



All Saints Church, Clipston by Katy Dynes

# Clipston Courier

Your Village Newsletter

March 2019

## Welcome

Welcome to our new look Courier! We thought we'd start 2019 with some new colours, and as you can see above, our talented artist **Katy Dynes** (see p4) has created some beautiful illustrations which will be presented on the front of each issue throughout the year. We really hope you like it.

In this edition we chat to our new vicar, **Reverend Miranda Hayes** (p3), reveal plans for the **Clipston Trail Half Marathon** (p2); wave a fond farewell to **Peter Wilford's weather column** (p6) and pay tribute to **Shawaddywaddy star** and ex-Clipston resident **Geoff Betts** (p10). Plus the usual round up from our groups and organisations. Have a very Happy Easter everyone!

**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 3rd May 2019**

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## Zip wire fun!



The latest addition down at the recreation field is this fantastic new zip wire, which has instantly become an enormous hit with the children of Clipston. Andy Blake, Chairman of the Clipston Recreation Fields Trust explains "We have been fortunate to receive a grant from Daventry District Council which has paid for half of the replacement equipment in the children's play area and the new zip wire. The other half has come from funds you have helped us raise. Thank you and I hope you enjoy it." As you can see from the photo, they already are!

## Classical Music for All

Two classical music concerts will be held at All Saints Church on Saturday 30 March to raise funds for the church wall renovation and the Clipston Recreation Field Trust. Chris Blake (pianist) returns to the village with Martin Burrell (clarinet) and Richard King (saxophone) to play selections from Classic FM's top 100 most popular classical music in a varied programme. The afternoon performance is aimed at families and young children and the evening concert for everyone.

This talented professional trio are former members of the Elysian Quintet, which, in the 1970s and 1980s was one of the foremost chamber music groups in the UK. The group won prestigious competitions, recorded for the BBC as well as

**Saturday 30 March**  
**2.30pm (families)**  
**7.30pm (everyone)**  
**All Saints Church, Clipston**

Swiss, French and Belgian radio and gave concerts across Europe. Their CD of Holst's Piano and Wind Quintet is still available 35 years on.

**Tickets are £20 family ticket (2 adults and 2 children), £10 adults, £7.50 seniors, £5 children and are available from Faye Tan: 525275 or text 07725 427311 [faye@oldrectory.uk.net](mailto:faye@oldrectory.uk.net)**

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

# Clipston's First Ever Trail Half Marathon

CRFT will be organising, with Race Harborough, the first Clipston-based trail half marathon on 6 October 2019. The proceeds will go to help maintain the recreation field. The course will follow bridleways and footpaths from the playing fields towards Haselbech and then Maidwell and back. You can enter on the Race Harborough website.

So get training! Entry is open to everyone and there will be people marshalling around the whole course. There'll be no cut-off time but I guess you should feel you can complete the race in around 3 ½ hours or less.

There will also be a spectators' walk of around 4 miles. This will be free but you may feel like making a donation to CRFT on the day. An entry form for this will be with your June Courier.

We will also need marshals. No previous experience needed as a full briefing will be provided. If you are interested in



volunteering to be a marshal, please contact Mark Ginns on 07949 954363 or email [markginns@btinternet.com](mailto:markginns@btinternet.com)

A key feature of the practice event we had last September was the homemade cakes consumed hungrily afterwards. This will be

a feature again and I'm very pleased that Alison Morley, the Clipston WI and Chloe Petty's The Good Pud Company have agreed to help us with this.

**Andy Blake – Chairman CRFT**  
[www.raceharborough.co.uk](http://www.raceharborough.co.uk)

## The United Benefice Choir

The United Benefice Choir celebrated its fourth birthday on 25th February and we are going from strength to strength. Last year we sang at all four of the United Benefice services on the fifth Sunday of the month in each of our parishes: Clipston, Naseby, Kelmarsh and Haselbech. We also sang on Easter Sunday, and at special services throughout the year including the licensing of Trevor Lake and the admission to communion for some of our children.

Our new benefice is now made up of seven parishes. Joining us are Sibbertoft, Welford and Marston Trussell. The choir has historically been made up of Clipston members but we now have members from the new parishes as well as friends from Northampton. Our popular Celebration of Christmas, after the lighting of the Christmas tree lights, was again very well attended. People were welcomed into the beautifully decorated church by the Clip-

ston Folk Band and the concert started with Hattie Clements singing the first verse of Once in Royal David's City. The choir sang some solo Christmas anthems and then led the congregation in many well-known carols and Christmas songs. Pupils from Clipston School led by Jane Ginns, played and sang a lovely rendition of Little Donkey. Our newest recruit, Maisie Gowling, aged 8, sang the first verse of Away in a Manger and we were very grateful to Andy Blake (trumpet, singer and cornett player) and Jane Ginns (flute and conductor) for adding to the musical talent of the evening. There were some beautiful Christmas readings and poems and the evening finished with free bubbly and mince pies. (Sadly mince pies were squashed into some of the beautiful old tapestry runners under one of the pews this year and the runners had to be thrown away. Please do make sure that children are supervised at all times in future. Thank you.)

