



Clipston Primary School by Katy Dynes

Clipston Courier

Your Village Newsletter

June 2019



Welcome

Welcome to the summer edition of the Courier! It's already that time of year when everyone gets together for the annual **Clipston Festival**, and we have all the details of what's happening and when on page 5.

Also in this issue we learn about the new developments at the **village hall** (we have WiFi!) and a special week of **arts and crafts workshops** which will be held there during the summer (see p9). And be sure not to miss Clipston's very own **Last Night of the Proms** event on 6 July (p4).

Musicians **Ruby & Caroline Boa** are our Clipston Profile (p3) and we congratulate **Carolyn Downing** on her second Olivier Award nomination (p2). Add to this all the usual updates from across the village, and we once again have a packed Courier for you. Have a great summer!



Hannah Eveleigh & Liz Davies
Editors of this edition

The Courier Editorial Team takes it in turns to edit each issue. Our September edition will be produced by Jim Tyson.

Clipston Festival



It's back!

Saturday 29 June, 1pm til 10pm

The end of June is becoming a firm fixture in our village calendar as we prepare once again for the glorious sights and sounds of our annual Clipston Festival down at the recreation ground. Taking place from **1pm** on the afternoon of **Saturday 29 June**, get set to enjoy fantastic food, great music, and a real sense of community. This year, the festival has a **fancy hats theme**, so everyone is encouraged to bring along some imaginative headgear to wear (there will be prizes!). Other features include the eagerly anticipated **Dog Show** as well as a hilarious hi-de-hi style **Knobbly Knees Competition!** All proceeds from the festival go towards the maintenance of the excellent facilities we have down at the rec, which we think everyone will agree are a tremendous asset for our village.

Bring your own lunch with bookable tables

As in previous years we encourage you to bring your own picnic lunch and we have tables available to book in the marquee area for £2 a head. Your street reps may have already been in touch, but if you haven't yet booked, please contact Nikki on 07856775770 or Julia on 07880 700699 as there is limited availability.

HOW TO CONTACT US

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- FANCY HATS THEME
- DOG SHOW & AGILITY AREA
- KNOBBLY KNEES COMP
- BEER TENT & PROSECCO
- KIDS AREA & FETE STALLS
- EVENING BARBECUE
- LOCAL LIVE MUSIC
- See p5 for more details

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.

Olivier nomination for Carolyn

Clipston sure has got talent! Theatre sound designer, Carolyn Downing (featured in the June 2016 Courier Profile), was recently nominated for her second Olivier Award for her work on Tennessee Williams' play Summer & Smoke. Already an Olivier Award winner for Best Sound Design in 2014, Carolyn and her husband, David attended the glittering awards ceremony at the Royal Albert Hall on Sunday 7 April. They rubbed shoulders with the stars and walked the red carpet with Gloria Estefan, Richard E Grant and Sally Field amongst others, then enjoyed the sights and sounds of the show hosted by Jason Manford. Unfortunately, this time Carolyn was pipped to the post, but this didn't dampen her enjoyment of the evening. The night alone was a great experience, including the after party with the whales and dinosaurs at The Natural History Museum.



Carolyn and David enjoying their evening at the Olivier Awards on Sunday 7th April

Carolyn said of the occasion, "It was a great honour to be recognised by the theatre industry, a very sweet cherry on the top of a most wonderful experience making the show. So exciting that work like this is given this kind of acknowledgement and is celebrated in this way. I was so excited to have the chance to be part of the event, especially at such a prestigious venue, what a treat! It was a true celebration of theatre, I loved watching so many friends and colleagues being awarded and recognised for their outstanding work. So grateful for David being by my side every step of the way too. I could not have done any of it without his support and the rest of my family. Definitely a team effort! It was so great to have the chance to share such a marvellous evening together."

We are sure everyone in Clipston joins us in congratulating Carolyn on her amazing achievements and we wish her lots of luck for next year's Olivier Awards!

Clipston WI



At our March meeting we were delighted to be presented with a picture of our February lunch in The Bulls Head, drawn by our very talented village illustrator, Katy Dynes. Thank you so much, Katy – we are all thrilled with it.

We have again been busy baking cakes – this time for the Cynthia Spencer hospice in Northampton where patients and visitors can enjoy a very welcome home-made treat. Every week of the year a different county WI delivers around 12 cakes and they are much appreciated.

Activities for the coming months include a talk on beekeeping in June, our afternoon garden party in August and a talk about the Industrial Revolution in September. Look out for our Asian food tasting evening on 9 July with Anita Chipalkatty of Hobbycooks – all are welcome to come and enjoy delicious food! We are delighted to have had some new ladies join, which brings our number to 20. Newcomers always welcome to our meetings on the second Tuesday of the month. **Rose Anderson 525481**

Need funding for a Clipston group?

