

# THE CLAYTON CIRCULAR

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL  
NEWSLETTER



**Spring 2026**

CLAYTON-LE-WOODS  
PARISH NEWSLETTER

Telephone: 01257 264854 | Email: [clerk@claytonlewoods-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@claytonlewoods-pc.gov.uk)

[www.claytonlewoods-pc.gov.uk](http://www.claytonlewoods-pc.gov.uk)

# A Warm Welcome from your Chairman

Dear Resident,

I'd like to welcome you to the Spring/Summer 2026 edition of the Clayton Circular and wish a warm welcome to those who have recently moved to our beautiful village.

Over that last couple of years we have seen a number of changes including the sad passing of a number of current/ex Councillors and a number of new Members being coming onto the Parish Council.

In this edition you will find news of events and projects recently completed and also what is planned in the near future.

I would like to invite residents to get in touch with your local Parish Councillors and share your views on the improvements you would like to see. Remember we are here to serve you!

**Cllr Mark Clifford**



## Your Parish Council

### Who Are We?

Parish Councils are the lowest or first tier of Local Government. Clayton-le-Woods is a large Parish within the boundary of Chorley and has a long history. It was established in 1894 and comprises 15 voluntary Parish Councillors who are elected for a four-year term of office to serve and the residents and a Clerk to administer the day to day actions of the Parish Council. The Parish Council is funded through a precept on each residential property in the Parish through your Council tax payments. This enables us to carry out our duties to improve and maintain the area in which we live.

### What Do We Do?

The Parish Council owns several assets, including Back Lane Woods, several Play Areas and the Skate Park near Clayton Green library. The maintenance and improvements to these assets remains high on our agenda, as does the appearance of the Parish. We employ several Lengthsmen from Lisieux Hall to help keep the Parish litter free and we maintain many of the flower beds around the Parish. This helps to make Clayton-le-Woods one of the prettiest and tidiest parishes in the whole of Chorley. We hope you agree! If you have any ideas to help improve the area, we would love to hear from you. Just contact your local Parish Councillor or the Parish Council Clerk.

#### Welcome to **Councillor Mr David Cook**



I have been living in Clayton le Woods with my partner and 3 lovely dogs for the past 23 years. I have a broad range of interests, and I am passionate about animal welfare, care of the environment and wildlife and love the arts, particularly music. I am a keen advocate for human diversity and racial equality.

Professionally, I worked as a local authority social worker for more than 40 years in mental health and child protection. Since my retirement in 2013, I have been a governor at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals for 3 years and have now been a parish councillor for the past 18 months. I work as a volunteer at Chorley Hedgehog Rescue Centre.

**Clayton-le-Woods Parish Council**

#### Welcome to **Councillor Dr Jan Coyne**



I'm a single mum to 3 children, with a background in Clinical Psychology community work (but no longer do this due to poor health).

Joining the Parish Council has allowed me to feel like I am useful again, and that I can contribute to society in a positive way. I'm particularly interested in 2 areas: firstly creating more opportunities and support for under 25's; secondly looking at the impact of the cost of living on our community and how to alleviate this stress.

I am a strong believer that a society is measured by how it treats its most vulnerable, and as your councillor bring compassion, kindness and advocacy for those who feel marginalised. I'm looking forward to getting involved and helping to make a difference.



#### **Community Volunteers**

There is always a need for volunteers at the events provided by the Parish Council – Christmas Tree lights Switch On; Summer Fair; Scarecrow Festival; Remembrance Sunday; Warm Space provision: and don't forget the weekly Litter Pick.

For more info contact [clerk@claytonlewoods-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@claytonlewoods-pc.gov.uk)

# Meet your Parish Councillors



**Clayton Brook**  
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**Clayton Brook**  
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**Clayton Brook**  
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**Clayton Brook**  
VACANCY



**Clayton Green**  
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**Clayton South East**  
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**Clayton South East**  
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**Clayton West**  
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**Clayton West**  
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**Clayton West**  
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**Clayton West**  
VACANCY



**Clayton West**  
VACANCY



**Clayton West**  
VACANCY



The Parish Clerk is the first point of contact and Proper Officer of the Parish Council, managing its day-to-day administration and advising on governance, finance and legal matters. With detailed knowledge of the local community, the Clerk can offer guidance or signpost residents to the right organisation. Please contact the Clerk with any queries and treat them with courtesy and respect.  
**Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer**  
Tracy Morris Tel: 07715 637345  
239a Preston Road, Clayton-le-Woods PR6 7PY  
clerk@claytonlewoods-pc.gov.uk