We really would welcome anyone, of all ages and abilities, who would like to join us from Clipston and the surrounding villages and enjoys singing good music in a group. We rehearse alternate Thursdays at my house in Clipston. Please contact me, Julie Connell. Tel: 01858 525336. E-mail: [j.connell118@btinternet.com](mailto:j.connell118@btinternet.com)

### SAVE THE DATE

Stepping Stones Ball  
Friday 14 June, 8pm

Market Harborough Rugby Club  
Tickets £15 from Chloe Petty 525191

## Clipston Festival: How to get involved

Clipston's annual summer festival will be back once again on 29 June, with all the usual fantastic music performances, fabulous food and (fingers crossed) amazing weather! We are holding a meeting at **The Bulls Head on Monday 25 March at 7.30pm** for anyone who would like to be involved this year. We are looking for volunteers to help us in all sorts of ways, so if you can spare some time (however limited) we would love to hear from you. If you can't make the meeting but would still like to help out, please contact **Nikki Bugla on 01858 525660**

## STEPPING STONES CLEANER REQUIRED

3 hours a week

3.30pm – 4.30pm

Mon, Wed & Thurs (term time)

£8.21 per hour

Call 01858 525113 or email  
[preschool1@clipston.northants.sch.uk](mailto:preschool1@clipston.northants.sch.uk)  
Temporary Contract until Monday 22nd July 2019



## All Creatures Great & Small

Lola and Lassi may well have had very different lives if it wasn't for their adoptive families who live in Clipston; the Plowmans (Lola) and the Jenkins' (Lassi). Lassi was found in a ditch in Greece at 5 weeks old and Lola, on a railway track in Romania at 2 weeks old. Thank goodness for charities such as FurEver Friends and Healing Paws that house stray cats and dogs until they are old enough to be adopted, and where Lola and Lassi found themselves after their traumatic starts in life. Although nervous when she arrived after 4 days of travelling, Lola soon



discovered the Plowmans' garden and was so excited she 'rolled on her back and peed all over herself!' The Plowmans found it a huge learning curve. 'She wasn't really the dog we were expecting

from the description they gave on the website which said she was used to cats and was calm. Lola was neither when she first arrived!' admits Emma. They have learnt techniques for dealing with her anxiety and although it has been hard, have loved the experience, and are already planning to adopt again!

Lassi is a Greek spaniel or 'Kokoni' which means 'small dog'. Nich Jenkins tells me that you

can see she's a stray compared to their other dog, a pedigree cocker spaniel called Lily,



'Lassi is a complete tramp – she's a little scavenger when it comes to food and wolfs down her meal so quickly.' She was also quite anxious when she arrived in the UK but Nich thinks because of this, her youngest son, Max, who has autism, has a real bond with her as he too can feel anxious at times. 'She's almost become like Max's therapy dog; they look after each other and its mutual adoration!'

Hannah Eveleigh

## Clipston Profile: Reverend Miranda Hayes



You may have already seen our new reverend running in the countryside with her dog Magda – a large six-year-old Italian spinone with even more energy than her owner. Reverend Miranda runs most days - anywhere between four and eight miles - and is gradually exploring the footpaths and bridleways around the village as she gets to know the area.

Arriving in Clipston in late January, she has been settling into The Rectory, and beginning her challenging role of being a priest to seven parishes – Clipston, Haselbech, Kelmarsch, Naseby, Sibbertoft, Welford and Marston Trussell.

Her previous parish was in Earls Barton, where she lived for eight and a half years. "God was telling me it was time to move on," she says. "I felt I'd done all I could do there and I needed a new challenge. I felt a real calling to rural ministry – it's where I feel the happiest." Born in Kent and raised in Hampshire, Miranda is the youngest of seven children. Her own three children flew the nest a while ago – Oliver, aged 31, Toby, 29, and Lily, 27, are spread across the country in Castle Ashby, Bristol and Sheffield. Miranda's husband Simon is based in Hampshire for work, so they are all quite spread out.

Miranda hasn't always been a reverend – she used to run a tea and coffee business with her husband, but after having her children and experiencing 'a journey of difficulties' she found herself being taken in the direction of the church. It wasn't easy however. Support for her becoming a female priest was not initially forthcoming

and she was encouraged to become a deacon instead. "But inside I knew God wanted me to become a priest, however challenging. It wasn't personal against me, it was just different theological viewpoints." Fifteen years on - three years at theological college and two parishes later – and she is now where she always hoped she'd be.

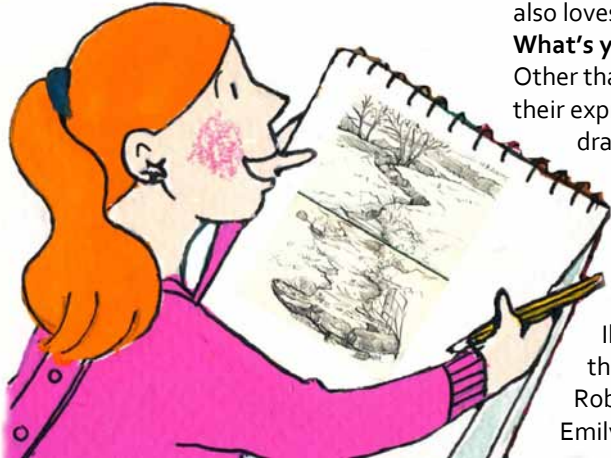
Miranda has many interests including reading and listening to classical music. She is also passionate about sport and especially loves watching rugby and American football, which she got into when she travelled around America in her twenties. When I point out she has chosen two of the more physically violent sports she smiles and says "There's something about giving everything in rugby and American football; you can't hold back. You have to be wholehearted about it." Being wholehearted is clearly something that motivates Miranda. She feels her main purpose in her job is to inspire others. "It's important to help people to recognise their own possibilities and not to feel limited. When I travelled across America I witnessed such poverty in many places and the most upsetting thing was that they seemed trapped; they had no hope, no way of changing their situation. In my job I really want to enable people to flourish and grow." Not a bad philosophy for a reverend, and one we hope she can put into practice in our village. Welcome, Reverend Miranda. We hope you will be happy here.

