



Clipston Courier

YOUR VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

March 2016

Edition No. 5

Welcome

Welcome to the Easter edition of the Clipston Courier! In this issue we introduce two new regular columns; the Clipston Profile (p3) and All Creatures Great & Small (p5), which reveal more about Clipston and its inhabitants (both human and animal!). We mark the 5th anniversary of Steve & Helen running The Bulls Head (p2), highlight much needed fund-raising for the church, and investigate the fascinating art of bell ringing (p10). We hope you enjoy it!

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 Jim Tyson. Copy deadline 27th April

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This edition of the Clipston Courier is sponsored by:

THE CLIPSTON EGG COMPANY

Local, free-range eggs delivered to your door. Find out more on page 3. www.clipstoneggcompany.co.uk

CLIPSTON CHURCH NEEDS YOU!



The south aisle roof of our village church desperately needs replacing at a cost of **£90,000** – can you help?

Whether you go to church or not, it is likely you appreciate Clipston Church as an important historical building in the village, and one that deserves to be maintained. Back in September, when villagers were invited to an open evening at the church, many visitors were surprised to see the damage that is being done by rainwater coming through the roof of the south aisle. Quite simply the roof has come to the end of its effective life and needs replacing entirely. As you can imagine this will be a costly process – estimated at £90,000 - and the PCC (the church governing body) only has income from people kind enough to donate to it. Contrary to common belief, the church gets no income from the Church of

England or other bodies unless it applies for grants. The Parish Church Council has of course been applying for grants to meet the cost of the roof repairs but were unsuccessful last year. They are about to apply again and are more hopeful this time, but even if successful, they still need to raise a proportion of the costs of the work. Even if you feel that church is not really your thing, you will surely agree that the continued existence of a well-maintained church and churchyard in the village can only be a good thing and we nearly all have a need for the church at some time in our lives. Imagine the church boarded up with a tarpaulin over the roof and the grass in the churchyard 4-feet high! If you feel that you might be able to help in any way, with donations, fund-raising or other ideas, then Julie Connell, the church treasurer, would like to hear from you. Julie can be contacted on 01858 525336.

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 the sponsors.

CHEERS TO FIVE YEARS!

This February, Steve and Helen Foster celebrated five years as the landlord and landlady of The Bulls Head, our great village pub. We thought that not only should the Clipston Courier mark this anniversary by talking to them about their experience in Clipston, but also take the opportunity, on behalf of all the locals, to thank them for making The Bulls Head such a wonderful asset for our village.

The Fosters' move to Clipston began with a New Year's resolution in 2011. "We both woke up on New Year's Day and just agreed that this year we should try something different," says Steve. At the time Helen was running her own catering business, and Steve was a pub consultant for Everards. They had run pubs before, but had taken a break of several years to pursue other things. "It was Helen's idea," Steve explains. "She wanted to run a pub again, but I wasn't so keen when she first suggested it. It was the recession and I didn't think it was great timing." By New Year, however, Steve had been persuaded. A week later they had made the decision to come to Clipston and had submitted their business plan to Everards. They opened on 21 February, less than two months later. "We'd never heard of Clipston before we came here for the pub," says Helen. "We didn't even know where it was!"

"Right from the beginning it was really important to us that it would be a proper *village* pub and that the focus wouldn't be entirely on food," says Steve. "We wanted the pub to be welcoming to



The Foster family: Helen, Luke, Holly & Steve

everyone, whether they just wanted a drink, or whether they wanted a meal. Our first priority was to build up our regular drinkers and make sure they understood we were in it for the long term. I have a passion for real ale, so it was important to me to establish that, and Helen is passionate about wine, so that was her focus. We didn't do food to begin with so we could get the basics right."

"Right from the beginning it was really important to us that it would be a proper *village* pub"

Basics established, it didn't take long to build up the pub's reputation for food as well. The pub is now well known for its tasty, great value meals, as well as excellent catering. "Our approach was to offer home cooked food using local produce," says Helen, "which is what we continue to do." Assisted by son Luke, Steve runs the kitchen, and embraces catering for all sorts of events and parties as well as daily lunches and dinners. His popular Mexican chilli and delicious Spanish paella nights have also gone down really well, and the Curry & Quiz nights on a Tuesday are a firm (and very popular) fixture on the calendar.

While Steve is joined by his son in the kitchen, Helen is joined by daughter

Holly at the bar, making the running of The Bulls Head very much a family affair. "Running a pub is more than a

"Running a pub is more than a job, it's a way of life"

job, it's a way of life," says Helen. "The kids had always been involved and so it was natural that they should work with us. Holly is looking to study next year, but Luke is enjoying his catering career."

The Fosters have worked hard to become a part of the village – they admit that being villagers is really important to them because Clipston is their home as well as their place of work. They cite events like the recent carol singing on Christmas Eve among their favourite highlights of the last five years, and agree that the positive things are all community gatherings – the beer festivals, the steam rally, hosting christenings, weddings and "being involved in events that matter to people".

"I love it" says Steve about living in the village. "We were both saying the other day that we feel very blessed to be here and to have been accepted. We have no plans to go anywhere for a while."