£7000 available from
Kelmarsh Windfarm
Community Benefit

If you are thinking of creating a project or already have ideas that would benefit the Clipston community and need funding to get things underway, the KWCB could help you. Clipston has the opportunity to benefit from just under £7000 p.a. for 23 years. Small or large amounts of money will all be considered. We have already completed one application request and have others in hand ready to benefit the village community. Applications can be made 4 times a year and the deadlines for these proposals will be on: 1st Feb, 1st May, 1st Aug & 1st Nov each year. For further information contact Roger Wallett or Robert Davidson on Clipston@kwcb.co.uk or 01858 525346



Plans for church refurbishment

As reported in the last Courier, All Saints Church held two open evenings recently to discuss plans for its refurbishment. Churchwarden Steve Carpenter presented a short history of the church and explained that the last major refurbishment was in Queen Victoria's time.

The meetings were well attended and visitors were reminded that the church receives NO INCOME at all other than donations from churchgoers and generous people who recognise its value to the community.

The feedback received on the plans was overwhelmingly positive and will be very helpful in deciding the next step.

Proposed improvements include:

New entrance porch and level floor throughout the church

New lighting, heating and sound system

Essential maintenance to the windows

Orbell Room improvements & toilets

Churchyard wall maintenance

More comfortable and flexible seating arrangements

Complete redecoration internally

The first stage will be the production of a floorplan of the existing church. This will cost about £2000 and we are looking at how we can pay for this. Overall, the cost of all the works will be very high and we will be applying for significant grants to meet those costs. We will undoubtedly need to contribute a proportion of the total sum so some vigorous fundraising will be needed. Our experience recently in attracting grants for the roof replacement will be helpful in funding the project. The diocese has been helpful in advising us on procedures and the support of the community for the project is an important element.

We are looking at a long-term project here, possibly phased over a number of years and it is important that we get it right as Clipston residents will have to live with the results for another 150 years in all probability.

We are still open to thoughts and suggestions so feel free to contact **Steve Carpenter** on 525120 or anyone on the PCC.

Clipston Profile: Ruby & Caroline Boa



When my son Ollie came home from his first ever piano lesson and told me with much enthusiasm where Middle C was on the piano keyboard, that a man called Beethoven was REALLY good at playing the piano and was grumpy because he was deaf, and that he'd played on three different pianos during his lesson I knew we'd found the perfect music teacher for our not yet very talented but certainly super keen 5-yr-old. Caroline Boa proved to be just that and not only taught Ollie how to play the piano, but gave him a fascinating insight into the history of music, composers, the different sounds different pianos could produce, and how to love music in all its genres.

Caroline is daughter to Ruby Boa who has lived in the village for 42 years – their house is easy to spot because it has, of course, a grand piano on the name plaque on the gate post, and if that is not clue enough as to their profession, their sitting room really is full of pianos (they now have 4 in there). Indeed, Ruby remembers her husband, Gordon, once threatening to emigrate if any more pianos were brought into the house! Ruby Boa was born and brought up in Edinburgh and started playing the piano at 3 years old. At 13 she had her first big musical engagement at the Usher Hall in Edinburgh (Scotland's answer to the Royal Albert Hall) where she accompanied 300 singers on the piano.

One day, through a teacher at her school, she was introduced to an ex-serviceman, Stanley Herd, who was a professional singer. Ruby was paid initially as his accompanist on the piano but he became her mentor and persuaded her to study

music at the Royal Academy of Music and Drama (now the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland) in Glasgow. As much as her parents loved music, they felt a music degree was 'not going to be very useful' so Ruby was also persuaded to enrol in a primary school teaching degree at Edinburgh University. Still living in Edinburgh, Ruby spent 3 years commuting by train to Glasgow three days a week, and studying in Edinburgh for two days, catching up with homework on the train journeys whenever she could.

Caroline always wanted to play the piano like her mother and says she was about 8 when she decided she wanted to be a musician 'like her mummy'. She too studied music at the Royal Academy in Glasgow but went on to do a PGCE in Aberdeen, and later, a post-graduate course in music therapy down in London. Both Ruby and Caroline have moved around the country teaching and performing, from Edinburgh and Glasgow to Cambridge and here in Clipston, where they both still teach, although, at the ripe old age of 90, Ruby informs me in her gorgeous soft Scottish accent, 'I only have two students these days'.

Interviewing the Boa ladies has been a privilege and a joy – as the two sit side by side at their half grand piano playing a duet of 'Ye Banks and Braes' I agree wholeheartedly with Caroline when she says, 'Music is a tonic; like Carlsberg Beer, it reaches parts that otherwise can't be reached'. These two wonderful ladies are certainly thriving on it and the sheer passion and enthusiasm the Boa mother/daughter ensemble has for music is truly infectious.

