



Clipston Village Hall

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Clipston Courier

Your Village Newsletter

March 2020

Welcome!

Welcome to the Clipston Courier's spring issue! As we look forward to a brand new decade we report on the outcomes of the **open day** held in January (see right and pages 3, 4 & 5) which will determine future community projects and building proposals. Jill Pick is our **Clipston Profile** (page 2) and we look forward to the summer events with information on the **Clipston Festival** and an **Art Show**, both planned for June (also on page 2). Plus our usual round up of news from all the village groups and societies—thank you to all our contributors. We are on the look out for help producing the Courier, (see below right) so get in touch if you are interested! Happy Easter everyone!

Open Day directs plans for village development



Hannah Eveleigh & Liz Davies
Editors of this edition

The Courier Editorial Team takes it in turns to edit each issue. Our June edition will be produced by Hannah & Liz again. **Copy deadline 3 May 2019**

Over 100 Clipston residents gathered at the village hall at the end of January to view the Neighbourhood Development Plan and make comments on how it should shape Clipston's future.

Visitors could see the proposed new housing site, comment on the suggested community actions and review the two alternative options for the village hall.

Each area has been worked on by different committees and all proposals have been based on previous village consultations, including the questionnaire in 2017 and the open day in 2018.

Villagers were asked to vote on their preferred plan for the village hall as well as their views on the priorities for community actions, the results of which are in this edition (see right).

If you were unable to attend the open day but wish to read the materials, please visit www.clipston.org.

FIND OUT MORE...
VILLAGE HALL PLANS PAGE 3
PROPOSED HOUSING PAGE 4
COMMUNITY ACTIONS PAGE 5



The Clipston Courier is looking for new recruits to help produce this newsletter! This involves contacting contributors, collating and editing articles and laying out the newsletter in Publisher. Training can be provided. We are a friendly team and our meetings usually involve wine if that helps....! Contact any of us for more information (see left for contact details).

HOW TO CONTACT US

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The editors would like to make it clear that the views expressed in any article contained in these pages do not necessarily represent their own views or those of any advertisers.

Clipston Profile: Jill Pick

If you have seen the posters for the monthly Saturday coffee mornings around the village Jill Pick is the lady who organises them. Jill and her helpers started them 7 years ago to raise money for the assistance dog charity, Canine Partners. £5,000 has already been raised for the puppy walking of "Clipston", the Labrador puppy (see his photo in the December 2019 edition) and they are well on the way towards the next £5,000 to continue his training.

Jill's love of animals and all things rural began in Clipston where she was brought up on a farm. Dogs have always been part of her life – terriers like Jack Russell's and taking on her friend's Golden Retriever, Tammi, as shown in the photo, taken in Norfolk. Jill says the photo sums up her life, a love of the outdoors and dogs. Now a member of a local wildlife trust, Jill is not shy of physical work, carrying out brush cutting and tree clearance. She is secretary and volunteer warden for the Haddon Fields Trust, duties including hedge clearance and tree planting. She can also be found helping out at Sulby Gardens' open days and with the butter-

fly surveys.

Jill is a lady of many parts – a hobby of silversmithing, as she could not source resources, led her in the late 1980s to open The Sewing Squirrel, a needlecraft and hobbies supplies shop in Market Harborough. She made silver jewellery for friends and even had her own hallmark! When I asked Jill how she had such a positive outlook on life she told me of her experience whilst selling health products – a training day involving walking bare-foot over hot coals whilst saying "cool moss" to herself endorsed positive thinking and an ability to get on with life despite its ups and downs.

Another of Jill's responsibilities is acting as secretary for the village Friendship Club, generally helping to organise meetings and speakers for the monthly meetings for Clipston and surrounding village members.

One of Jill's lifelong ambitions has been to attend a music festival as she enjoys folk music and the great outdoors. She finally achieved this after 70 years when she went off to Norfolk in her small con-



Jill with Tammi

verted van, affectionally named 'Doris' and will be off there again in spring to take part in a Scandinavian 'Hygge' festival. But this time in her new van, to be christened 'Percy'.

We wish her a great time and continued success with the coffee mornings; as well as raising money they have become a most sociable part of village life.

Rose Anderson

Art show needs helpers



Preparations for this event are now well underway with 17 local artists booked to display their work. They work in a variety of mediums including watercolours, oils, ink, paper, wood, textiles and flowers. Pieces are available to view or purchase. This is a great opportunity to

have an original piece of art for yourself or as a gift. Admission is free with any donations going towards essential repairs to the churchyard wall.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED This is a big undertaking which we hope will attract villagers and those living further afield. To make it possible I am appealing for volunteers during that weekend. Can you help? The display boards are stored in Kibworth and are quite bulky so is there anyone with a large vehicle willing to collect them on Tuesday 9th June and deliver them back on Monday 15th June? Some strong people to put up stands and pew boards on Wednesday 10th June? Stewards to welcome visitors and ensure the safety of the exhibits. Stewards to manage any purchases made by visitors – this can be a sitting down role. Stewards to serve refreshments in the Orbell room. Donations of cakes would also be gratefully received. We are open to the public for a total of 12 hours and would welcome anyone willing to give up just an hour or two during the weekend. Please contact **Ruth Wallett, Church View, Kelmars Road, Clipston 525346**



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED EVERYONE WELCOME

Open meeting in the **Bulls Head** on **Monday 30th March at 8pm**

We'd love to hear your ideas and offers of help for before, during and after the event.

