

# Clipston Courier

Your Village Newsletter

June 2020

## CLIPSTON IN LOCKDOWN

Well, how things have changed in such a short time! It doesn't seem possible that only a few months ago we published a Courier full of news and events for this year and now all events are cancelled, there is only one news item dominating the headlines, and we are all restricted to our homes, keeping a 'safe distance' from our friends and neighbours. Whoever imagined that 2020 would bring such strange, uncertain times for us all?

At the time of writing this, the UK 'lockdown' due to the worldwide Corona-virus pandemic has been in place for over eight weeks. You will all have been experiencing the lockdown in different ways depending on your circumstances; some of you may be feeling very isolated as you live on your own, many of you are working from home, some of you are key workers and still have to go to work, whilst trying to stay safe at the same time. Some people may have had the virus, some may have lost friends or family, others are worried about job security and paying the bills, and all of us are concerned about our loved ones, the effect this will have on the economy and what on earth will happen next.

And yet there are positives too. The Clipston community spirit is in evidence everywhere, lots of families are enjoying time together and many of us are embracing the slower pace of life and using this unexpected free time to learn new things or focus on interests we don't usually have time for. We are also all thankful to be living in a village surrounded by glorious countryside with the opportunity for restorative daily walks and accessible open spaces on our doorstep.



This fantastic sign was created by Alice and Alison Morley with the spray they use to mark their sheep! It must surely raise a smile every time someone drives past their farm on Station Road, especially the key workers they are thanking. Great job, ladies!

We hope you enjoy reading this issue, that it helps everybody to feel a bit more connected and that you find useful information if you are looking for help. We also hope everyone is well and that we all emerge from this as a stronger community with much to look forward to together in the future.

Stay safe everyone.

**Hannah Eveleigh, Liz Davies & Natasha Wilkinson**  
Editors of this edition

The Courier Editorial Team takes it in turns to edit each issue. Our September edition will be produced by Stephen & Rachel. **Copy deadline 3 August 2020.**

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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.

## A whole new world...

We've all had to adjust to some big changes recently, so this serves as a record of what Clipston (and UK) life is currently like for everyone. It will become a reminder for us all when we look back on this in years to come and hopefully feel it is the dim and distant past!

### **Everyone's been at home**

People have been told to stay at home and only leave for daily exercise or essential grocery shopping.

### **Social distancing**

We're all now quite used to walking on the other side of the road to avoid close contact, but we do still stop to say hello (as long as we're two metres away!).

### **Everything has closed**

The school, pre-school, village hall, children's play areas, tennis courts, pavilion, church and chapel are all closed. The pub is only open for its takeaway service.

### **Events are cancelled**

Regular meetings and one-off events have been cancelled (some have moved online!). The noticeboards and lamp posts are visible again!

### **The over 70s can't go out**

Because the virus is most dangerous to the older generation, those over 70 have been advised not to go out at all. Friends and neighbours are helping them with groceries and essential shopping.

### **Jobs have been affected**

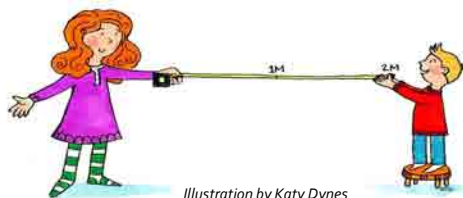
Many companies have been forced to close which means employees have been furloughed, freelance and self-employed workers have seen work dry up, and if they can, most people work from home.

### **Children are 'home learning'**

Many parents are juggling working from home and trying to supervise their children's home learning.

### **Communication is online**

Zoom, Skype and Facebook Live are replacing face to face contact. Book clubs, quizzes, community meetings are all being conducted 'virtually' with varying degrees of wifi success!



## A huge round of applause



Many of you will no doubt have taken part in the weekly NHS clap that is taking place nationwide to thank all frontline staff for the work they are doing on behalf of all of us. I didn't expect to feel as emotional as I do when I go outside for this weekly ritual. Not only is it an important tribute, but joining together for just a short time each week; clapping and hearing Andy Blake's 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow' drifting across the village,

creates a moment of connection.

If you work for the NHS, in a care home or indeed are in any kind of job where there is an element of risk, we salute you and thank you enormously for the brave and important work you are doing.

**If you know a key worker and would like to thank them, the illustration above by Katy Dynes has been turned into 25 special limited edition cards (£4.50 each). Call her on 07966 167056 to buy one.**

## Need a helping hand?



In the last issue of the Courier we inserted a flyer which included information on how to get help if you were self isolating, and suggested contacting friends and neighbours in the village to ensure they are OK. The result has been the emergence of a 'buddy' system, where those who need help are supported by neighbours who live close by. A central list of people who offered their help has been compiled and pretty much every street in the village is now covered. So if you are isolating and need someone to do your shopping, walk your dog or collect your prescription, call Faye on 525 275 and she will team you up with someone who will help you.