## Fancy Making a Difference Locally?

Clayton-le-Woods Parish Council has empty seats and we'd love to see new faces join us. With 15 seats in total and only 11 currently filled, this is a great chance to get involved and help shape decisions that affect our village. Right now, our youngest councillor is 46, so we're especially keen to hear from younger residents, parents, and working-age people who want to have a say in what happens locally. You don't need any special experience—just an interest in the parish and a willingness to get involved. To apply, you must be 18 or over, a British citizen (or have eligible status), and either: (A) live in Clayton-le-Woods (or within 3 miles), or (B) work mainly within the parish. If you care about your community and want to make a positive difference, why not give it a go? Find out more at [www.claytonlewoods-pc.gov.uk](http://www.claytonlewoods-pc.gov.uk) or contact the Parish Council Clerk for an informal chat. You might be surprised how rewarding it is!

## Lancashire County Council Representatives

**Mark Clifford** (Clayton with Whittle) 546 Preston Road, Clayton-le-Woods, Chorley PR6 7EB | [mark.clifford@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:mark.clifford@lancashire.gov.uk)

**John Clemson** (Hoghton with Wheelton) Reform UK Group Office, County Hall, Preston, PR1 0LD

## Chorley Borough Councillors by Ward

### Clayton West and Cuerden

**Councillor Michelle Brown**, Maranatha, Wigan Road, Leyland, Lancashire, PR25 5SD | [michelle.brown@chorley.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.brown@chorley.gov.uk)  
**Councillor Mark Clifford**, 546 Preston Road, Clayton-le-Woods, Chorley, Lancashire, PR6 7EB | [mark.clifford@chorley.gov.uk](mailto:mark.clifford@chorley.gov.uk)  
**Councillor Neville Whitham**, 28 Cuerden Close, Bamber Bridge, PR5 6BX | [neville.whitham@chorley.gov.uk](mailto:neville.whitham@chorley.gov.uk)

### Clayton East Brindle and Hoghton

**Councillor Pauline McGovern**, Town Hall, Market Street, Chorley, PR7 1DP | [pauline.mcgovern@chorley.gov.uk](mailto:pauline.mcgovern@chorley.gov.uk)  
**Councillor Michelle Beach**, Town Hall, Market Street, Chorley, PR7 1DP | [Michelle.Beach@chorley.gov.uk](mailto:Michelle.Beach@chorley.gov.uk)  
**Councillor Irene Amahwe**, Town Hall, Market Street, Chorley, PR7 1DP | [irene.amahwe@chorley.gov.uk](mailto:irene.amahwe@chorley.gov.uk)

# Clayton-le-Woods Parish Council

## Summer Fair Returns for another fabulous year!

This year's Clayton-le-Woods Parish Council Summer Fair is set to be our biggest and best yet and we are proud to announce that Radio Leyland will be broadcasting live throughout the day.

Please save the date in your diary as the Summer Fair is due to take place on: **Saturday 27th June 2026 from 10am to 5pm at Manor Road Playing Field.**

This year the show has a full 7 hours of fantastic live music on stage in our 500 seater marquee and hours of brilliant entertainment in our Show Arena.

Last year the event attracted over 4000 people who all enjoyed listening to great music as well as supporting local businesses and charities.

This year there will be a large variety of food available to sample at the Summer Fair such as crepes, donuts, cakes, brownies, falafel, Thai food, Pizza, and Indian food. We have a wide range of retailers lined up this year. It is planned to have be lots of stalls to peruse and a number of local businesses and charities to support. In 2025 we held had the world famous "Flinging" competition once again which raised some £70 for Rosemere Cancer Foundation.

Last year was memorable day for the Summer Fair with great support from all the community who attended.

One of the most popular attractions were the gorgeous Poppywood Alpacas. In between Alpaca Walking and talks given by Pippa from Poppywood Alpacas, the public could visit the Alpacas in their pen and take part in Alpaca related craft activities and stroke and cuddle

Alpacas. The Alpacas were extremely popular with visitors young and old. We are pleased to announce that they will be back this year!

The annual dog show took place in the show arena, the dogs were entered in a number of categories and there were fabulous prizes up for grabs for the winners. Details on categories for this year will be released on social media – so keep an eye out on the Summer Fair event page on Facebook.

The Summer Fair is a family event which has lots to keep the kids entertained.