Just turn up or contact:

Nikki Bugla **525660**

Julia Blake **525760**

clipstonplayingfields@gmail.com

Festival in aid of the recreation field upkeep

Village Hall—What happens next?

At the open day, we presented two alternative options for development of the village hall. These options had been generated in response to comments made in the Neighbourhood Development Plan questionnaire, the first open day in 2018 and from discussions with current and former user groups since then. Visitors to the open day were asked to vote on their preferred option, and as you can see, there was a clear preference for keeping the hall where it is and renovating it.

Comments on the day confirmed that the existing hall is a great and valued facility but one in need of modernisation. Villagers want to keep the central and accessible location with its heritage and history. There were various suggestions on how to improve it but the size and flexibility of the space were prominent with some also commenting on improving its environmental impact.

The alternative option to build at the recreation grounds was rejected. Whilst some people recognised the opportunities that would be created by a large multi-use building with outside space, most were put off by its edge-of-village location and the narrow pavements and poor lighting en route. The demand for new features, for example a shop, café and indoor sports, which had been prominent two years ago was no longer supported and the commentary suggests that people are broadly happy with what we have now.

The village hall committee will now move forward with plans for the existing hall and site. We will draw up a number of alternative designs for restoring, extending, reconfiguring and modernising the hall and test these with user groups (the picture shows a suggestion, but this is purely at the idea stage). At the open day visitors were asked to vote on the most important features for the hall and on which



OPTION A
RENOVATE AND EXTEND THE EXISTING HALL
70%
of the vote



OPTION B
BUILD A NEW HALL AT THE PLAYING FIELDS
30%
of the vote



activities/events should be enabled so we will use this information to inform the design. We would hope to settle on a scheme of development by the end of the year. Alongside this we will be investigating sources of funding and making plans for the changes taking place over the next few years. Watch this space and please support our fundraising activities!
Faye Tan

WHAT THE HALL COULD LOOK LIKE
 The drawing shown here is just one idea of how the existing village hall could be developed to include extra facilities and outdoor space. Alternative plans will be considered and reviewed.
The Village Hall Committee would like to thank JWA Architects for their help.

Ever thought of being a parish councillor?
 Clipston Parish Council is holding elections in May this year.

As a councillor representing your community you will keep it a great place to live and work. You will be supported in your role and will be expected to undertake some training. You should have a positive outlook, a can-do attitude and be willing to work as part of a team.
 Clipston Parish Council currently meets in the evening on the first Wednesday of

the month. If you care about your community and would like to help make a real difference then why not find out more?
 If you are over 18 and interested, please contact Felicity Ryan by **31 March** on 01604 740429, or by email at clerk@clipstonparishcouncil.org

Housing development plan

At the Open Day at the Village Hall on 26 January, a suggested site for a residential development was proposed off Naseby Road next to the existing Marcroft housing. The plan shown indicates the possible extent of the site coloured yellow. This site would be for approximately 10 houses, 4 of which would be affordable housing. This number and mix of houses were determined taking into account the results of the Daventry District Council 2017 Housing Survey and the results of the 2018 Open Day and the Village Questionnaire, which all asked Clipston residents for their comments on anticipated housing needs.

As was previously mentioned in the last Courier, the Daventry District Council are taking a considerable interest in the Scheduled Monument which surrounds Clipston and, for that reason, have required a formal Strategic Environmental Assessment of the suggested allocated site, to ensure any new houses do not significantly harm the Scheduled Monument.

This process involves government appointed consultants providing a formal



report which inevitably will take time. Assuming a positive report is issued, a further Open Day will be held when comprehensive details of the allocated site (which would include any variations suggested by the report) will be available for comment from and the involvement of the community.

We on the NDP Advisory Committee are as anxious, as you no doubt are, to progress the Neighbourhood Plan but we are bound by the requirements of the District Council. We will however continue to push matters as much as we can!

Tony Price

Clipston Recreation Field Trust

Thank you to all those who support CRFT through the 100 Club. We've been asked to publicise the winners so here are the last 3 months. As a reminder 1st prize is £100, 2nd £50 and 3rd is £25.

Nov 2019 Peter Warren, Carl Sommer, Martin Clarke

Dec 2019 Ray Bolton, Mike Parrott, Andrew Wallis

Jan 2020 Iain Hendry-Adams, Simon Catterall, Julian Rogers

The second Clipston Trail Half will take place on 27 September 2020 following the same course. Alison Morley and the WI have kindly agreed to organise the homemade cakes that went down (literally) so well last year. We already have over 50 runners signed up through the Race Harborough website. We also look forward to the fantastic support of the marshals' team - Mark Ginns is again in charge.

mark.ginns@btinternet.com

Andy Blake – Chairman

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

This year's total for the Clipston & District appeal stands at £2,176.43 – many thanks to all our wonderful collectors around the villages.