## Rainbows & Coloured Stones



The rainbow has become a symbol of this time, and the sight of children's colourful rainbows can be seen displayed in windows all over the village. A whole box of rainbow drawings from village children were collected at the pub and taken to Kettering General Hospital by Rozz Strachan to decorate a wall in a café area set up to support hospital staff.

You may also have noticed painted rocks left around the village on walls and pathways for others to find—another way of connecting us when we can't physically meet up together.

## Church services move online



Thanks to the ingenuity and technical expertise of Faye and David Tan, church services have now moved online with a live stream going out via Zoom every Sunday at 10am from Clipston to seven local villages. The first service was from the Tans' living room, but has since moved to The Rectory. Up to 90 devices have logged in each week, reaching well over 100 residents across the benefice, including couples, families and the care home in Sibbertoft. Reverend Miranda and her Ministry team are delivering uplifting messages and readings and everyone is joining in with the singing.

If you want to join the services there are various ways to access it:

**Go to this link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/697715534>

**In the Zoom app:**

Enter Meeting ID: 697 715 534

**From your phone:** 0203 481 5240 and when prompted enter Meeting ID: 697 715 534# and then # again

**Use one tap mobile:**

+442034815240,,697715534#

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

## Thank you to The Bulls Head

Despite being forced to close their doors for normal business, The Bulls Head has been doing a sterling job producing takeaway food for villagers, either for collection or free delivery. Their delicious home-cooked dishes have lifted the spirits of many of us over the past few weeks, so a big thank you to Steve, Helen and their team for keeping things going in what must be pretty difficult circumstances. Their regular menu is supplemented with weekly specials on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, which are posted on their Facebook page every Wednesday (search The Bulls Head Clipston on Facebook); an event which is becoming a bit of a highlight of the week for some of us!

And of course we have to mention Steve's legendary quiz, which is still taking place every Tuesday night at 8.30pm on Facebook Live. We've seen Steve dressed up in a multitude of silly outfits, cheering people up and helping us all feel connected again. Keep going Steve—you're doing a great job!



"We would like to express our appreciation to the Bulls Head for the lovely takeaway meals they are producing in these difficult times we find ourselves in. We look forward to the time when the pub can reopen and we are able to go in for a drink and socialise again, and continue to give them our support."  
*Angela Fellowes and family*

Open for takeaways (free delivery in Clipston)

Tues-Sat 12-1pm and 5.30-8pm

Sunday 12-3pm (order by 5pm Friday)

Orders are taken by phone and for busy days like Fridays and Saturdays it is best to order a couple of days in advance.

01858 525 268 [www.bullshead-clipston.co.uk](http://www.bullshead-clipston.co.uk)

## Calls to those who are alone

The church has also established a rota whereby those people we know who are on their own or in need of a kindly word receive a call on a regular basis. Miranda, our vicar, has a list of people who she contacts whenever she can to make sure that they are not forgotten. We would be pleased to be given details of anyone you know who might like to receive a call.

Contact Miranda on 01858 525 342 or [rector@nasebygroup.org](mailto:rector@nasebygroup.org)

You may have seen the decorated cross Trevor Lake placed in the churchyard over Easter. We hope this is a reminder that the church is active in the village and is a symbol of hope in a dark time in our lives.

**Do you need financial help?**  
Money available for those affected by coronavirus

## Open Pantry & Open Library

The church has established a mini pantry and library in the church porch to help you if you need ingredients to make a meal or if you are looking for books and games to keep you and your family occupied during lockdown. Donations of food, books and children's toys and games are welcomed, to keep it topped up. Fresh rhubarb and eggs are dropped off by those with an excess. You are warmly invited to take from it what you need and add to it as you are able.



If you are struggling financially as a result of coronavirus, help may be at hand. A pot of money from the Kelmarsh Wind Farm Community Benefit fund has been put aside to help local people who are finding it hard to make ends meet. This includes those who have been forced to apply for Universal Credit; over 70s; those self isolating; those on pension credit or anyone with evidence that they have lost their direct source of income due to the Covid 19 outbreak. Money is immediately available to help with food essentials, fuel bills, white goods repair or replacement, and maternity support. To receive an application form or to find out more, email [info@kwcb.co.uk](mailto:info@kwcb.co.uk) or call 07857 757 364. All applications will be treated with strictest confidence.