Liz Davies

# Clipston's Got Talent: Katy Dynes

As you may have noticed, our new-look Courier includes a fantastic illustration on the front page, drawn by Clipston resident and freelance illustrator Katy Dynes. We thought we should find out a bit more about Katy and her talent...

Katy grew up on a farm and was always sitting up a tree, or on top of a straw bale drawing animals. She originally thought



she wanted to be a mechanic, but ended up studying 2D hand-drawn animation in Bournemouth, and has been working as an illustrator ever since. All Katy's illustrations are hand-drawn (she never uses a computer) and she has done everything in her career from children's books and greetings cards to pet portraits and huge murals. She also loves doing workshops in schools.

## What's your favourite thing to draw?

Other than drawing animals and all their expressions and quirks, I love drawing plants. It's been made easier living here in Clipston, as I now have my own garden to sit and draw in!

## Who are you inspired by?

Illustrator inspiration comes in the form of Arthur Rackham, Robert Heindel, Dave McKean, Emily Gravett and Oliver Jeffers...

## How do you approach a book?

I tend to do quite a lot of research; sketchbook drawings and rough character designs. I sometimes take photos, but mostly I rely on my sketches. I also often make a character as a prototype, so I can draw and double check it in 3D. I draw a rough storyboard to show how the story will look in picture form and then start drawing for real. All my rough images are done on tracing paper (as it's easy to amend if I make a mistake) but then I transfer and re-draw the rough images onto usually heavyweight watercolour paper and hand paint all the artwork. I scan all the final images as I go along and I always paint the cover last. Then voila! A finished book in artwork terms!

## Do you have a favourite place to draw?

Yes! If I have a bit of free time, you can usually find me sketching in Haddon Fields.

See Katy's work at [www.kittydinners.co.uk](http://www.kittydinners.co.uk)

## Easter Church & Chapel Services

### ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Holy week for 2019 will commence with:

**Palm Sunday** 14 April at 10am:

Worship for Everyone

**Easter Sunday** 21 April at 11am

Holy Communion

During the week there will be short

evening services—see website

[www.allsaintsclipston.org](http://www.allsaintsclipston.org)

### BAPTIST CHAPEL

**Easter Sunday** 21 April at 10.45am

## Did you know..?

There used to be no less than five bakeries in Clipston

## Village Hall

**Whist Drives:** Dates for the next whist drives, starting on Thursdays at 1.30pm: 14 March, 28 March, 11 April, 25 April.

The last one for this session is on 9 May and is in aid of the Air Ambulance.

**Jumble Sale – Save the date** The next jumble sale is on 4 April in the village hall at 7pm. Anything left over at the end of the evening will be collected by the Air Ambulance. Please do come and support your village hall. Thank you, Grace.

## Clipston Recreation Fields Trust

Dates for your diary:

**30 March – Chris Blake returns...** See information on front page

**29 June – Clipston Festival** — more information to follow in the next Courier.

**6 October – Clipston Train Half Marathon**

And in other news...

We have some hugely skilled and talented people living in the village. The new shelter in the children's play area was requested by parents and has been designed and built by Mick Higgins. Mick started with a cardboard model and then designed the real thing from that. Fantastic talent and skill to create such an innovative and beautiful construction from scratch. Many thanks, Mick!

And then there's getting it installed... It would have taken ages to deconstruct the shelter in Mick's field and then rebuild at the rec so following a call to Colin Morley and with amazing fingertip control and quantum physics-type accuracy Colin loaded the shelter, brought it to the rec and then unloaded it in place right on top of the pre-installed central post. Absolutely brilliant... and a few of us got the chance to clamber about with ropes at the same time! Many thanks, Colin!



The new shelter at the playground

Sadly, Faye has decided to resign as a trustee at the next AGM in April. She has been absolutely instrumental in the development of the recreation field over the last 6 years. We shall miss her ideas, energy and commitment. Thank you, Faye! On the other hand this will create an opportunity for someone to become a trustee responsible as secretary. There's not too much writing but a great chance to shape the ongoing development of the Trust's activities. Please contact me if you're at all interested. Andy Blake 525760.



## A Christmas Carol Review

I have decided Liz Clarke is a genius. To attempt to direct Dickens' A Christmas Carol in All Saints Church, Clipston is no mean feat but Liz managed to do just that with really rather fantastic results! Obviously helped by a wonderful host of cleverly cast Clipstonites (and a few outsiders!) - more famously known as CADS - Liz managed to recreate the atmosphere of a ghostly Dickensian London with minimal scenery, subtle lighting and some beautiful musical interludes. CADS' telling of this infamous Christmas story was admirably faithful to Dickens' original and all the actors excelled themselves in their roles which were at once scary, humble, miserly, ghostly, joyous and funny. With most of the proceeds from the evening going to the charity 'Crisis at Christmas' I think Liz and the cast and crew can give themselves a hearty pat on the back for what was a hugely enjoyable and entertaining three performances. Well done to all involved.

## Robin Hickman

I want to thank everyone within the village who have supported me, not only in their attendance at Robin's funeral but during the last year. Robin had a short but challenging illness that resulted in him undergoing lots of intrusive treatment and numerous stays in the hospital. Thanks to all those who helped out by visiting and keeping him entertained during those long days. He was brave, stoic and humorous even in the last few days of his life. He would have been overwhelmed by the numbers at his funeral, and I am sure that he will leave a huge gap in many of our lives.

