



Clipston Courier

Your Village Newsletter
September 2020

Welcome!

The world is a different place since the last time I edited the courier 9 months ago. It is impossible to say when life as we have known it will return; this new normal seems determined to remain with us a while longer. Along with many of you I'm sure, the past 4 months have forced me to re-evaluate the way I live my life and the things I give importance to, and as we move forward into a brave new world of mask-wearing and re-openings with the terms 'bubbles' and 'socially-distanced' never far from our lips, it's important that we do so with this new-found perspective. Whether it be a newly-discovered love of evening walks, a weekly video call with relatives or a quiet moment of reflection, I hope that you find yourself able to maintain an element of joy and harmony through this continued period of uncertainty.

In this edition of the courier we reflect on some of the challenges, as well as the pleasures, that the past few months have provided us, and praise some of those individuals who have helped us along the way; we catch up on what the pre-school and school got up to before the end of term and learn about some of the ongoing and future developments within the village.

However you have spent the past few months, whether you have been run off your feet or taking life slowly, we encourage you to sit down with a cuppa and enjoy September's edition. If we have learnt anything through this pandemic it is that community is everything, and we hope that this issue of the courier goes some way to celebrate that which we know we are so lucky to have here in Clipston.

Stay safe and well.

Rachel

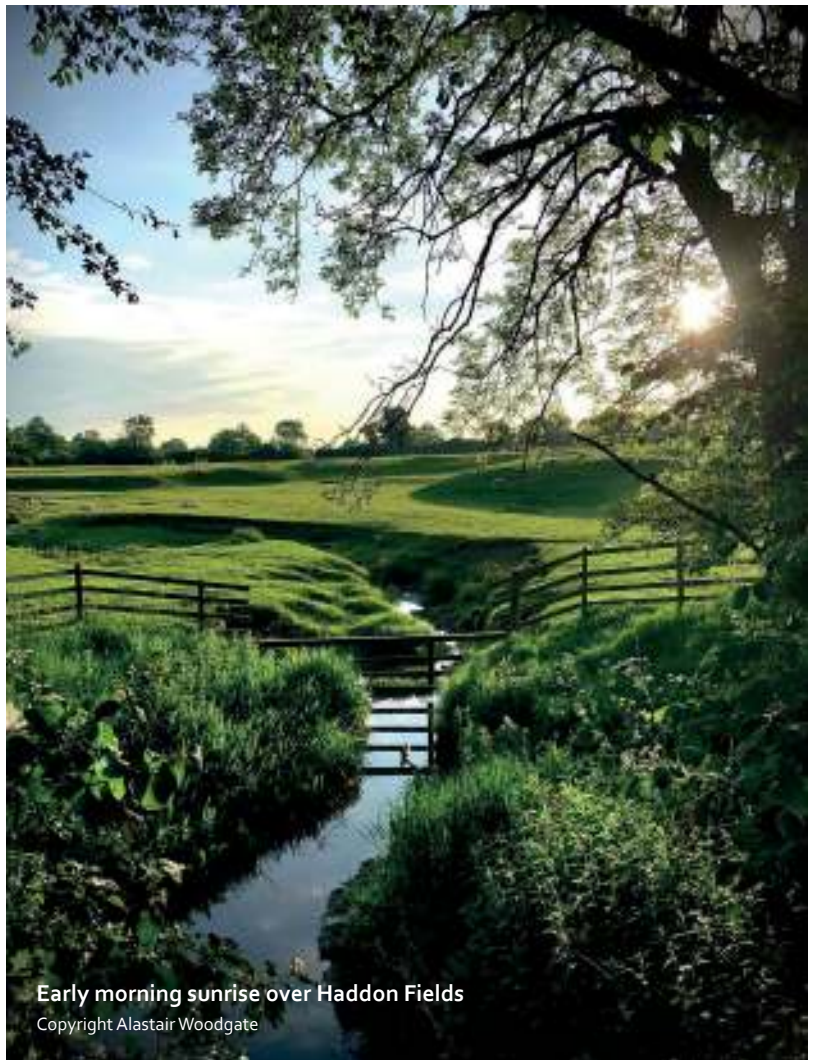
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Early morning sunrise over Haddon Fields
Copyright Alastair Woodgate

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The lead editor for the next edition will be Jim Tyson.
Deadline for copy 5th November

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

Clipston Recreation Field Trust update

Thank you all for your help in following the complex Covid-19 guidelines. We've tried to allow as much access as possible while following government guidelines. At the time of writing (mid-July) this is the notice displayed at the recreation ground:

The government have indicated that playgrounds may open if they are safe to use. These facilities are owned by the Clipston Recreation Field Trust which is run by volunteers. We have no employees. We are not able to put in place a cleaning regime so please ...