# So during lockdown, what on earth

## ...making a musical instrument



Musician Andy Blake thought he'd have a go at making his own cornett, after going on a course last year to learn how to carve one. This medieval wind instrument (not to be confused with the brass cornet) is made of wood, and curved so you can reach all the finger holes. It's a cross between a recorder and a trumpet and in the 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> centuries was the only instrument that could play fast and high and also sound quite close to the human voice (modern violins, oboes, etc. hadn't been invented yet). Discovering a piece of the right kind of yew wood in Faye & David Tan's woodshed, and armed with a book from a museum in Vienna which gave very detailed measurements, Andy sat down and has managed to figure out how to carve one (using chisels from his wife's grandmother, who was a very skilled wood carver). At the time of going to print he was about to carve the holes, and would then be able to play it properly. We hope to show the finished cornett in the next issue of the Courier and look forward to hearing it played!



## ...baking



A nationwide shortage of flour is testament to the current enthusiasm for baking across the country. In Clipston, Joanna Simons has been keeping herself busy making bread, hot cross buns and pizza dough (above), whilst many of you turned to cake baking for VE Day (below), creating an impressive range of Victoria sponges. Well, why not?!

## ...celebrating VE Day

We all enjoyed a good old British celebration on Friday 8 May, which commemorated the 75th anniversary of VE Day. Clipston was fluttering with flags and bunting, as people joined in by decorating their houses, baking cakes and having tea outside their front doors (whilst keeping a good distance from each other!). A huge thank you to Colin Rengger who arranged for Vera Lynn's *We'll Meet Again* to be played loud and proud on The Green at 9pm for the nationwide doorstep singalong. A great way to bring people together.



# has everyone been getting up to... ?



## ...gardening

The combination of the fantastic weather, the time of year and people being stuck at home has turned lots of Clipstonians into voracious gardeners! Many of us have been spending much more time in the garden, planting seeds and growing new things. Georgie and Caroline Kemsley-Pein of Chapel Lane have been setting up a seedling stall outside their house every Saturday to give villagers the chance to buy an array of their excess seedlings, with all proceeds from the stall going to the NHS. At last count they had raised over £200.



## ...creating masterpieces

The talented Tedd family on Church Close recreated some famous works of art in their garden, inspired by the Getty Museum Challenge which encourages people to dress up as their favourite paintings. So good was Samantha's version of *Ophelia* by John Edward Millais, that her photo has since been published in *The Independent online*, *The Mail online* and a German Sunday newspaper. The pond was especially filled for the photo (they had only just built it!). Meanwhile husband Jon and daughter Imogen make a scarily accurate version of Grant Wood's *American Gothic*, and Samantha joins son Auden for an excellent interpretation of Monet's *Woman with a Parasol*. Very impressive, we think you'll agree...



## ...walking

The roads of Clipston may be almost traffic-free, but the streets and footpaths have never been busier as people go on their daily strolls and take advantage of getting out of the house.

We have all been exploring and appreciating the countryside even more than we did before; if you are running out of walking ideas, take a look at the Clipston footpaths map at [www.clipston.org](#) and discover some footpaths you perhaps didn't even know were there!

## ...dressing up

Ananya Rastogi dressed up as Audrey Hepburn to recreate the iconic look she had in the classic film *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. Great attention to detail Ananya. You definitely pulled it off!

# Clipston Recreation Field Trust



## Clipston Festival 2020

As I'm sure you'll understand it is impossible for any planning to take place and so the Clipston Festival is cancelled for this year. Should the situation change, a festival could be organised at short notice.

Have a walk around the woodland if you haven't been. It's amazing how trees grow and there are still bulbs flowering.

### Other dates for your diary

Clipston Trail Half Marathon  
Sunday 27 September  
Chris Blake & Friends concert  
Rescheduled for Saturday 20 November

You'll have seen that the mowing contractor has continued to be able to work. So have the volunteers who mow the children's area. This keeps the field looking good and will make it much easier when we can open up again. Thank you to all involved.

**Andy Blake – Chairman CRFT**

## Neighbourhood Development Plan

Following on from the update in the March edition of the Courier, which set out Daventry District Council's requirement for a Strategic Environmental Assessment, that process is now happening. Once the government-appointed consultants have received reports from the various sources they are contacting, the assessment should be issued. We expect it to be received by mid-June.

## Clipston WI

Just as the WI was entering an exciting new phase, with 2 new energetic committee members and an interesting programme planned for 2021, we entered lockdown – but aren't we fortunate to see it out in our lovely village?

So, what have we been up to instead of our monthly meetings? Committee members have been ringing round to ensure everyone is managing and I have just circulated a newsletter to keep in touch; we have tried to cheer up some villagers who are home alone by delivering some tasty home-baked cake. One member, not a baker, created her very first professional looking Victoria sponge!