Good news indeed, we think you'll all agree.

Liz Davies



Egg-ceptional local eggs!

What does the *Vicar of Dibley* have to do with The Clipston Egg Company? You may well ask. Geraldine, Alice and Hugo were all there at the very start...three beautiful Rhode Island Red chickens, belonging to Clipston's very own egg lady, Ann Essen. What started out as a hobby twelve years ago has turned into an 800-strong free-range chicken farm selling to local households and businesses and recognised as the only registered packing station in the Daventry district. Ann and daughter Jade start their day at Gravel Pit Farm by collecting by hand the 500 or so eggs from the traditional nest boxes, weighing them and grading them ready for delivery later in the day. The chickens are left to roam the farm, feeding on insects, worms and Ann's specialist feed which is free from any food colourings and GM products. The barn doors are left wide open for the chickens to come and go as

>>> Continued on page 8



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© Rob Leveritt

Ann Essen

Clipston Profile: Jules Howard



Freelance zoologist and nature writer, **Jules Howard**, has lived in Clipston for six years with his wife Emma and their two young daughters. With two books under his belt, as well as articles for national papers and appearances on BBC Breakfast, The One Show and Channel 4's Sunday Brunch, he is also a regular blogger on all things wildlife. His varied work includes being a consultant for wildlife charities and spending a lot of time in schools, revealing the delights and mysteries of fossils and pond life.

Growing up in West Haddon, he explains his obsession with animals started early. "Fossils and frogs were always a big interest when I was young," he says. "I wish I had a clever answer to explain why, but really I have no idea!" After leaving Guilsborough School, where his interest in science blossomed, Jules decided to study Zoology at university. A spell at West Haddon Garden Centre—"just lots and lots of watering plants"—galvanised him into following his childhood passion and he got a job with a frog charity, manning a frog hotline (yes, this really does exist). "People would ring up with questions about frogs and sometimes they would ask me things I couldn't answer, like 'Why does this frog have five legs?' No one seemed to know, and it made me realise that the answers hadn't all been discovered and that the boundaries of knowledge could be pushed. I found that very inspiring and it motivated me to research things myself."

It wasn't long before Jules had established himself as a freelancer, and seriously began to write. When asked how his book deal came about, he is modestly puzzled himself – it seems that

a blog about panda sex was the starting point. "Pandas always get a raw deal in the media, but so much of what you hear about their inability to reproduce gives the wrong impression," he says. His blog was gaining attention and then one day a publisher from Bloomsbury responded to one of his tweets and a book deal was born. *Sex on Earth*, Jules' first book, was penned into being—for the most part in Harborough library—and provides a funny, informative look at the crazy, amazing ways different species reproduce. As Jules says "Nature writes the weirdest scripts!" His second book *Death on Earth* (published this March), continues his bizarre and wonderful journey into the life cycles of some of the most unusual creatures on the planet.

Jules and wife Emma (they met at school) and daughters Scarlett (5) and Esme (2) enjoy living in the village. "Having kids has helped us plug into the community," he says. "It's lovely." He is still obsessed with fossils - once a month he goes to Peterborough and spends hours in a gravel pit, wallowing in fossil heaven. "Gravel is a great place to find fossils, believe it or not," he says, clearly excited by this still very strong passion. In fact, passion for his subject just radiates from Jules, who really is a walking encyclopaedia for the most bizarre animal facts you can imagine. From the giant squid that fights sperm whales deep beneath the sea, to the mouse that dedicates its life to mating as much as possible, a chat with Jules will never be dull. Step aside Mr Attenborough – Jules Howard is hot on your heels....

Google 'Jules Howard immortal animals' to see Jules' recent TED talk

He's BEHIND you!

What better way is there to cure the post-Christmas blues than a good old-fashioned pantomime – especially when it is right on your doorstep? Red Riding Hood paid a visit to Clipston village hall on 2 January, bringing with her an entertaining cast of characters including the wicked wolf, hilarious grandma and lots of fun and frivolity all round. Organised by the Tennis Club who secured a grant from Daventry District Council, they engaged the Broken Pipe Theatre Company to stage two performances which included songs, dancing, jokes for all ages and even a cooking demonstration! "Red Riding Hood was a tremendous success," said organiser Martin Clarke. "We are already making plans to do it again next year with *Treasure Island*." Stepping Stones Pre-School supported the event with refreshments (the ice creams went down very well) and everyone tumbled out into the dark afterwards feeling full of optimistic New Year cheer. Thanks so much to everyone who made it happen.

