



# Clipston Courier

YOUR VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

March 2017

Edition No. 9

## Welcome

Welcome to the Easter edition of the Clipston Courier! Finally we can look forward to spring and warmer weather. As the buds start to appear and the landscape gradually changes, we ask local farmer Colin Morley what happens **Down on the Farm** at this time of year (p2). Photographer, sound recordist and arctic explorer, Rob Leveritt, is our **Clipston Profile** (p3) and we have all the dates for your diary for the next few months, including news of the eagerly anticipated **Clipston Festival** (p5). We hope you enjoy this issue and wish you all a very Happy Easter.

**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 27th April

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Jumble Sale - 6 April (p4)  
Gilbert & Sullivan Night- 6 May (p10)  
Summer Fete - 14 May (p5)  
Clipston Festival - 24 June (p5)

## PLANTING FOR THE FUTURE



L-R Imogen, Milly, Auden & Rose enjoying the new play tree, which is part of the newly planted woodland area at the recreation ground

**Children from Clipston and the surrounding area have been planting trees at the playing field as part of a project to create a new woodland area for villagers and visitors to enjoy.**

The Clipston Recreation Ground Trust invited youngsters from both Stepping Stones Pre-School and Clipston Primary School to join local volunteers planting over 400 saplings provided by the Woodland Trust. A Big Lottery Grant also helped to buy spring bulbs, a play tree and materials for laying the foundations for picnic benches.

The area will become a great addition for Stepping Stones, which takes pre-schoolers to the playing fields every Thursday to enjoy their Forest School. Their weekly adventures allow them to run and play and learn about the world around them by exploring animals and nature, building dens and making potions and mud pies! Stepping Stones' Forest

School Leader, Jo Dewar, said "We had a lovely time planting the trees and the children were delighted to help. It will be great to have a new area for the children to explore in Forest School—I think the play tree will be very popular!" Andy Blake, Chairman of the Clipston Recreation Ground Trust, commented: "We are always looking for ways to improve the recreation ground and felt a wooded wildlife area would work well, providing a more interesting place to walk and a place for picnics and for children to play. In years to come as the trees grow, it will change the landscape and attract birds and wildlife for us all to enjoy."

**For more on who has been involved in the project and an update on fund-raising and events turn to page 4.**



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.

# Down on the farm

Colin Morley is a happy man. Not only is his farm coming to the end of its busiest time of the year as 500 breeding ewes produce hundreds of gambolling lambs to fill the fields around Clipston, but this year, for the first time, his son, Dave, has done the night shift in the lambing sheds!

Colin is the fourth generation of Morleys farming the land to the east of the village and between him and his wife Alison, Dave, and Martin Fellowes, they rear lambs from three different breeds, to produce ewes which are hardy, are good mothers and have good-sized offspring with plenty of milk to feed them.

Colin lambs earlier than many farmers to catch the early trade at market and by the beginning of February the ewes are brought into the barns where they spend their final days of their five-month pregnancy. Once lambing starts each ewe is placed in an individual pen to ensure she bonds with her lambs and they feed well from her. Colin tells me intervention in the birth is only occasionally required, generally if the lamb is breech. As soon after birth as possible the lambs' navels are sprayed with iodine to prevent any infection and within 24 hrs, they are painted with a number that matches that of their mothers.



A ewe and her lamb in the fields behind Basset Way

Colin's ewes give birth to one or two lambs but occasionally three are born to one ewe. One of these will be taken away and 'adopted' by another ewe who only has one lamb, or who has lost her lamb in birth. This enables every lamb to get enough milk and means no ewe is left struggling to feed more than she can cope with. Colin explains "the bonding process is extremely important – if the lamb does not smell or sound right then a mother will not accept it." 'Adopted' lambs are covered in the placenta from the mother's own lamb so that it smells familiar – this sounds a bit odd to those of us who are not farmers, but it tricks the mother into thinking the lamb is hers from the outset.

In rare cases where a mother does not bond properly, Colin laughs as he tells me "we just place a bucket with a hole in the bottom over the sheep's head – she can't then see which lamb is feeding from her and can't push it away!" This allows the lamb to take milk into its system and after a day or so, the mother accepts its smell and thinks it is her own.

Sheep only ever grow 8 teeth, 2 per year, so a ewe is at her peak when she has all 8 teeth as she can eat more grass and

so provide richer, more plentiful milk. Once they have all their teeth, they start falling out again so she will pass her prime time for lambing once this happens.

Ewes and their lambs are turned into the fields once they are strong enough to endure the weather and here they stay until they are sold to market in May-June time. It is lovely to watch these gorgeous creatures frolicking in the spring sunshine but we have to remember that first and foremost, these animals are our local farmers' livelihoods and as such we should share this environment with them with care and respect.

**Hannah Eveleigh**

## Haddon Fields now official Woodland Trust Site



Haddon Fields (the area of land on the right-hand side of Kelmarsh Road as you leave the village) is now an official Woodland Trust site! Signage will be installed in the coming weeks at access points, and villagers are encouraged to walk here and make use of the area. With kissing gates being installed and lots of plans for more tree-planting and the installation of bench seats, this lovely spot will really start to become a haven for local wildlife and a fabulous area through which to stroll. Future plans for the area include the conversion of the concrete-pad bridge to a ford, the construction of a new footbridge over the stream and replacement of the access gate to Little Hill.