Some ladies have been busy crafting – knitting, sewing and quilting. Valerie Carpenter played "Over the Rainbow" on her accordion in the garden on the clapping evening and I have had some tuition on how to cast a fly-fishing rod. I am sure we have all been cleaning out our cupboards and bringing the garden up to scratch in the recent glorious weather. It will be a while before we can meet in the village hall I am sure, but we look forward to renewing our fellowship and enjoying new events and speakers in the not too distant future. Perhaps recent weeks have made you think about engaging more with the village community – if so ladies of any age will find a warm welcome whenever we get together again.

**Rose Anderson, President 525481**

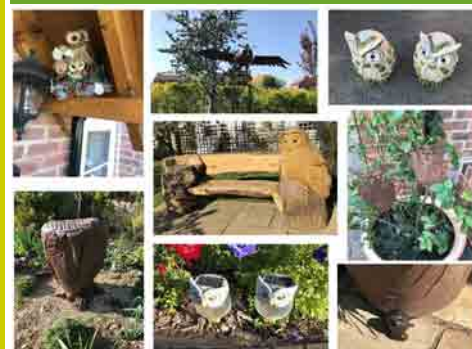
## NGS Garden Opening & Art Exhibition

The Wooden Owl,  
10a, The Green

At some time in the future (when I am allowed to!) I will be opening my garden for the National Garden Scheme (the yellow book). This is a smallish garden with lots of interest, full of unusual trees and shrubs, fruit trees, vegetables and a water garden. We hope to serve again our excellent cream teas with home-made scones and cakes plus a cake stall, with the proceeds going to All Saints Church. There will be an "Owl Trail" competition for the children to find the owls photographed above. Each child who finds all the owls will be given a prize. Something to look forward to – I hope.

Entry £4 per person and all children free. The takings go to the NGS who in 2019 gave £3 million to nursing and health charities, with £500,000 going to Macmillan Cancer support, Marie Curie and Hospice UK. Sadly, this is going to be very difficult to replicate in 2020 due to garden closures.

**Julie Connell**



## Music Lessons Online

Piano, Flute & Theory of Music lessons are at the moment on hold, but there is no reason why you cannot have a lesson via Skype, WhatsApp, Zoom or some other way. I am open to all suggestions. For any queries on the above please contact: Julie Connell. Tel: 01858 525336. Email: [j.connell118@btinternet.com](mailto:j.connell118@btinternet.com)

## United Benefice Choir

Our choir practices have come to a halt! We have tried Zoom but although good for a chat and a laugh, it doesn't work for the singing. The choir consists of members from all denominations, some religious and some non-religious, who enjoy singing good music. We normally sing an anthem at all the United Benefice services which take place in different churches in the parish on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month. We rehearse alternate Thursdays at my house in Clipston. Maybe when we get going again with social distancing we might have to practise in the church which would give us more room. So much still up in the air but we would love to welcome any new members if you are interested.

**Julie Connell 525336.**

# Kids enjoy online art workshops and singing

Having lived on The Paddocks for three years now – we've been struck by the spirit of service that permeates Clipston village life and our numerous experiences of apparently small but significant kindnesses prompted us to consider how we might offer some form of service in response to an unprecedented period of challenge and profound change.

A fun, art-based offering to the families in Clipston and the surrounding villages, seemed like a good place to start and so we drew together stories, crafts and songs around the themes of patience, fellowship, contentment and gratitude for three online thirty-minute sessions. My wonderfully talented friend Renata and some other young friends and family members, agreed to help bring the sessions to life. In consultation with Faye Tan, timings and dates were identified; and through friend-

ships with the church, the school and connections with the Clipston Facebook page, the word swiftly spread and support was garnered with messages of interest and a desire to join, received.

Andrew and I have run art/virtue-based workshops before but learning how to negotiate newly-discovered 'Zoom' technology was quite amusing as we naively but gleefully tried to interact and sing-along with over 50 households.

It was oddly nerve-racking but a great learning experience and in addition to the wonderfully creative craft and storytelling elements, the sessions were



rounded off by the children singing songs like: 'Do Not be Content with Showing Friendship in Words Alone...' 'We are Drops of One Ocean' and in the last session we sang (using Native American sign language) an incredibly moving little prayer for all the children of the world- 'O God, Guide Me, Protect Me, Illumine the Lamp of My Heart and Make Me a Brilliant Star'.

We are truly thrilled and grateful to live in a village that continues to put the needs of others at the forefront of its efforts - drawing on stores of hope, strength, creativity, and resolve.

Thank you to all.  
**Andrew and Natasha**

## Canine Partners Coffee & Chat

Canine Partners, like other charities, has reduced its operations and is only running the head office at Heyshott. Don't worry, all the puppies are out with either puppy parents or foster parents. Lorraine, our trainer at Bedford, is continuing training via videos, etc. We are sorry to let you know that unfortunately due to behavioural problems, the Puppy Training Team has had to make the difficult decision to withdraw our puppy, Clipston, from the programme. Please be assured that the team have withdrawn Clipston because

it's the right thing for him. He will now be re-homed as a pet dog. However, the good news is we have transferred our fundraising to Todd. He is a black Labrador the same age as Clipston. Even better, he is being puppy-walked in the Bedford satellite with Marian and family. He was due to go to Heyshott for final assessment but



that has stopped for the moment. If he is still with Marian when we restart our coffee mornings, she has said she will bring him over to see us.

