



Clipston Courier

Your Village Newsletter

December 2019

Edition No. 20



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A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of the Courier team !

Welcome to the bumper Christmas edition of the Courier! Add to this all the usual updates from across the village, and we again have a packed Courier. Have a great Christmas and New Year !

Stephen Rachel

Stephen Woodgate & Rachel Smith
Editors of this edition

The Courier Editorial Team takes it in turns to edit each issue.

Our March edition will be produced by Liz Davies & Hannah Eveleigh

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What's on this Christmas:

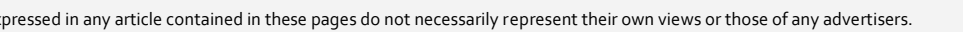
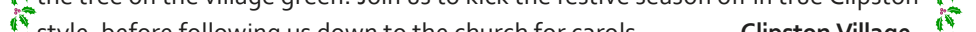
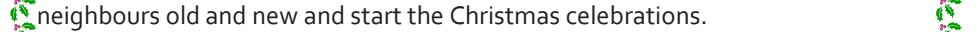
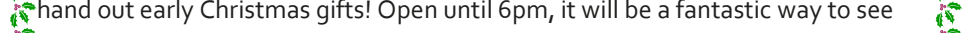
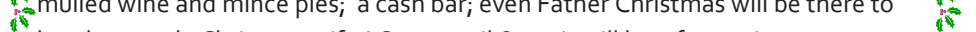
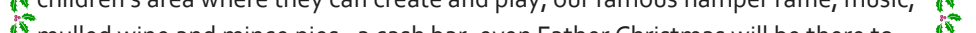
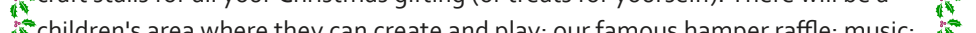
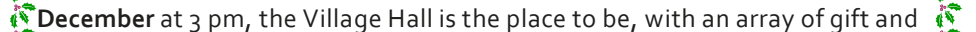
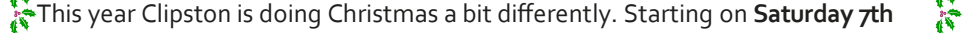
Friday 6th: Christmas Tree Festival in church 12-4 pm (see page 2 for details).

Saturday 7th: Christmas Tree Festival in church 12-6 pm (see page 2 for details) and Christmas Fayre in the village hall (see page 2 for details).

Sunday 8th: Christmas Tree Festival in church 12-4 pm (see page 2 for details) and Christmas Tree on the green: gather at green at 4pm for lighting of tree at ~ 4.15 Followed by carols, music and refreshments in church at 4.30pm.

Saturday 14th: Peal of Bells at church at 3pm (see page 3 for details).

Tuesday 24th: Christmas Eve Nativity in church at 4.30 pm followed by carol singing in the Bulls Head.



Christmas Festivities!

This year Clipston is doing Christmas a bit differently. Starting on **Saturday 7th**

December at 3 pm, the Village Hall is the place to be, with an array of gift and craft stalls for all your Christmas gifting (or treats for yourself!). There will be a children's area where they can create and play; our famous hamper raffle; music; mulled wine and mince pies; a cash bar; even Father Christmas will be there to hand out early Christmas gifts! Open until 6pm, it will be a fantastic way to see neighbours old and new and start the Christmas celebrations.

The following day, **Sunday 8th of December**, will see the traditional lighting of the tree on the village green. Join us to kick the festive season off in true Clipston style, before following us down to the church for carols.

Clipston Village

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.

Christmas Events



Christmas Stamps

Canine Partners can raise money from used postage stamps. Can you please cut them off your Christmas cards & pop them into our coffee & chat mornings or through my door at 2 Weskers Close. Many thanks, **Jill Pick**



Christmas Greetings ~ 2019

Philip and Heather Weston wish all Clipston friends and neighbours a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year



Stephen & Anne Woodgate wish a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year to all our friends in Clipston



Peter and Linda Warren wish all our neighbours friends and village residents a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year

Maggie and John Oldershaw would like to wish all their friends, neighbours and villagers a Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Wishing all our friends and neighbours in the village a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year
From Faye, David, George and Joseph Tan xxxx



With all good wishes for Christmas and a happy and healthy 2020 to all my village friends & neighbours
Rose Anderson x

Coffee & Chat ~ Canine Partners



As many of you are aware, a year ago this month we raised a total of £5,000 through our coffee mornings to buy and name a puppy to be trained as an assistance dog through Canine Partners. The aptly named Clipston is growing into a beautiful boy who will greet both people and dogs in a calm manner and settle down nicely. He is making steady progress with all the tasks appropriate to his age and is eager to learn more.



He is happy to jump into the boot of the car and settles well using a harness during a journey. During a recent training session he went to the park for some long line practice and he recalled back promptly. He is also enjoying playing a variety of games with toys. Clipston does seem to be quite fond of birds, so this is an area his puppy parents are working on. We continue to wish his trainers success and look forward to the next update on his progress.

Jill Pick 525746

Diary Dates Coffee and Chat Raising money for the training of our assistance dog "Clipston"

21st December
18th January 2020
15th February
21st March
10.30 to 12 noon; Clipston village hall.

High Church

People were getting used to seeing the buddleia bush growing out of the base of the church spire and it flowered for the first time this year. Unfortunately it had set itself in a gap in the masonry and was on the point of dislodging the stonework in a serious way. Various villagers suggested imaginative ways of removing the offending article ranging from asking a mountaineering club to "Holy Angels"!



Eventually we had to take the advice of the Diocese and get a quote from steeplejacks. Their quote for erecting ladders to the top of the spire, roping up and abseiling down to do the work was only £1750 plus VAT so we had the work done over a 3 day period in September.