If you haven't yet explored these two fields on the edge of Clipston, it is well worth a visit to see the hard work that has already been put in, to ensure a beautiful woodland walk for everyone, old and young, to enjoy.

'Friends of Haddon Fields' has now been formed to actively engage the community with the Woodland Trust and in the local management of Haddon Fields. If you are interested in joining please contact Stephen Woodgate on 07909 535966 or email him at [stephen@beaconresearch.co.uk](mailto:stephen@beaconresearch.co.uk).

<http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/wood/5666/haddon-fields>



## All Creatures Great & Small

### This issue, meet Mollie & Mac!

Eight-year-old Mollie Woodgate of Weskers Close was keen to tell us all about Mac, her Blue Roan Cocker Spaniel. Short for MacNulty, he is ten years old and was born in Ireland (like Mollie, who moved to Clipston when she was three).

Mollie likes looking after Mac and playing with him "I like throwing his bone and rubbing his belly" she says. "He lies on the ground in a funny way and kicks his legs and wriggles. He also goes a bit mad and barks sometimes. He always barks when someone knocks on the door and barks at other dogs. Mummy lets him go on the sofa, but Daddy doesn't like that!" She also enjoys taking him on walks. Their favourite walks are around Clipston playing field; along the Brampton Valley Way or a loop up Brown's Hill and back along Kelmarsh Road.

Mac had a brother called Bunk from the same litter, but Bunk died a few years ago when he was six. When asked if he misses Bunk, Mollie and her dad think probably not, as he gets more attention now he is on his own! It may not last though, as the family are keen to get another dog, so Mac might have to get used to having a puppy around soon!



Mollie with Mac, her Cocker Spaniel

## DID YOU KNOW?

In the 1880s/90s there were no less than 20 shoe and boot makers in Clipston

## Clipston Profile: Rob Leveritt



Rob Leveritt's passport is falling to bits. Over the last seventeen years he has visited *every single* continent in the world – ...even Antarctica! Not many people can lay claim to that fact... or the fact that they have been trained to kill a polar bear at close range (if required), or indeed, that they have Prince Harry's sleepmat hanging in their garage! As far as Rob is concerned, it is 'all in day's work' (as a freelance sound recordist) but I think we can safely say that Rob's working life has been a tad more eventful than most! Rob started his training with the BBC back in 1990, specialising in sound, and worked as a boom-slinger on shows including *Gardener's World*, *Top Gear* and *DIY SOS*. He turned freelance in 2002 and travelled the world with *Rough Science* and Monty Don's *Round the World in 80 Gardens*, but it was in 2010 that his most exciting call to date came when he was asked to film an expedition of wounded servicemen (and Prince Harry) to the North Pole. By September 2010 training began on the north Norfolk coast pulling tyres across the beach to simulate a 'pulk', the sledge that each person would be pulling on the expedition. 'Totally in awe' of the speed and endurance of the soldiers, Rob underwent further training in Norway with a real pulk, where the reality of what he had undertaken really hit. 'I came back from that trip realising that not only was I not physically as fit as these amazing soldiers, but mentally I was totally unprepared. Why had I agreed to a work trip that not only was going to be harder physically than anything I had ever done before, but that I could quite possibly never return from?'

He came home feeling thoroughly

dejected but his family were full of support and enthusiasm and as Rob says, they basically told him 'it was the opportunity of a lifetime'.

So, with the expedition date set for late March, Rob's training began in earnest. 'Training was all about time on your feet pulling the pulk and I knew my fitness had to improve massively.' He ate anything and everything to pile on the calories and spent 8 hrs a day, 3 days a week lugging a car tyre behind him along the Brampton Valley Way! By the time he landed in Svalbard (the northernmost inhabited place on earth) he was ready and raring to go.

The team was dropped on the ice 250 kms from the North Pole and for the next 17 days they walked from gam until 7pm, stopping every two hours for a short rest and food break. With 24hr daylight Rob said the view never changed but the weather was good and their Norwegian guides managed to set up camp every night on ice sheets that drifted 'so sometimes we'd wake up in the morning and be 10 kms closer to the pole'. When they reached the pole, basically when the compass reads 90°N 0°W, they were only there for about 5 minutes before the ice sheet they were on had floated away again.

Little did Rob know that he would be asked to join the Walking with the Wounded charity again 18 months later, to the South Pole. This time there were no second thoughts and Rob found himself back on the ice (this time 4kms above sea level) with Prince Harry again on the expedition. 'Harry had to leave the expedition to the North Pole early for his brother's wedding,' Rob tells me,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 >>>

## Tennis Club

The clocks are going forward meaning an extra hour of daylight in the evening. What will YOU do with that extra hour? Watch that episode of *Would I Lie To You?* that you recorded but never got round to seeing? Go for a jog on the treadmill? Play a game of scrabble with your nearest and dearest? Have another drink during the evening? What if there was a way to do all 4 at the same time? By coming down to the tennis courts on a Tuesday evening you can meet with similar minded people and "jog" around the courts (treadmill replacement) in a friendly but competitive manner (scrabble replacement) whilst hitting world-class volleys and drop-shots (*Would I Lie To You!*) and then adjourn to the pub for that well-earned drink! Sound like a plan? Well, we'd love to see you there and welcome you to enjoy that extra hour with us!