Photo: The cast of Red Riding Hood joined by youngsters from the audience



Clipston Recreation Field Trust

Currently we're working on projects to provide more exciting activity equipment for teenagers and adults; to develop facilities to support the football club and to plant a woodland area at the top of the field for walking, learning and picnicking. There is positive progress with all these projects with more definitive news over the summer. Many thanks to the tennis club for organising the fund-raising pantomime. Our next key fund-raising event is the Street Party (see page 5). A group called 'Friends of Clipston Recreation Field' has been set up to help organise this. If you would like to be involved please email us on andyblake4@hotmail.com

www.clipston.org

Clipston Village Website

Our new village website will be online mid-March and aims to provide a useful source of information for both residents and visitors wishing to learn more about our community; regularly updated with your help to record past and present life in our village, whilst also promoting future events. The site will be updated and monitored on a regular basis by the same team that produces the Clipston Courier four times a year. But, we do need your support with information, events, what's happening, dates, etc. **Email us with details of news, events, etc. on: clipston.org@gmail.com**

Tennis Club

With the clocks going forward and the evenings starting to get lighter it is a reminder that the tennis season will soon be upon us. If you enjoy a social game, no matter what standard you are, then please feel free to join Clipston Tennis Club on Tuesday evenings... you'll find us a welcoming, inclusive group with no pretensions of ability!

Martin on 01858 525558

Clipston & District Flower Club

After our recent fantastic event with national demonstrator Jayne Edmonds, why don't you come along to the events we have planned over the next couple of months?

20 April 'Gardener's Question Time' - a panel of experts will be on hand to answer your questions.

18 May 'Less is More' - a demonstration by Norma Lynch showing a minimalist approach to flower arranging. Both meetings will be held in the village hall, starting at 7.30pm.

Friendship Club

The following events will be held in April & May at the village hall:

11 April AGM and usual formalities. We will commence with a fish and chip lunch (12.45 for 1pm) and finish with tea and jam & cream scones !!!

9 May 'The Wildlife of the Scottish Highlands and Islands' - an illustrated slideshow by Neil McMahon

Mary Durran 01858 525200

Village Hall

Jumble sale Thursday 7 April at 7 pm – anything saleable accepted but NOT TOO BIG please; clothes, white elephant, bric-a-brac, books, shoes, cakes and a raffle. Any unsold items will be collected by the Air Ambulance to sell in their outlets in Market Harborough, Daventry and Rugby.

Disappearing trays! The village hall is missing 4 brown trays, 3 of which were last seen at the Whist Drive on 3 December. The fourth has been missing for over a year! If anyone knows their whereabouts Grace would appreciate their return. Many thanks.

Wormslade Farm Biodigester Planning Application

The planning application for the biodigester to be situated on the outskirts of Clipston (along Station Road towards the A508) was available for consultation between 21 January and 11 February 2016. The application was discussed at public meetings and at the Clipston Parish Council meeting in February 2016. Many people in the village have written to object, due to traffic issues (it is likely that heavy vehicle traffic through the village will increase), as well as potential smell, visual impact on the countryside and light pollution.

It is estimated that in total around 300 letters and emails of objection were submitted from residents of five villages in the area. At the time of print, the target date for a decision was 8 April 2016. The progress of the application can be followed at:

<http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/envirom/planning/planapps/pages/currentdav.aspx>

The specific details of the Wormslade Farm submission are shown under the heading; **Application Number 15/00090/WASFUL.**

Clipston Church

Queen's goth Birthday Celebrations 23 & 24 April

AFTERNOON TEAS & EXHIBITION

Saturday 23 & Sunday 24 April 2-5pm
Floral displays with a photography & art exhibition, crown-making display & competition, open to children and adults (judging 4pm Sat) Home-made cream teas

EVENING CONCERT

Saturday 23 April 7.30-9pm

A varied & lively programme with the Clipston Choir, CADS sketches & singing including international organist, pianist and conductor, Simon Over, Music Director of the Southbank Sinfonia. Tickets £5 including a glass of bubbly and nibbles. Entry free to children under 11 years - Bar with wine and soft drinks.

For tickets and information please contact Ruth or Roger on 525346

EVENSONG SERVICE

Sunday 24 April, 6pm

Easter Services

Palm Sunday 20 March, 11am

Stations of the Cross 21 March 7.30pm

Easter Day 27 March 11am

Coffee, cakes and chat in the church

The Orbell Room at the back of the church will be open from **9am til lunchtime every Wednesday from 23 March** for fresh filter coffee, tea and cakes, biscuits and other local home-made goodies. Daily papers will also be available so come along, make yourselves comfortable on our new sofa and chairs, and spend a pleasant morning chatting, reading, eating and drinking in our lovely church surroundings, and as proceeds will go to the roof fund, do your bit to help save this wonderful historic building! With these new refurbishments in the Orbell Room we hope to offer it as a venue for anyone in the community to use and we hope many will take us up on the opportunity to benefit from this lovely setting.

Baptist Chapel

We have a service every Sunday at **10.45am** with Communion served on the first Sunday of every month. Refreshments are available afterwards and we welcome everyone to stay for a drink and a chat. Our **Easter Service** will take place at **10.45am on Easter Sunday** and we look forward to seeing you there.

All Creatures Great & Small



Animals are a big part of Clipston life, so we thought it was high time they were included in our newsletter! From horses to hamsters, guinea pigs to goats, please email us your photos and any interesting stories to go with them. This issue we meet Tinkerbelle (a.k.a. 'Tinker') born in October, who was a surprise birthday present for eight-year-old Reuben Thornton back in December. Tinker is a Blue tan, pedigree Border Terrier, registered name Princess Rapunzel. She joins Poppy, the Thornton's 10-year-old black Labrador. In addition to the dogs, they also have three hens (Pepper, Bluebell and Laverder) and Reuben's sister, Charlotte, has a pony called Snoopy. Quite a busy household then! Email your photos to clipston.org@gmail.com and you could be featured next time.