The weather was beautiful and the team from Grantham did a great job removing the bush and, whilst up there, undertook a full photographic inspection of the spire and tower.

So the good news is that the bush is gone. There is, of course, some bad news which is that there are some serious issues with the condition of the spire. First, the weather vane is in very poor condition. It is about 150 years old and really needs replacing. The base of the weather vane is suffering with stonework having broken away which leaves the vane subject to high wind instability and also lets in rain which is affecting the timbers in the tower. Birds nesting in the window openings have caused damage



and much of the stonework needs re-pointing.

The cost of this work is in the region of £33000! The Church Council will be looking at how we can fund this project and seeking grant aid where possible. Please support any fundraising events that you may see aimed at meeting this need. The cost of maintaining a Grade 1 listed 13th century building is inevitably very high.



Steve Carpenter 01858 525120

Photos courtesy of Jim Tyson, who also filmed some of the work as it took place.

Orbell Café

The Orbell Café is open on Wednesday every week from 9am to 12 noon. Come along for a chat with friends, new and old, together with freshly brewed coffee, tea and toasted teacakes.

All ages will find a warm welcome here !

Please note: Our last day open before Christmas will be the **11th December**. We will re- open again on **8th January**.

Church Services

All our weekly services throughout the benefice are now listed on the new website www.nasebygroup.org

During Advent and Christmas our Clipston services are as follows:-

1st and 15th December - 11:00 am Holy Communion

Sunday 8th December
10:00 am - Worship for Everyone
4:30 pm - a "Celebration of Christmas"

CHRISTMAS EVE - Tuesday 24th December at 4:30 pm
Crib service for all the family

Note: Midnight Communion will be at 11:30 pm in these locations:
St Mary the Virgin, Welford and St Helens, Sibbertoft

CHRISTMAS DAY - Wednesday 25th December at 11:00 am
Family Communion

Note: Sunday 29th December 10:00 am
Benefice Eucharist service at St. Denys, Kelmash

Trevor Lake

Shared Vision

A SHARED VISION FOR THE FUTURE



Come and find out what you all told us, and what that means for our parishes and the benefice!

There will be a meeting in Welford Youth and Community Centre on **Saturday 18th January 2020 at 10am**, to discuss some of the ideas and thoughts that you shared with us.

You have all had a part to play in discerning God's Vision, and are all part of the journey towards it – don't miss out on what's happening!

Hope to see you there. **Revd Miranda, Kairen, Diane, Trevor, Gordon and Val**

Focus on Farming

Well, despite the rain, harvest is complete around here, although on a recent trip to Ireland it looked as if some crops might never be combined they look so bedraggled. Cultivating ground has also been difficult due to the wet conditions as anyone completing the Clipston Trail Half can confirm! The barley harvest is reported as being the largest for 30 years; perhaps as a result of farmers switching from wheat to help control blackgrass. Barley may be used for malting for beer production but more likely is turned into pig and poultry feed. The 2019 wheat crop is up 20.1% on last year and barley production increased by 25.6%, according to provisional Defra figures. It is estimated that the total wheat crop is 16.3m tonnes and the total barley crop is forecast to be 8.2m tonnes. The bumper harvest has contributed to a sharp fall in the wheat price, and the price has been under further pressure as farmers have sought to sell grain for export ahead of the Brexit deadline. The Brexit threat to UK grain is currently that the UK government has said it will impose no tariffs on imports but after leaving the EU, UK grain will be subject

to tariffs if sold there. This means UK grain could face lower prices as cheap grain comes into the UK and UK grain becomes expensive abroad due to the tariffs. Uncertainty continues to make farm planning extremely challenging. What we eat is a topic of much debate and the rise of vegetarianism and veganism may create opportunities for farmers, for example through the nuts that can be grown commercially here such as walnut, hazel and sweet chestnut. Hazel generally becomes commercially viable 5-6 years after planting, and can produce 2.5 tonnes / ha at this stage. In south east England, the target yield is 3.5 - 4 tonnes per hectare 8-10 years after planting. Once established, if correctly managed and maintained, a hazel orchard can remain productive for around 100 years. Walnut and sweet chestnut would take much longer to establish. Quinoa has also begun to be grown in the UK and has become known as a super food by some. The biggest producers world-



wide are Bolivia and Peru who export most of their crop. In the UK quinoa is planted in the spring and is currently grown without herbicide or fungicides which may appeal to the consumer but makes controlling weeds especially hard work. The seeds are then harvested in the early autumn using a combine harvester.

How open to risk would you be 'if you were farming'? Would you start planting these crops this spring?

Andy Blake



Our farming correspondent out and about in Clipston earlier this year!

Hosted by Clipston Tennis Club

Refreshments in aid of Stepping Stones Pre-school

Hot dogs available before each show

Supported by

Laugh Out Loud Theatre Presents

Robin Hood

Saturday 11th January 2020 at 1^{pm} and 5^{pm}

Clipston Village Hall • Tickets £5 / £10

Martin Clarke 01858 625558

Faye Tan 07725 427311

Diary Dates for 2020

Saturday 11th January; Pantomime, see poster to the right.

Sunday 26th January; Village Hall Open Day (Page 6)

Saturday 29th February; Fish and Chip Quiz (page 11)

Saturday 14th March; Chris Blake in Concert (page 13)

Saturday, Sunday 13th/14th June; Arts & Gardens (page 5)

Saturday 20th June; Clipston Festival (page 13)

Sunday 27th September: Clipston Half Trail (page 13)

Friendship Club

11th December - Christmas lunch at the Bulls Head

13th January - Bingo & bring & buy.

10th February - A Police Woman's lot talk by Helen Clancy.