Hannah Eveleigh

Focus on Farming

Clipston is a village surrounded by fields, which change enormously with the seasons. In this new column, Andy Blake gives us an insight into what is going on in the fields all around us as we move through the farming year.

You may have seen that some crops have been sown this autumn without the fields being ploughed. It's now thought that it's better for the soil structure, for moisture retention and therefore for the crop if some crops can be sown without ploughing. It's also cheaper and uses less diesel and labour. There are now machines that can cut a slot in the ground with a disc and then drop the seed in. This means that sowing and cultivation can occur with just one trip to the field. This does depend on what was in the ground previously and you may have seen one of our neighbouring farmers cultivate the stubble of the old crop to get any seed to germinate first. These are then killed off before the new crop is sown.

There's been less yellow in the countryside. Oil seed rape is now much more



difficult to grow because the crop is very susceptible to damage from a flea beetle and the chemical that used to be used to control this pest is now not available due to concerns that it was affecting bees. We also now have more beans to look at

(e.g. by the side of the mear bridleway)! Blackgrass has been a problem in cereal crops for decades and a way of controlling it is to plant crops in the spring rather than the autumn. The beans will largely go for animal feed after harvesting.

Great to see cows and calves out in the fields now. Locally these are crossbred cows mated with a bull to produce calves that will have lots of lean meat. The calves will stay with their mothers until the autumn when they will either be sold to other farmers to grow on or kept in groups and be fed throughout the winter.

The lambs that have been in the fields since February have grown well helped by the dry weather although the lack of grass will have meant that farmers may have had to buy more feed for them. A lamb produces about 18Kg of meat (including the bones) and farmers would be getting around £45 per lamb. Quite a bit less than the price you'll pay in the supermarket!

Andy Blake

Coffee & Chat Canine Partners



Yes - here he is! Canine Partner in training, "CLIPSTON". As you can see, he is a Labrador and is being trained at the West of Scotland Satellite Training Centre. We are all looking forward to hearing about his progress and hopefully receiving more photos; so watch this space.

Our coffee and chat mornings are continuing to be well supported and we have made a good start on the next £5,000 needed to complete Clipston's training. Pop in and find out more on the third Saturday of each month - 10.30 to noon - village hall.

From the Coffee and Chat team.

Last night of the Proms Saturday 6 July, 7pm, All Saints Church

'The Last Night of the Proms Clipston-style.' World-renowned performers Simon Over, Katherine Manley and Dr Kate Kennedy are coming to Clipston. (Google them to read their professional achievements!) The Benefice Choir will be singing Rejoice Today With One Accord, Brother James' Air, as well as the usual 'Last Night' repertoire which includes Rule Britannia, Land of Hope and Glory, Fantasia on British Sea Songs, Jerusalem and the National Anthem, with audience participation. The choir are a very small part of the evening.

Professional musicians from the Southbank Sinfonia Orchestra will be playing and singing for the majority of the evening, together with renowned soprano Katherine Manley (originally from Leicestershire) singing opera arias and songs from the shows; Simon Over playing the Widor Toccata on the organ, and young percussionist Theo Kennedy, all woven together by BBC broadcaster and cellist Kate Kennedy as compere. It will be a real treat for music lovers young and old!



The evening is sponsored by The Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation and all funds raised go to All Saints Church.

A free glass of bubbly on arrival and supper are included with the ticket. There will be a pay bar after the performance. Bottles of red & white wine can be ordered and paid for in advance at £10 a bottle.

Tickets £20 (includes supper)

Contact Julie Connell 01858 525336

j.connell118@btinternet.com

The Wooden Owl, 10a The Green, Clipston



Clipston Festival What's on & When

12-1pm

Set up

Come down and optionally decorate your pre-booked lunch table, or set up your own on the field

1-2pm

Sit down lunch

All day beer tent opens with prosecco bar

Lunch time activities

Folk music on the trailer

Fun quiz with a "hats" theme

Children's scavenger hunt

Prizes for best hatted person and/or table

1.30pm

Knobbly knee competition

Roll up, roll up (your trousers) for a definite laugh

2-2.30pm

Children's school choir run by Jane Ginns

2-5pm

Afternoon Fete

Games of skill and competitive fete games, Stalls, Raffle, Wheel of fortune, Huge Tombola; Water or Wine, Tennis Serving machine and more...

Mocktail bar - run by village teenagers

Dog agility area: Try your dog on a small agility circuit which includes jumps, sit and stay, tunnel and walk the plank.

Homemade Teas, Cakes, Ice creams in the Pavilion run by Stepping Stones

Kids area:

Face painting by Abi

Relaxed Kids gazebo with Niki

Bouncy castle, Stepping Stones area

including: Wigwams, Giant Jenga, Hula

Hoops and Headgear making.