SUMMER EVENTS 2016

SUMMER FETE

Saturday 14 May 12-3pm

Clipston School Summer Fete will be held in the school grounds on Saturday 14 May, opening at 12 noon with maypole dancing and the crowning of the May Queen. All villagers are warmly



invited (whether you have links with the school or not) to enjoy a lovely community atmosphere, cake stalls, delicious barbecue, teas, coffees, gift stalls, bouncy castle and more. Please go along and support the school!

STREET PARTY CELEBRATIONS (Clipston Recreation Field Trust) Sunday 12 June

We thought we'd move the village festival to our picturesque High Street this year to join with the **national street party** to celebrate The Queen's goth on Sunday 12 June. Get the date in your diary – there will be fun and food, music and laughter, games and festivities,

bunting and flags...let's make it a quintessentially English village street party for all the family. If you'd like to help organise things and/or represent the street you live in, then come to **The Bulls Head @8pm on 18 April** or email us on andyblake4@hotmail.com. Faye, Nikki & Julia

TREASURE HUNT Sunday 26 June

Two treasure hunts will run (both starting at the pavilion on the playing fields) - one on foot around Clipston, one by car around local villages. BBQ and drinks afterwards into the evening. **Details from Liz Davies 07525 640 477**

Clipston Almshouse Charity



Detached bungalow available 19 High Street Clipston

When the bungalows were built in 1929 it was intended that occupants should be 60 or over and have been parishioners of Clipston, Haselbech or Lilbourne for ten years prior to the application. These conditions are now somewhat relaxed, but a link with Clipston is preferable. The trustees are inviting applications from suitable persons.

The appointed residents will be required to pay a monthly maintenance contribution, which is considerably less than a private market rental.

Anyone interested should contact Peter Goodchild at 6 Gold Street, Clipston, 01858 525 532 for further details.

Bill Towers

Annie and family would like to express their sincere thanks to all friends and neighbours in Clipston for their very kind words, cards and messages of sympathy following the loss of Bill, aged 94. We are very grateful for the donations to 'Age UK' and 'Hospice at Home' who gave us such wonderful support during this most difficult time. Thank you also to Rev'd Angela Hughes for her kindness and support.

Anne Woodgate

Mike Partridge

Lynne, Richard and Chris Partridge would like to say a heartfelt thanks for all the condolences, letters of support and many tributes paid to Mike. Your thoughts were very much appreciated. Thank you also for all the donations made to Macmillan Nurses. Mike would have been very touched.

Coffee & Chat Mornings and Canine Partners

Since the last Courier we have had our Christmas event and a fabulous £333 was donated to Canine Partners. We have also given a further £430 to the charity from the proceeds of the other coffee mornings held last year. This was presented to Canine Partners at our February morning. Thank you to everyone who supported us in 2015 and we look forward to seeing you all in 2016.

The dates for the next few coffee mornings are : 19 March, 16 April, 21 May, 18 June, 16 July and 20 August.

Anne, Jenny and Jill



The Dog House
For all your pets' needs

Beth Wakefield
07710 988218
01858 525556
bethwakefield41@gmail.com

Dog walking, in-home boarding, puppy visits
& cats/small animal feeding

Clipston WI

Just a reminder of our forthcoming meetings:

March: 'Salcombe Wrecks' - Jim Tyson tells tales of his diving exploits (which are always very interesting).

April: 'Spring Cleaning Your Mind' - sounds a good idea!

We will be arranging a visit to a local garden in the summer and most likely doing our famous teas again in October for the Steam Rally. Any ladies that fancy a night out on the second Tuesday of the month, you will be very welcome.

Rose Anderson, President 525481.

Clipston Shooting Club

There have been 4 shoots since the last newsletter with more and more people becoming members. Recent trophy winners are Neville Panter, Bob Gardener, Tim Westwood and John Pickstock. It's not necessary to have shooting experience or a gun, everyone has to start somewhere! We can lend you a gun and we have experienced people available to give instruction. Safety is our prime consideration and we have qualified safety officers at every shoot. Anyone interested contact me on 01858 525481. You will be made very welcome. We meet on the last Sunday of the month. Come on, have a go!

Laurie Anderson

Clipston Weather

November 2015

A wet month with only seven dry days. I recorded 88mm of rain - more than 25% above average. Temperatures were well above normal for November with the maximum of 17°C on the 1st, and the day mean temperature, both second highest in my records dating back to 1981. I recorded only two nights with air frost - -2°C and -3°C on the 21st and 22nd.

December 2015

Another wet month with rainfall nearly 40% above average. I recorded a total of 97mm, with 16.4mm on the 30th and 16.3mm on the 26th. Fortunately we escaped the severe flooding others experienced in the north of the country. Temperatures were high for the time of year. Day and night temperatures were the highest I have recorded for any December, and it was reported the warmest December on record in the UK. The only frost recorded was -1°C on 31st.