9th March - 'Keep on moving' with Jason.

Jill Pick

Clipston School

What a busy term we have had so far! We have welcomed the new Reception children into Owl Class and they have settled well into the school routines. There has been much excitement surrounding the building of the 'Book Nook' in the school playground, where the children can go and spend some time developing a love of reading and sharing books during playtimes.



The Reading Pixie is always on hand to keep them company too! We thank those who have made generous donations to help stock the Book Nook with a range of high quality books for the children to enjoy. If you wish to make a donation then please contact the school office.

We have welcomed Rev. Miranda Hayes, into school on several occasions this term and enjoyed sharing our annual Harvest Festival Service in church with her. As always the generosity of our school family was wonderful to see; with food collected for the Jubilee Food Bank in Market Harborough, as well as a collection of £250 for our link school in Karisalpatti, India, that we support through the Children United charity.



Our Year 5 and 6 pupils experienced a wonderful day at Peterborough Cathedral early this term, to take part in the Thanksgiving and Dedication service for Diocesan schools. It was an uplifting event and we discovered just how enormous the cathedral is during our tour by exploring the many exciting secrets hidden within its walls.

The children took part in our enrichment day, where they experienced making pizza, creating Clarice Cliff - inspired plates and decorating prayer pots. It was wonderful to see the children of all ages working together and supporting each other with all the activities. The children here at Clipston are very lucky to have the opportunity to take part in a variety of sporting events.

This term the Tag Rugby Team has been very busy taking part in several competitions all over the county. We are especially proud of you for winning the 'Spirit of the Games Values Award' at the Daventry Schools Festival.

The children also enjoyed taking part in the Leicestershire Cross Country Competition and a squash skills festival. Everyone who took part thoroughly enjoyed themselves and showed great team spirit, well done!

Year 5 & Year 6 enjoyed a fabulous time during their five day residential - in Shropshire. They showed determination and perseverance tackling a range of new, adventurous activities during the week.

Towards the end of term, as well as our traditional infant Nativity and Junior



Carol Service, we are looking forward to the Christmas Bazaar and whole school panto trip to see Cinderella.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to support the school this term; we really appreciate your time. Visitors are always welcome and if you would like to see more of what the children get up to on a daily basis, please look at our Twitter page (you do not need to have a Twitter account) @ClipstonSchool.

Prospective parents may wish to be reminded that the deadline for Primary School applications for September 2020 is 5pm on January 15th 2020.

The school is open for all children aged 4 to 11 years old from 7.30am (Breakfast Club). Further information about the school is available on our website:

www.clipstonprimaryschool.org

Happy Christmas!

Emma Mercer Head Teacher

Baby Sitters

As it is coming up to the festive season, we thought it might be useful to have contact details for some of the Clipston village based teenagers who are available for babysitting.

Please contact them directly
Thomas Ainsworth - 07413 339235

Rosie Barley - 07850 192554

George Eveleigh - 07930 249592

Max Halls - 07342 955302

Sam Halls - 07342 952215

Emily Hoinville - 07921 802376

Will Hoinville - 07525 116325

Ed Leveritt - 07712 339945

Katie Mctaggart - 07760 588124

Ananya Rastogi - 07568504128

Emily Rogers - 07563 689619

Seb Wakefield - 07598 801950

Emily Wilford - 07493 153806

Arts & Gardens 2020

Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th June

To coincide with Julie Connell opening her garden for National Garden Scheme Venue - All Saints Church

Event - an Art Show featuring a variety of work by 15 invited local artists.

Times - 11 - 5 each day

Entrance - Free Donations welcome

towards to churchyard wall repairs

Sales - Items will be available to buy

Village Hall Open Day

The Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) is still in progress, see report below. However, the questionnaire and open day highlighted a number of issues that were important to residents and suggestions were made about what improvements could be made to enhance village life. These have been turned into a list of 'community actions' which we would now like to start working on with your help. We will be holding an open day on Sunday 26th January from 11am-3pm to share this list of 'community actions' and to ask for your input to decide which are the highest priority, how they could be achieved/funded and who would be happy to volunteer to get involved in delivering them.

NDP 'Community Actions' Open Day – Sunday 26th January

This is a drop-in event so please come along at any time from 11 am to 3pm. Refreshments will be provided.

Clipston will combine the community actions open day by joining other village halls around the country in the 'Village Halls Open Day'.

This national event celebrates the wonderful contribution made by village halls to the fabric of our communities. Please come along to see what Clipston Village Hall has to offer and to have your say on its future. To mark 'Village Halls Week' there will be a family disco on Friday 24th January— something for both kids and adults! Please contact Claire Harvey for tickets.



In recent years the village hall has operated in deficit (its income falling short of its running costs) and we have been looking at ways to turn that around. We have also listened to feedback from the Neighbourhood Development Plan questionnaire and open day in 2018. We have identified two alternative options and want to get your views on them:

Option 1 is to renovate the existing hall. This would involve: keeping the existing hall in its central location but improving insulation and replacing the heating, plumbing and electrics to reduce running costs; upgrading the kitchen and toilets and redecorating; resurfacing the courtyard to make a small but safe outdoor space.