Martin Clarke 525558

## Village Hall

The next jumble sale will be on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm and as ever, proceeds will go to help the upkeep and general running of the village hall. Anything saleable is gratefully appreciated but nothing too large!

We are now nearing the end of the Whist season but we start again on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm. God willing, I will still be able to organise these things – it's been a bit of a struggle since Christmas – but thank goodness, I've got a wonderful, supportive family.

Grace - 525327

**morsbags**  
handmade, recycled, free!



Morsbags is a charity that raises awareness of the impact of plastic bags on the environment, long before they were banned from our supermarkets. Volunteers use recycled fabrics to make these unique shopping bags which are given away free to the public. Following the Clipston jumble sales last year, large donations of unsold household linens were donated to be made into Morsbags. As a result, Morsbags will be supplying around 70 bags to be given away to shoppers at the next Clipston jumble sale on Thursday 6th April.

## Treasure Island Panto Fun!



Treasure Island performed by Broken Pipe Productions at the Village Hall

Once again, the Tennis Club and Stepping Stones organised a fantastic event when Broken Pipe Productions brought the panto *Treasure Island* to Clipston Village Hall in January. Jokes, hilarious costumes and silly songs were the order of the day, and Clipston residents, old and young, all thoroughly enjoyed it! Thanks to all who helped make it happen. Bring on next year!

## Clipston Recreation Field Trust



Volunteers from the Clipston Recreation Ground Trust, planting trees with Stepping Stones staff and children. L-R (adults) Stephen Woodgate, Jo Dewar, Samantha Frape, Alan Skinner and Andy Blake

As you will have read on the front page, we have been very busy down at the recreation ground! So many people have helped us, and I would like to acknowledge their contributions.

**To the professionals!** – Mike Cresswell, forester, for planning and planting advice, David Winston-Hart of Trees at Heart for advice and the work on the playtree, Colin and David Morley for skilled use of lifting machinery, Tracey Spokes for advice on the bulbs and Abbie Vickress, graphic designer for the logo ([www.abbievickress.co.uk](http://www.abbievickress.co.uk)). All helped us without charge.

**To the volunteers!** - For help with designing, digging and planting - Julia Blake, Jen Blake, Robert Burnham, Jo Dewar and the children from Stepping Stones, Mick Higgins, Jane Ginns and Robin class and Miss Glascodine with Owl class from Clipston Primary, Jill Pick, Alan Skinner, Stephen Woodgate and many others who came to help with the children's planting sessions.

**To the WI and Jill Pick, Anne Woodgate and Jenny Jones' 'Coffee and Chat Mornings'** for each donating an oak bench which will be installed at either side of the woodland.

So please come for a walk/play/picnic! The areas between the trees will be allowed to grow to let the bulbs flower and mature but there will always be a mown path through the woodland to the picnic benches and out past the orchard.

**Fundraising remains essential for us** as the income from regular use by sports clubs is reduced, so please support this year's Clipston Festival on Saturday 24 June (see page 5) - our big event of the year!

Andy Blake 525760



## PAVILION FOR HIRE!

Don't forget, the pavilion is available for hire for any summer parties you may want to plan! It costs **£10 per hour** and, while the field remains open to the public, you are welcome to use all the facilities including the picnic area, football pitch and the playtree. Book with Andy on 525760 or email [andyblake4@hotmail.com](mailto:andyblake4@hotmail.com).



# Summer Events 2017

Yes, summer will be with us before we know it, so please make sure you have the following dates in your diary...

## GILBERT & SULLIVAN NIGHT

Saturday 6th May 7.30pm

All Saints Church

Enjoy an evening of Gilbert & Sullivan music with The Wandering Minstrels at the church. More details on page 10.

## SUMMER FETE

Saturday 13th May 12-2.30pm

Clipston Primary School

Everyone in the village is warmly welcomed to the school summer fete, which is held on the school playground behind the school. Festivities begin with the crowning of the May Queen at 12, followed by maypole dancing, whilst stalls include tasty BBQ, teas & cakes, kids activities, face painting, bouncy castle and more. Please come along for a cup of tea and to see the children showing off their maypole skills!

**KING WEST**

Supports Clipston School Fete

## Church Services

### Palm Sunday

Sunday 9 April, 11am, Clipston Eucharist Service with Sunday Club

### Film Night—'Risen' with Joseph Fiennes

Monday 10 April, 7pm, Clipston Orbell Room—teas/coffees/nibbles

### Short Service of Compline (night prayer)

Tuesday 11 April, 7pm, Clipston

### Taize Workshop (contemplative music)

Wednesday 12 April, 7pm, Clipston

### Maundy Thursday

Thursday 13 April, 8pm at Haselbech

### Good Friday

Friday 14 April, 2pm at Kelmarsch

### Easter Eve Service of Light

Saturday 15 April 10pm, Clipston

### Easter Sunday

Sunday 16 April, 11am, Clipston Family Eucharist with Benefice Choir

### Easter Sunday

Sunday 16 April 10.45am, Baptist Chapel



Last year's street party celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday in June

## STREET PARTY ON THE REC

Saturday 24th June from 12-9pm

Clipston Recreation Ground

Following the success of last year's street party, we have decided this year to do the same thing down at the recreation ground. There will be the

opportunity for you to book a table in the marquee and bring your own food to recreate your own street party experience. There will also be a BBQ, bar, other food later in the day, children's races, all-day football, tombola and, of course, live music throughout.....