We were pleased to have in attendance the brave firefighters and officers from Lancashire Fire & Rescue and Lancashire Constabulary in 2025. Everyone was welcome to take pictures and participate in fun activities. As always there were free attractions, Children's face painting, and a fabulous magician throughout the day.

This year superheroes and fantasy princesses are returning so get your phones out and make memories with the children. Also, it is rumoured that dinosaurs will be in attendance bigger and better than last year.

Cllr Mark Clifford says, "Our showcase event is more than just a Fair, it's got something for everyone and is sure to be a hit for all ages including the dog".

Please drive carefully, park considerately, and walk or use public transport to get to event where possible.



## Grant Funding Available

Did you know that the Parish Council set aside £2,500 in their budget to support local charities and voluntary community organisations?

The application can be for a piece of equipment or for a specific purpose or project. If you wish to apply for a grant or you wish to know more about the grant policy the details can be found on our website: [www.claytonlewoodspc.gov.uk](http://www.claytonlewoodspc.gov.uk) or you can contact the clerk for more information on [clerk@claytonlewoods-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@claytonlewoods-pc.gov.uk)

Clayton-le-Woods Parish Council



# Clayton Hall Landfill

**Clayton Hall Landfill site is one of the most troublesome parts of our amazing village, and whilst today there are real problems, it is worth looking back at the history of Clayton Hall and the site.**

From Medieval Manor to Modern Landfill: The Evolving Story of Clayton Hall and Town Brow The landscape surrounding Whittle-le-Woods, Clayton-le-Woods, and Town Brow is a tapestry woven from nearly a thousand years of history. This area has witnessed the rise and fall of medieval estates, the rhythms of rural farming, the surge of industrial change, and the challenges of modern environmental management.

**Medieval Beginnings:** Clayton Hall's Legacy The story begins in the 13th century, when the manor of "Wythull in the Wode" (now Whittle-le-Woods) was first recorded. Over time, this land passed through the hands of influential families. South-west of the village stood Clayton Hall, a moated manor house whose water-filled moat and fishponds signified both status and practical resourcefulness. These features provided water management and food for its residents, and the site is now protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The 17th-century brick hall, with its picturesque mullioned windows, stood until the 1970s, when it was demolished. Yet, the moated remains and fish-ponds endure, silent witnesses to centuries of settlement.

**Industrial Change and Quarrying** The 19th and 20th centuries brought industrial expansion to the parish, with new employment opportunities in weaving mills and printing works. The sand deposits near the old hall fuelled quarrying operations, setting the stage for a dramatic transformation in the latter half of the 20th century. With quarrying starting just after world war 2

**From Quarry to Landfill:** Modern Environmental Challenges Beginning in the 1960s, the former sand quarry at Dawson Lane near Town Brow was

repurposed as a landfill for controlled waste disposal. Over the years, the site has grown and become one of the region's largest—and most controversial—waste facilities. Modern engineering and regulation now manage landfill gas and leachate, with operations licenced until 2028 and the restoration of the site to be completed by 2029.

**Town Brow:** Memories of Informal Tipping While formal records from the mid-20th century are limited, there have been references to foundry waste from Leyland motors being tipped on the earliest quarry sites near town brow in the late 1940s. showing that sadly the valley has been used for waste for over 70 years.

**Environmental Impact and Community Response** In recent years, the landfill has been at the centre of community concern, particularly due to odour issues linked to earlier, less-controlled phases of landfill gas emission. Enforcement actions have required operators to reduce waste heights, underscoring the ongoing tension between operational needs and local quality of life.

**A Landscape of Change** From a medieval moated estate, through centuries of farming and industry, to the complexities of modern landfill management, the story of Clayton Hall and Town Brow is one of adaptation and resilience.

Today we are awaiting the final stage of the landfill to complete. We will then be left with a new hill. It is worth noting that before the land was quarried out the height was between 250 – 270 feet ( 76 – 82 Meters ). The landfill has planning permission to go to 90 Meters ( 295 feet ) as the restored pre-settlement level. Over years this should settle down by several meters returning the landscape more or less back to the pre-quarrying.

**Councillor David Clough**

## Christmas Lights Switch On 2025

Clayton-le-Woods had a beautiful large Christmas tree in 2025, which lit up the main crossroads at Preston Road and Clayton Green Road.

The switch on took place on Saturday 29th November 2025 and despite the drizzly rain there was a great turnout.