Option 2 is to build a new, larger, multi-use village hall at the recreation ground. In addition to all the current functions of the existing village hall and pavilion, this could allow for indoor sports, a shop/cafe and other functions of a community hub. Both options would be financed via grants and fundraising. In addition, the second option would involve selling the existing hall. Come along on the 26th January to hear more about these options and contribute to our thinking. If you are unable to join us on the day but wish to comment on the options, please email faye@oldrectory.uk.net

Faye Tan (Chair) On behalf of the Village Hall Committee

Village Hall

Yet another successful jumble sale was held in the village hall on September 5th, with a total of £430 raised (including a generous donation of £30 from someone unable to make the date). April 2nd at 7.30pm marks the date and time of the next one; anything saleable and not too large is welcome. Whist drives are well underway now, with the last one before Christmas taking place on 5th December at 1.30pm; this will be in aid of Cancer Research UK. Currently only three of the players live in Clipston, the remainder travel from far and wide to take part. Whist Drive dates 2020: Jan 16th, 30th Feb 13th, 27th Mar 12th, 26th

Grace Burnham

Clipston Development Plan

We previously reported that the draft of the Neighbourhood Plan had been informally sent to the Daventry District Council's neighbourhood plan liaison officer for Clipston, for her views. There have been meetings with the liaison officer which have been constructive – the considerable paperwork is nearly finalized which would enable the formal submission to be made to the Council.

However the Council are, quite properly, ensuring that every aspect of the Plan is covered and in particular the protection of all historical assets – in particular the Scheduled Monument which surrounds much of the village. They are therefore enquiring of relevant statutory bodies for their views in respect of the site proposed to meet the housing needs of the village. We cannot do anything to speed up this process. It is a consequence of living in such a rural, tranquil and historic setting that is Clipston.

We should have more information before Christmas. It is case of being patient although the Plan's advisory committee has agreed to the progressing of the Community Actions (which form part of the Plan) without waiting for the remainder of the Plan to be proposed to the village – see the Village Hall Open Day details above.

NDP Advisory Committee



Haddon Fields and Open Day

It's great to be able to start this article with such positive news. As mentioned last time, Friends of Haddon Fields applied to the Kelmarsh Windfarm Community Benefit (KWCB) for a grant to help build an Educational Field Centre in Haddon Fields. I am now pleased to announce that the application was successful! The concept of a field centre was certainly well received by the participants at the open day in September (see photos >>>); hopefully, we will be able to gain the required planning permission, and then we can proceed with the installation. All being well, we hope that the field centre is up and running in 2020. In the meantime, we will again be holding working parties this winter so please look out for the dates – usually on a Sunday.



Jules Howard and family enjoying the Woodland Walk



Scenes from the Haddon Fields open day



Anne Haddon & Stephen Woodgate at the site of the proposed education field centre in Great Hill

We hope to do more hedge work and also complete the 'woodland walk' inside the hedge along Kelmarsh Road, together with a new access gate into Great Hill. If you are interested in helping please make contact with me or just come along and help out!

Finally, please come along and see our "Friends of Haddon Fields" tree at the Christmas Tree Festival in the church 6-8th December (see page 2).

Season's greetings from Friends of Haddon Fields!

Stephen Woodgate

Stepping Stones

Stepping Stones has had a very busy start to the new school year. We have welcomed our new manager, Elaina Camenzuli, who brings a wealth of experience from 18 years working with pre-school children. We hope you will join us in welcoming Elaina to the team. After 2 years of fundraising our setting was redecorated over the summer so the children started back to a bright, fresh environment this term. Thank you to Clipston Primary School and all of our supporters for helping to raise the funds for this.

The children have also enjoyed playing with a range of new toys and resources purchased with a grant from the Kelmarsh Windfarm Community Benefit (KWCB). A big thank you to Roger Wallet and the KWCB Team - the children love their new resources. Our children have benefited from a number of visitors so far this term. Claire (a local bee keeper) visited to teach the children all about keeping bees and Matty (a local archaeologist) brought in some fascinating fossils that the children were able to play with and explore. Our regular parent volunteers have also visited to play speech and language games, bake autumn cookies and cakes and get our children dancing. We have also added weekly yoga sessions for the children. We had our first grandparent stay and play on the 6th October to celebrate National Grandparents' Day. And of course, our pre-schoolers have been enjoying Forest School once a week too!

The other big change for this school year is that we are now open **every day** – that's Monday – Friday 8.45am – 3.15pm. If you are looking for a wonderful, local preschool, contact us on **01858525113** or email preschool1@clipston.northants.sch.uk to arrange a visit. You can also request a registration pack - on our new website www.stepsstonesclipston.co.uk

Carly Jeanneret – Committee Member (525191)

Clipston's Got Talent – Rozz Strachan

With Christmas looming and the Strictly Come Dancing final just around the corner, we thought it was very timely to have a chat with Rozz Strachan, Clipston's very own ballroom and Latin champion, whose 'journey' led her to the famous Tower Ballroom in Blackpool and a childhood dream come true.



Rozz with her trophy

When you talk to Rozz about dance, her entire face lights up and you know this is a woman who has really found her passion. She has danced from the age of four, but she talks about a pivotal moment at the age of nine or ten which has stayed with her ever since. "I was privileged to attend a dance demonstration by world champions Marcus and Karen Hilton and was absolutely taken up by the magic as they swept around the dance floor – it was stunning! There was a moment when they danced into the corner where we were sitting, and they turned with so much power and force that the wind of her dress swishing took the glasses off our table! She just leaned back into this beautiful line, looked at us, winked and

smiled effortlessly.... I will never forget the feel of that. It was magic. It gives me goose bumps now even thinking of it!"

Completely inspired, Rozz became hooked and threw herself wholeheartedly into ballroom and Latin during her teenage years. But life took over, and she had a break from dance during university. "It took my friends taking me to a salsa club for my hen party to make me realise what I had missed that I LOVED it and needed to dance again. As a child I wasn't confident enough to compete, but my goal as I got older was to one day dance at Blackpool Tower. I decided to go for it!" Returning to dance with a renewed confidence she started to train with her dance teacher and then to compete with him in various regional qualifiers in an attempt to reach the grand final in Blackpool. She reached her goal in 2010 and since then she has competed at the world's most famous ballroom



many times. After coming second in the Latin and fourth in the ballroom last year, she competed again last month and retained her ballroom at fourth position but this time won the Latin in her age category nationally which 'was fantastic, a real dream come true'.... An amazing achievement, we can all agree!