Have you ever wondered what the money is used for? The RBL has been supporting servicemen and women, veterans and their families since 1921 in all sorts of ways; financial help, home adaptations and repairs, dedicated care homes for older veterans, rehabilitation courses, respite care and helping veterans back into work, just to mention a few.

To mark appreciation for those collectors with over 5 years of volunteering a short presentation ceremony of commemorative certificates and badges was held at The Bulls Head before the parade on Remembrance Sunday.

The photograph shows, from left to right, from East Farndon, Stephanie Hook and Andrew Hook; Heather Weston, Daryl Robinson (Chairman), Marlene Hook, Rupert Ellenborough (Secretary), Pauline Protheroe, from Arthingworth, Janet Ho-



garth, from Great Oxendon, Suzanne Protheroe, and Rose Anderson (District Appeal Organiser).

Some of these collectors have been collecting for around 20 years – we always need new people to join the team – this year we were unable to collect in Sibbertoft and Kelmarsh because of a lack of collectors and new volunteers

are also welcome for Clipston. So if you can spare a couple of hours in November, please let me know. For every 5 years of collecting you will receive formal recognition and know you are helping those who keep us safe.

Rose Anderson

Community Actions: Volunteers Needed

Part of the Neighbourhood Development Plan has been looking at ways of improving the community, and at the open day villagers were asked to vote on the eight priorities to be addressed first, from the 16 areas originally identified.

Two of the eight most important areas (**All Saints Church & Churchyard and the Village Hall**) will be worked on by the relevant committees (The Parochial Church Council and the Village Hall Committee, respectively). But the six actions on the right need volunteers to take them forward.

CAN YOU HELP?

Some people have already registered their willingness to get involved but we need more! We are hoping to put together a small team for each of these actions. If you offer your help you will be contacted during March and kick-off meetings will be held soon after. Each team will be given all the background on the issues

TOP PRIORITIES (AS VOTED BY YOU)

The Bulls Head public house (considering whether to register the pub as an Asset of Community Value)

Footpaths, pavements & road safety (tackling pedestrian and vehicle safety, traffic speed and parking issues)

Biodiversity (including the creation and management of new habitat sites e.g. wildflower meadows, wetland and woodland)

Green Spaces (including whether any are suitable for the development of a pocket park, community garden/allotment or wild-life area/nature reserve)

Trees (identifying notable trees that are suitable for Tree Preservation Order status)

Public Transport (lobbying for changes to the existing provision and investigating alternative private means)

that have been identified and comments made so far and they will be asked to come up with solutions and seek funding (where necessary) to deliver them. Teams will meet again as needed but a lot will be possible by individuals doing what they can when they can and reporting back by email. Hopefully by the time the next Courier lands on your doormat we'll be able to tell you who is working on each Community Action and perhaps by the following edition we'll be able to tell you what progress has been made!

The remaining Community Actions (including those relating to bins, benches, the telephone box etc.) are not lost and will be addressed once we have made progress on the top priorities.

To register your interest, please contact clipston.org@gmail.com and say which area you'd like to get involved with. Without volunteers, there will be no action and things will remain as they are, so please help if you can!

Village Hall

We celebrated National Village Halls Week and the contribution of our hall to village life with two events - a 'family disco' on the Friday evening and an 'Open Day' on the Sunday.

Both events were well attended and supported. The disco was thoroughly enjoyed by the children who enjoyed dancing to the tunes of DJ Steve Cleaver and the adults enjoyed end-of-week drinks from the bar. The event also raised over £200 for village hall funds. On the Sunday, we welcomed over 100 visitors to our open day. Later in the year we are hoping to stage a 'Band Night' and we are considering repeating the successful 'arts and crafts week' during the summer holidays. Look out for more details in the next Courier!



The village hall is entering an exciting phase as we start planning the redevelopment and upgrade of the facilities. Our committee meets twice a year (or as needed) and is looking for new members. If you are interested in joining please contact **Faye Tan on 525275**.

The next jumble sale will be on Thursday, 2nd April at 7.30pm. Grace is collecting anything saleable (not too large) from now until then – clothes, bric-a-brac, books, shoes, cakes and there will be a raffle. Please come and support the event to help raise funds for the village hall. Anything not sold on the night will be collected by the Air Ambulance. Many thanks, Grace.

Whist drives are back in full swing after the Christmas break starting at 1.30pm
12th and 26th March
2nd and 23rd April
14th May (the one on 7th is cancelled as the hall will be used for elections)

Caption Competition



You may remember in the last issue we asked for your captions for this photo of Derrick and Bill. We liked this one best:

'Have you ever known anything like this before Bill?...' 'No Derrick ...I knew a time before Facebook when people passed on 'local news' like this ... speaking to people face to face!'

MURDER MYSTERY EVENING

Members of CADS will be presenting a Murder Mystery evening on **Saturday 25 April** in the village hall. Don't miss a night of fun and sleuthing!
Watch out for further details.