There was a fabulous performance by Just Gorge, Chorley Silver band played carols, and Father Christmas came along with gifts for the children. After the switch on everyone carried on the evening at the Lord Nelson pub, where free mulled wine, mince pies and pizza were provided to the residents. The festivities continued late as folk enjoyed dancing to the disco and the singing of Matt Philips and Just Gorge.

Many thanks to our Councillors and their families for volunteering for the event along with the local Scout leaders.





## Litter Picking in the Community

Litter picking is a very important activity in this parish. It is an activity that could well benefit many of the residents of this parish, to live in a pleasant clean environment and creating positive self pride for those involved.

It is likely that most residents of the parish will be aware of just how awful it is to see litter blighting the open spaces of our beautiful parish; it is an eyesore and poses threats to our environment and to the local wildlife.

There is a wonderful opportunity to reduce this environmental hazard by doing our part in educating those who seem not to be aware of the problem that humans cause by discarding their rubbish onto our streets and public spaces. In addition, there is also the opportunity to join our group of litter pickers who meet every week (on a Tuesday at 1pm) for 1 hour, in an effort to keep the parish reasonably clear of rubbish. The group is very sociable and friendly, always welcoming new members. It meets at various locations through-out the parish each week and information about the location is always posted on Facebook the day before.

The locations are usually places that are persistently vulnerable to people discarding rubbish inappropriately. Equipment is provided and no previous experience is required. It is a very sociable activity and one that provides lots of satisfaction and pride to members of the group. People of any age or gender are welcome to join and it is a good opportunity to meet other residents of the parish. Another advantage of this group is that fly tipping can be located and reported to the council for removal.

We have a particularly beautiful parish in Clayton le Woods and it seems clear that most residents want to keep it that way; this is a wonderful opportunity to try to keep our village as clean and tidy as possible. Why don't you consider joining us? It's likely that you won't regret it and that you will probably enjoy the experience!

**Councillor David Cook**

### Doggy Bag Dispensers

Clayton-le-Woods has always been an area with a number of dog owners. As a dog owner myself I have occasionally been caught without a doggy bag whilst walking the dog. To ensure that there is an opportunity to have a poo bag available whilst on the run the Parish Council installed a number of poo bag dispensers throughout the village. This has been well received by the community with the dispensers being used and the number of dog fouling incidents have dropped significantly. A special thank you goes out to Councillors Steve Maddock and Mark Clifford for volunteering to fill the dispensers on a weekly basis. We ensure that we use environmentally biodegradable bags in our dispensers.

**Councillor David Cook**

### Seniors Christmas Meal

Our annual seniors Christmas Meal was very popular this year and both days were fully booked! 100 residents from Clayton-le-Woods enjoyed a delicious 3 course meal of soup, a traditional Turkey dinner and Christmas pudding finished off with tea or coffee.

The food was absolutely delicious and the Council wish to thank the Halfway House for the great food and service and helping to make the event so successful.

Many of the attendees left the event as raffles winners! Prizes included bottles of wine and various vouchers. A note of thanks goes out to number of Councillors as well as the Locum Clerk who were in attendance.

Choirs of children from Clayton Brook Primary School and Manor Road Primary School came along and entertained the attendees with some great upbeat Christmas songs and carols that everyone joined in with! This year's event will be advertised via our website, social media and noticeboards at the beginning of November 2026. Places are allocated on a first come first served basis.

**Councillor Michelle Brown**



## Parish Council Budget 2026 to 2027

Once the annual Parish Council budget is set the annual 'precept' or local tax amount is calculated.

The precept is calculated by a formula based on an average 'Band D' household which is used for local council tax calculations. The amount which is to be collected from a Band D property by the Parish Council comes to £34.04 for 2026/27.

The precept increase of 3.15% is in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

The chart below shows all the precept band-ings set in Clayton-le-Woods for 2026/27 (A - H).

### Precept Banding

<b>BAND A</b> Disabled Relief	5/9ths	£18.91
<b>BAND A</b>	6/9ths	£22.69
<b>BAND B</b>	7/9ths	£26.48
<b>BAND C</b>	8/9ths	£30.26
<b>BAND D</b>	9/9ths	£34.04
<b>BAND E</b>	11/9ths	£41.60
<b>BAND F</b>	13/9ths	£49.17
<b>BAND G</b>	15/9ths	£56.73
<b>BAND H</b>	18/9ths	£68.08