**Pam Hickman**

## Aladdin Pantomime

Once again, the village hall came alive to the merriment of the traditional pantomime in January, which is now becoming an annual fixture and firm favourite on the Clipston calendar. This year, the Laugh Out Loud Theatre Company treated us to the delights and hilarity of Aladdin, with the usual ridiculous antics and audience participation. The event was well attended and raised money for the Tennis Club and Stepping Stones, who provided the welcome refreshments. Thanks to everybody who was involved in the organisation and providing the refreshments. We all had a lovely time!



The Laugh Out Loud Theatre Company performing Aladdin at the village hall

## SAVE THE DATE:

### Last Night of the Proms

Clipston Church 7pm  
Saturday 6th July

More information in next Courier

## Flower Club

Flower Club kicked off 2019 with a real treat when Clipston resident Rob Leveritt came to speak to us. He talked about his work as a BBC sound engineer on *Gardeners' World* and told us all about working alongside the regular team as well as with stars of the show. The early mornings, long days and battling the weather are always a challenge, but it is a job Rob enjoys enormously. He has travelled to some exciting countries of the world making programmes about gardens in Japan, Mexico and other wonderful places. His absolutely glorious images were a joy to see and we are very grateful to Rob for coming to speak to us.

Our next meeting in February was an in-house event where 4 of our members bravely took to the stage with flower scissors in hand to entertain and inform our members by creating floral designs celebrating the beauty of winter.

You are very welcome to join us as a member, or at any of the meetings, come as a visitor. If you want to come along to either the June or August meetings, please ring one of the numbers below and we will give you details. For further information contact **Heather 01858 525598** or **Linda 01858 525463**



### FLOWER CLUB DATES:

- 20 March** - Imposed Workshop.
- 17 April** - Area demonstrator Sophie O'Keefe - 'New Beginnings'.
- 15 May** - Practical session using a favourite container. No floral foam!
- 19 June** - Visit to Mon Amie in Kibworth for a demonstration about Peonies.
- No meeting in July**
- 21 August** - Garden visit to Dale Farm, Maidwell.
- 18 September** - Workshop with visiting tutor Lee Berrill
- 18 October** - Area demonstrator Alison Suffolk - 'Woodstock'.
- 20 November** - Area demonstrator Elaine Stoner - 'Flowers on Vacation'.
- No meeting in December.**

## Clipston WI

We start the year with a few changes on our committee - Linda Lake has joined us and is going to plan the programme for 2020—yes we do need to think that far ahead! So if you have an interesting job and would be able to come along and tell us about it, please get in touch. It's always good to have local speakers. Our own Katy Dynes gave us an interesting insight into her work as an

illustrator and the April speaker telling us about Nefertiti sounds fascinating. So ladies, if you fancy coming along to find out what your local WI is all about, you will be most welcome. Just a reminder that we have quite a few vintage tablecloths and vintage crockery available for hire.

**Rose Anderson, President 525481**

# Clipston Weather & a great achievement

After 40 years of recording rainfall, and 37 years of temperatures in Clipston, I find it is now the appropriate time to 'draw a line' under all my facts and figures accumulated over the years. This weather report is therefore my last for *Clipston Courier*. No more venturing out to my rain gauge and thermometer screen in all weathers at 9 o'clock every morning and remembering to make notes about weather conditions during the day.

I have to acknowledge here the assistance of relatives and neighbours who have, over the years during my absence due to holidays, work, or sickness, placed the contents of the rain gauge into numbered bottles for me to measure later, and made notes of temperatures and weather conditions. Sometime in the future, time permitting, I intend to make all my monthly and yearly records suitable for publishing on the Clipston website for all to see. In the meantime, if any readers wish to know about the weather I recorded in a specific year, month, or day, please ask. You can phone me on 525372 or email [ptwilford@btinternet.com](mailto:ptwilford@btinternet.com). I will do my best to answer, subject to the information not being used for litigation purposes!

**Peter Wilford**



We would just like to say a huge thanks to Peter for his many years of service to the newsletter. It is incredible that the weather in Clipston has been recorded so accurately for the last 40 years – possibly the only village in Northamptonshire to have such an asset – and by the same man, who has sacrificed a warm bed and a lie-in to be out there at 9am every day in all weathers. Peter, your weather reports will be sorely missed, but I am sure the village quite understands that after 40 years, you are long overdue a bit of time to put your feet up... and stay warm! Many thanks for your hard work and diligence and from us all at the Courier, here's wishing you a very happy retirement!

## November 2018

Another month with rainfall well below average, despite there being only ten dry days. I recorded a total of 43.3 mm. – 62% of average. Although there was measurable rain on 20 days, the daily amounts were quite small – mainly from drizzle. Temperatures were a little above average notwithstanding a sharp frost on the night of the 21<sup>st</sup> when the thermometer dropped to minus 4°C. The warmest days were in the first two weeks, as we would expect in November. There were four days when the maximum recorded was 13.5°C.

## December 2018

This was the first month since May with rainfall above average although the last eight days were totally dry. I recorded just over 80 mm. – 15% above my average - with two days over 11 mm. (18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.) The month started with rain on the first eight days, followed by a dry spell from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup>. Temperatures were well above average with the coldest two nights only one degree below freezing. The maximum was 12.5°C on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. There has been no snowfall so far this winter.

## The Year - 2018

Total rainfall was 643 mm which is 15% below my 40 years average of 760 mm. (2017 was 8% below average.) The five months above average were January, March, April, May, and December. June was almost totally dry with only 0.5 mm falling during two nights and one evening. Not surprisingly, it was the lowest monthly rainfall I have ever recorded. The highest temperature I recorded was 32°C on two days in June – the hottest days since 1st July 2015 when I recorded my highest ever temperature here of 35°C. The lowest for the year was minus 8°C in February. We also experienced snowfall in January, February, and on 1<sup>st</sup> March, varying in depths from 30-60 mm.