Our latest figure to aim for is £1,650. For those who have usually browsed our books at the mornings, they are now in the church porch pantry. Our best wishes that you are well and perhaps by the time you are reading this, we will have been let out a bit more!!

From the Coffee and Chat team  
(Jill 525746)

## Stepping Stones Pre-School

Stepping Stones Pre-school temporarily closed the doors on 20th March due to Coronavirus but this hasn't stopped us. As well as keeping in touch with our families via phone and email we are running star of the day and funny-face photo competitions on social media, using group video calls to keep our children interacting with each other. We are sharing daily ideas for child development as well as some funny photos and videos to keep everyone amused.

Lots of our children will be heading to "Big school" in September and we are pleased to say that all of the Stepping Stones children were awarded their first choice primary school. We will, as always, work closely with the schools to ensure a smooth transition for the children.

Stepping Stones Pre-school will have places available in September for children from 2.5 years old. For more information please contact us on 07444 597698 or email [preschool1@clipston.northants.sch.uk](mailto:preschool1@clipston.northants.sch.uk)

## EDITORS NEEDED!



Fancy helping us produce the Clipston Courier? We will struggle to produce our Christmas edition without some new people joining the team.

Each issue is produced by a team of two, one person who organises the content (emailing the groups and organisations in the village and collecting together the articles people send in) and the other who does the layout in Publisher and actually puts all the visual design together. If you fancy getting involved we'd love to hear from you. Email: [clipston.org@gmail.com](mailto:clipston.org@gmail.com)

# Remembering Ivor Claude Woodhouse

## FCIQS, FRICS, FCIOB, 1925-2020

Claude was born at 39 Kelmarsh Road, Clipston, older brother to Grace Burnham and Les Woodhouse. He attended Clipston School leaving just before the outbreak of WW2. As soon as he was old enough, he joined the RAF as a pilot of Tiger Moths before moving on to flying Lancaster Bombers. Flying remained a passion throughout Claude's life and his career spanned eight decades from 1943 to 2018. He was a member of Husbands Bosworth Soaring Centre and was their chief flying instructor for several years. Claude played football and cricket for Clipston; he had a love of motorcycles, and won numerous trophies for the Market Harborough and District Motorcycle Club. He also played golf and was a past captain of Lutterworth Golf Club.

For several years Claude was a popular landlord of the Red Lion Pub before eventually moving away from Clipston. He had a successful career as a civil engineer, working as a quantity surveyor on major projects including the M1 through Leicestershire. He was the clerk of works overseeing the laying of piped main sewers in all the villages in the area covered by Brixworth District Council, including Clipston and at the time of his retirement he was the deputy chairman of a national building company. For over 45 years Claude was a Freemason and gained wide respect among his fellow Freemasons across Warwickshire, Leicestershire and Rutland. A true Clipstonian, Claude never forgot his roots.

**Grace Burnham**



## The haven of Haddon Fields

Haddon Fields are open! And it's great to see the impressive level of use these last few weeks. The location in the village and the space provided makes Haddon Fields a perfect environment where we can all take exercise whilst maintaining social-distancing rules. Coronavirus is affecting all of us in many different ways, but this fantastic resource is one of the many benefits



of living in Clipston, while enduring the 'lockdown'. One piece of good news is that the planning permission for our Education Centre has just been granted by DDC!

Unfortunately, the Woodland Trust have furloughed some staff members and this will delay the final paperwork that will allow us to go ahead. Also, the planned installation of a kissing gate to allow access from the woodland walk into Great Hill is on hold because the suppliers are closed at the moment. Hopefully both projects will be completed as soon as possible after the lockdown eases.

As you will have seen, no sheep have been grazing since January. This 'rest period' is



Clipston children enjoying the stream at Haddon Fields

designed to allow the grass to recover from last year's grazing and any adverse winter weather. I'm sure that you will recall that we had rather a lot of rain in the early part of the year and much of Haddon Fields was either under water or saturated with groundwater.

As I write this - near to the end of April - the ground is now much drier, although there are several areas that are still very damp. The upside of no sheep and the generally damp grassland is that many water-loving wildflowers have flourished which is one of the main objectives of the management of Haddon Fields. Two good examples are Lady's

Smock and Lesser Celandine. Their presence gives encouragement to the idea of planting or seeding wildflowers in the woodland fenced areas. The trees in the fenced areas were surrounded by last year's long grass and have recently been given a 'haircut'! I am hopeful that it will be possible to sow some wildflowers in these areas soon.