## Working for our future

Inspire is here to level the playing field - raising aspirations, creating opportunity and making sure young people feel seen and supported. While the Youth Zone offers a safe space and hot meals, we know not everyone can get through our doors. Barriers like transport and even confidence can still stand in the way. That's why we take our support out into the community. The Scran Van heads out during school holidays to some of Chorley's hardest-to-reach areas, delivering free, hot meals and a familiar face. More than food, it's a vital youth work tool - helping our team build trust, start conversations, and connect with young people who might otherwise go unseen. Last year alone, the Scran Van served over 2,488 free meals across communities including Clayton Brook. For many, it's been a lifeline - and hearing children chant 'Scran Van' on our arrival, will always fill us with pride. The scran van will next be at Clayton Brook during school holidays. So please keep a look out for it. **Stacey Taylor, Content Creator**



## The Good Food Club

### Clayton Brook Community Centre Friday 10.30am

The Good Food Club, Clayton Brook, started in June 2023, as a way to distribute food, which would otherwise go to landfill, to the local community. It is one of 4 clubs run throughout the Chorley District by SVP Chorley Buddies. There is no inclusion criteria to attend and is open to everyone with the hope that it will not only reduce food waste to landfill but also support struggling families and individuals during the cost of living crisis. It costs £10 for a lifetime membership and then you pay £5 each time you attend, in exchange for about £25-35 of groceries (sometimes much more). Our Good Food Club is led by Julie Dobson, who is a pillar in our community. Being a single parent with 3 children to support, one who is physically disabled, put me financially and mentally under a lot of pressure. I had already become savvy at finding yellow sticker items, thrifting for clothes at charity shops and paying for holidays with Tesco Clubcard points. Despite this the cost of food was increasing and my money wasn't increasing in line with it.

Attending the Good Food Club when it first opened was the best decision I've ever made. That first week I came home with 2 large bags full of groceries, fresh fruit and veg (usually wonky or surplus that supermarkets don't want, but are perfectly good to eat), fridge items (such as yogurts, ready meals, meat etc), frozen pizza and fried chicken, bread and bakery items, plus household items such as toilet rolls. Julie even puts on a free raffle at the end, and on that occasion I won a beef joint, something I'd never usually afford. Since then I've won a whole array of things on the raffle including snuggly winter slippers, pyjamas for my daughter, top for my son and so much more. Each week I mingled with the other club members as I wait in the café beforehand, I'm not the greatest socialiser, but I'm always met with friendly faces. I see how SVP Chorley Buddies helps families in other ways too, offering warm coats in winter, helping furnish empty homes, offering clothes, providing emergency food parcels; the list goes on. Its not just a food club, it's a place where people can get support for all the challenges that life throws. It's a wonderful social initiative, which supports both the community and the environment. The Good Food Club has reduced my anxiety around the cost of food, knowing that I'll be able to get a good quantity of food each week to support my family. If you want to help reduce food going to landfill or would benefit from the extra food at a low cost, pop down to the Community Centre at Clayton Brook, Fridays at 10.30am (café is open from 9.30am collect queue token, sit, have a hot drink/toast, and chat).

**Councillor Dr Jan Coyne**

# Lest We Forget



The memorial itself is a very tall, simple "Calvary Cross" on a tapered six sided column, mounted on an engraved hexagonal base of three steps, all built out of stone. It was erected to commemorate those r from Whittle-le-Woods and Clayton-le-Woods who gave their lives in both World Wars. There are 84 names commemorated as having lost their lives in WW1 and 24 names from WW2, all engraved upon the memorial.

This War Memorial was unveiled on Saturday 11th June 1921. However, you will notice that over the preceding 105 years, the War Memorial Site has become a green oasis where residents may find peace and tranquillity only a short walk away from the busy Preston Road. The Committee have plans to manage the site with extensive tree work and development of the infrastructure, such as benches. It is hoped that this will make the site accessible for many generations to come.

A joint Committee is made up of Councillors from both Parish Councils, the purpose of which is to maintain and develop the War Memorial Site and also to plan and execute the annual Remembrance Day Service and ad-hoc commemorative events such as: D-Day 80th Commemoration (6 June 24), VE-Day 80th Commemoration (8 May 25) and VJ-Day (15 Aug 25). Armistice Day events also occur, in addition to the above, when the eleventh day of the eleventh month does not fall upon Remembrance Sunday.

The first meeting of the War Memorial Committee was held on the 31 March 1926 in the Bunga-low Tea Rooms, (later the doctor's surgery) Preston Road, Whittle-le-Woods. A Minute Book, Cash Book and Precept Book were kept and updated by hand, the same minute book has been in use until December 2022. (The system is now digitised).