January 2016

The New Year started wet with rain measured on the first 13 days, although some did fall at night. Our only snowfall of the winter came with about 50mm on the night of the 16th. I recorded a total precipitation (which includes melted snow) of 91mm which is nearly 40% above average. Average day temperatures were above normal with six days in the last week above 10°C. I recorded air frost on ten nights - the lowest, -4°C on the 18th. However, there were many warm nights, which pushed the average to well above normal for January.

Three weeks into February 2016

Rainfall to date already exceeds the total average for the month. This includes two large daily amounts of 14.8mm and 18.5mm on the 6th and 17th respectively. Day temperatures have been mostly above average, although I have recorded frost on eight nights, the lowest, -4°C on the 15th.

The Year 2015

The total rainfall was 726mm which was slightly below my 37-year average. June was especially dry, and was the hottest since 2009. The 1st July at 35°C was the hottest day I have ever recorded. As mentioned above, the year closed with two warm months.

Peter Wilford

Remembering the Past

Clipston resident, Alex Pegram, continues to give us a fascinating insight into life in the village over the last century. In this issue, he writes about the village in the 1930s and the reaction to the outbreak of World War II in 1939.

During the early 1930s Clipston remained a fairly self-sufficient village and had a good selection of traders and businesses. As Pegrams (pictured right) ceased trading in 1937, so the Co-operative opened up on Gold Street, and Maddocks' the newsagents (on the High Street) and the post office on Church Lane continued to flourish.

There were three butchers, Buswell's Bakery (pictured below), two dairies, a saddler, a wheelwright, a blacksmith, a shoe-mender, a coal merchant, a plumber and a carpenter as well as the two public houses, The Bulls Head and The Red Lion. The farms in and around the village (there were 14 in total) were still the main source of employment, and there was also a district nurse and Mr Payne, the resident police constable. The village also had three 'lengthmen' who worked for the council sweeping the roads, clearing the drains and scything the grass verges.

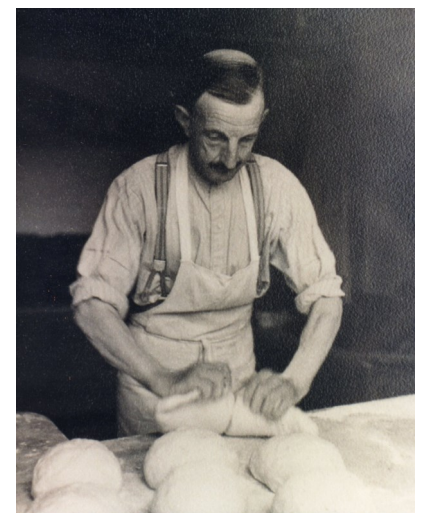
It was during the depression in the 1930s that many villagers started to move further afield for work, finding



employment in the nearby towns of Market Harborough, Kettering and Corby where the steelworks was expanding.

In 1939, Germany attacked Poland and WWII began. The day after Mr Chamberlain declared that England was once again at war the headmaster, Mr Halestrop, gave a talk on the implica-

tions of war and how, before peace was again restored, families would suffer tragic losses. The rector, Mr Thomas Orbell, took prayers for the country and the future. At school the older children had to help run the school as there became a shortage of staff and an increase in the number of pupils as evacuees from London and Coventry were enrolled. The girls helped in the kitchen and were taught to knit balaclavas, mitts, socks and jumpers for the prisoners of war and the merchant navy. These were sent in Red Cross parcels and two soldiers who had been sent home under a repatriation exchange system run by the Red Cross visited the school to say how grateful they were for the valuable contents of their parcels.



Top right: Pegram's shop on the corner of Kelmarsh Road and Church Lane; Right: Ralph Buswell, the baker, making bread; Above: Buswell's Bakery, now Mill House on Chapel Lane

Clipston F.C.

31 October 2015

P.N.S Reserve 1 – 3 Clipston

14 November 2015

C.C Grange 1 – 0 Clipston

21 November 2015 – CUP MATCH

Clipston 2 – 5 Nether Heyford

5 December, 2015 – CUP MATCH

Long Buckby 3 – 1 Clipston

12 December 2015

Brixworth 3 – 1 Clipston

16 January 2016

Clipston 4 – 4 Brixworth

23 January 2016

Harpole 4 – 0 Clipston

30 January 2016

Blisworth 8 – 1 Clipston

13 February 2016

S&L Khalsa Corby 1 – 2 Clipston

20 February 2016

Weldon 2 – 2 Clipston

VEGAS NIGHT

Friday 13 May from 8pm



£20 a ticket includes:

**Drinks, Canapes, Magician,
Casino Tables, Fun Auction**

Smart Dress All Welcome

Venue: The Acacias, Clipston Road
(on the road to Great Oxendon)

Tickets from Sally Gowling
charlieandsally@hotmail.com

07813 280 926

All proceeds to Stepping Stones Pre-School

Clipston & District Royal British Legion

2015 POPPY APPEAL

This is to thank the very kind people of our district for the generous contributions to the Poppy Appeal. 2015 proved to be the best ever collection with a total of £2,217.24. One highlight was the all-time district record for a pub, broken by The Bulls Head, Clipston. The pub raised £184.72 which was considerably more than in 2014. As everyone knows, the Poppy Appeal is a very worthwhile cause. Thank you on behalf of the Royal British Legion and you can all be assured that your contributions will be very well spent. Not least thanks to all our volunteer collectors who give up their time to collect around local villages.

