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East Clandon Parish Council - for the Annual Village Meeting ANNUAL REPORT 2015 – 2016

We welcome you to our Annual Village Meeting where we review the past year's activities and our finances for 2015 - 16.

FINANCES

Firstly, there are a number of people I wish to thank for helping us with our financial accounting: Graham Leech who with Mary Leech, our then Parish Clerk, held the reigns and guided us until their handover to Trina Abbott last May. Trina, with her typical flair and capability, took us through the interim until our new Parish Clerk, Alyson Blackwell took over in February. All have been assiduous in providing us with perfect reports over the last year, and all done pro-bono. Thank you to all.

The Parish Council's finances are healthy with a total reserve of £10,505 at March 31st 2016.

Our income over the year was £10,303 and arises from four on-going sources:

- the Guildford Borough Council (GBC) precept of £7,420
- income directly from the parish – the tennis court subscriptions of £820 and £1,600 income from rental of Tunmore Fields
- the Closed Churchyard grant of £260
- VAT refunds of £203

Our outgoings for the year total £6,303. During the year, the ECPC funded

- Various playground repairs, maintenance of grounds & equipment including Jim Bacon, the village gardener's payments, verges and open spaces, insurances
- Cleaning and de-mossing the tennis court to improve its surfaces
- Maintenance and improvements of the village pond
- Stipend for the Parish Clerk
- Clandon Conversations – verbal history project

VILLAGE HIGHLIGHTS

East Clandon must win the award for being the example of community spirit. Thank you to all who make it this wonderful close-knit village. Here follow the year's highlights.....

The Village Fete

To quote our unstoppable 'Queen of Clandon', Bug Robertson who with her husband, Neil and the superb committee of villagers, organise and run this great event at Home Farm, *"I am absolutely ecstatic to report that the East Clandon Village Fete raised a WHOPPING TOTAL of £5,729.21 - over £500 up on last year and another record has been broken !!"*



The Fete's very extensive Bric-a-Brac stall

FROST's Activities

The Friends of St Thomas of Canterbury (FROST) have provided a series of fundraising communal events to engage and entertain our villagers – with the Safari Supper, the ever-popular Quiz Night and latterly a series of laugh-inducing movie-nights in the village hall.



Bunting & cakes for the litter-pick villagers

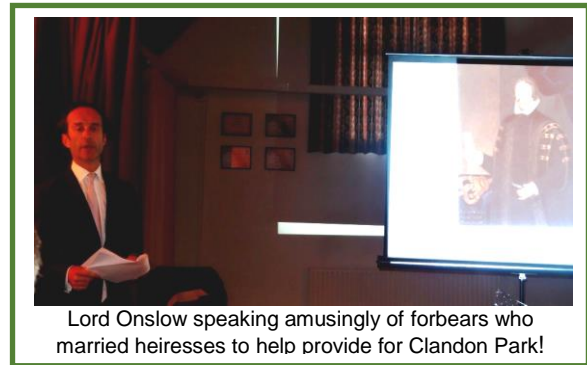


Village's Clean-for-the Queen Litter-pick

On a snowy March morning, 35 of our spirited residents donned hi-viz jackets, armed with litter-pick spears and special purple sacks, cleaned our highways and byways of litter resulting in over 50 bags of rubbish. All were rewarded with cakes & coffee. Thanks to all for your energy.

Annual Village Meeting:

At last year's Annual Village Meeting (the AGM), we invited Lord Onslow to speak to us about his family and their historic role in the Clandons. He spoke entertainingly on the theme of "Four Paintings, Four Personalities" on the night before the immense fire which tragically engulfed his family home Clandon Park. This year, because the ECPC have organised the Queen's Birthday Street Party to take place in a few weeks' time, we have decided to have an AGM without a speaker. This theme of having speakers will resume again for next year's annual meeting.



Lord Onslow speaking amusingly of forbears who married heiresses to help provide for Clandon Park!



Premiere of Village Playright's play - Sarah's War

In a packed village hall, "Sarah's War" written by villager Brian O'Connell, premiered and was much applauded. It starred Guildford School of Acting graduate Grace Stone and our very own Amanda Leader. The play went on to another full house in Guildford on Sunday night. Congratulations, Brian

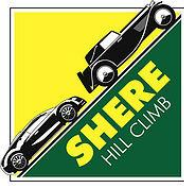
Palm Sunday Procession

In its second year now, our rector Barnaby Perkins has led a lovely event to mark Palm Sunday in the run up to Easter. Meeting at the Queen's Head pub, children and parents from both East and West Clandon villages carry palm leaves and process with Conan the Donkey to the church of St Thomas of Canterbury.



The East Clandon Car Rally

This is an annual summer event organised by Paul Richardson and Roger Nickolds and which attracts some 30 vintage or near vintage cars. It starts and ends at the Queen's Head and seems always to find the sunniest day of the year which adds hugely to its festiveness.