As a physiotherapist and mother of two, Rozz finds it hard to squeeze in her dancing sessions (up to four times a week, depending on competitions) but she recognises her need to have this time out, with such a

busy life juggling work and family. "I'm not someone who finds it easy to switch off, but I can completely lose myself in my dancing, so that's my down time. Dancing gives me that opportunity to be in the moment". And to wear lots of fabulous glittery frocks Rozz – as we can see!

Liz Davies



Rozz (second right) at Blackpool with some of the other contestants

Profile: Tim Thornton

Gemmologist, auctioneer, valuer, retailer, TV personality and expert presenter to WIs around the county, Tim Thornton certainly has many strings to his bow.

A fourth-generation jeweller (his grandfather, Arthur Augustus Thornton, founded the family business in 1911 and his shop, AA Thornton in Kettering, is still run today by Tim's sister), Tim has been in the business for thirty years, and opened his own



shop (TJ Thornton) in Market Harborough in December 2007.

Having spent his childhood visiting dusty old workshops in Birmingham and London, where he watched silversmiths, watchmakers and engravers at their trades, Tim joined the family business and spent 2 days a week for 9 months, travelling to Epsom to qualify as a Fellow of the Gemmological Association, the highest qualification in the jewellery trade. There he met a contact who saw his potential and suggested he apply for a job at Christie's Auctioneers in South Kensington. Starting as a very over-qualified assistant to the department, it was here that Tim forged his knowledge and passion for the antique jewellery business and became a junior specialist within the year. From there he moved to Birmingham and then New Zealand as a jewellery valuer, then took a job as an auctioneer back in Birmingham.

Tim's specialities are coloured gemstones, which he says 'all tell a story' and antique jewellery. His search for his beloved gemstones has taken him to places as far and wide as the gem mining areas of Tanzania and Sri Lanka, but his dream is to visit the opal mines of Queensland, Australia, something he says is 'definitely on my bucket list!'

The most valuable stone he has seen was while at Christie's – a 110-carat yellow rectangle-cut diamond – 'it was bigger than my eyeglass!' and sold at auction

for £3.5 million. And one of his most enjoyable finds was a beautiful leather box, full of jewellery dated from the Victorian era through to the 1940s where Tim says, 'each piece was just so interesting in its own way'.

Tim says his business now is very organic.

'I buy unmounted gemstones from dealers who travel all over the world, and then enjoy taking the time to consider the jewellery designs we might make with them, as I did for my wife, Wendy. Her engagement ring contains a beautiful aquamarine. I gave her the option of various stones to choose from (she chose the largest of course!) and then I designed the ring around the one she wanted.' Often a customer might bring in an old piece they want remodelling, and Tim has made earrings from antique brooches, pendants from rings and he even brought a squashed gold Roman ring,

dug up in a Leicestershire field, back to life, restoring its shape and adding a garnet inset. His flair for creativity, developing his shop's 'own brand' of jewellery, means that even a Clipston acorn (found in the village hall car park) has now been cast in silver ready to be added as a new design for his collection. TJ Thornton is well worth a visit – everything in the shop has been individually chosen either by Tim or his staff, and knowing their stock intimately makes the visit a very personal experience. Working 6 days a week for the last 12 years could have taken its toll, but Tim has such a passion for the trade that his enthusiasm is catching, and with a desire to add hand-engraving to his ever-increasing repertoire, I should imagine TJ Thornton will be there for many years to come.

Hannah Eveleigh



The Clipston Silver Acorn

Knowing me : Knowing you

The first of the Knowing Me Knowing You evenings was held at the Bulls Head on the 4th November. I really had no idea how many people would be up for a chat and a beer or two on a cold winter's evening but was delighted when eleven people drifted in and we set up next to a lovely wood burner courtesy of the pub.

There were three meetings taking place that evening but such was the enthusiasm that people threw themselves into the discussions; when we finally decided to go home, we were the only people left in the pub.

Subjects ranged from our first jobs through to last meals and we got side-tracked many times. The atmosphere was friendly and everyone contributed.

Comfort breaks were held at regular intervals and it was pleasing to see how the discussions continued ad-hoc.

Everyone agreed that we should repeat the session in the future so keep your eyes out for a date in early December.

Steve Carpenter

Clipston Flower Club

A Wintery Welcome

Winter is now upon us with Christmas just round the corner. Looking through the winter edition of The Flower Arranger Magazine, I came across a simple but effective design suggestion and thought I would share it with you. It is really something quite easy to put together. No great expertise is required. It could be made any size, even a large outdoor pot would be lovely and ideal

placed by the front door to greet your guests. Just replace the candle with some decorative baubles mounted on canes in the centre, or maybe some tall stems of twisted willow or similar to give height. Just play around with your materials and enjoy the making.

A couple of reminders about fresh Christmas Trees for indoors:

Always cut a slice from the bottom of the tree before securing it in its stand as this will help it to take up water.

Most tree stands have a reservoir which makes it easy to preserve your precious tree. Keep the reservoir regularly topped up as your tree, once inside the house, is as in need of a regular water top up any cut flowers, and without

water, will shed its needles prematurely.

What have we been up to?

In September, Flower Club welcomed Lee Berrill, an excellent and talented florist and teacher to lead a workshop.

Here is what we did with a wine bottle, wire, some wool, plastic orchid tubes (recycled), ten flowers and a few leaves. We had a lovely and creative evening. At our October meeting we welcomed Alison Suffolk who gave us a truly spectacular demonstration.