Whittle and Clayton War Memorial Committee members are currently; Cllr Steve Fogarty (Chair), Cllr Steve Maddock (Vice), Cllr Will Yates and Cllr Neville Whitham.

The Community, as a whole, are invited to attend on these occasions to remember the fallen in conflicts and honour the dead. Wreaths are laid and crosses are sited around the Memorial with the vicar of St Johns Church, the Reverend Philip Venables conducting the service, assisted by other clergy, including the reading out of the 128 names of the soldiers lost in two World Wars.



There are war graves in our three churchyards, and crosses are laid to commemorate them also. Please do come along on Remembrance Sunday, where the procession forms up in the school yard of Whittle-le-Woods CE Primary School at 14:15.

**Councillor Neville Whitham**






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## Clayton Green Library Grant

A grant of £50 was provided to the library for a lovely new Christmas Tree to be provided for Staff and Clients to enjoy.



# Grant funding from Clayton-le-Woods Parish Council

92 Chorley Sqn Air Training Core are grateful to have received a grant towards the purchase of the VEX Robotics kit, a significant investment in the education and development of our young people. This grant represents far more than new equipment; it is an opportunity to inspire curiosity, build confidence, and equip our Cadets with vital skills for the future.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education sits at the heart of modern aviation, aerospace, and defence industries. By introducing Cadets to VEX Robotics, we are providing hands-on learning that brings these subjects to life. Rather than learning theory alone, Cadets will design, build, programme, and test robotic systems—mirroring real-world engineering challenges and encouraging practical problem-solving.

The VEX Robotics platform is particularly well suited to Air Cadets, as it reinforces many of the values already embedded in Cadet training. Teamwork is essential, with Cadets working together to plan, delegate tasks, and overcome technical obstacles. Leadership skills naturally develop as Cadets take responsibility for different aspects of a project, while resilience and perseverance are strengthened through trial, error, and improvement.

Vex robotics supports key transferable skills such as logical thinking, creativity, communication, and digital literacy. Exposure to coding and engineering at an early stage can help demystify technology and open doors to future careers in aviation, engineering, cyber, and related STEM fields—careers that are increasingly important to the UK economy and national capability.

This grant ensures that cadets from all backgrounds have access to high-quality STEM resources, helping to remove barriers to participation and opportunity. It supports the Air Cadet Organisation's wider aim of developing well-rounded, skilled, and confident young people who are prepared for both further education and the world of work.

We are extremely grateful for this funding and look forward to seeing our Cadets embrace the challenge of VEX Robotics. The skills they develop today will help shape the innovators, engineers, and leaders of tomorrow.

**Sqn Ldr Steve Maddock RAFAC OC 92 Chorley Sqn ATC**



# True Community Spirit, Talkin' Tables

Clayton Green Library

**First Monday of every month  
1.30–3.00pm**

**Optional earlier session:  
12.30–1.30pm  
(speaker or activity)**

Talkin' Tables Clayton Green was set up in early 2023 by local resident Julie Dobson, inspired by the kindness and support she received from Clayton Green Library staff during a very difficult period in her life. Wanting to give something back, Julie created a welcoming space where people could connect, feel supported, and belong. Talkin' Tables is part of an international initiative designed to combat loneliness and isolation by bringing people together in a relaxed, inclusive environment. The group is free to attend, open to everyone, and gently facilitated by Julie.

Around 20 people attend regularly, with new faces joining each month. Some come to chat, others simply enjoy being present—there is no pressure to take part. The age range so far has been from 20 to 96.



There are always free hot drinks, biscuits, a free raffle, and most importantly a warm, friendly atmosphere. In response to members' interests, the group has grown to include an earlier session where people can share hobbies or talents such as poetry, music, games, or art.

Having attended myself, I expected to "write an article" but instead left feeling uplifted and inspired. There was laughter, music, creativity, and a strong sense of belonging—proof of what true community spirit looks like.

As Julie says, "Money should never be a barrier to combating loneliness."

**Why not pop along  
and see for yourself?**

**Councillor Dr Jan Coyne**



# Clayton Hall, Clayton le Woods.

## Our lost history.



**Photo from LCC archives circa late 1960s early 1970s.**

about the Hall, in his book, 'Clayton in History', which he described the building as a 'red brick manor house covered in Ivy'. Also Joan Langford, a Leyland author and historian has written extensively about the Hall in her books about the local areas surrounding Farington.

