You (and all other villagers who play roles and whom I have not mentioned by name) are examples of people with great community spirit.

### Sibylla Tindale

Chairman East Clandon Parish Council

27<sup>th</sup> April 2015