All Saints Church

As reported in the last edition of the courier our attempts to cure the problem of a shrub growing from the church spire led to the discovery of quite a number of issues around the tower and spire that were not apparent from the ground. Grants are available from a variety of sources for this sort of work and we will be making applications over the next few months to raise as much as we can. Realistically, we will need to fund a proportion of the total cost ourselves and so there will be a number of events in the future aimed specifically at funding the spire and tower repairs. The total cost is likely to be around £50,000, a sum which is well beyond the resources of the church at the moment. This work is now being looked at as our highest priority and will need to be done

before we are able to plan any of the major renovations or improvements which we have been discussing recently. Ironically, a critical issue when planning for these works will again be bats. Some of you will recall the difficulties we had when replacing the roof a couple of years ago when a solitary bat was discovered during the work. Despite our having a 'bat licence' for the work, all work was stopped for several weeks which led to increased costs because the bat was the 'wrong species'. We have already sought expert advice over bats in the belfry and hope not to get caught out again. Please be generous when we look for support in funding this work and if you are able to help in any way contact **Steve Carpenter on 525120**

NGS Garden Opening & Art Exhibition

The Wooden Owl,
10a, The Green

The garden is going to be open in aid of the National Garden Scheme on Saturday 13th June from 2– 5.30pm and on Sunday 14th June from 11am – 5.30pm. Entry £4.00 per person and all children free. The takings go to the NGS who in 2019 gave £3 million to nursing and health charities. £500,000 is also going to each of the following: Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie and Hospice UK. The Wooden Owl is a smallish garden with lots of interest and full of unusual trees and shrubs, fruit trees, vegetables and a water garden. We will be serving cream teas with homemade scones and cakes, and there will be plant and cake stalls from which proceeds go to All Saints Church. There will be an 'Owl Trail' competition for the children to find all the owls in the garden. Each child who finds all the owls will be given a prize. Ruth Wallett is organising an art exhibition in the church from 11.00am - 5.00pm on the same weekend, with pictures by local artists which will all be for sale.

EASTER SERVICES CHURCH & CHAPEL

All Saints Church

The following services are all at Clipston unless stated otherwise.

Mothering Sunday, 22nd March, 10 am
Family service

Holy Week and Easter Services

Mon 6 April, 7 pm - Stations of the Cross
Tues 7 April - 7 pm- Compline
Weds 8th April - Alpha Course at Welford

Maundy Thursday, 9 April - St Helens, Sibbertoft - 7.30 pm
Good Friday 10 April - An Hour at the Cross -St Denys, Kelmarsh 2pm
EASTER DAY - Sunday 12 April - Holy Communion 11am (including an Easter Egg Hunt)

Christian Life Baptist Church
Easter Sunday 10.45. All Welcome.

United Benefice Choir

Our new Benefice is now made up of seven parishes: Clipston, Haselbech, Kelmarsh, Marston Trussell, Naseby, Sibbertoft and Welford. The choir consists of members from all denominations, some religious and some non-religious, who enjoy singing good music. With the new Benefice service plan starting in April, we are hoping to sing an anthem at all the United Benefice services which will take place in a different church each time on the 4th Sunday of every month, starting with Clipston on the 26th April. We are also singing at Naseby on 29th March. We had a very successful Celebration of Christmas on Sunday 8th December after the lighting of the Christmas tree on the Green and to end the Christmas Tree Festival in the church. The church was full and everyone enjoyed singing lots of

well-known Christmas carols as well as listening to the choir and soloists singing on their own. There were a few lovely Christmas readings, read by some very accomplished readers. The choir was joined by Andy Blake on the cornett, David Blake the alto saxophone, Mark Ginns on guitar, Jane Ginns and Lydie Melvin the flute with me playing the organ and piano. The evening finished with everyone drinking lots of bubbly and enjoying mince pies. We would very much welcome new members to the choir, **of any age or ability**, from Clipston and the surrounding villages who enjoy singing good music in a group. We rehearse alternate Thursdays at my house in Clipston. Please contact me: Julie Connell. Tel: 01858 525336. E-mail: j.connell118@btinternet.com

Clipston WI

In an exciting new phase to revitalise the WI, we are delighted to announce that we have a grant from the Kelmarsh Windfarm Community Benefit Fund.

On May 19th there will be a coach trip partly funded by the grant to Cromford Mills in Derbyshire, a World Heritage Unesco site, so book your place now!

In our meetings in June and September guests are welcome to come and find out all about the Hambleton Bakery and lots of different ways to cook with pasta.

If you love shoes then our March meeting on 10th with Lucy May of Fabulous Fabrics, who will be showing us how to update our shoe wardrobe, is one for you.

New ladies are always welcome.
Rose Anderson President 525481

Clipston Past & Present

With the current focus on the village Hall and its future, we thought it was a good opportunity to take a look at the history of the building and the role it has played in the village for over 150 years.

The original village hall building was constructed in 1862 as a Church of England school for Clipston's infants and girls (the current primary school was only open to boys back then). The land (which had previously been the site of six small cottages and known as 'Pie Corner') had been given to Clipston church for the purposes of providing a school for the children of 'labouring, manufacturing and other poorer classes'. It provided education for around 80 children. School records in the late 19th century talk of attendance being patchy at certain times of year on account of 'potato-setting, haymaking and working on allotments.' Clipston was an agricultural village, where working the land took priority.