## Coffee & Chat Canine Partners



I was just putting my thoughts down for the Courier about our puppy when suddenly an email pinged in... (fanfare)... CLIPSTON has been accepted for our puppy's name! Great news - something to put the village well and truly on the map. He is a Labrador and is being trained in West Scotland. We hope to have a photo for the next issue of the Courier. Hope to see you all soon - do come along and share in our excitement. We are in the village hall on the third Saturday of each month - 10.30 to noon.  
**From the Coffee and Chat team.**

## Sulby Gardens

### Thursday 25 April 2-5pm

Snakeshead fritillaries, cowslips and bluebells

### Thursday 20 June 2-5pm

Wild flower meadows in full bloom, and a special visit from the lady with the beautiful ceramic dishes moulded from leaf shapes (from Sulby Gardens and elsewhere)

### Thursday 22 August 2-5pm

Butterfly gardens and ponds

### Thursday 10 October 1-4pm and Friday 11 October 11am-4pm

Apple event with huge apple display, apple-themed cakes and the launch of 2019 Sulby Gardens Apple Juice.

For all events, entrance £4, children free; homemade teas available; plants, produce and apple juice for sale as available. Sulby Gardens, Northants NN6 6EZ

<https://www.ngs.org.uk/find-a-garden/garden/30087/>

## Friendship Club

Dates for your diary :

**8 April** - fish & chips at 12.45 for 1pm followed by AGM.

**Next meetings: 13 May/ 10 June/ 8 July**  
Speakers are yet to be confirmed.

**Jill Pick 525746**



# Clipston Past & Present

1

The Baptist Chapel

2

Pegs Lane

3

Site of Ancient Settlement

4

Ancient pathways

5

Ridge & furrow fields



This aerial photo was given to the Courier by the late Enid Hardaker, who told us it was taken in the 1970s of the area behind Chapel Lane and Pegs Lane. Photographed at dusk, the long shadows reveal obvious pathways and building foundations cut into the land, which are evidence of the ancient settlement that once existed here. I have lived right next to this field for several years now, and yet despite looking out over it every

morning, had no idea that I was gazing at the site of an ancient settlement, let alone that it was so obviously visible when viewed from the right angle. Further evidence of long abandoned pathways can be seen on the far right of the photograph (4) beyond the end of Pegs Lane. In addition to this we can see excellent examples of ridge and furrow fields (5), which are so common around Clipston, and yet quite unusual

in many parts of the country. This visible footprint of life in the past reveals the farming methods they used back in the 1700s before enclosure created the patchwork field landscape that we have today. As we know, much of the land around Clipston has been protected by English Heritage, but seeing this photograph of the village from above, really shows us why the area is so unusual.

Liz Davies

## Church Open Days— Have Your Say

All Saints Church is a valuable part of the community in Clipston and we want people to feel comfortable in the building, whether or not they worship there. As well as the church services, in recent years we have also hosted numerous musical events, displays and performances, and the Orbell Café which has now been running for 3 years is open every Wednesday morning from 9am.

As custodians of the church we realise that much work is needed to make All Saints comfortable and welcoming for everyone, including better access, new heating and lighting and redecoration throughout. Work is also needed to stabi-

### OPEN DAYS FOR YOUR VIEWS

Tuesday 23 April 7-9pm

Thursday 2 May 7-9pm

Please come along to see and comment on the current proposals and suggest other things we should be doing.

lise the leaded glass windows, the organ is in need of renovation, and we are also considering alternative seating arrangements as the pews are not very comfortable. They were built that way on purpose to make sure that worshippers didn't fall asleep during the services but these days we feel comfort is more important! Outside, the churchyard wall needs a good

deal more work on it and we need to maintain the trees and shrubs in the churchyard.

Before we start looking at costs and grants, etc. we feel it is important for you as villagers to have your input. You, as parishioners, have a vital role to play in helping us determine what work is carried out and we are keen to get your thoughts and views. Please come along to the open days, but if you would like to discuss any issues before the meetings please feel free to contact the churchwarden, **Steve Carpenter, on 525120**. Or drop in at the Orbell Café between 9 and 12pm every Wednesday for a chat.

# Stepping Stones Pre-School

It's all go at Stepping Stones...

We've had a fantastic start to the year so far here at Stepping Stones; lots of fabulous visitors, fundraising efforts and some wonderful events coming up!

We kicked off 2019 with a big 'Oh no he isn't', providing the refreshments for the village panto which was excellent as always. Thank you to everyone for the supporting us, snaffling up all of our yummy hotdogs, teas, cakes and popcorn. We were able to raise a fantastic amount, which was helped even more with match-funding provided by Dave and Faye Tan – thank you so much to them for their continued support.

Stepping Stones appeared in the Market Harborough Waitrose green token scheme before Christmas – we received £162 which will go towards decorating the setting to keep it spick and span. Thank you to Waitrose for allowing us to be part of the scheme and to anyone who popped their token into our box, it's very much appreciated.

January also saw a visit from our volunteer Joy, with her therapy dog, Elsie (see pictures). The children had a wonderful time learning about canine support and how she helps vulnerable people, visiting residential care homes and rehabilitation centres. We got messy in February, when the team from Messy Senses paid us a visit and showed the children some new and exciting activities. March will see parents visiting for a stay and play session – which is always lots of fun! Themes for the next term are Being



Healthy, World Book Day, Seasons (the role of spring), Easter and of course Mother's Day where the children will be making a lovely gift to take home.