## Church Cafe

The Orbell Café is open every **Wednesday from 9am-12noon** in the Orbell Room behind the church. We serve very reasonably priced fresh coffee, tea and delicious breakfast snacks. There is a different mix of people each week, newspapers are available and you can be sure of a warm welcome and friendly conversation so please do call in.

## 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.

## NEW Youth Group

A new youth group for 14-18 year olds is meeting in the Orbell Room at the back of the church on alternate Fridays from 7.30-9.30pm. The group is hosting a community brunch (open to all) on 25th March from 9.30- 11am at the village

## Back to the 80s!



Ten leg-warmer clad ladies (8 from Clipston) took part in a 3-hour danceathon to raise money for Cancer Research at the Ricoh Arena on 3 March. If anyone would like to donate, their Justgiving page is <https://www.justgiving.com/companyteams/clipstonladies>.

L-R Mandy Stevens, Penny van Besouw, Lisa Barley, Rachel Brown and Sarah Baldwin (Not Clipston), Hannah Eveleigh, Sam Rastogi, Nikki Bugla, Caroline Pemberton and Sarah Leveritt.

hall. Enjoy an excellent breakfast, read the papers, drink coffee all served by our smiling youth! The cost of this will be covered by any donations with the profits going to charity.

**Rob Leveritt 07802 897 050**

## Clipston WI



Jim Tyson (back) and Julia Blake (right) helping Dorothy Tebbut, Maureen Ashton & Moira Willey with IT skills.

So far this year we have enjoyed an interesting afternoon with Alex Pegram, telling us about the history of the village and found out how to make delicious chocolates with members at Arthingworth. Looking ahead to June, Debby

Horsman is giving a talk on Ernest Shackleton, who led 3 expeditions to the Antarctic, and was part of the Age of Heroic Antarctic Exploration. I am sure this topic will appeal to many, so all visitors, including men, are welcome to this evening on Tuesday 13th June. 2018 is our centenary year – the first Clipston WI meeting being held on 17 May 1918. We are contributing towards an oak bench for the playing field and the committee are busy planning an extra-special year of events to mark this amazing milestone. A big thank you to Julia Blake and Jim Tyson who have been improving members' IT skills (see photo). Any ladies are most welcome at our monthly meetings.

Rose Anderson



### Shackleton's Forgotten Men

An illustrated talk by Debby Horsman  
At Clipston Village Hall  
Tuesday 13 June  
7.30pm £3 (pay on door)  
Admission includes refreshments  
Raffle

**ALL WELCOME**

### Coffee & Chat Mornings and Canine Partners

Well done, everyone! Yes, due to your continued support there is now a bench in the newly planted wood at the recreation ground. So please take a walk that way and rest awhile.

Here's the challenge for 2017 and beyond. Our aim is to raise £5,000 for Canine Partners – which is for the first year of puppy training. This covers the purchase, equipment, insurance, vet bills and a placement with a volunteer puppy parent. It will also give us the opportunity to name a puppy. It includes an invitation to the partnership ceremony. We already have £695 from 2016 and there will be a chart in the village hall to show our progress. Incidentally, Anni, our card lady, has also set herself a target for her own puppy. We are also still collecting your used postage stamps and a box usually sits on the counter for your contributions – you can also leave your used printer cartridges in the same box (sorry not Epson ones). Thank you for your continued support. Here are the next few dates: 15<sup>th</sup> April – 20<sup>th</sup> May – 17<sup>th</sup> June.

for just over 12 minutes. All proceeds go towards the print costs for the Clipston Courier. So if you are keen to keep a little piece of Clipston history please contact Peter Wilford on 525 372.



Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations CD

## Clipston Weather

### November 2016

Rainfall for the month was about 10 per cent above average although the last eight days were totally dry and quite sunny. Temperatures were below average with only four days at or above 10°C. I recorded air frost on four nights, the lowest being minus 4°C on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

### December 2016

In contrast to the previous month, December rainfall was only a third of average. The total was 23.1mm with nearly a half (11.4mm) falling in the afternoon and evening of the 10<sup>th</sup>. This was my second lowest December total in 37 years – the lowest being 20.2mm in 2010. Temperatures were above average with nine days at or above 10° and air frost on seven nights.

### January 2017

I should refer here to total 'precipitation' for the month, as a small amount came as snow. The total was 60.7mm – just over 90 per cent of average. The snow came on the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup> and amounted to only about 10 to 15mm in depth. Daytime temperatures were slightly below average, ranging from a maximum of 9.5° on the 10th to 1.5° below freezing on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Night temperatures were about average, with 14 nights when I recorded air frost.

### February 2017

Total rainfall was 50.4mm which is about 13 per cent above average, with measurable amounts on 15 days. Day temperatures were a little above average with a maximum of 13.5°C on the 20<sup>th</sup>. However, the night mean temperature was well above the average and was the second highest I have recorded for any February. The minimum was minus 2.5°C with slight air frost on six more nights.