3-4.30pm

Fun Dog show

Organised by the Monday Morning on the Rec Dog Training Group. Includes short dog training demonstration.

5-9.30pm

Local live music on the main stage

5-6pm

Hotdogs - tea time for the kids!

5.30-8pm

Special BBQ plus homemade puddings

10pm

Could your dog steal the show?

Does your dog have the waggiest tail? Or are they great at catching sausages? Maybe they're just incredibly good looking or have a trick they can perform. Bring your dog along to the festival between 3-4.30pm and pitch their talents against other local pooches. It's only £1 entry per class, and there will be prizes (and of course the fun of taking part!).



CLASSES & SPONSORS

Waggiest Tail

Fetch & Walk

Egg and Spoon Race

NikNaks Dog Grooming

Child's Best Friend

Riverside Hub Play Area

Best Single Trick

The Dog House- Beth Wakefield

Fanciest Hatted Dog and/or Owner

Vet4Pets, Kettering

Most Handsome Dog

Welland Valley Feeds

Prettiest Bitch

Paws4Walking

Best Rescue

Town & Country Vets

Best Sausage Catcher

Ash Tree Vets

Best in Show

The Geoffrey Main Prize

Fancy Hat Competition

Embrace the spirit of this year's Clipston Festival and get hat-making! Anything goes—the crazier the better. Not only does it add to the festival atmosphere and provide a fun activity to do with the kids, but you may even win a prize for your efforts. Imagine the glory.



Reuse & Recycle



We'd like to try to be more environmentally aware for this festival so please make sure you reuse and recycle, taking all your waste home with you. Why not bring your own reusable (non-glass) drink containers; we can fill these at the bar.

Haddon Fields - Open Day 15 September



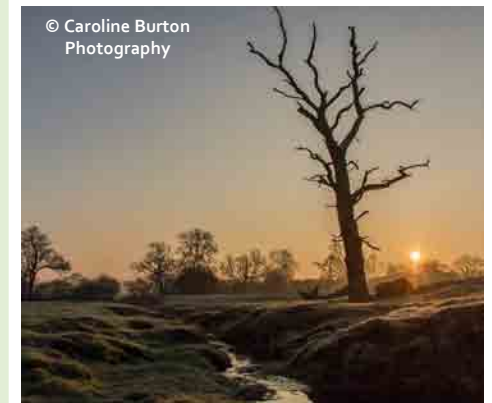
The early summer weather has emphasised the verdant growth of the pasture, hedgerow and trees in Haddon Fields. Volunteers have been busy over the winter months trimming hedges, cutting

branches and twigs and producing wood chips for the 'woodland walk' under construction. Special thanks to Tom Robinson and James Stevenson for their assistance with the chipping! Pleasingly, the partially completed 'woodland walk' is being appreciated, as more and more people find it on their village walks. It is planned that when completed, the 'woodland walk' will allow walkers to access Great Hill via a new kissing gate to be installed in the coming months. This access point will allow walkers to complete a circular village walk via the Haddon Fields footbridge and other footpaths without having to walk on the roadside.

We are planning for our third open day on **Sunday 15th September**, again featuring our own Jules Howard leading investigations into the world of fossils and water life in Haddon Fields! More details will be available in the next edition of the Courier. Finally, I recently visited "Haddon Woods'

in Somerset. This site was given to the Woodland Trust by Miss Anne Haddon, some 5 years ago. They also formed a 'Friends' group at the outset and when we met, we were able to compare notes on their and our activities. I will give more details next time, but in the meantime enjoy YOUR Haddon Fields this summer!

Stephen Woodgate



© Caroline Burton
Photography

A celebration of the Baha'i New Year

As relative newcomers to Clipston, we were delighted to welcome a number of villagers, along with friends of old, to celebrate the Baha'i New Year. Our afternoon of readings with live music and art activities began as 45 of us shared writings from different faiths celebrating the unity of mankind, religion and God, with song lyrics such as: *'Do not be content with showing friendship in words alone'* and *'Where there is love, nothing is too much trouble and there is always time'*.

We then moved into what proved to be the most exciting part of the celebration for the youngsters ... and many of the adults! Two lovely youth gave us a deft demonstration on how to make origami lotus flowers, and we broke into four focused – and very animated groups to help each other replicate the making! - Some of the villagers proved particularly adept at helping the rest of us make a diverse and beautiful array of flowers.

After a rapid consumption of some well-deserved refreshments and lively conver-



sation we regrouped, to individually select beautiful quotations such as: *'Let each morn be better than its eve'* and wrote them on to the back of cut-out hearts, which were then sweetly distributed to all present by the little ones.