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

And you can win up to £25k whilst supporting us too – we are part of the Daventry District Council Local Lotto Scheme. We receive 40% of all ticket sales, 10% goes to other local causes and tickets only cost £1! Please go to [www.Local-Lotto.co.uk](http://www.Local-Lotto.co.uk) and search for Stepping Stones.

**Dates to remember:**

**Saturday 6 April** – Easter Treasure Hunt – Village Hall 2pm-4pm – refreshments, crafts and raffle

**Friday 14 June** – Stepping Stones Summer Ball at Market Harborough Rugby Club –

live band, drinks and nibbles – ALL WELCOME!

**Saturday 29 June** – Party on the rec – we'll be there with lots of lovely things for the children to get involved in. As always, if you would like to volunteer to come and speak to the children about an interesting job or hobby you have, please do get in touch. They would love to see you! Please find us on facebook @SteppingStonesPreschoolClipston and at [www.steppingstonesclipston.co.uk](http://www.steppingstonesclipston.co.uk)

Chloe Petty – Chair (525191)

## New Reverend



On Thursday 7 February at St Mary the Virgin Church in Welford the official licencing and installation of Revd Miranda as the Priest in Charge of the benefice of Welford with Sibbertoft and Marston Trussell and our benefice of Clipston with Naseby, Haselbech and Kelmarsh took place. The church was virtually full with a congregation representing all the seven parishes and Miranda's former parish of All Saints, Earls Barton, for a wonderful service conducted by the Honorary Assistant Bishop of Peterborough, The Right Reverend Edward Condry and the Arch-deacon of Northampton the Venerable Richard Ormston.

## Tennis Club

It was very sad over the winter to learn that Andy Murray's ongoing issue with his hip was going to force him to an early retirement. Obviously very sad for him, for British tennis generally and the world of sport... although, as every cloud has a silver lining, the good news is that consequently every tennis player in Britain's "ranking" will have gone up by one so I think yours truly is now ranked 2,030,479 having previously been 2,030,480! Hope for me yet!

If you're new to the village or just considering taking up a sport why not give tennis a go? Who knows you'll probably be able to push me back down the rankings...

Whilst mentioning Andy Murray, obviously hip issues are a fact of life in tennis, as indeed are knee and elbow injuries, but it is great to know that modern medicine can replace hips almost as good as new, allowing keen amateurs to continue with their sport and, whilst she probably won't be winning any Grand Slam tournaments, I know that as a club we are delighted that Maggie Oldershaw, one of our finest players, following hip-replacement surgery, will be back competing again hopefully pain free this summer, and able to get to those infuriating "drop shots" that last season were so frustratingly out of reach. Let battle recommence!

**Martin Clarke**

## Peter Morrison

Peter Morrison of Kelmarsh Road passed away on 14th January 2019 after a long illness. Peter and family came to Clipston at the end of 1970 when he began working for Symington's in Market Harborough. He was a founder member of the Clipston School Association and a very keen gardener and cricketer. He was always ready to chat with passers-by. He will be missed by all who knew him.





# Clipston Primary School

What a busy term we have had! Year 6 returned to school one Monday to discover a Shakespearean crime scene, which started their 'Shakespeare Showcase' topic. They have learnt more about Shakespeare's life and works, as well as enjoying a fabulous trip to Stratford to take part in some Shakespeare-related activities.

Science has been a big focus this term, with all classes enjoying a variety of fun and engaging science lessons. These range from: exploring hydrophobic sand, building a 'working model' of the digestive system, looking at and handling a real heart, and discovering the differences between carnivores and herbivores. There was also a good turnout to the annual Science Conference, which is one of the events organised with the Ogden Trust Partnership. It was a fun Saturday in January, where the children came together with other schools in the area and took part in a selection of STEM workshops in the science labs at Robert Smyth Academy. At the end of an exciting day, pupils met Dr Suzie Imber, an associate professor in space physics at the University of Leicester - one of the 12 contestants on the BBC2 series *Astronauts: Do you have what it takes?* She told them all about the qualities needed to become an astronaut.



All children in school are well on the way to becoming rockstars! Times-table rockstars that is, as each week the classes do battle using the 'times-table rockstar' programme to see who can make the most improvement with their times tables. Certificates are awarded each week for greatest improvement, most valuable player and most points earned.

Fundraising continues to be an important part of our school life and the children have selected the many charities that we support, through the pupil-run school council. These have included the children's home in Karisalpatti India, the British Legion's poppy appeal, the Air Ambulance and Cancer Research UK. Thank you to all who donated to these worthy causes through the variety of activities the children have organised and participated in.

The children have had the opportunity to try a variety of different sporting activities this term, with support from the South Northants and Daventry School Sport partnership, including archery, boccia, fencing and skipping. Visitors from the local community are always welcome to visit the school or join us at our events. Our Easter Service is on Friday 5 April, which is always a joyous and uplifting occasion. The School Association Fete is on 18 May—all are welcome to come along. The school is open for all children aged 4 to 11 years old from 7.30am (Breakfast Club). More information at [www.clipstonprimaryschool.org](http://www.clipstonprimaryschool.org) or you can follow us on Twitter @ClipstonSchool.

**Emma Mercer, Head Teacher**

## Fancy a go at Bell Ringing?

On the 16 December 2018 we said goodbye to Ken Rutland before he moved back to Derbyshire. Many of you will have known Ken and been familiar with his contributions to the village and in particular as ringing master for All Saints Church. When I was new to the village I went to an open evening at the church to learn about the recently discovered historic documents surrounding the purchase of a new bell; whilst there, Ken gave me a quick demo of ringing the bells and asked if I fancied a go. After the first ring I was hooked. As a non-church goer I was reluctant to admit I wouldn't be staying for the service, but I soon found out the tradition seemed to be that after ringing, the bell ringers ended up at the pub; a tradition I am happy to continue...