Peter Wilford

### An Overview of the weather during 2016

Total rainfall was 756mm which almost equalled my average of 760mm. The months with rainfall below average were May, July, August, October and December. The highest temperature I recorded was 31.5°C on 19<sup>th</sup> July, and the lowest minus 4°C in January, February and November. Compare this with minus 14.5° in January 1987, minus 12.5° in February 1986 and minus 11° in December 1981.

## Helping the Homeless

This week I stepped out of my comfort zone and attended my training as a volunteer to support the new Nightshelter in Northampton which opened on February 6th. The Nightshelter plays a key role in helping to end the need for people to sleep rough in Northampton by ensuring that they can immediately be offered a place to stay that is safe, warm and dry while they engage with local services to address their needs. The Nightshelter can accommodate up to 20 homeless men at any time. Alternative arrangements have been put in place to accommodate any women sleeping rough.

Christina Faulk

## Street Party Videos £6!

Were you at last year's Clipston Street Party to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday? If so, you might be interested to know that there is a DVD available of the event, produced by Peter Wilford and Jim Tyson. Copies cost £6 and run



# Clipston Past & Present



Thanks to Clipston resident and amateur archivist, Peter Wilford, there are many old photographs of the village that show how it has changed through the ages. Peter, whose family has been in the village since 1737, inherited a collection of historic photos from his father, Maurice, and has continued to build the collection (with the help of others who have loaned photographs for copying), recording village events and new buildings as they take the place of old ones.

Here we have two photographs taken of The Green around a century ago, contrasted with the way it looks today. The earliest photograph, probably taken in about 1900, shows the cottages on The Green that still exist today, but by 1915/20 we can see the thatched cottages on the right have been replaced with the row of terraced cottages still here in 2017. The trees were planted in 1897 by George Wilford (Peter's grandfather), who was the head gardener at Clipston House, to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. By 1920 they were slightly bigger, and today they are the mature lime trees that dominate this part of the village.

But perhaps the most striking and obvious difference is the absence of the war memorial (erected in 1921) a poignant reminder that at the time the earliest image was taken, the people in it would have had no idea that two world wars lay ahead, with the hardships and sacrifices they brought with them. Posing in their Victorian and Edwardian dress, the people seen here would have enjoyed the novelty of being photographed, as photos of themselves would not have been taken very often. A strange concept to us in our digital era of smartphones and Facebook!

## CLIPSTON HOUSE & CHESTNUT GROVE

Chestnut Grove is built on the original gardens of Clipston House, and is so-called because of all the red-flowering chestnut trees which grew there. This was also a place where village events were held, including fetes and flower shows. The garden was built on after a developer bought Clipston House in 1974 and separated the house from the grounds by a stone wall.

From 'Clipston Heritage' by M D Wilford

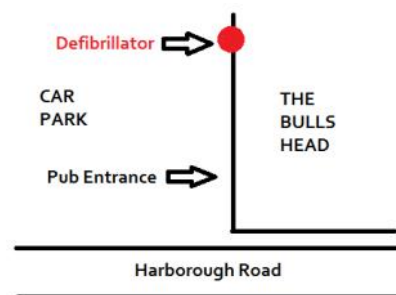


# HOW TO SAVE A LIFE: Defibrillator Training

As you probably know, there is a heart defibrillator on the wall of the pub, which could potentially save someone's life. Local nurse, Michelle Rengger is again offering free training to anyone interested in learning how to use it (see right). There are nine spaces for each session but a couple can take up one space if they share equipment. Michelle is also planning to put a new notice next to the defibrillator to explain how to access it (you need to call 999), as it was noted recently that the instructions are not clear.

## TRAINING SESSIONS

The Bulls Head back room  
**Monday 3rd April &  
Monday 24th April**  
6.30 – 7.15 pm & 7.30 – 8.15 pm  
(both nights)  
To book, please email Michelle:  
[michelle.rengger@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.rengger@gmail.com)



## Stepping Stones Pre-School

### The end of 2016 was full of fun.....

As you will see from the front page, the children were involved in planting trees at the recreation ground in November and had a wonderful time. In December our end of year show was a great success, the children were all fantastic and showcased their best singing voices! They enjoyed the Christmas party too.

We had some lovely visits from members of the community in 2016, who came to talk to us about all sorts of exciting things. The children love visitors, so if you have an interesting job or hobby you wouldn't mind talking to the children about, please do get in touch.

### A little bit of sad news....

Our lovely Deputy Manager, Jo Cooper, will sadly be leaving us at the end of March. Thank you Jo for all you have done for the children at Stepping Stones over the last few years, and best of luck in the future. We will all really miss you!

### Easter Party Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March

9.15am to 11.15am - at the playing fields. £5 per ticket, cake and drink for the kids, Easter egg hunt, crafts and games. Drinks etc for parents and hamper raffle.

### TBC – Wine Tasting and a Race Night.

Don't forget you can help us fundraise whilst doing your online shop by visiting [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

Chloe Petty 525191

01858 525113

[www.steppingstonesclipston.co.uk](http://www.steppingstonesclipston.co.uk)

Facebook page:

@SteppingStonesPreschoolClipston



The grave of Major-General George Wynell Mayow is badly in need of renovation

## A Local Hero

I don't know how many villagers are aware of the gravestone in the churchyard of All Saints of a heroic soldier who took part in the Charge of the Light Brigade and several other battles of the Crimean War. Major-General George Wynell Mayow lived at The Hollies and fought at Alma, Inkerman and Sebastopol as well as other battles.