The original school building was not as large as it is shown in the top photograph; an influx of children from the Baptist chapel school in 1875 required the building to be extended on the left hand side (now the current kitchen), which became another school room. The matching part of the building on the right (where the stage now is) was the schoolmistresses cottage, and later became accommodation for the village hall caretaker.

The building continued to be a school until 1928, when finally girls were admitted to the boys' school on the High Street. It was agreed by the church council, who owned the building, that it could become a village hall, and repairs were carried out and furniture bought to adapt the building for its new purpose. For nearly fifty years it continued to be owned and run as a hall by the church, but in the 1970s the church



wanted to sell it and the village raised funds to buy it and keep it as a village hall. More renovations were made, to create the building you see today.

As you will have read in this issue, the village have voted to keep the building

as the village hall, but it is agreed that it requires updating and potentially remodelling to make it work for the Clipston community of today. We will keep you up to date with any plans, so look out for news in future Courier issues!

Xmas money raised

The Salvation Army expresses their thanks for the £100 donated from the Christian Life Baptist Church's Christmas carol service. £100 was also raised at the Christmas Tree Festival which was held in All Saints Church. This was donated to the Crisis charity.

Dog walking & footpaths

A reminder that spring is sprung but please be careful around the lambs and keep your dogs on a lead.

Also I have had a plea from a local farmer and the playing field about the use of dog sticks. They are fine except when they are left in the middle of fields where they damage mowing machinery. Tractor drivers find it difficult to keep climbing down and removing sticks when they are in the middle of mowing/topping and they do cause damage, especially the big

sticks. Please could you pick your dog's sticks up and leave them in the hedge. Thank you.

Julia Blake
Volunteer
Footpath
Warden



Stepping Stones Pre-School

Stepping Stones begin the year with exciting news. We are delighted to announce that Sam Frapé is stepping up into the role of manager whilst Mona Zala will be our new deputy manager. Both have been Early Year Educators at the setting for over five years and are well loved by parents and children alike.

Our children continue to benefit from enrichment sessions, which include yoga, baking, speech & language and dance throughout the week. We love to welcome visitors so if you have an exciting job, hobby or interest you would like to share with our children, either as a one-off or on a regular basis, please get in touch. We continue to run our successful weekly Forest School which offers innovative educational play within the woodlands of Clipston. Look out for Sidney Squirrel as he likes to play hide and seek within the trees

and bushes.

This year Stepping Stones joined the tennis club and the village hall in hosting Clipston's annual pantomime. This year was 'Robin Hood'. The pantomime is a great fundraiser for Stepping Stones and we are delighted to be a part of it, this year managing to raise a fantastic £520. We would like to extend a big thank you to the tennis club and village hall committees for inviting us to take part and to everyone who attended the show. We hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did. On Friday, 20th March 9-10am we are holding a stay and play session. This will be held at the setting and parents and family members are welcome to join in the fun. We are also hoping to repeat last year's Village Easter Egg Hunt so look out for more details soon.

Stepping Stones Pre-school is now open

Monday- Friday 8.45-3.15pm with places available from 2.5 years old. So if you are looking for a wonderful local pre-school contact us on 01858 525113 or email us on preschool1@clipston.northants.sch.uk to arrange a visit. Our website is www.steppingstonesclipston.co.uk. We are also on Facebook steppingstones-preschoolclipston and Instagram @steppingstonesclipston

Friendship Club

NEW DATE 20th April - as 13th is Easter Monday - fish & chips @ 12.45 for 1 pm followed by the Annual General Meeting.

Next meetings - 11th May/8th June /13th July. Speakers are yet to be confirmed.

Jill 525746

Does anyone have this photo?

In the last issue of the Courier, a photo of a "Children's Concert - 1947" was included. It was part of an event organised by the Women's Institute to raise funds to provide a Christmas party for the children. Also included in the programme was a musical item - "A Country Fair" performed by W.I. members with some of their husbands. The concert was reported in the Harborough Mail, together with this poor quality photograph copied from the newspaper microfilm. I would like to know if any reader has a good quality original of this picture which I could borrow for copying to add to my collection. I already have good copies of



the children's play, the musicians, and the audience. Peter Wilford 525372

Panto fun



The Clipston pantomime returned in January to the village hall and was another great success. Thanks to the Laugh Out Loud Theatre Company and to Daventry District Council for their community event grant. Both performances sold out and it made lots of money for the tennis club, Stepping Stones and the village hall (triple win!) . Roll on next year!

Flower Club

Spring is here .The snowdrops, daffodils, crocus, aconites and hellebores are all out and our gardens are starting to look a bit more colourful after the horrible wet winter. Did you know that if you want to increase your stock of snowdrops now is the time to split them up and move to another place and then you will have lots more to enjoy next year?

Forthcoming meetings:

18th March: A demonstration; "Inspirations and Creations" by Michael Montecillo.

15th April: A members' demonstration by some of our very talented ladies.