There are currently four of us in the village that ring and we have five bells! We would like to recruit some more ringers



from Clipston so that we can ring all five bells, and ideally have a few of us to spare. The more the merrier. Bellringing is not hard and you don't need any real strength to do it, just technique. Nich, a trained ringing teacher, has offered to come and teach anyone who would like to try and if we get enough people we can have a practice night (on a night to suit everyone). Nich makes learning enjoyable and safe, and with over forty years' experience, has

plenty of stories to tell.

Ringing itself is light exercise and method ringing will gently test the little grey cells! I actually find ringing bells relaxing and soothing, as well as providing a bit of mental exercise. Before a service we ring for 30 mins so it really isn't a huge commitment but it is a way to make friends, learn a new skill, exercise, improve back strength, and feel like part of village life! If you are aged 9 or over and fancy a go, please get in touch. I promise you won't regret it. It would be great if we could get five or six people interested in learning or returning to ringing - I understand there may be some lapsed ringers out there, and we would love to welcome you back!

If you are interested please contact Lydie Melvin on 07866 622063 or email [lydiemelvin@hotmail.com](mailto:lydiemelvin@hotmail.com) and we can arrange a taster session.

# Shawaddywaddy's Geoff Betts 1946-2018

Geoff Betts, better known to Showaddywaddy fans as **Al James**, passed away on 16th November. As bass player and one of Showaddywaddy's founding members he lived for a long time in Clipston during his band days. The band, which formed in Leicester in 1973, specialised in revivals of hit songs from the 1950s and 1960s and dressed as 'Teddy Boys'.

Geoff was also one of the original members of Clipston Shooting Club. On one shoot Geoff was at a stand, shouted pull, shot his gun and what looked like a cloud of confetti floated down in the air – it was actually £250 worth of notes!

"Oh, that's where I put it!" said Geoff. What had happened was that on a gig in Ireland the band were given an extra £250 each in cash. In order to "hide" it Geoff wrapped it up and put it down the barrels of his shotgun!

Geoff lived on Kelmars Road and when he was breaking up with his wife, Karen, he decamped to the Red Lion pub; a number of his gold discs used to be on display there. One night, somewhat under the influence, he crashed his car into the me-



morial lamp on the village green – rumour has it that it was a pink Rolls! Maybe as a result of that he eventually lost his driving licence and consequently was no longer able to hold a shotgun licence, so his gun was given to someone who is a current shooting club member. Following a fall at his Market Harborough home he died in hospital. At his funeral his coffin, with a guitar-shaped wreath on top was carried into the church by former bandmates. **Rose Anderson & Jim Tyson**



Geoff Betts, pictured above, and centre in the group photo with his bandmates

## Clipston Development Plan

Matters are progressing well and a lot of work is being put into the process – far more than was anticipated. The Housing Theme Group received 13 proposed sites for consideration in accommodating the whole or part of Clipston's anticipated housing needs, during the life of the Neighbourhood Plan (up to 2029). The group has now finished its meticulous assessment of each site. Negotiations are now proceeding with the site owner whose site has the most realistic potential of fulfilling the plan's requirements: those site owners that have been unsuccessful have been notified. Additionally the group is finishing off the various housing policies that will be applicable during the plan's life – policies that include design, types and size of housing, and related matters.

The Environment Theme Group has completed its environmental inventory work and is now finalising the text, photographs and tables for inclusion in the draft plan.

## Haddon Fields



Since the last edition, Friends of Haddon Fields have been busy with activities that work better in the winter. Firstly, we planted new saplings to replace those that, for whatever reason, did not grow since the first planting in 2016. Also, in December we planted three specimen oak trees in Great Hill and we hope that these will become significant features in the future.

More recently, working parties have removed layers of bramble from the verges along Kelmars Road so that the snowdrops and daffodils can find some natural light and flourish. We have also been laying some of the hedgerow to

try and open up the vista into Little Hill and open up a 'woodland walk' through the very wide and tangled hedge there. We are also thinking about developments that will help to make Haddon Fields even more accessible to all. One of the ideas is to install a new kissing gate close by to the stock gate between the two adjoining fields. This will allow people of all ages and mobility to take a walk around Haddon Fields using the new footbridge so that there is no need to walk on the roadway. Hopefully we will have news about the Haddon Fields circular walk and our ideas for installing an outdoor education centre in the next edition.



# Clipston Business Directory

## ACCOUNTANTS

### Contra Accounting Ltd

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

### Grange Accounting

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

## ARCHITECTS/PLANNING

### JWA Architects

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

## AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS

### Cheffins

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

## AVON REPRESENTATIVE

### Bente Hansen's Avon

Order online www.mhbooksbente.co.uk or contact 07730 656 637 for a book

## BED & BREAKFAST

### Naseby Old Post House B&B, Holiday Let

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

### The Bulls Head, Clipston

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

## CATERING

### The Good Pud Company

Delicious homemade puddings and desserts made to order. Perfect for any occasion.  
Contact Chloe on 07921 959519 01858 525191  
www.facebook.com/TheGoodPudCompany

### Greens Country Kitchen

We deliver delicious homemade food to your venue for any event or occasion.  
Contact: debbie@greensck.co.uk  
01858 571104 www.greensck.co.uk

## DIGITAL SCANNING SERVICES

Scan and share your old/new photos, negatives, slides, docs, etc with a local trustworthy service.