So, what is the Baha'i New Year? Well, it is celebrated by Baha'is around the world on March 21, the spring equinox, and Baha'is believe it is a point at which: *'a wonderful vibrant energy and new life-*

quickenning is observed everywhere in the vegetable kingdom ... the animal and human kingdoms are resuscitated and move forward with a new impulse.' (Baha'i writings). This also marks the end of 19 days of fasting from just before the sun rises to just after the sun sets each day!

What is the Baha'i Fast? Essentially it is a period of prayer and reflection – of spiritual recuperation – during which time we strive to make any necessary adjustments that will refresh and re-energise our lives. As with many Faiths, whilst the outward, practical discipline of fasting is beneficial to our physical bodies, Baha'is also understand that its practice is essentially a symbol, and its true significance and purpose is fundamentally spiritual in character.

Thank you to all who came from the village – it was such a joyful way for us to celebrate – with old and new friends – and we hope to welcome more of you next time!

Andrew, Natasha and Arran

Bell Ringers

Clipston church bells were rung on Thursday 18 April at 7pm for 7 mins in solidarity with the people of Paris following the fire at Notre Dame on 15 April.

Chris Blake Concert



On Saturday 30th March, Chris Blake (piano) returned to Clipston for a reunion with two other former members of the celebrated Elysian wind quintet, Martin Burrell (clarinet) and Richard King (saxophone). We were treated to two very different concerts on the same day - a matinee for children and families and an evening performance for adults. Margareta Burrell (accordion) led the children's performance which featured lots of audience participation, children's percussion and even dancing in the Orbell room. Everyone got involved and it was wonderful to see so many children enjoying the music which included *Percy the Park Keeper 2* and Haydn's *Toy Symphony*. The evening programme of piano solos and accompanied clarinet and saxophone pieces included works from Schubert, Beethoven, Mozart and Chopin. Hearing such beautiful compositions played so masterfully by these world-

class musicians was a real treat but what made this performance so incredibly special and memorable was witnessing the warmth of the reunion of these performers who had not seen each other in almost 35 years (excepting their rehearsal the night before!). They shared tales of their performances and travels together and clearly enjoyed both the reminiscing and the opportunity to make music together once again. We were promised "an evening not to be missed" and audience feedback suggests it was exactly that! Thanks to support from Daventry District Council and some corporate matched funding the concerts were also a financial success, raising £2500 for the recreation ground and churchyard wall repair fund. We are pleased to announce that Chris will be back next year so please save the date in your diaries - 14th March 2020. Faye Tan

Flower Club

For our May meeting we welcomed newly qualified demonstrator Sophie O'Keefe and her demonstration "New Beginnings". It was only her 3rd demonstration but she was truly professional and extremely talented. It was a lovely evening and the picture shows one of her designs. On 19th June the club are visiting Mon Amie Flowers at Kibworth. We will have a talk on peonies, see a demonstration using them and then we are going to be able to buy some of the beautiful, more unusual blooms. Peonies are gorgeous flowers and come in many different forms and colours.

21st August sees us visit Dale Farm, Maidwell. It is not usually open to the public so we are really lucky to be able to visit this beautiful garden which looks out over miles and miles of Northamptonshire countryside. No doubt tea and cake will be involved so let's hope it's a nice evening.

If you like flowers in any way and would like to join us at one of our meetings then come along. We are a really friendly group and always ready to welcome new faces.

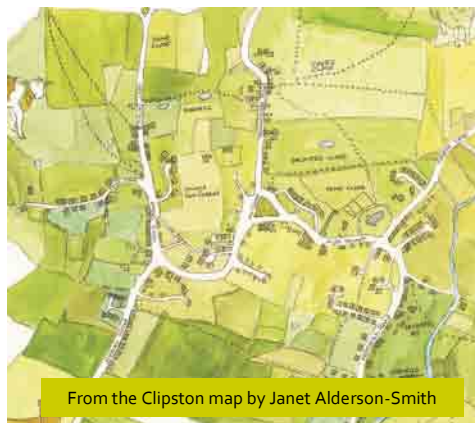
If you would like more details or a chat about what we do, ring me, Heather Weston, on 525598



Clipston Development Plan

The first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan has been considered by the Neighbourhood Plan committee and once agreed, an open event will be held in the village hall to enable sharing of the draft plan with the community.

In the last edition of the Courier there was reference to the negotiations with the site owner whose site has the most realistic potential of fulfilling the plan's housing requirements for the next ten years. These negotiations are proceed-



From the Clipston map by Janet Alderson-Smith

ing well. They are, however, rather complicated, as in addition to Daventry District Council (as planning authority) and Northamptonshire County Council (as highway authority), they also involve a Housing Association. This is because provision of affordable housing is included in the scheme on the new site.

It is hoped that by the time of the next issue of the Courier there should be available a clear timetable of all events leading up to completion of the plan.