A very happy Christmas to all from the Flower Club. **Linda Warren**



Christmassy candle holders

Perfect for a window sill, guest bedroom or as table decorations

Flowers and foliage

- A selection of seasonal foliage
- We used:
 - Hydrangea (red)
 - eucalyptus
 - Doves (green)
 - Biscuit lace (dramatic)
- Small pine cones mounted on wire
- Small wire in half and twisted around the base like a helix (or)

Mechanics and sundries

- small plastic or terracotta flower pots
- plastic fern leads
- enough Floral Foam to fit your pots and extend 2cm above the rim
- plastic New to live pots
- cocktail sticks
- pot tape
- floral adhesive or hot glue

METHOD

1. Cut back to fit and glue all around your pots, overlapping as necessary.
2. Line your pots with plastic film and fill with floral foam remembering to leave 2cm extending above the rim. Cutting a neat slope on the edges of your foam (for watering) makes it easier to insert your foliage.
3. Tape three cocktail sticks like legs around the base of each candle and insert in centre of the foam.
4. Add hy leaves at the base of your foam and group the remaining foliage around your pot.

United Benefice Choir

Our new Benefice is now made up of seven parishes: Sibbertoft, Welford, Marston Trussell, Haselbech, Kelmarsh, Naseby and Clipston. The choir consists of members from all denominations, some religious and some non-religious, who enjoy singing good music. Our aim is to sing an anthem at each of the United Benefice services which happen on the 5th Sunday of a month, therefore four a year, plus a few extra performances.

We sang for the first time in Sibbertoft Church at the end of June. Our next performance was at the very successful concert "The Last Night of the Proms, Clipston style" in Clipston Church at the beginning of July, where along with the talented visiting musicians, accompanied by the brilliant Simon Over, we led the rousing audience in song.

At the end of September we had a real first! The United Benefice Harvest Festival in a barn at The Wrongs outside Sibbertoft. We were made very welcome by Jaspar Hart and his family and we sang a very appropriate anthem: *Sing to the Lord of Harvest* by John Maunder. Jane Ginns kindly played her flute alongside myself on the electronic keyboard kindly loaned by Alan Barraclough.

Our next performance is on Sunday 8th December 4.30pm at All Saints Church at the popular Celebration of Christmas, after the lighting of the Christmas tree on the green. This is very much a celebration of Christmas for all ages and the finale of the Christmas Tree Festival in the church - we will be singing well known popular carols - led by the choir with lots of audience participation. The choir will sing a chorus from the Messiah and another two carols, joined by young solo singers, Hattie Clements and Maisie Gowling.

Christmas readings and poems selected by Liz Clarke. Instrumentalists performing with us are Andy Blake with the cornett, David Blake with the alto saxophone, Jane Ginns and Lydie Melvin with the flute with myself on the organ and the piano. The evening will finish with **free** bubbly, soft drinks for the children and lots of mince pies. There is no charge, but any donations are always welcome for the church.

We would very much welcome new members to the choir, of any age or ability, from Clipston and the surrounding villages who would enjoy singing good music in a group. We rehearse alternate Thursdays at my house in Clipston. If you are interested in joining us, please contact me, **Julie Connell** on 01858 525336.



The choir singing at last year's Celebration of Christmas

Book Nook

The new Book Nook located in the grounds of Clipston Primary School is a cosy, wooden, hobbit-like cabin which will provide a quiet space where children can retreat to curl up with a good book. The Reading Pixie lives there and will be encouraging children to develop a love of reading. The Book Nook was officially opened on Friday 11th of October during National Libraries Week by Mr Roger Wallett who is a Trustee of the Kelmarsh Windfarm Community Benefit and Mrs Pip Yates from Market Harborough Library. Please see the school report on page 5 for more information. Members of the local community who supported the fund raising were also invited, including a representative from Brookside Carpet and Curtains and representatives from Clipston School Association and the governors.



Opening of the Book Nook at Clipston School Photograph courtesy of Andrew Carpenter

Roger Wallett, representing KWCB, would also like to remind the Clipston community that applications for money to support various projects are welcomed, whether they are small or large. Please look on the KWCB website www.kwcb.co.uk for more details on how to apply for a grant for your local project.

Roger Wallett

Caption Competition



What do you think that these two chaps might be saying to each other? Any ideas?

Please send them to us at clipston.org@gmail.com

Please try to keep the answers polite and suitable for all ages!

We will aim to publish the best captions (as judged by the editors) in the next edition

Fish & Chip Supper and Quiz

Quiz Master **Alan Skinner** invites you to our annual Fish & Chip* Supper & Quiz **Saturday 29th February 2020** at Clipston Village Hall - 6:00 for 6:30 pm
£10 for a good fun night out, in teams of up to 8 people.

**Other food options available*

Tickets available from; **Ruth 525346 or Alan 525237**

Clipston WI

It was heartening to welcome some visitors to our October AGM when the committee was re-elected; when the WI was founded in 1918 there were 77 members – yes, life was different with not so much to do, but we still remain a friendly group of ladies who meet once a month and have interesting speakers, such as the illustrated talk about the life of Amy Johnson, a true female pioneer who delivered aeroplanes during the war, and lost her life doing so.

Baking skills aren't a requirement of joining the WI but during the year we have supplied cakes for the Cynthia Hospice in Northampton, Shambala and were busy baking and serving teas at the recent Trail Run.

Our programme for next year is now finalised including talks from a local author and the Hambleton Bakery – the programme is on the village website. So come along and find out more about us, you will be welcome. Happy Christmas to everyone.