He returned from the Crimea to Clipston in 1856 to a tremendous welcome and dinner on the green. He said that in all his travels, "I have seen nothing so pleasant to my eye as the green and fertile plains of Clipston".

He died at the age of 64 and was buried in the churchyard on 8<sup>th</sup> January 1873.

Sadly, the condition of the gravestone has deteriorated and needs renovation. I have an estimate from Harborough Stone for approx. £1,200 for complete refurbishment which I think is reasonable for the quality we will get from this company. I have approached his old regiment and his descendants but without luck. I think that such a brave man should not be forgotten.

If anyone would like to contribute I would be delighted to hear from you.

Laurie Anderson 525481

## Clipston & District Flower Club

As I write, winter is still very much in evidence but gloriously, snowdrops, exquisite hellebores and the luminescent bark of our young birch, Jacquemontii Snow Queen, light up the view from the window.

This season gives us numerous opportunities to appreciate nature in all its winter loveliness. I particularly love the tracery of leafless trees highlighted against the sky, eye-popping sunrises and the joy of frosty, sunny days.

Breaking with our normal format in January, we met in the afternoon attracting many members who may not have come out on a dark and frosty evening. Mrs Dora Mack gave an excellent talk which was followed with a real afternoon tea. We borrowed the WI's lovely china which enhanced the delicious food. Thank you to the WI.

In February, we celebrated the beauty of bare branches using contorted hazel or cornus by creating a design inspired by the winter landscape. In March, we welcomed Richard Twiselton, a well-known and well-respected flower designer with his demonstration, 'Upcycling'. A very entertaining and inspirational evening was had by all.

On 19<sup>th</sup> April, Barbara Collins, an excellent floral art tutor, is leading a teaching workshop, and on 17<sup>th</sup> May we have area demonstrator, Sally Gee, coming. Her demonstration is entitled, 'Happy Days'.

Please do feel free to come along to any of our meetings – everyone is very welcome. The meetings start at 7.30 pm in the village hall, but do come earlier and enjoy some social time, and a coffee. We look forward to seeing you.

Linda Warren 525463



# Clipston Primary School

Since the last edition of the Clipston Courier the children have taken part in several events held at school and in our local church. Family and friends joined us for our traditional Infant Nativity in the school hall and Junior Carol Service held in All Saints Church and both were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Fund-raising is an important part of our school life and the charities supported are suggested by the children or through the School Council. Since September over £550 has been raised for local organisations and national charities. We welcomed a visit from Mrs Julie Foster from Children United who spoke about her work and we were delighted to present a cheque to her for £370.

The Reception children have continued to settle well into school life, exploring the school and our village, visiting the war memorial in November. The Owl Class has continued to discover about the people who help us, with their classroom being transformed into a veterinary surgery. We are looking forward to a visit at the end of term by one of the Market Harborough vets. The Robin Class is researching and discovering about the work of the R.N.L.I, focusing on the *Light House Keeper* stories. Along with our friends from the Owl Class we received a visit from the R.N.L.I. We enjoyed learning all about the life of Grace Darling and how the organisation helps us today. Romans have taken over the Kingfisher Class, where we have been researching Roman history and how their legacy is still visible today. We have also enjoyed designing and making model chariots. As part of discovering about Frozen Lands, particularly the areas of Antarctic and the Arctic, Woodpecker Class is learning about the harsh environment and study-



The children of Clipston School enjoyed a visit from Ben Smith (centre), the 'Marathon Man' who ran 401 marathons in 401 days

We were very fortunate to receive a visit from Mr Ben Smith, "The Marathon Man" (see above). He delivered an inspiring assembly which enforced the school's anti-bullying message and he talked to the children about his amazing achievement of completing 401 marathons in 401 days!

Eighteen members of our cross-country club participated in the Harborough District races competing against other primary schools in the area. We are very proud of them for participating, especially with the inclement winter weather.

Visitors from the local community are always welcome to our events and we hope you can join us at our Easter Service which is always a joyous and uplifting occasion.

The school is open for all children aged 4 to 11 years old from 7.30 am (Breakfast Club) and there is a minibus to take the children to the After-school Club in Market Harborough, open until 6pm. Further information is available on our website: [www.clipstonprimaryschool.org](http://www.clipstonprimaryschool.org) or you can follow us on Twitter @ClipstonSchool.

**Emma Mercer**  
Head Teacher

ing those Arctic explorers prevalent at the turn of the last century. The whole school enjoyed a visit to the Snozone in Milton Keynes in February, taking part in sledging, skiing and participating in an educational talk. We have also enjoyed a visit by a touring theatre company with their performance of *Tom's Midnight Garden*. As part of our exploration of different cultures and religions, we enjoyed a visit by Mr Nasir, an imam, who led various workshops during the day on Islam. Our Woodpecker Class enjoyed a visit to Mr Nasir's local mosque in Northampton. Our sports clubs continue to excel.