Stepping Stones Pre-School

We have got a busy term ahead at Stepping Stones... but unfortunately, we start with sad news. Our lovely manager, Sharon, left us just after Easter after four years and she had a huge impact on the setting. We were very sad to see her go but wish her the best of luck in her new role. We will have a new manager in place by September. In the meantime, our wonderful deputy manager and Forest School leader, Sam, will be acting manager so it's business as usual.

As always, the summer term will be fully packed. Our topics for this term include the weather, life cycles, mini-beasts and people who help us. Forest School will last longer now that the days are warming up, giving the children more time to take part in new experiences and challenges. We will be preparing our older children for the move up to big school (!) in September. There will be regular transition visits in July (dates are yet to be confirmed) for those moving to Clipston Primary School - teachers will be visiting the setting and children will go into the school. For those children moving on to other schools, those same links will be made and visits offered.

Until the end of the term, our opening hours will be Monday – Thursday 8.45am – 3.15pm and Friday 8.45am – 12.15pm. From September, we are planning to be open Monday to Friday 8.45am – 3.15pm – this will be confirmed before the end of term. We have vacancies for September so if you are looking for a wonderful local preschool, contact us on 01858 525113, email preschool1@clipston.northants.sch.uk for an informal chat and to arrange a visit or request a registration pack.

Dates to remember:

Friday 14th June – Stepping Stones Summer Ball at Market Harborough Rugby Club – live band, drinks and nibbles – ALL WELCOME!

Thursday 27th June – Trip to Kelmarsh Hall and Gardens

Saturday 29th June – Party on the Rec – we'll be there with lots of lovely things for the children to do

July - End of Term Show and Tea Party

September – AGM. Stepping Stones is a charity, run not-for-profit and has a com-

mittee of parent volunteers to aid long-term planning and finances. We have several committee members stepping down this year so please come along to hear about what we do and see if you would like to join us.

Please find us on facebook

@[SteppingStonesPreschoolClipston](https://www.facebook.com/SteppingStonesPreschoolClipston) and

www.steppingstonesclipston.co.uk

Chloe Petty – Chair (525191)

Sulby Gardens

Our April opening was a great success, the weather exceeded everyone's expectations and we had 120 visitors!

The gardens will be open on:

Thursday 20 June from 2 - 5pm - Wild flower meadows in full bloom, and a special visit from the lady with the beautiful leaf-shaped ceramic dishes.

Thursday 22 August 2 - 5pm - Butterfly gardens and ponds

Entrance £4, children free, homemade teas available, plants, produce apple juice for sale. Find out more on: <https://www.ngs.org.uk/find-a-garden/garden/30087/>

Stepping Stones Summer Ball

FRIDAY 14 JUNE

MARKET HARBOROUGH
RUGBY CLUB

LIVE BAND
THE LAZOONS
ALL WELCOME

Tickets £15
From Chloe Petty
chloe.petty@hotmail.co.uk
Tickets Includes
Welcome drink & canapes

Village Hall

The **jumble sale** on 4 April raised £405 and all raffle prizes were claimed. Many thanks to all who helped, donated items and came and bought – without you there wouldn't be a sale. The next one will be Thursday 5 September at 7pm. **Whist drives** have now finished for the summer but will start again on Thursday 12 September at 1.30pm, and then every two weeks thereafter (26 Sept, 10 Oct, 24 Oct, 7 Nov, 21 Nov) and the last one this session, on 5 December.

Grace Burnham

Tennis Club

Once more the sounds of summer can be heard down at the recreation fields: the giggling of children in the play area; the whoops of joy on the new zipwire; the barking of dogs as they chase frisbees or balls; the gentle, under the breath, swearing by tennis players as they miss an easy smash; the heavy breathing by them after a long rally; their optimistic enquiries of 'Was that in?' when it clearly wasn't; the 'well played' through gritted teeth, and eventually the redundant question of 'Anyone going to the pub?'. Ahhh, the sounds of summer!

Once again these comments are made to entice anyone who fancies some social tennis (any standard so long as you can maintain a rally) on a Tuesday evening, and you'll be made very welcome.

Also just a request, whilst the courts are free for anyone to use, and we all like to see them being used, it would be much appreciated if you are a regular user, that you could think about making a donation (or maybe just buy a 100 Club number) to go towards the maintenance and eventual resurfacing? Details are on the court. Thank you very much. **Martin Clarke.**

Friendship Club

10th June - lunch 12.15 for 12.30 in Clipston Village Hall.

8th July - "What a Wonderful World" - Richard Adams.

12th August - Garden meeting at Great Oxendon with bring & buy.

9th September - "Kew Gardens and Marianne North" - David Clarke.

14th October - "Life Behind the Camera" - Rob Leveritt.

Clipston Primary School

We have had a very busy last few months in school!