One reminder: when the sheep return to Haddon Fields, please ensure that your dogs are kept under control and whatever time

of year it is please pick up all dog poo and dispose of it responsibly!

### LOGO DESIGN COMPETITION

Finally, I wanted to ask if anybody would like to design a logo for "Friends of Haddon Fields"? We would like to use a logo for publicity materials, including on our own Facebook page (search for 'Friends of Haddon Fields'). Please email your designs to me by July 15, and the committee, together with Anne Haddon, will choose a winner. The winning design will be published in the next Courier, and on our facebook page.

**Stephen Woodgate 07909 535 966**  
([stephenwoodgate@gmail.com](mailto:stephenwoodgate@gmail.com))



# Clipston Primary School

Once again, the school was a hive of activity for most of term 4. On the sporting front, the Year 5 & 6 swimming team took part in the Daventry Schools Swimming Gala, the cross country runners represented the school at a very muddy Harborough District Championships and the whole school took part in fundraising for Sport Relief with a day of sporting challenges.



In the run-up to World Book Day and in support of Bedtime Reading, children took it in turns to take home the class Bedtime Book Bag – each one full of exciting stories to read and share together. On the big day itself, the whole school came together in an en masse “sleepover” to listen to staff read their favourite childhood stories whilst the children snuggled under blankets with teddies and a hot chocolate.



In our youngest class, the Owls thoroughly enjoyed producing paintings inspired by Wassily Kandinsky and Year 3 & 4 pupils became WWII evacuees for the day during an exciting visit to Holdenby House. Even during lockdown, the children and their families have been engaged in a plethora of home learning activities rang-

ing widely from arts & crafts, history projects, environmental studies, virtual museum tours and book reviews, and parents have been emailing and tweeting us @ClipstonSchool with examples of the things their children have been up to. One of our Robin class pupils – Seth – got a shoutout on the BBC’s Big Night In for the news broadcasts he has been making to keep people entertained over recent weeks. Another pupil – Imogen – received a mention on an Oak National

Academy’s history lesson for her brilliant note-taking and illustrations. And Jack and Jessica had their insightful questions read out on naturalist Steve Backshall’s live Q&A session. We continue to provide daily contact for all our families as well as Home Learning Packs and links to online lessons. Mrs Weston is reading *The Gift of Dark Hollow* and uploading it chapter by chapter online (with permission from the publishers). And of course we have remained open throughout for the children of key workers. Look out for our special video messages from staff on Twitter @ClipstonSchool.

We look forward to the time when it is safe for Clipston School to fully open for all our children and we send our best wishes to everyone in our community; stay safe and well.

**Emma Mercer - Head Teacher**



## Flower Club

The situation as it is currently, like all clubs, has caused our meetings to be cancelled until further notice, but that doesn’t mean an end to our creative urge, in fact quite the opposite. Time for those in lockdown is now not in short supply, giving the opportunity to pursue projects that have been put on the back boiler, ‘until time allowed’. Those of us lucky enough to have a garden are making the most of the exceptionally good weather, as it is as I write this.

Our garden is usually a joy in spring, but this year it somehow seems to be extra beautiful, or maybe I’m seeing it with different and more appreciative eyes? Blossom, fresh greens of many hues, and shoots of perennials bursting through the soil, are giving hope for the coming season. Renewal in gardens, fields, woodlands and verges are annually a sign of hope and looking forward. Planting seeds is always an act of faith and sign of future hope. Plant more seeds.



Linda’s hazel support and Shadow Wall

Easter has always been a time when we get together with club and church members to prepare the church for the special celebration services. It was a personal sadness to me not to be able to do it this year, as I have rarely missed being part of the team filling the church with spring flowers and light. It was such a pleasure for one of our members to make a small arrangement from garden flowers seen during the virtual Easter Day service, beamed from the rectory to all seven villages in the benefice.

As we have no meetings to report on or to look forward to in the near future, I thought I would show you some of the things I have been making. For a few years now I have

meant to make some plant supports from prunings for my perennials, but never seemed to have made time. Well, this year I did.

With the help of Peter, I created this support from Hazel poles cut from a small tree, through which will grow Delphiniums, Oriental Poppies, Peonies and other plants to stop them being bashed down by high winds and driving rain. I’m really rather pleased with it.

Not being able to get plants, (that is, until Sarah posted that she would order for those who hadn’t been able to source their own), I decided to play around with some drift wood and bits and pieces from the shed. Voila! My Shadow Wall is giving me huge pleasure. At different times of the day, patterns change, shadows shorten and lengthen marking time passing.

I look forward to seeing what other members have been making when we get together again.