Shere Hill Climb

In its third year, this delightful car rally in September, has raised tens of thousands of pounds, some of which goes to our village's main charity, Cherry Trees. Over 150 cars and motorcycles have participated and Richard Duncan, a village resident-owner of the field in which this takes place also will donate funds to our village projects. Thank you, Richard.

VILLAGE PROJECTS

The Village Playground

This is a new project underway to improve the playability and attractiveness of our lovely Rec. A taskforce of young village 'mums' are helping to guide the ECPC with a wish-list. Funding for the improvements will be sought. Already Cllr Bill Barker OBE of the Surrey County Council has provided funding to re-paint the equipment, and to replace the roundabout matting. We plan to complete the improvements in the forthcoming year.

Sawpit Lane connection to Hatchlands Park

Opening the footpath to Hatchlands Park is a project requested by a number of our villagers and with the support of Hatchlands General Manager, Alex Bush, we have been able to re-open the footpath which is to be for the use of our village residents only.



The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration Street Party.

This event is being supported by the ECPC to encourage as many villagers as possible to attend by ensuring that ticket costs are low. We also wish to thank the Queen's Head for providing the food at cost and to Chris Ross for designing the advertising leaflet. Thanks also to Clare Goodall and her committee (Gayle Leader, Elinor Hogarth, Murray Dudgeon & Carol Cook) for planning this delightful event for May 15th to coincide with the Queen's chosen special horse events at Windsor.

Clandon Conversations - A Village History.

This is an on-going project started by Roger Nickolds who obtained the funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and now led by Ian Peacock and Jane Thorold. It is capturing the verbal and photographic history of life in the village through interviews and recordings from long-term residents (whether currently in the village or from further away). Congratulations to all involved for their hard work. When completed, the project will appear as a resource on the village website and also held at the Surrey History Society.

Road Safety:

- The Village Speed-Watch team have been re-trained and have had two sessions to date to remind drivers of the 30mph speed limit in our village. Thank you to Ian Peacock and his team.
- Road safety: further work has been completed to improve safety at the junction of New Road and A246. A new T-junction sign and better markings have been placed.

War Memorial refurbishment:

Roger Nickolds has generously taken on this herculean task of getting the work done on this Grade 2 listed 'building', our village War Memorial. Thank you Roger for doing this onerous work, for completing the first stage to clean the memorial to improve the legibility of the lettering and for investigating funding sources to help complete the re-lettering of this expensive operation. The ECPC also thank FROST for their support on these costs.



Angling Club: Chaired by a villager, David Crockford, this has 15 village members and hopes to encourage more of our young villagers to join.

OUR OPEN SPACES MAINTENANCE

This is done by Jim Bacon, a long-time villager and thanks for your work. Especial thanks go to Ray Corstin, who supports and actively helps Jim in maintaining our village playground and other spaces.

- **Tennis Club**
Our thanks go to Liz & Chris Ross who run our village 'tennis club' facility on behalf of the ECPC, for collecting subscriptions and helping to maintain the court. We are deeply grateful to you both.
- **Snow Clearing & Common Mowing:** Skip McMullan as the village snow warden is thanked for this and as well as doing the mowing of the rough Common grass areas.

PLANNING AND APPLICATIONS

The rate of planning applications has increased markedly since 2014-15.

A point of concern and one that we ask all villagers to note, please, is this requirement: most of our village is a Conservation Village which means that any alterations to the exteriors of buildings and to the trees and hedges must get permission from GBC.

Another major concern for our village is the development of the latest GBC Local Plan and the impact that these 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.

LOOKING AHEAD

As mentioned already, the key projects are to improve our Rec and playground, to refurbish further the War Memorial, and importantly to be involved in ensuring that the Local Plan for the GBC is one that meets the requirements for future housing, infrastructure and liveability of our beautiful Surrey Hills.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

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

We rely on our Councillors to do so much for our village and we appeal to those who would be interested in joining the Parish Council (or even to help) to contact myself or the Parish Clerk. What you do to help, enables our village to thrive.

OUR THANKS

Parish Clerk. Our especial thanks go to Trina Abbot who took on the task as Interim Parish Clerk after the retirement of Mary Leech. We thank Trina hugely for all she has done for our village.

And now to welcome Alyson Blackwell, a village resident, and who has taken on this very important role in our village.

Further thanks go to

- Arthur Hunking for acting as our internal auditor
- Adrian Thompson for distributing the Village Welcome Packs to new villagers.
- Peter Smart's team for coordinating and watching over our village website / google group
- 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 David Reeve for their service to us.

Finally, I would like to thank my ECPC colleagues, Ray Corstin (Vice Chairman), Clare Goodall 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 great community spirit.

Sibylla Tindale

Chairman: East Clandon Parish Council

24th April 2016