20th May: A demonstration by Shirley Henderson who lives locally ,originated from America and has also lived in South Africa so has lots of stories to tell whilst she is creating her beautiful arrangements. If you enjoy flowers in any way come along and join us at one of our meetings. Not only do we have demonstrations but workshops too where we learn different aspects of flower-arranging. There is always a warm welcome to visitors. Only £5 to include refreshments. Meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the village hall at 7.30pm.

Sulby Gardens

Sulby Gardens first opening for 2020 under the National Gardens Scheme!

Featuring snakeshead fritillaries, cowslips and bluebells, Sulby Gardens will open its gates for the first time this year under the NGS on

Thursday 23 April from 2 pm-5pm
Entry £4, plants and homemade teas available, also beautiful cards from Katy Dynes.

Stout footwear recommended.

Sulby Gardens, Sulby, Northants, NN6 6EZ - between Sibbertoft and Welford, only 5 miles from Clipston!

Clipston Primary School

The children have had a busy start to the year, with almost all the children in Years 4, 5 and 6 enjoying the opportunity to sing with over 6,000 other children in the 'Young Voices' concert at the Resort World Arena, Birmingham. Schools from around the country spend a term rehearsing, before coming together to perform a range of songs in an arena environment. Parents joined us for an evening performance and the event was a truly amazing experience for all. There was also a great turnout to the annual Science Conference, one of the many events organised with the Market Harborough STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Partnership. The children came together with pupils from many other schools in the area and took part in STEM workshops in the science labs at Robert Smyth Academy, ranging from forensic science, to building catapults and making rainbows. At the end of the day they travelled through the solar system on a journey of discovery about the planets, with Natalie from the National Space Centre in Leicester. Did you know that we are closer to the edge of space that we are to London?

London has been once again burning! Reception and Year 1 have been learning about the Great Fire of London. Following work about how the fire started, and why it spread so quickly, they re-enacted this on the field to the echoes of "London's Burning", sung beautifully by the children.

Years 5 and 6 have discovered evidence of dragons this term! This included investigation into 'dragon dung, skin and



saliva', leading them to draw the conclusion that dragons do in fact exist! Years 3 and 4 have been learning about what life was like in World War II, looking at precautions taken to stay safe, including evacuation and air raid shelters. They are also looking forward to becoming



evacuees for the day on a trip to Holdenby House later this term. Our sports teams continue to enjoy extracurricular activities including tennis

and fencing this term, and the Sports Crew has been running a 'personal best challenge' at lunchtimes. All the children in Year 5 and 6, who completed the Bikeability Course this term, achieved their Level 2 Award, giving them the knowledge and skills to ride safely on the roads. Julie Foster, who runs the charity 'Children United' came into school to give us an update on our linked project – a children's home in Karisalpatti, India - and to collect a cheque for £250, which was raised at our Harvest

Festival. We have been supporting the children's home for over 10 years and this time we heard that our money has bought fruit and vegetables to supplement the children's diet of rice. We are delighted and very proud to have achieved the Religious Education Quality Mark (REQM) at Silver Level. This award follows a thorough assessment process, which was done at the end of last term. The REQM award recognises the excellent teaching of RE, the provision of authentic learning experiences and the chance for children to explore the bigger ideas of religion and belief, and to think about what matters in their own lives. The school is open for all children aged 4 to 11 from 7.30am (Breakfast Club). Further information about the school is available on our website: www.clipstonprimaryschool.org and our Twitter page @ClipstonSchool.

Emma Mercer, Head Teacher

Haddon Fields... or Haddon Wood?

A great question, but the answer is not very straightforward! Many people have asked why we can't plant more trees in the two fields. There are two main reasons; firstly, much of the area is designated as 'ridge and furrow' by the Woodland Trust and secondly, the stream and the area alongside it, are designated 'flood plains' by the Environment Agency. As such, they are deemed 'unsuitable' for tree planting by the Woodland Trust. In some senses, this is illogical, particularly as the Woodland Trust is heavily promoting the need to plant many more

trees in the UK in the fight against climate change. So, from a philosophical point of view, you might ask which is more important - retaining fields with man-made ploughing remnants (ridge and furrow) from the middle ages, or doing something to help mitigate man-made climate change in the future? Perversely, tree planting is now being proposed by the Environment Agency as a positive tool that could assist with flood prevention. So, should we argue for more tree planting on Haddon Fields? I would welcome your views on these contentious issues!

In the meantime, Friends of Haddon Fields are awaiting the planning decision for the Education Field Centre. I am hopeful that it won't be long before we can start the construction. We also intend to complete the woodland walk inside the hedge along Kelmars Road. To complete the walk to the end, we will build a small footbridge over a culvert in the ditch so that we can walk to the new kissing gate to be installed this spring. I will update the progress with all our developments again in the next edition.

Stephen Woodgate 525566

Focus on Farming



The wet autumn and winter have meant that many wheat, barley and oil seed rape crops were not sown. The acreage of those crops is thought to be down by about 12%. Many farmers are planning to sow in the spring instead to such an extent that seed is very difficult if not impossible to buy. Yields of spring crops are normally lower than autumn sown crops and therefore the harvest is forecasted to be lower and next autumn's prices could be higher.