Clayton Hall became under the ownership of the Townley Parker family in the mid 1800s, along with the vast lands surrounding it. The Tatton family inherited the estate and eventually became owners of the land in the early 1900s - I can find no records of ten-ants who lived or worked at Clayton Hall during this time. Later in the 1950s, a lot of the Tatton lands were sold off at auction and the MOD, Army, then bought Cuerden Hall and managed the surrounding estates. In the mid 1970s the Central Lancashire Development Corporation moved into Cuerden Hall and began managing and selling a lot of the remaining lands to developers and many new towns and estates were built such as, Clayton le Woods. Spring Meadow, Higher Meadow, were some of the many developments which sprung up in the area in the demand for homes.

The old Clayton Hall unfortunately became surrounded by development and its owner demolished it due to it falling into a dangerous state, despite it being a listed building. The cruck barn, near to it, mentioned in one of Joan Langford's books, also had to be demolished, as it apparently succumbed to a fire. I feel so sad that this once beautiful Manor House, that was once the at centre of a small village and gave its name to our expanding town, has now been lost to the forces of nature and human encroachment; so much so, that it inspired me to paint it, using an old black and white photo (above) and a description in a book. Hope you like what I depicted it to have once looked like - the family shield on the front of the building is from my imagination, using the Clayton family crest.

**Alison Whitham**



**Photo, Clayton Hall ruins circa 2020, Alison Whitham**

I first read about Clayton Hall, an old Manor House in Clayton le Woods, in some information kept by the Cuerden Valley Park Trust around 2008. I worked on the reception at The Lancashire Wildlife Trust, at The Barn at Cuerden, which the Trust shared with them. It was a copy of a news-paper article from the early 1970s, describing the demise of this lovely old, listed building which dated back to the 1600s. Sadly only the ruins of this building are left on the site. It is situated off Higher Meadow and near the Spring Meadow community centre. I had to ask a friend, a few years ago, to take me to the site, as not being from this area, I had no idea where it was. When I found the site I was shocked. Only part of the front door and an old wall was left and the place was littered with rubbish - which we cleared up and put in the bin nearby.

I managed to find a book in our library at Clayton Green, by the late historian and author George Bolton who wrote about the Hall, in his book, 'Clayton in History', which he described the building as a 'red brick manor house covered in Ivy'.

Also Joan Langford, a Leyland author and historian has written extensively about the Hall in her books about the local areas surrounding Farington.

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**Clayton Hall painting, by Alison Whitham 2025**

# CIL Grants Available

Clayton-le-Woods Parish Council has Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding available to support projects that benefit the wider community and help address the impact of new development.

## What can be funded?

- Projects delivering a clear community benefit
- Initiatives responding to pressures from increased development

Projects not limited to **Clayton-le-Woods alone**

Projects may be small or large, but must benefit the wider community.

## Who can apply?

### Not-for-profit organisations

Other organisations may be considered where a clear community benefit is shown

### What cannot be funded?

Ongoing maintenance or running costs

## Key conditions

- ✓ Larger grants may require a presentation to the Parish Council
- ✓ Projects must be completed within 12 months of award (unless agreed otherwise)
- ✓ Successful projects must acknowledge CIL funding
- ✓ Funded projects will be publicised by the Parish Council

## How to Apply – Quick Checklist

Request the full CIL Policy and application details

Describe your project and its community benefit

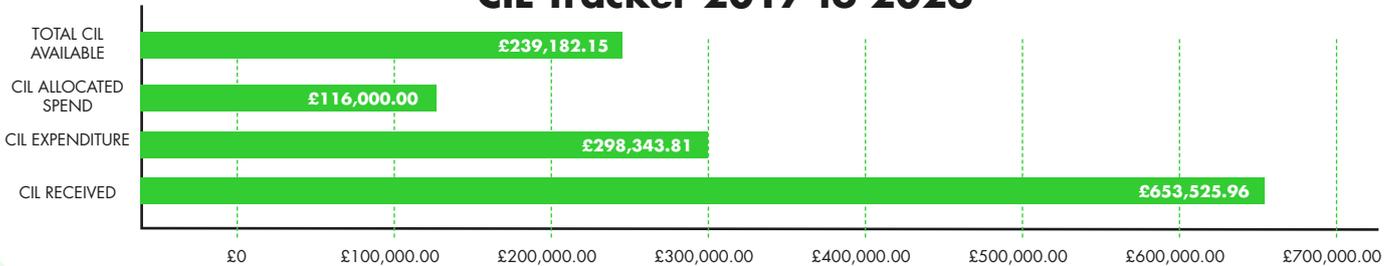
State the funding amount requested

Submit your application for Parish Council review

Larger projects may be invited to present

**Email: [clerk@claytonlewoods-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@claytonlewoods-pc.gov.uk)**

## CIL Tracker 2017 to 2026



## Armed Forces Community

Did you know that, for those formerly of the Armed Forces Community out there, Chorley and South Ribble Councils have achieved the **"Gold Award"** of the "Armed Forces Covenant" (Employer Recognition Scheme)?