**Laurie Anderson, Poppy Area Organiser
Royal British Legion**

Stepping Stones Pre-School



Registered Charity Number: 1023443 Member of Pre-School Learning Alliance.

For 2½ to 4 years. Friendly, welcoming environment, great preparation for school. Government funding available for all 3+ year olds and for some 2½ year olds.

OPENING TIMES:

Monday 9am-3pm*

Tues & Weds 9am-12.30pm (includes optional lunch club 12-12.30pm)

Thursday 9am-3pm (Forest School)*

Friday 9am-12pm

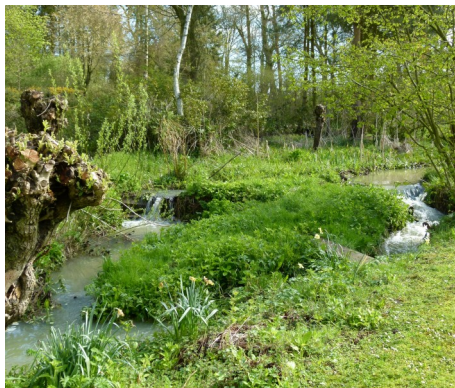
*Afternoon sessions and Forest School available only for children who will be starting school the following September.

01858 525113 www.steppingstonesclipston.co.uk

Sulby's Secret Gardens

If you have not yet discovered this hidden gem—literally on our doorstep—we strongly suggest that you do! Hidden in the tiny hamlet of Sulby are 12 acres of stunning and varied gardens, including a 4-acre wood, a wetland, a stream, two wild flower meadows, a bluebell spinney, seven ponds, an orchard, a walled kitchen garden, a butterfly garden and a 19th century ice-house.

As part of the National Garden Scheme the gardens will be open on **Thursday 28 April 2pm - 5pm** (fritillaries and cowslips), and **Thursday 23 June 2pm - 5pm** (when the wildflower meadows are at their peak).



Home-made teas are available. The gardens are located just 10 minutes drive from Clipston between Sibbertoft and Welford (NN6 6EZ).

Egg-ceptional local eggs

...Continued from page 3

they please and these happy birds can be found sunbathing, frolicking in the snow and having dust baths in the quarry – it seems the only weather that keeps them indoors is the pouring rain!

Asked where she got the idea to run a chicken farm from, Ann admits that it has just evolved over time from her original three chickens. "I started giving away eggs to friends and family when I couldn't eat them all and it grew from there."

The Clipston Egg Company delivers straight to the door, £1.20 for half a dozen, on Tuesdays in Clipston, Thursdays in Sibbertoft and Fridays in Market Harborough, Great Oxenden and East Farndon. Boxes are also available through Edible 16 and Waterloo Farm and can be bought over the bar at The Bulls Head.

So...don't be a rotten egg, don't egg-nore a wonderful local business, stay sunny-side up and get in touch with Ann right now (see below) for some really cracking eggs this Easter – go on, whisk it!

To order egg delivery, contact Ann on
07709 411 262 or 07754 362 760
info@clipstoneggcompany.co.uk
www.clipstoneggcompany.co.uk

Clipston Primary School

Since the last Clipston Courier the children have taken part in several events held at school and in our local church including the Infant Nativity and our Junior Carol Service. The children decorated 3 trees for the Christmas Tree Festival and the school choir performed in the church to many members of the local community. Our **Easter Service** which is always a joyous and uplifting occasion takes place on **Thursday 24 March** and anyone is welcome to attend.

Fundraising is an important part of our school life and the charities supported are suggested by the children or through the School Council. Since November over £500 has been raised for local organisations and national charities.

The **Reception** children have welcomed visits from several parents including Jules Howard and his fossil collection, where he showed them how scientists use fossils to find out about animals and plants from the past. They performed their own take on *The Gruffalo*, called *The Huffalo*, by creating their own characters, writing their own version and painting the creatures on to the scenery.

The **Robin Class** is researching the Great Fire of London, comparing and contrasting what it would have been like growing up in the era. They performed a lively production of the Great Fire of London to the rest of the school.

'Incredible India' is the **Sparrow Class** Spring Term topic and the classroom has become a relaxing meditation area and an Indian kitchen. They have used traditional methods in making bracelets, creating origami and cooking using the different spices.

Kingfisher Class visited Holdenby House as part of their World War II topic. They enjoyed exploring the Anderson shelter during an air raid, creating barrage balloons from paper mache, eating rabbit stew and discovering what life was like during the war.



As part of 'Discovering China' the children in **Woodpecker Class** celebrated Chinese New Year by enjoying Chinese food. They also created their own dragon, lanterns and calligraphy spring couplets greetings for the Year of the Monkey.