As you'll have noticed as you walk our footpaths, dry weather is needed or any stock that has to be turned out will quickly damage the grassland. There's time but not much for early lambing sheep flocks. The government has announced that the thinking behind the new agricultural policy will be the phasing out of direct payments to English farmers, to be replaced with a new 'public money for public goods' system. ('Public goods' are basically things that society wants but producers

find difficult to charge for.) Encouragingly (!) food security is still a feature and budgets must also 'have regard to the need to encourage the production of food'.

The UK government has indicated that support for farmers will continue and now be focussed on environmental measures rather than food production. Farmers will be incentivised to look after what we are now worried about, e.g. the environment and the look of the countryside.

The look of countryside is always changing in response to society's demands. Think of the demand for cheap vegetable oils driving up the acreage of oil seed rape (the yellow flowered crop), and then the ban on a pesticide that reduced it again. Other examples hereabouts are wind-farms in response to green energy demands; larger fields helping farmers reduce costs in response to lower prices; wider headlands and tree planting schemes to help biodiversity.

Change continues!

Andy Blake

Thank you from Emily

Hello everyone! Last summer I finally went on my long-awaited expedition to Ecuador, South America. For the 3 weeks I was out there I did so many amazing things, which included trekking around a lagoon, canyons and mountains; visiting multiple cities and towns, swimming with turtles and in waterfalls, whale watching, making chocolate, taking part in a beach clean-up and concreting a section of the playground in a primary school.

The community phase was the most rewarding. For this phase we took part in a beach clean-up in Puerto Lopez led by a group of volunteers. We collected over 20kg of rubbish on the beach which made a safer environment for the sea life. We also helped a small primary school on the coast by concreting the floor outside which enlarged their playground. The children and staff at the school were very friendly and grateful for our work towards their school.

Overall, I had a great time and this message is also to say a huge thankyou to



everyone in the village who helped me achieve my financial goal which enabled me to take part in the trip. I am so grateful for everyone's support and donations. This trip will be something I remember forever! Thank you!

Emily Hoinville

Did you know..?

Musket balls from the civil war are often found by detectorists in the fields to the west of Clipston towards Sibbertoft and Naseby

Tennis Club

To play tennis at Wimbledon you need: speed around the court, power in your serve, awareness of your opponent's strengths, a brain able to calculate angles, an agent/manager, a masseuse/psychologist, great hand/eye coordination and that determination to win.

To play tennis at Clipston you need: a racquet... and a sense of humour helps! The season will start again once the clocks go forward so why not come down and join us? Tuesday evenings from 4:30ish until dark (or the pub beckons!).

Coffee & Chat Canine Partners

All the proceeds from these coffee mornings go to Canine Partners (who train assistance dogs to help disabled people in their everyday lives) and are allocated to our puppy called "Clipston". We need £1,940 to reach our second £5,000. Hope you can join us to help reach this target - 3rd Saturday each month - 10.30 to noon - Clipston Village Hall.

Clipston Business Directory

ACCOUNTANTS

Contra Accounting Ltd

Accountancy and Taxation Services
www.contra-accounting.co.uk
Chris Partridge 01858 414210 / 07912 058 431
chris@contra-accounting.co.uk

Grange Accounting

Alun Davies Chartered Accountant
01858 437430 www.grangeaccounting.co.uk

AFTER SCHOOL CLASSES

'Relax Kids' Wellbeing Classes

Thursdays & Fridays at Clipston Village Hall
Ages 3-16. Contact Niki Hendry-Adams
Facebook: relaxkidswithniki 07939969901
www.relaxkids.com

ARCHITECTS/PLANNING

JWA Architects

apm@jwa-architects.co.uk
Andy Morris 01858 525343

AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS

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Free valuations given on oriental works,
pictures, china, silver, books, furniture. For
insurance or sale. Julie Connell 01858 525336
j.connell118@btinternet.com

BEAUTICIAN

Lorna Chapman

Mobile Beauty & Nail Technician

Gel manicures/pedicures, eyebrow/eyelash
treatments, facials and skincare solutions.
Clipston and local area 07725 819965

BED & BREAKFAST

Naseby Old Post House B&B, Holiday Let

Leah & Nigel Gardiner
01604 740985 / 07850 624 128
oldposthouse56@btinternet.com
www.theoldposthousenaseby.co.uk

CATERING

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Contact Chloe on 07921 959519 01858 525191
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Call to discuss 07801 388007
jim.tyson@btconnect.com

DOG WALKING & SITTING

The Dog House—Beth Wakefield

Dog walking, in-home boarding, puppy visits,
cat & small animal feeding.
01858 525556 / 07710 988 218
bethwakefield41@gmail.com

DOG GROOMING

Nik Nack's—Dog Grooming

niknacksdogs@hotmail.com
Nikita McCauley 07544 107 817

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Tracey Spokes 07912 782 075

GARDENING

Rod Dexter

Fencing, Hedge Trimming
01858 525439 / 07710 607 770
2, Bassett Way, Clipston

Great Little Garden Company

Clipston garden maintenance
Contact Dan Martin Tel. 07920853933
hello@greatlittlegardencompany.com

HANDYMAN

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Rachel.k.smith@hotmail.com

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Contact Julia Blake 01858 525760 or
email clipston.org@gmail.com

Clipston residents are given priority

Clipston Groups & Organisations

Bell Ringers

We usually ring the bells before a service at 10.30am on a Sunday (normally at Clipston, but other churches in the benefice too). We warmly welcome new members and anyone who would like to watch.