## Clipston Profile

>>> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

'but in the South Pole he was able to be there for the whole trip, a really lovely, genuine guy; you forgot who he was most of the time because he put everyone at ease.' Rob filmed teams of injured service men and women from the Commonwealth, the USA and the UK racing to the Pole and tells me they were 'totally inspirational; what they

accomplished with the injuries they had, was truly astounding'. Rob really has 'been there, and seen that' and now enjoys a rather more sedate life. Although he still does the sound on a regular basis for *Gardener's World* he is now concentrating on his freelance photography business, a passion of his since he won his first camera at 8 years old. 'I am fascinated by people and cameras, so for me, this is the perfect job.' He is also a key figure in the new All Saints Youth Group (see

p5), with the hope of bringing teenagers a true sense of community in rural areas. He must be doing something right – anyone who can persuade a group of teenagers to cook and serve Sunday lunch to villagers must have the courage and perseverance of the most intrepid explorer...but of course, with Rob's experience, he is the perfect man for the job!

**Hannah Eveleigh**

If you are interested in family portraits, contact Rob on 07802 897 050

## The Benefice Choir



As many of you will know, I started up the United Benefice Choir two years ago, with the view of singing at the United Benefice services on the fifth Sunday of a month. Just four services a year are held in Clipston, Naseby, Kelmarsch and Haselbech churches. The choir is now made up solely of Clipston residents who enjoy singing good music, although we would welcome other singers from the whole benefice.

We have organised the very successful celebration for the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, and two lovely Christmas celebration evenings. This year we were lucky that Jane Ginns came and conducted the choir as well as playing the flute. We had some lovely non-biblical readings, and Christmas carols rung by the hand bells. This last Christmas we were joined by the Clipston Folk Band playing before and after the concert, which helped to make the evening even more festive. There was free bubbly and mince pies for everyone. We were very grateful for the help we received from the All Saints Youth Club who helped in passing round food, meeting and greeting people with hymn books and carol sheets.

The choir members are a varied lot, the majority cannot read music, some cannot sing in tune, some are very experienced, but the one thing everyone has in common is that they enjoy singing good music as a group. We really would welcome anyone else who would like to join us; you are never too old and seldom too young! We rehearse alternate Thursdays at my house. Please contact me: Julie Connell. We really would welcome any more singers. Tel: 01858 525336. E-mail:

[j.connell118@btinternet.com](mailto:j.connell118@btinternet.com)

## A Night of Gilbert & Sullivan

### The World of Gilbert and Sullivan Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 7.30pm

I am very thrilled to have managed to secure one of Great Britain's leading Gilbert and Sullivan groups of singers, 'The Wandering Minstrels', to come to Clipston All Saints Church for a superb, light-hearted evening of songs and scenes from the Gilbert and Sullivan comic operas. Combining the wit of W.S Gilbert and the enchanting music of Sir Arthur Sullivan, 'The Wandering Minstrels' is a highly-accomplished group of five singers and their concert pianist and their 2-hour concert of Savoy classics will be presented in period costume and performed in traditional style.

Mike Higgins has very kindly made a raised staging for the front of the church so that everyone will have a good view of the singers.

The reception, with a complimentary glass of bubbly and nibbles, is from 6.45pm with the performance at 7.30pm with one interval. Bottles of red or white wine for the interval, @ £10 each, can be booked and paid for in advance with tickets. Tickets are £12.50 for seats in the centre aisle and £10 for seats in the side aisles. Please book your tickets from Julie Connell. Telephone: 01858 525336. [j.connell118@btinternet.com](mailto:j.connell118@btinternet.com) Anyone who would like to donate a prize for the raffle or wishing to advertise in the programme, please let me know.



## Superfast Broadband Update

Following the results of the open meeting and village-wide poll, the Parish Council resolved to support a Community Fibre Partnership with Openreach. A small team of residents is now working to raise the necessary funds to allow us

to move ahead and sign the contract. If everything goes to plan we should have access to superfast broadband by the end of the year!

If you have any queries, please contact [broadband.clipston@gmail.com](mailto:broadband.clipston@gmail.com)

**DID YOU KNOW?** The 'Jitty' is an old Northamptonshire word for a narrow passage linking one street to another.

## Sulby Gardens

Sulby Gardens will be opening its gates for the first time this year under the National Gardens Scheme on Thursday 27 April from 2pm to 5pm. Featured will be the amazing meadow of Snakeshead Fritillaries and Cowslips, with hopefully, Bluebells in the spinney as well. As usual, tea and homemade cakes will be available, as well as Sulby Gardens Apple Juice and home grown plants while stocks last. Displayed in the Conservatory Tea Room will be copies of the fascinating booklet, the Story of Sulby Gardens, featuring also chapters on Sulby Hall, the Icehouse, the Husbands Bosworth Wartime Aerodrome and the Sulby Polish Resettlement Camp. Entry to garden £4 per head Tea and cake £3 per head Stout footwear recommended. Sulby is between Sibbertoft and Welford, follow the yellow NGS signs from Welford Road, opposite the Gliding Club (NN6 6EZ)



The gorgeous gardens at Sulby

## Friendship Club

All our meetings are in Clipston Village Hall at 2.30 pm

**April 10** Fish & chips at 12.45 for 1pm followed by our AGM

**May 8** Alex Pegram – "Clipston As It Was"

**June 12** – Maggie Taylor – "Living with Jasper – a deaf spaniel"

**July 10** Helen Crabtree –

"Northamptonshire Curiosities 2"

To find out more, call Jill Pick on 525746.