Clipston School Sport's Crew



Once again our **sports teams** have been extremely busy: The year 4/5/6 mixed football team represented South Northants and Daventry in the County Small Schools Finals (7-a-side). In the Year 5/6 mixed Tag Rugby Festival we lost in the semi-finals to finish 4th out of 10 teams. Both infants and juniors have been involved in indoor athletics at Daventry and the Year 5/6 netball team won the Daventry Small Schools High-5 Netball Competition qualifying for the Partnership Finals to be held at the end of March.

Visitors from the local community are always welcome to attend any of our events or even just pop in and see what we've been getting up to! Further information is available on our website: www.clipstonprimaryschool.org or you can follow us on Twitter @ClipstonSchool.

Emma Mercer
Head Teacher



Emily Green



Fraser Roper



Gracie Lally



Jake Belton



Olivia Cotterill



Sophie Green

Chinese New Year 8th February 2016

Did you know that 1 in 6 people in the world celebrates Chinese New Year? The customs vary, but the main idea is to remember family, and wish everyone peace and prosperity in the coming year. The Chinese New Year falls on the new moon in late January or early February, and the celebrations last for 15 days, ending on the full moon. The Chinese calendar has a cycle of 12 years, with each year named after an animal. Some people believe that people born in a particular year will have some of the characteristics of that animal. This year is the Year of the Monkey.

Photos and facts provided by
Mrs Jane Ginns

Ring all about it!



(L-R) Virginia Bromley, Jan Handy, Richard Green, Arthur Butlin, Harry Robinson & Ken Rutland

Fancy trying your hand at bell ringing? The group who rings the bells at All Saints Church, Clipston, is looking for new members to keep this lovely tradition alive in our community. Liz Davies met them to find out just what 'campanology' is all about....

Is there anything more quintessentially English than church bells pealing on a Sunday morning? This ancient sound has remained unchanged across the centuries and the art of bell ringing—or campanology—has been passed down from generation to generation.

Hidden in a small room at the bottom of the bell tower in Clipston church, a group of those bell ringers is in full swing (pardon the pun) as I arrive on a Sunday morning in February. They are busy 'ringing up' the bells, which is how they begin each session. This involves swinging the bells until the mouth of the bell is balanced upwards instead of downwards, where it can then be 'set' or paused in this upright position. Once all the bells are set, they are ready for proper bell ringing to begin.

Ring up the bells is the most physical part of bell ringing, as the bell has to be swung from a stationary position almost full circle to get it into place, and the heaviest of these weighs over half a tonne. No wonder Ken Rutland is slightly out of breath as I climb up the ladder to meet him. He introduces me to the rest of the group—three are from Clipston (Ken, Harry and Arthur); Virginia is from Great Oxendon, Richard from East Farndon and Jan from Arthingworth. The group rings the bells at Clipston, Naseby, Kelmarsch & Haselbech, and is sometimes requested at other parishes depending on numbers. "We would love to have more

people involved," says Ken, who has been bell ringing in Clipston for over 25 years. "We need to teach as many people as possible so that we always have enough members to keep the tradition going." The youngest member of the group (who unfortunately wasn't present that week) is 12-year-old Sophia, followed by Harry aged 19. "It's something that anyone of any age can do, from nine to ninety" explains Ken. "No experience is necessary, just an enthusiasm to learn."

Clipston church has five bells, which is the minimum number needed (Market Harborough church, for example, has ten). The bells graduate in size and weight, which is what gives them their different sounds. Once the bells are set in position upside down, the ringers can begin 'rounds' and 'call changes' which are the rhythm of the bells that are familiar to us. Beginners start by learning these rhythms and as they become more experienced they move on to more complicated ringing methods which produce more of a musical tune.

It was fascinating watching the group at work and made me realise just how important it is to pass on the knowledge that they have, to ensure the bells ring far into the future. So if you are interested in having a go, or just watching what they do, please go along to the church on a Sunday morning at 10.30am and see for yourself.

Contact Ken Rutland on 01858 525305

Shambala 2016

The villages of Arthingworth, Great Oxendon, Clipston and East Farndon ran a very successful Community Café at last year's Shambala Festival, the profits from which have been shared between the villages for good causes. We received great feedback from customers at the time and have since had really positive feedback from the festival organisers. Thank you again to everyone who contributed to that success.

Many of last year's volunteers have offered to help again which is great. The festival will be held over the August bank holiday weekend and will be an even bigger challenge this year as the food offer has to be vegetarian as well as sustainably/locally sourced.

We are still in the early stages of planning and are not yet sure where we will need volunteers, but we may well be looking for more help in the provision of locally grown vegetables, setting up and taking down of the stall, cooking/baking, deliveries and transport.