Rose Anderson
President 525481



Peal Attempt at Clipston All Saints 14th December

Please note that there will be a peal attempt at All Saints Church on Saturday 14th December, starting at around 3pm. If successful the bells will ring continuously for about three hours. A full peal requires that each of the five bells is rung (or struck) a minimum of 5,040 times. There have been nine full peals at All Saints, the first coming in July 1959, and the last one in November 2009, so they are quite rare. If you are interested in the bells or in bellringing, please contact me using the contact details on page 16.

Lydie Melvin

Through the Clipston Keyhole: Nethergreen House

Ash and Aimee Evans, a couple of 14 years, moved to the village in May 2017 after a short stint renting in Harborough whilst looking for their dream first home. From Warwickshire originally, the couple had their sights on settling in Market Harborough and pictured a modest 2-3 bed property being their first; a plan that altered once they took their first look around the stunning, centuries-old 5-bed house they now call home.



Their first viewing took place on a picturesque snowy January day in 2017, and they instantly fell in love with the Georgian exterior and potential for a sprawling family home. They had some re-evaluation to do: Ash had always prioritised buying near the train station to aid his commute to London for work. However, after a short period of



consideration the couple decided they simply couldn't imagine living, and starting a family, anywhere else. Part of the joy of buying a house that

dates back to the 1650s and has undergone two extensions in the 1850s and 1990s respectively is the unique mingling of features and expansive nature of the property; from the outside it's impossible to truly appreciate the grandeur that lies beyond the walls. Aimee and Ash seem to have found the perfect balance between embracing the

stately Georgian elements of the house, such as the fireplaces, doors, windows and bannister and certain modern luxuries such as under floor heating, window shutters and modern technology. These foundations combine to make for a comfortable and homely, yet vast and impressive living space. Before embarking on the initial stages of renovation the couple decided upon three

phases that would be necessary to truly create their ideal home. Phase 1 consisted of re-wiring and a few minor structural elements (such as the extension of the landing by means of removing a small bedroom at the front of the house), as well as cosmetic changes. Phase 2 will see a re-modelling of their kitchen in the next 18 months, and phase 3 the conversion of the old saddlery into a master bedroom with en-suite. Neither Ash nor Aimee are work shy, and both take an active role in the renovations. Aimee sees herself as more of the idealist: typically she will complete the research and gain inspiration to take to Ash (as the realist) for practical advice before putting the plans into place. Looking around the house in October 2019, and comparing its current state with photographs from the beginning of phase 1, it's clear that the creative and practical inputs these two boast are well matched. It truly is a beautiful home. Since moving to Clipston the couple feel certain that they made the right choice for them;



the strong sense of community brought about by the pub, school and overall community spirit have worked hand-in-hand to make them feel welcome from the beginning. The outlook onto the Green and adjacent fields creates a constant sense of tranquillity and connection with nature. As true home birds, nothing could be more important to them than feeling comfortable in and around the village.

Looking to Christmas, Ash and Aimee are expecting 13 guests and 5 dogs this year, so safe to say their desire for a busy, full house will be satisfied. Perhaps most excitingly is the recent addition to their family, 3-year-old rescue Labrador, Ben, who no doubt will be overjoyed at the addition of so many new family members and friends this year. This time of year for the Evans' is one for being surrounded by those you love, taking long countryside walks and playing games in front of the fire, and this year looks to be no exception.

Rachel Smith



If you've got an on-going or past renovation project that you would like to be featured, please contact me at: rachel.k.smith@hotmail.com

Clipston Trail Half Marathon

What a success that was!

We wanted to have a race with a great course, friendly and supportive marshals and wonderful cakes and we were very



They're off! The start of the Clipston Trail



with the winner of the women's race being Hannah 'I'm only treating this as a training run' Eveleigh (above) in 1hr 45 min 42 sec, followed by Jane Ashby and Sharon Wilkes.

The men's race was won by Adam Stirk in 1 hr 32min 51 sec followed by Adrian Payne and Spencer Bateman. Of particular note to the writer were the

winners of the 30 to 39 age categories, the husband and wife team David Blake (5th overall) and Emma Blake (15th in the women's race). 'Newish' Clipston resident Simon Poynton is running a series of marathons to raise money

for Macmillan. Therefore our race wasn't long enough... so he ran it twice! Simon has now completed marathons in London, Berlin, Milton Keynes, Snowdonia and Clipston. He will have completed the sixth in Lanzarote by the time you read this. You can find his fundraising on the JustGiving website should you wish to contribute. Mark Ginns did a fantastic job of organising the marshals and we were pleased to see so many fellow sports people helping, many of whom originated from the Clipston Tennis Club. The WI led by Rose Anderson, Alison Morley and Chloe Petty's Good Pud Company provided some wonderful cakes. Colin and Alison Morley continue to provide CRFT with huge support and without their help in allowing us to use

their farm fields for the start and finish and for an extra carpark we would not have been able to run the race at all. There are very few business people that would allow such



Lucy Mayer, CRFT Secretary

an invasion of their property and CRFT are indebted to them. Race Harborough, by which I mean Kenny Anderson and Brian Corcoran, did us proud with advice, support and marshalling on the day and the promotion that their website gives us. Have a look if you're inspired to have a go at one of their other events – they're not all quite so tough! Thank you to all who helped and took part – hopefully you'll be happy to hear the race will be back in 2020.

**Andy Blake
Chairman CRFT**

**Future dates for 2020;
Clipston Festival Saturday 20th June
Clipston Trail Half Sunday 27th Sept***

*Entries open December 2019
Race Harborough website

Chris Blake in Concert

Chris, Richard King and Martin & Margereta Burrell are returning on **March 14th** for two concerts. They will be joined by yet another top professional musician



Richard, Martin and Chris in Clipston, March 2019

You'll know Beethoven and Mozart and I understand we'll be treated to some of Bruch's famous violin concerto. Piazzolla is famous for his tangos and although we're not currently expecting the audience to dance in the evening concert, given these musicians' approach to enjoying music I'm sure they'd love it if someone did.

