

Clopton Local History Recorders Report 2020

2020 has been a very unusual year. Due to the Corona Virus life has been very different.

Church

Church life continued as normal until Covid struck in March. One of the rules of the first lockdown was that churches closed.

Clopton is in the Benefice of Carlford which has the churches of Ashbocking, Boulge, Burgh, Grundisburgh, Hasketon, Otley and Swiland. In the Spring Culpho church joined our benefice, making it a benefice of nine churches. Our vicar, the Reverend Canon Clare Sanders, retired in May so we entered an Interregnum. Services for the nine churches were held online and all meetings were on Zoom. When churches reopened many of the more vulnerable people were not keen to mix with people and preferred to take part in the online services. Church members were ready to help anybody who was needing help with shopping or just needed a friendly 'phone call. In November we started to film our Candlelit Carol Service in case we could not meet at Christmas. It was a wise decision as we normally have 140 people at this Christmas Eve service and with social distancing we could only accommodate 30 people maximum. We decorated the church with all the candles, greenery, Christmas tree and nativity figures and filming began. It was a difficult task but with good planning we managed to film the readers and singers without breaking any rules of distancing. The film went 'live' the week before Christmas on the village email and on You Tube and has been a huge success.

Parish Council

From the start of the first lockdown meetings have been held on Zoom.

Villagers can contact the Parish clerk to be included in the meetings.

The village litter pick was postponed due to Covid restrictions.

The council still has vacancies for two more councillors and the vice chair has still to be elected.

All villagers were sent a letter from the council at the start of the first lockdown. This letter gave local contact numbers that could be useful if people needed help. There were numbers to contact if people need help with shopping or care.

Village Hall

The hall has been closed since the start of the pandemic meaning there will be a big loss in takings. The committee met, outside, to discuss the results of the yearly play equipment check.

Hobbies Group and Coffee Morning

These groups met in January and February but since lockdown a Zoom group meets once a week. It started as a monthly meeting but proved so popular that members voted to meet weekly. People are able to show their current projects and it is a lifeline to people living alone.

Other News

The people of Clopton have rallied round this year and have made sure that nobody has struggled to get shopping. Prescriptions have been delivered from local doctors surgeries, and people have helped to make scrubs for local homes and the hospital.

Claps for Carers was well supported and people have been following the Government guidelines and making sure that we all keep safe.

A very hard year for most people but it certainly has brought out the community spirit in the village.