We welcomed 60 Year 2 children from Sparkenhoe School in Leicester, who joined us for the day and experienced an uplifting Easter service in church, a village treasure hunt and making lots of new friends.

Everyone has taken part in Active Week, where all classes enjoyed a range of activities from skipping to rugby, orienteering to golf, hula hooping to yoga. Each class also included some active outdoor lessons throughout the week to help promote the importance of being active in our learning. The week culminated in a maths orienteering session at the recreation ground for children in Years 3-5.

To celebrate British Science Week this year, each class has learnt about a different scientist: Charles Macintosh, Charles Darwin, Becky Schroeder, Jamie Garcia and Patricia Bath. The children learnt about their lives, their discoveries and completed experiments including "Which materials make the best raincoats?" and "Which plastics can be recycled?"

Four children from Year 4 and 5 also took part in the Market Harborough inter schools STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) competition. They worked really well as a team, showing a high level of problem solving skills to finish 2nd, just 1 point behind the winners. Children in Key Stage Two have been learning about Hinduism as part of our Religious Education curriculum and they had a wonderful day learning about the Holi festival (the traditions and beliefs) and finished the day by experiencing a traditional Holi past time: colour throwing!



All the children have worked extremely hard and shown positive attitudes and perseverance towards the National Tests in Years 1, 2 and 6, as well as the in-school assessments for all the other year groups. Well done to all the children and staff.

Our annual May Fete was a popular and well attended event, with the Year 6 children looking as smart as always opening the event with their parade. The maypole dancing was once again a treat to behold as this traditional dance delighted the crowds. Many thanks to all those who attended and made this such a successful event.

Our sports teams continue to enjoy extra-curriculum activities both at lunchtime and after school. The Year 3, 4 and 5 children have taken part in a cross country festival, Year 5 and 6 children enjoyed competing in a netball competition, and a swimming gala. They are also looking forward to other events including KwikSticks hockey and a tri-golf festival later this term. Our Year 5 sports crew leadership team has just undergone training to lead fun, sporting activities at lunchtimes with the younger children, which help promote a healthy active life.

Music continues to thrive under the direction of Mrs Ginns with the school choir becoming increasingly popular. The choir recently took part in the Eisteddfod competition in Northampton, which was hotly contested, and the children performed beautifully to a very high standard. The choir are also looking forward to performing at the Clipston Festival in June.

We also have our annual sports day taking place in June (hopefully the weather will be kind to us!), the Year 6 residential to the Pioneer Centre in Shropshire and our Leavers' Service, held in All Saints' Church.

The school is open for all children aged 4 to 11 years old from 7.30am (Breakfast Club). More information at www.clipstonprimaryschool.org or you can follow us on Twitter @ClipstonSchool.

Emma Mercer, Head Teacher

What's new at the village hall?

New: 1GB WiFi connection. Available free to all users. For further information including the latest password, please see the information on display in the hall.

New: Yoga classes. Tuesdays 7.30pm. Suitable for all ages and abilities. For more information please contact Justine Flowers on 07957 110333.

New: Relax Kids sessions. Fridays 4.15pm. Suitable for 5-9yr olds. New class for pre-schoolers starting in Sept (subject to demand). For more information please contact Niki Hendry-Adams on 07939969901.

Arts and Crafts Week

19-23 August 10am-12 noon

For children aged 5-13. Sessions will run each day at the village hall. Expect a different art/craft each day including painting, collage, hand sewing, clay work and much more! Expert tuition from Leicestershire Craft Centre and Clipston's own talented artists and craft workers. 24 places per day are available. Book a single session for £10 (£5 discount for siblings attending the same session) or the whole week for £40. Price includes all tuition, materials, drinks and a snack.



Arts & Craft Week 19-23 August for children aged 5-13 years

Charles Vears' Diary

In amongst the many local history documents that Alex Pegram has shared with us over the last few years, we discovered the fascinating diaries of a local character, Charles Vears. Arran Wilkinson took the diaries to read them and give us a flavour of this interesting but wayward character who lived in this area around two centuries ago.

Charles Vears was the archetypal 19th-century rebel. Official records suggest that he died aged 47, and yet 'The Life of Charles Vears' inexplicably begins "I shall be 72 next May; same age as the Queen." The sense of intrigue, and indeed slight confusion, that one feels upon reading these words is in no way allayed by the 60 pages that follow. Charles Vears was born in East Farndon, receiving his education at Husbands Bosworth. Even whilst at school, Vears' disregard for the rules and tendency towards violence were evident. Although he managed to avoid 'fighting and scrapes' at his own school, when his fishing line taken by one of the students at Collin's boarding school, he tells of how he "picked up a half brick and caught him at the side of his face". He was ten at the time.