Ruth Bebb on violin and viola. Chris and Ruth play regularly as the Orion Duo. The afternoon concert, with music and dance, will be aimed at families with young children. The evening programme will include music by Beethoven, Mozart, Bruch and Piazzolla for various combinations of piano, clarinet, violin/viola and saxophone.

LIVE IN CONCERT

2.30 and 7.30 on Saturday 14th March

All Saints Church, Clipston

**CHRIS BLAKE – PIANO
RUTH BEBB – VIOLIN/VIOLA
MARTIN BURRELL – CLARINET
MARGERETA BURRELL
RICHARD KING – SAXOPHONE**

They're back! With yet another top musician joining them to perform an evening concert of music by Beethoven, Mozart, Bruch and Piazzolla and an afternoon of music and dance aimed at young families. Expect sublime music, informative chat & humour.

**£10 Adults £7.50 Seniors
£5 Children & Students**

Tickets available from Faye Tan
T: 01858 525275 M: 07725 427311

Proceeds to Clipston Recreation Fields Trust and All Saints Church Wall fund

Clipston Children's Concert-1947



Name that child



Do you know the children in the picture ? Thanks to Jean Wilford, most are known, although there is one unknown child. If you know who it is please let us know at clipston.org@gmail.com and we will share with you in the next edition

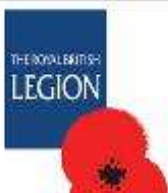
- 1 Betty Masters
- 2 Dorothy Burnham
- 3 Thelma Wilford
- 4 Betty Whitcombe
- 5 Joyce Wilford
- 6 Margaret Morley
- 7 Rita Pegram
- 8 Audrey Burnham
- 9 Annette Lewis
- 10 Unknown ?? >>>
- 11 Barbara Glasford
- 12 Mary Wilford
- 13 John Masters
- 14 Lillian Glasford
- 15 Bryan Wilford
- 16 John Whitcombe
- 17 Les Woodhouse
- 18 Pam (Elizabeth) Spokes
- 19 Brenda Haynes
- 20 Kay Haynes



The Clipston & district poppy collection raised £1.600 with more to follow from donations . A great effort which will hopefully match last year's total.

A huge thanks to everyone, especially the wonderful collectors !

Rose



Clipston War Memorial November 11th 2019

Letter

Whenever we have family or children visiting, we like to go down to the playing field for a bit of fresh air. No one can believe how much wonderful play equipment is there, and they love trying everything – things for small children, things for older people, logs to climb on, shelters to sit in. The grown-ups always comment about how lucky we are living somewhere so enterprising, and that it is amazing for a small village to do all this. So a huge thank you goes to Andy Blake and the playing field committee, plus Andy's team of supporters who help to put everything in place when new things arrive. Not forgetting Laurie Anderson who led the refurbishment of the old play area quite a few years ago, and which was one of the first steps in enhancing the facilities.

Yet another reason that Clipston is a very special village to live in!

Liz Higgins

Seated Exercise

The evenings are drawing in and the weather is cooling. It's not always much fun walking around the village to get some exercise. So, why not try our group? We embrace exercise from your toes to your head. Seated or standing with a chair for support, you can learn about your joints and muscles and how they work. The exercises are planned to aid coordination and balance to help with mobility and prevent falls. You only do what your body tells you it can do – there's no pressure to run a marathon! You can learn movements to do when watching the TV or doing the washing up. The group is overseen by Age UK who organise the tutors. We meet at Naseby Village Hall every Tuesday between 10am & 11am followed by refreshments. For further information, please contact:

Sarah Farrell 01604 743293



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

AFTERSCHOOL CLASSES

"Relax Kids" Wellbeing Classes

From Sept. on Thursdays & Fridays,
Clipston Village Hall. Ages 3 to 16

Contact Niki Hendry-Adams
Facebook: relaxkidswithniki
07939969901 www.relaxkids.com

ARCHITECTS/PLANNING

JWA Architects

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

AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS

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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Lorna Chapman

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Gel manicures/pedicures, eyebrow/eyelash
treatments, facials and skincare solutions.
Clipston and local area. 07725819965.

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Naseby Old Post House B&B, Holiday Let

Leah & Nigel Gardiner
01604 740985 / 07850 624 128
oldposthouses56@btinternet.com
www.theoldposthousenaseby.co.uk

CATERING

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Contact Chloe on 07921 959519
01858 525191
www.facebook.com/TheGoodPudCompany

CHILDCARE

Catherine Poynton Childminder

The Old Police House, Clipston
Providing childcare for little people of all
ages. OFSTED registered; tel:07788 298015

DIGITAL SCANNING SERVICES

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

Call to discuss 07801 388007
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bethwakefield41@gmail.com

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Zara Glew 01858 525407
www.environmentalenergies.co.uk

FLOWERS

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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

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Rachel.k.smith@hotmail.com



To advertise your
business here, please 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

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

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

Friendship Club

Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month in the village hall at 2.30pm 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

Kid's Sunday school club, held in the Orbell Room at the church during the service on the first 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

Are there Clipston Groups that need publicising? You could be found here!

Please get in touch by contacting us.

clipston.org@gmail.com

Church & Chapel Services

All Saints Church

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

Christian Life Church, Clipston
Sundays at 10.45am. Morning Worship 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 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 Windfarm Community Benefit (KWCB)

clipston@kwcb.co.uk or 01858 525346