Lydie Melvin 07866 622063

Bulls Head Skittles Team

We play home and away matches on Fridays from October to March and Wednesdays from April to September. New members welcome.

Robert Burnham 01858 525628

Clipston Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS)

Regular play-reading sessions and performances, new members always welcome for both acting and supporting roles. Meetings are 'as and when' so contact us if you fancy joining!

Val Carpenter 01858 525120

Clipston Homeworkers' Lunch

We are a group of people who all work from home and we meet at the pub on the last Friday of the month for a social lunch. To join the WhatsApp group contact Sam samandamit@yahoo.com

Clipston WI

Enjoy interesting talks and demonstrations. We meet every second Tuesday in the month in the village hall at 7.30pm. New members welcome.

Rose Anderson 01858 525481

Coffee & Chat

3rd Saturday of each month in the village hall. 10.30am to 12pm. All welcome.

Jill Pick 01858 525746

Dog Training

Monday mornings at 9.15am at Clipston Playing Field. Very informal, free, please bring your own treats and poo bags!

Caroline Burton 07793 935 929

Flower Club

We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Village Hall at 7.30pm for demonstrations, workshops, speakers and more. **Linda Warren 01858 525463**

Football Club—Sunday

Welland Valley Panthers playing at Clipston Recreation Field Sundays at 10.30am. Minimum age 16 years.

Adam 07870 235 966

Friendship Club

Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month in the village hall at 2.10pm unless otherwise stated. Following the speakers, we enjoy afternoon tea and a raffle to enhance club funds. Guests welcome, fee £2.

Jill Pick 01858 525746

Parents & Tots Group

Friendly group for parents and carers with newborns to 4-year-olds. We meet Tuesdays in term time in the village hall 9.15-11.15am. £2 for one child, £2.50 for more than one child. Includes refreshments.

Chloe Wright 07977 529 859

Shooting Club

We meet on the last Sunday morning of every month (approx. 9.30am-12) on different landowners' sites, and afterwards usually go to The Bulls Head! All abilities welcome (inc. beginners).

Daryl Robinson 07919 252 964

Sunday Club

Kids Sunday school club, held in the Orbell Room at the church during the service on the second Sunday of the month. All ages welcome. Children learn about Christian values through storytelling and craft activities.

Faye Tan 01858 525275

Tennis Club

We meet on Tuesday evenings at 5ish at the tennis courts from the end of March to October (weather dependent!). The group is very social and all levels are very welcome.

Martin Clarke 01858 525558

United Benefice Choir

We get together and practise to perform at local church services and special church events. New members welcome. We meet on alternate Thursdays at 6pm.

Julie Connell 01858 525336

Whist Drive

A group of us meets on alternate Thursdays from September to May, 2pm at the village hall. Come and join us.

Grace Burnham 01858 525327

Bus Service to Harborough

Centrebus service to Harborough (No 59) running on weekdays.
Clipston 10.10 > Harborough 10.40
Harborough 12.55 > Clipston 13.22

Church & Chapel Services

All Saints Church

Services on Sundays, times vary. Please see www.nasebygroup.org
The Sunday Club for children is every second Sunday in the month (see information in Groups section).

Baptist Chapel

Sundays at 10.45am. All welcome.

Useful Contacts

All Saints Church

Trevor Lake 01858 525422

Baptist Chapel

Rob Thompsett 01858 466370

Bus Service (Centrebus)

www.centrebus/info

Clipston School (office)

Helen Rhodes 01858 525261

Clipston School Association

Poppy Michael 07977 211423

Clipston School Governors (Chair)

Dewinder Birk 01858 525261

Clipston Village Hall & Hire

Grace Burnham 01858 525327

Flood Warden

Ann Essen 07709 411 262

Footpath Warden

Julia Blake 01858 525760

Orbell Room at the church

Val Carpenter 01858 525120

Parish Council (Clerk)

Felicity Ryan 01604 740429

Meets on the 1st Wednesday of the month at village hall at 7.30pm. #

clerk@clipstonparishcouncil.org

www.clipstonparishcouncil.org.uk

Police non-emergency contact number 101

Recreation Field Trust & Pavilion Hire

Andy Blake 01858 525760

Stepping Stones Pre-School

01858 525113

Tree Warden

Mick Higgins 01858 525302

Charities

Almshouse Charity

Peter Goodchild 01858 525532

British Legion

Rupert Ellenborough 01858 525380

Clipston Consolidated Charities

Colin Morley 01858 525337

Clipston School Charity

Peter Goodchild 01858 525532

Kelmarsh Wind Farm

Community Benefit

clipston@kwcb.co.uk or 01858 525346