This was a sign of things to come. Although, owing to his age, Charles avoided jail in this instance, he was rarely so fortunate again. 'The Life of Charles Vears' is a rollercoaster first-hand account of a notorious poacher who, in between a number of stints in jail, caught hundreds, maybe even thousands, of rabbits and hares in the fields that are so familiar to us all. He was, however, not merely a poacher. Across his eclectic career, Vears worked as a boxer, cobbler, journeyman, harvester, and was even something of a poet. Many examples of his songs and poems can be found in this account and are well worth a read. One song begins with the enticing line:

"...Come all ye sporting characters, And listen to my tale; How me and two more Theddingworth men, We did get put in gaol..."

Although much of his life was indeed spent in the region of Market Harborough, Charles Vears was very well travelled. In his time as a journeyman he ventured through Yorkshire and Northumberland, stopping in Hull and Durham (to name but a few). Yet this journey was eclipsed by his decision, soon after his wedding, to move to America with his

wife, Alice Stain. This trip was, however, short-lived, as, true to form, Vears was quickly arrested for stealing his neighbour's fence for use as firewood during a particularly harsh winter. Soon enough, they were back in England and Vears returned to poaching in the fields surrounding Market Harborough. Vears later wrote a poem to his wife. The following is a particularly poignant verse:

"... And when in gaol my days were spent, I felt not much of sorrow; For well I know, to have me out, She'd work and beg and borrow. Sell pig and all to set me free Through thick and thin she followed me..."

Without wishing to spoil too much, 'The Life of Charles Vears' is a compelling read, full of familiar place names, yet harking back to a rather unfamiliar time. Throughout, it is very hard to decide whether or not Vears is a beleaguered character who is harshly targeted by the authorities, or whether he is stubbornly rebellious, and an often violent man who refused to learn from his arrests and give up his poaching. Perhaps it is not for us to judge, but either way it is a thrilling insight into life in this area some 200 years ago.

Arran Wilkinson

relax kids

Activity and relaxation classes for 5-9 year olds

Fridays 4.15pm at Clipston Village Hall

Classes improve:
sleep, concentration,
self-esteem, focus,
confidence, creativity
listening skills

Your child will enjoy:
Games & Songs
Storytelling, Movement
Stretching, Breathing
Affirmations, Massage

Contact Niki Hendry-Adams on 07939 969 901

Geoff Betts Tribute

In the last issue of the Courier, a piece appeared on Geoff Betts, the member of the band Showaddywaddy who lived for many years in Clipston on



Kelmarsh Road, and who sadly died at the end of 2018. It was pointed out that this article mentioned nothing about how generous-hearted he was, and the great work he did for the village, including holding charity Showaddywaddy concerts in the village hall for both Stepping Stones Pre-School and the Clipston Shooting Club. He donated some of his outfits and memorabilia to village raffles and supported anyone who asked for his help in 'a very quiet, un-rock'n'roll way'. Geoff was a very kind man who contributed wherever he could and is still remembered fondly by many villagers who knew him.

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

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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

CLEANING

Laura Cochrane

Efficient and friendly house cleaner.
Laura Cochrane 07791 092 907
lauracochrane26@gmail.com

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

niknacksdogs@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

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

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stefanthehandyman@outlook.com
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Rob Leveritt Photography

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

PLUMBERS

C. K. & O Spokes

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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

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 The Sunday Club for children is every second Sunday in the month (see information in Groups section).

Baptist Chapel

Sundays at 10.45am. All welcome.

Useful Contacts

All Saints Church

Trevor Lake 01858 525422

Baptist Chapel

Rob Thompsett 01858 466370

Bus Service (Centrebus)

www.centrebus/info

Clipston School (office)

Helen Rhodes 01858 525261

Clipston School Association

Poppy Michael 07977 211423

Clipston School Governors (Chair)

Dewinder Birk 01858 525261

Clipston Village Hall & Hire

Grace Burnham 01858 525327

Flood Warden

Ann Essen 07709 411 262

Footpath Warden

Julia Blake 01858 525760

Orbell Room at the church

Val Carpenter 01858 525120

Parish Council (Clerk)

Felicity Ryan 01604 740429

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

clerk@clipstonparishcouncil.org

www.clipstonparishcouncil.org.uk

Police non-emergency contact number 101

Recreation Field Trust & Pavilion Hire

Andy Blake 01858 525760

Stepping Stones Pre-School

01858 525113

Tree Warden

Mick Higgins 01858 525302

Charities

Almshouse Charity

Peter Goodchild 01858 525532

British Legion

Rupert Ellenborough 01858 525380

Clipston Consolidated Charities

Colin Morley 01858 525337

Clipston School Charity

Peter Goodchild 01858 525532

Kelmarsh Wind Farm

Community Benefit

clipston@kwcb.co.uk or 01858 525346