**Linda Warren**

# Clipston Bee-Keeping



Left and above, the hives and honey of Claire & Julian Rogers ([www.clipstonhoney.co.uk](http://www.clipstonhoney.co.uk)) and below right, honey made by Ali Conway & Steve Chambers (Clipston Hives & Waxworks, available at Farndon Fields and Waterloo Cottage Farm).

out of the honey". They now have 8 colonies, with 2 more in the pipeline, so are hopeful for an abundance of honey this year. Although there is a potential harvest of rape honey in late spring, the main harvest will be at the end of July and it will be available on their new website

[www.clipstonhoney.co.uk](http://www.clipstonhoney.co.uk) or call Claire on 07963 132191.



Bees by Arran Wilkinson



I was lucky enough to spend a fascinating, social-distancing morning with Julian and Claire Rogers watching them monitor their colonies of honey bees which they keep in 8 hives in their garden. Julian has kept bees for the last 7 years inspired by his best friend who lives in Ireland who, in turn, learnt what he knew from a beekeeping nun. Having read up on the subject Julian was mentored by a local beekeeper and after passing the Basic Assessment he kept a couple of colonies of bees..."happily and undis-



turbed"... until Claire decided to give up work and started observing him herself. She was hooked from the outset. In September last year Claire sold all their honey to people in Clipston and the surrounding villages within 24 hours of advertising it on the village Facebook page. Claire tells me "We recognised that people were rejecting mass-produced food, and were instead looking for a locally produced, low food-mile, healthy product, so we decided to expand our apiary and make a real business



## Village Hall

### WHIST DRIVES

Whist drives will hopefully start again on Thursday 10 September at 1.30pm then fortnightly on 24 Sept, 8 and 22 Oct, 5 and 19 Nov and the last one, in aid of Cancer Research, on 3 Dec.

### JUMBLE SALE

Hopefully the next sale will be on 3 Sept at 7pm. Usual things will be accepted once the hall is open again and anything unsold will go to the Air Ambulance.

Having got a bit of the honey bee buzz (get it?) myself after my morning with the Rogers, I have since discovered that Clipston has other honey bee enthusiasts. Ali Conway and Steve Chambers have about 30 hives in and around Clipston and sell their honey at Farndon Fields and Waterloo Cottage farm shops. They also make beeswax products from wraps and candles, to lip balm and wood butter. If you are interested in any of their produce, or find a swarm of bees in your garden that needs removing, contact Steve at [SPChambers@posteo.net](mailto:SPChambers@posteo.net) or ring 07954 922886.

Hannah Eveleigh  
(with thanks to Clare Rogers)

## Friendship Club

When I was putting these few words together it would have been our AGM. Unfortunately this did not happen and all future meetings are cancelled until further notice. We are all missing our get-togethers but just think how many cups of tea we will need when we meet again! Stay safe and well. Best wishes from Jill, Hilary and the committee.

## Focus on Farming

Following the wet autumn and winter, suddenly it's dried out and you can see lots of outside farming going on around us. With so much of the autumn-sown cereals not able to be planted most of our neighbouring fields have now been sown with spring crops. It's exciting to walk over towards Kelmarsh and see the green shoots everywhere. Non-farmers, imagine how much more exciting it'd be if it was your livelihood that was finally growing! While there doesn't seem to be any easy solution to oil-seed rape flea beetle, the crop is much reduced and so there are far fewer yellow fields around us now. Much of our local lambing occurs indoors and it's now great to see growing lambs out

in the fields looking healthy and enjoying the dry weather. The current crisis is causing problems for farming businesses as well. The price of farm produce is volatile hit by big changes in demand, logistics problems and problems with export. It's really interesting to see how our eating habits during the lockdown have affected our farming directly, e.g. drinking coffee in a coffee shop uses much more milk than coffee with milk at home – this has led to too much fresh milk being produced for the amount we need. You can't turn cows off! With pubs and restaurants closed, vegetable oil markets are suffering

from the drop in demand. There are large stocks of vegetable oil which is reducing farm oil-seed rape prices. Beef producers are finding prices continuing to fall. The problem is mince! At home more of us eat mince than the more expensive pieces of beef so the price of steak, sirloin, top side, etc. has reduced. This lowers the price of the whole carcass i.e. if a butcher has to mince up a roasting joint you get great mince but the butcher gets less money. If the butcher gets less money the farmer gets less. Supermarkets are reported to be offering discounted prices on steak – just in time for the BBQ season. Enjoy the sunshine if you can!