# CLIPSTON BUSINESS DIRECTORY

## 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

## AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS

### Cheffins

Free Valuations given on all Fine Art.  
Julie Connell 01858 525336  
j.connell118@btinternet.com

## AVON REPRESENTATIVE

### Bente Hansen

Gift & beauty products to your door.  
www.facebook.com/  
avoncosmeticsmarketharborough  
bente.hansen1@btopenworld.com  
07730 656 637

## BED & BREAKFAST

### Naseby Old Post House

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

### The Bulls Head, Clipston

Three double bedrooms with en-suite.  
Steve & Helen Foster  
01858 525 268

## COMPUTER TRAINING

### Julia Blake

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

## COMPUTER HELP & SCANNING SERVICES

Computer training sessions for beginners to more advanced skills, plus scanning services (eg old family photographs, negatives, slides or documents).

Jim.tyson@btconnect.com  
Jim Tyson 07801 388007 / 01858 525697

## COPY EDITING & PROOFREADING

### Hannah Eveleigh

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

## DECORATORS

### Krystal Decorating

Professional Painting and Decorating Service.  
Specialist in Sash Window Repairs and Renovations  
Gary Bennett 01858 525540 / 07793 556 199

## DOG WALKING & GROOMING

### Nik Nack's—Dog Grooming

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

## ENVIRONMENTAL ENERGY

### Environmental Energies

Installers of Solar PV for Domestic, Agricultural and Commercial Properties  
Zara Glew 01858 525407/07815 895082  
zara@environmentalenergies.co.uk  
www.environmentalenergies.co.uk

## FLOWERS

### Once Upon a time

Flowers for all your stories. Beautiful flowers from garden to jar. Weddings/Events.  
www.onceupon-atime.co.uk  
bummelberries@yahoo.co.uk  
Tracey Morgan 07912 782 075

## GARDENING

### Rod Dexter

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

## GIFTS & HOMEWARE

### Random Makes

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

## HOME IMPROVEMENTS

### The Door Zone

Installers of Residential, Garage, Bifold Doors & Replacement Window Services  
Zara Glew sales@thedorzone.co.uk  
www.thedorzone.co.uk  
01858 525407/07815 895 082

## JEWELLERY

### T J Thornton Jeweller

Jewellery Repairs, Design, Antique & Modern. www.tjthornton.com  
tim@tjthornton.com  
Tim Thornton 01858 468858

## MORTGAGES

### Gareth Howard

Free advise for new mortgages or remortgages.  
info@garethhowardmortgages.com  
www.garethhowardmortgages.com  
07930 717416 / 01858 525908

## MUSIC LESSONS

### Joy of Music

Music Lessons  
Ruby & Caroline Boa  
01858 525352

### Julie Connell

Piano, Flute, Recorder and Theory of Music Lessons. Beginners to Grade 8. Seldom too young and never too old to start learning!  
01858 525336. j.connell118@btinternet.com

## PHOTOGRAPHY

### Rob Leveritt Photography

Photography  
robert@robertleverittphotography.com  
Rob Leveritt 07802 897 050

## PLACES TO EAT

### The Bulls Head

Clipston's 17th Century Local Pub  
Steve and Helen Foster  
01858 525268

## PLUMBERS

### Chris Spokes

Plumbing & Heating Engineer  
Corgi Registered and OFTEC  
07773 288 686

## QUALITY USED CARS

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Quality Used Cars & Personal Service  
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### Travel Counsellors

Ski, Sun, Faraway, Cruises, Flights, UK Short Breaks, Weddings & Honeymoons.  
www.travelcounsellors.co.uk/abi.prescott  
abi.prescott@travelcounsellors.com  
Abi Prescott  
01858 897510 / 07887 561 965

## WEB DESIGN & BRANDING

### Andrew Winter

Web Design & Brand Studio  
andrew@awinter.co.uk  
www.awinter.co.uk  
01858 414281 / 07980 617 669

### Creative Ape Ltd

Graphics Websites & Branding  
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

## All Saints Youth Club

Open to youngsters between 14-18 years old. We meet in the Orbell Room at the back of the church on alternate Fridays from 7.30-9.30pm.

**Rob Leveritt 07802 897 050**

## 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 525 120**

## 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**

## Clipston Computer Support Club

Computer training sessions for beginners, 5 weeks for free in small groups. Normally meet Mondays 9:30-11:30am, please call if interested.

**Julia 01858 525760 / 07880 700699 or**

**Jim 07801 388007**

## 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.

**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.

**Serretta Morris 07880 552 767**

## 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**

## 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](http://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

Liz Davies 07525 640 477

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at the village hall 7.30pm.

[clerk@clipstonparishcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@clipstonparishcouncil.org)

[www.clipstonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.clipstonparishcouncil.org.uk)

### Bus Service (County Connect)

Booking & helpline 0345 456 4474

[www.county-connect.co.uk](http://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

Rupert Law 01858 525380

### Clipston Consolidated Charities

Colin Morley 01858 525337

### Clipston School Charity

Peter Goodchild 01858 525532

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