For further information please contact Val Carpenter (01858 525120) or Jim Tyson (01858 525697) valj.carpenter@btinternet.com jimtyson@btconnect.com

Gigaclear

As most of you will be aware, there was a recent campaign in the village to sign households up to Gigaclear, a highspeed pure fibre broadband service, which would deliver a more reliable internet connection. The company needed a certain percentage of households to sign up, but as they didn't get enough, they will not be going ahead in Clipston. Many surrounding villages including Naseby and Braybrooke had a higher take-up rate and as a result are having fibre broadband installed. Will this leave Clipston behind? House prices are certainly affected by the speed of broadband available, especially in rural areas where it can be patchy. What is your broadband like? Are you happy with your service? We'd like to know your thoughts. Please email us on clipston.org@gmail.com

DID YOU KNOW?

At the time of the 2011 census, Clipston had a population of 643 people.

ACCOUNTANTS

Grange Accounting
Alun Davies Chartered Accountant
01858 437430

RMLC Associates
Accountancy and Taxation Services
www.rmlcassociates.co.uk
Chris Partridge
01858 525148 / 07912 058 431

ARCHITECTS/PLANNING

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

Lindsey Cuoghi-Jackson
Planning Drawings, Applications and
Building Control Packages
lindseycuoghi@hotmail.com
07544 043 071

AROMATHERAPY

Nurture4 Health
helen@nurture4health.com
Helen Selby 07821 197 541

AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS

Cheffins
Fine Art Auctioneers and Valuers
Mrs Julie Connell 01858 525336

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COMPUTER TRAINING

Julia Blake
Computer Training for Individuals and
Small Business
juliablake1@hotmail.co.uk
01858 525760 / 07880 700 699

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Copy-editing and Proofreading
eveleighhannah@gmail.com
Hannah Eveleigh 07834 088 115

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Gary Bennett
01858 525540 / 07793 556 199

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niknacksdogs@hotmail.com
Nikita McCauley
07544 107 817

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

EGG DELIVERY

Clipston Egg Company
Free range eggs delivered or collection
Mrs A. Essen 07709 411 262

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Tracey Morgan 07912 782 075

GARDENING

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

GIFTS & HOMEWARE

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using vintage fabrics and trimmings.
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www.random-makes.co.uk
wendydoughty@rocketmail.com
Wendy Doughty 01858 525414

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Tim Thornton 01858 468858

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www.creativeapeltd.com
Alastair Woodgate 07736 469 562

If you would like to advertise your business here, please contact Julia Blake on 01858 525760

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. We meet on occasional Tuesdays.

Ken Rutland 01858 525305

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 525441

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

Clipston Cricket Club

Currently not playing matches due to lack of players. If interested please call.

Andy Blake 07768 554 395

Coffee & Chat

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

Jill Pick 01858 525746

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

Friendship Club

As always, new members are most welcome. Our meetings are held on the second Monday of each month in the village hall, and commence at 2.30pm unless otherwise stated. Following the speaker, we enjoy afternoon tea and a raffle, held to enhance club funds.

Mary Durran 01858 525200

Please let us know if any details on this page change (see front page for contacts).

Football Club

Training every Tuesday evening and matches on Saturday from September to April. New members welcome.

Angela Fellowes 01858 525612

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.

Liz Davies 07525 640 477

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).

Laurie Anderson 01858 525481

Sunday Club

Kids Sunday school club, held in the Orbell Room at the church during the service on the second Sunday of the month at 11am. 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

Youth Club

Youngsters from Year 7 (11/12 year olds) upwards meet at the playing fields pavilion every Friday evening in term time from 7-9pm. Football, films, swing ball, table tennis, cake making, tuck shop, trips and more. £1

Nikki Bugla 01858 525660

Church & Chapel Services

All Saints Church

Sundays at 11am. All welcome. The Sunday Club for children is every second Sunday in the month at 11am (see information in Groups section).
www.allsaintsclipston.org.

Baptist Chapel

Sundays at 10.45am. All welcome.

Useful Contacts

Clipston Village Hall & Hire

Grace Burnham 01858 525327

All Saints Church

Reverend Angela Hughes 01858 525342

Baptist Chapel

Rob Thompsett 01858 466 370

Clipston School (office)

Helen Rhodes 01858 525261

Clipston School Governors (Chair)

Graham Leigh 01858 525261

Clipston School Association

Emma Stevens

Stevenson_emma@sky.com

Mobile Library

Second Thursday monthly 12.05 – 12.30pm Bassett Way 0300 126 1000

Stepping Stones Pre-School

Sharon Brigden 01858 525113

Orbell Room at the church

Ken Rutland 01858 525305

Recreation Field Trust & Pavilion Hire

Andy Blake 01858 525760

Parish Council (Clerk)

Felicity Ryan 01604 740429

Meetings monthly 1st Wednesday at the village hall 7.30pm.

clerk@clipstonparishcouncil.org

www.clipstonparishcouncil.org.uk

Bus Service (County Connect)

Booking & helpline 0345 456 4474

www.county-connect.co.uk

Flood Warden

Ann Essen 07709 411 262

Footpath Warden

Julia Blake 01858 525760

Tree Warden

Mick Higgins 01858 525302

Charities

Almshouse Charity

Peter Goodchild 01858 525532

British Legion

Hon Rupert Law 01858 525380

Clipston Consolidated Charities

Colin Morley 01858 525337

Clipston School Charity

Peter Goodchild 01858 525532