Andy Blake

# 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

## AFTER SCHOOL CLASSES

### 'Relax Kids' Wellbeing Classes

Thursdays & Fridays at Clipston Village Hall  
Ages 3-16. 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

## BEAUTICIAN

### Lorna Chapman

#### Mobile Beauty & Nail Technician

Gel manicures/pedicures, eyebrow/eyelash  
treatments, facials and skincare solutions.  
Clipston and local area 07725 819965

## BED & BREAKFAST

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

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

## 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

## CHILDCARE

### Catherine Poynton Childminder

The Old Police House, Clipston  
Providing childcare for little people of all ages.  
OFSTED registered  
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  
jim.tyson@btconnect.com

## DOG WALKING & SITTING

### The Dog House—Beth Wakefield

Dog walking, puppy visits, cat & small animal  
feeding. 01858 525556 / 07710 988 218  
bethwakefield41@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 to your door or  
collection from our farm on Harborough Rd.  
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

## FLOWERS

### Once Upon a time

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

## GARDENING

### Rod Dexter

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

### Great Little Garden Company

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

## HANDYMAN

### Stefan the Handyman

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repairs and more 01858 881775  
stefanthehandyman@outlook.com  
Facebook: @StefantheHandyman

## HOME, GARDEN & GIFTS

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www.wrenandmoss.co.uk 07768 415968

## ILLUSTRATION

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contact@kittydinners.co.uk

## JEWELLERY

### T J Thornton Jeweller

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Tim Thornton 01858 468858  
Find us on Instagram

## MUSICIANS

### Ragged Enz

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Special occasions, events  
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Mark Ginns 07949 954363

## MUSIC LESSONS

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### Julie Connell

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## PLUMBERS

### C. K. & O Spokes

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## QUALITY USED CARS

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Quality Used Cars & Personal Service  
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sales@bobmillington.co.uk  
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## THERAPY SERVICES

### Nila Lakhani

Experienced Harley Street consultant.  
Paediatric and Adult Physiotherapy  
0774 789 6740  
nilalakhani@childrentherapyservices.co.uk

## TRAVEL ADVISORS

### Travel Counsellors

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Breaks, Weddings & Honeymoons.  
www.travelcounsellors.co.uk/abi.prescott  
abi.prescott@travelcounsellors.com  
Abi Prescott 01858 897510

## TREE SURGERY

### James Stevenson 07541 253869

14 years experience. Fully qualified and  
insured. All aspects of tree care. Free  
quotations.

Facebook: jamesstevensontreesurgery  
jamesryanstevenson@hotmail.com

## TUTORING

### Rachel Smith English Tutoring in Clipston

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

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business here for  
just £15 a year!

Spread the word about your business  
and tell the village what you do.

New customers or clients may  
be right on your doorstep!

Contact Julia Blake 01858 525760 or  
email clipston.org@gmail.com

Clipston residents are given priority

# Clipston Groups & Organisations

## Bell Ringers

We usually ring the bells before a service at 10.30am on a Sunday (normally at Clipston, but other churches in the benefice too). We warmly welcome new members and anyone who would like to watch.

**Lydie Melvin 07866 622063**

## Bulls Head Skittles Team

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

**Robert Burnham 01858 525628**

## Clipston Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS)

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

**Val Carpenter 01858 525120**

## Clipston Homeworkers' Lunch

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

## Clipston WI

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

**Rose Anderson 01858 525481**

## Coffee & Chat

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

**Jill Pick 01858 525746**

## Dog Training

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

**Caroline Burton 07793 935 929**

## Flower Club

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

## Football Club—Sunday

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

**Adam 07870 235 966**

## Friendship Club

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

**Jill Pick 01858 525746**

## Parents & Tots Group

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

**Chloe Wright 07977 529 859**

## Shooting Club

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

**Daryl Robinson 07919 252 964**

## Sunday Club

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

**Faye Tan 01858 525275**

## Tennis Club

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

**Martin Clarke 01858 525558**

## United Benefice Choir

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

**Julie Connell 01858 525336**

## Whist Drive

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

**Grace Burnham 01858 525327**

## Bus Service to Harborough

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

## Church & Chapel Services

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

Sundays at 10.45am. All welcome.

## Useful Contacts

Trevor Lake 01858 525422

Rob Thompsett 01858 466370

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

Helen Rhodes 01858 525261

Poppy Michael 07977 211423

Dewinder Birk 01858 525261

Grace Burnham 01858 525327

Ann Essen 07709 411 262

Julia Blake 01858 525760

Val Carpenter 01858 525120

Felicity Ryan 01604 740429  
Meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at village hall at 7.30pm.  
[clerk@clipstonparishcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@clipstonparishcouncil.org)  
[www.clipstonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.clipstonparishcouncil.org.uk)

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Andy Blake 01858 525760

01858 525113

Mick Higgins 01858 525302

## Charities

Peter Goodchild 01858 525532

Rupert Ellenborough 01858 525380

Colin Morley 01858 525337

Peter Goodchild 01858 525532

[clipston@kwcb.co.uk](mailto:clipston@kwcb.co.uk) or 01858 525346