Call to discuss 07801 388007  
jim.tyson@btconnect.com

## DOG WALKING & SITTING

### The Dog House—Beth Wakefield

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

### Happy Hounds & Other Pets

Reliable and trustworthy dog and pet sitter. References available.  
Laura Cochrane 07791 092 907  
lauracochrane26@gmail.com

## DOG GROOMING

### Nik Nack's—Dog Grooming

niknackdogs@hotmail.com  
Nikita McCauley 07544 107 817

## 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  
www.environmentalenergies.co.uk

## EQUINE SERVICES

### Freelance Groom & Rider

Reliable and trustworthy dog and pet sitter. References available.  
Laura Cochrane 07791 092 907  
lauracochrane26@gmail.com

## FLOWERS

### Once Upon a time

Flowers for all your stories. Weddings and events. www.onceupon-atime.co.uk  
Tracey Spokes 07912 782 075

## GARDENING

### Rod Dexter

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

### Great Little Garden Company

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

## HANDYMAN

### Stefan the Handyman

Quality woodwork, tiling, decorating, repairs and more 01858 881775  
stefanthehandyman@outlook.com  
Facebook: @StefantheHandyman

## HOME, GARDEN & GIFTS

### Wren & Moss

Home and garden accessories, gifts, plants and seasonal decorations. Free local delivery.  
Home parties sarah@wrenandmoss.co.uk  
www.wrenandmoss.co.uk 07768 415968

## ILLUSTRATION

### Katy Dynes

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www.kittydiners.co.uk  
contact@kittydiners.co.uk

## JEWELLERY

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www.tjthornton.com tim@tjthornton.com  
Tim Thornton 01858 468858  
Find us on Instagram

## MUSICIANS

### Ragged Enz

Popular jazz tunes for charities, fetes. Special occasions, events  
Andy Blake 07768 554 395  
Mark Ginns 07949 954363

## MUSIC LESSONS

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Piano, singing & music theory lessons. A Level tutoring. All ages and grades. DBS certified  
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### 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

Family portraits, weddings & commercial photography. Rob Leveritt 07802 897 050  
robert@robertleverittphotography.com

## PLUMBERS

### C. K. & O Spokes

Plumbing & Heating Engineer  
Corgi Registered and OFTEC  
07773 288 686

## PUBS & RESTAURANTS

### The Bulls Head

Clipston's 17th-Century Local Pub  
Steve and Helen Foster  
www.bullshheadclipston.co.uk 01858 525268

## QUALITY USED CARS

### Bob Millington Ltd

Quality Used Cars & Personal Service  
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Experienced Harley Street consultant. Paediatric and Adult Physiotherapy  
0774 789 6740  
nilalakhani@childrentherapyservices.co.uk

## TRAVEL ADVISORS

### 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

## TUTORING

### Rachel Smith English Tutoring in Clipston

Literature/language tutoring at all levels; 8 years experience. 07749 471 739  
Rachel.k.smith@hotmail.com

To advertise your business here, contact  
Julia Blake 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.

**Lydie Melvin 07866 622063**

## Bulls Head Skittles Team

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

**Robert Burnham 01858 525628**

## Clipston Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS)

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

**Val Carpenter 01858 525120**

## Clipston Homeworkers' Lunch

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

## Clipston WI

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

**Rose Anderson 01858 525481**

## Coffee & Chat

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

**Jill Pick 01858 525746**

## Dog Training

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

**Caroline Burton 07793 935 929**

## Flower Club

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

## Football Club—Sunday

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

**Adam 07870 235 966**

## Friendship Club

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

**Jill Pick 01858 525746**

## Parents & Tots Group

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

**Chloe Wright 07977 529 859**

## Shooting Club

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

**Daryl Robinson 07919 252 964**

## Sunday Club

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

**Faye Tan 01858 525275**

## Tennis Club

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

**Martin Clarke 01858 525558**

## United Benefice Choir

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

**Julie Connell 01858 525336**

## Whist Drive

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

**Grace Burnham 01858 525327**

## Bus Service to Harborough

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

## Church & Chapel Services

### All Saints Church

Services on Sundays, times vary. Please see [www.allsaintsclipston.org](http://www.allsaintsclipston.org) The Sunday Club for children is every second Sunday in the month (see information in Groups section).

### Baptist Chapel

Sundays at 10.45am. All welcome.

## Useful Contacts

### All Saints Church

Trevor Lake 01858 525422

### Baptist Chapel

Rob Thompsett 01858 466370

### Bus Service (Centrebus)

[www.centrebus/info](http://www.centrebus/info)

### Clipston School (office)

Helen Rhodes 01858 525261

### Clipston School Association

Poppy Michael 07977 211423

### Clipston School Governors (Chair)

Dewinder Burk 01858 525261

### Clipston Village Hall & Hire

Grace Burnham 01858 525327

### Flood Warden

Ann Essen 07709 411 262

### Footpath Warden

Julia Blake 01858 525760

### Orbell Room at the church

Val Carpenter 01858 525120

### Parish Council (Clerk)

Felicity Ryan 01604 740429

Meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month

at village hall at 7.30pm.

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

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

**Police non-emergency contact number 101**

### Recreation Field Trust & Pavilion Hire

Andy Blake 01858 525760

### Stepping Stones Pre-School

Sharon Brigden 01858 525113

### Tree Warden

Mick Higgins 01858 525302

## Charities

### Almshouse Charity

Peter Goodchild 01858 525532

### British Legion

Rupert Ellenborough 01858 525380

### Clipston Consolidated Charities

Colin Morley 01858 525337

### Clipston School Charity

Peter Goodchild 01858 525532