**So what does this mean?** Essentially, for those Veterans and their families, there are standards put in place within the scheme for all Councils and Companies who have signed up to the covenant scheme to make allowances or provisions for those that have served their Country. They must maintain the laid down standards expected within of the Gold Award scheme in their dealings with Veterans.

Chorley Council earned the prestigious Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) Gold Award for its exceptional support of the armed forces community, upgrading from silver in July 2023. The award recognises the council's commitment to hiring veterans and reservists, providing specialised welfare support, and having elected members with military backgrounds.

**Key Support Initiatives in Chorley** To achieve this standard, Chorley Council implemented several dedicated measures:

**Guaranteed Interviews:** Veterans are guaranteed a job interview if they meet the basic job requirements.

**Health and Wellbeing:** The council provides specific support for those who have served, including working with the Royal British Legion to assist with home adaptations for veterans.

**Staff Training:** A large proportion of frontline staff have received Armed Forces Covenant training to better address issues unique to the military community.

**Employment Partnerships:** The council is signed up to the Career Transition Partnership (CTP) and Forces Families Jobs to facilitate employment for service leavers and their families.

The Gold Award is the highest badge of honour for employers demonstrating, advocating, and pledging support for the armed forces, reservists, and their families.

For more information, see: <https://chorley.gov.uk/health-wellbeing-support/armedforcescovenant>

**Cllr Neville Whitham, Armed Forces Champion for Chorley Council**



## Dates for the Parish Council Meeting

The Meetings are held at the Parish Council Offices at 239a Preston Road, Clayton-le-Woods Chorley, PR6 7PY at 7.30pm

**Monday 16 March 2026**

**Monday 20th April 2026**

(Monday 20th April 2026  
Annual Parish meeting at 7.00pm)

**Monday 18th May 2026**

(Monday 18th May 2026  
Annual General meeting at 7.00pm)

**Monday 15th June 2026**

**Monday 20th July 2026**

**No meeting in August**

**Monday 21st Sept 2026**

**Monday 19th Oct 2026**

**Monday 16th Nov 2026**

**No meeting in December**

## Clayton-le-Woods Parish Council

### Financial Information 2026/27

The annual budget was compiled by all the Members of the Parish Council by Committee.

The budget was set by the Parish Council in January 2026.

The pie chart gives a representation of the proposed spending budget for 2026/27 by cost centre.

Adjustments will be made during the year according to the needs of the community.



### Clayton-le Woods Policing Team

Anna-Marie Canavan  
NH Sgt 4038  
Catherine Flett  
PCSO 7038  
George Johnson  
Neighbourhood Policing  
Sergeant 2054  
Jonathan Cooté  
NH Inspector 2779  
Lauren Murphy  
NHPC 1105  
Paul Harrison  
NH Sergeant 4065



### Useful Information

Clayton Green Library  
Clayton Green Business Park,  
Library Road  
Chorley, Lancashire  
PR6 7EN

Tel No. 0300 123 6703

clayton-green.library@  
lancashire.gov.uk

For opening times and general  
information please look scan  
below QR code for website



### Clayton Hall Landfill Odour Issues

Quercia General Number  
Tel: 01257 273311

Environment  
Agency

0800 80 70 60



### Clayton Green Sports Centre

Contact Us  
01257 515533

or email  
ClaytonGreen@chorley.gov.uk



## Contacting Chorley Borough Council

Our phone lines are open 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday except for bank holidays.

01257 515151 [contact@chorley.gov.uk](mailto:contact@chorley.gov.uk)

Out of hours emergency service is available by telephoning 01257 515142.

**Visiting our offices:** Civic Offices, Union Street, Chorley, Lancashire, PR7 1AL.

We are open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm except for bank holidays.

Appointments are prioritised 9am to 10am and 3pm to 5pm Monday to Friday. For a trial

**Chorley**  
Council

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