If you use this facility you must follow these government guidelines

- Only use equipment where you can guarantee social distancing of 1 metre.
- After you or your children have touched any piece of equipment including the gates and seats, you must
- Disinfect anywhere that you have touched
- Clean your own and your children's hands with sanitiser.
- Please take all litter home especially any cleaning materials or tissues.
- Do not eat or drink in the play areas or while using the equipment

USE OF ANY EQUIPMENT IN THE PLAY AREA AND ON THE RECREATION FIELD IS AT YOUR OWN RISK

CRFT 100 Club Winners

Month	First - £100	Second - £50	Third - £25
Feb 2020	Val Carpenter	Tim Millward	Alison Turney/ Charlie Shaw
March 2020	Stephen Woodgate	Peter Goodchild	John Oldershaw
April 2020	Beccy Tomkins	Ray Bolton	Liz Davis
May 2020	Rose Andersen	Heather Weston	Andrew Wallis
June 2020	Carl Sommer	John Tedd	Gill Burbidge

Andy Blake, Chairman - CRFT

Upcoming events:

Subject to any government changes in the guidance both the Clipston Trail Half Marathon and the Chris Blake concert will take place.

Clipston Trail Half

Supported again by Race Harborough, the race will take place on September 27th. If you'd like to enter please go to the Race Harborough website where you'll find details of how the race will operate. Entries will be limited to 150 individuals. We think it's important to organise community events as much as we can but this will involve some substantial changes to the way we operated the event last year. The race will be organised to enable as much social distancing as possible. Runners will carry a timing chip and there will not be a group start. The course will be marshalled by our excellent group of volunteers but runners will need to carry their own drinks. Cakes and medals will be individually wrapped for collection by runners at the end.

There'll be no opportunity, unfortunately, for any social gatherings at the beginning or end or supporters to be at the Rec. The good and exciting news though is that the event is ON!

The Trust is very pleased to be working with Colin and Alison Morley to provide an improved surface to the entrance to the field opposite the Recreation Field which the Morleys have kindly offered as an extra carpark for the Clipston Trail Run and other CRFT events. Together we have also made improvements to the gates up onto Brown's Hill; this will make running and walking easier, especially following heavy rain.

CRFT were immensely thankful to receive a bequest from Enid Hardaker's estate and this money will be allocated as the CRFT contribution to this work. Enid was a keen sportswoman and walker and those that knew her well feel she would have been very happy to see her money spent in this way.

Thank you to the Morleys and Enid.

Lockdown at the Wooden Owl

Are you looking for some cash for those unwanted items sitting in the garage or attic? Do you want a free valuation on items for sale, insurance purposes or just for interest?

George Archdale, a long standing valuer on the Antiques Roadshow and I are now working for JS Fine Art who's auction rooms are in Bodicote near Banbury.

We sell almost everything! Jewellery, furniture, coins, books, pictures, oriental, contemporary, wine, all things sporting, guns etc. The last 5 day auction had motorbikes, cars, garden accessories, rifles, medals, militaries, curtains, wind-up gramophones and more, and all sold online. The jewellery went very strongly and even the furniture was not as sticky as it often is. Recently we have sold a lot of items for local residents who have all been very pleased with the results. To book your free valuation please telephone **Julie Connell on 01858 525** or email: j.connell118@btinternet.com If you would rather send a photograph please either email or **WhatsApp on 07850 500474**.

United Benefice Choir practices will re-start just as soon as we are allowed to start singing, though we might try and have some singing in the garden with social distancing and with strict hygiene rules.

Garden Opening I am not opening the garden for the NGS, but if restrictions are lifted a little more we will try and put on some sort of a garden visit and **Owl Treasure Hunt** later in the summer.

Piano Lessons I have re-started teaching the piano again with strict hygiene precautions and will continue giving lessons through the summer holiday period to anyone who wants them.

Best Wishes from Julie

Chris Blake and Friends Concert

The concert is scheduled for **November 21st** in the church. We will have an evening performance with a new program of music. The details of how this event will operate will be publicised early in the autumn as we learn more about government guidelines regarding indoor concerts. Please contact Faye Tan to reserve your tickets as numbers will unfortunately have to be reduced this year.

Stepping Stones



Stepping Stones Pre-school are very proud to release the results of our recent Parent Satisfaction Survey. Our parents scored us 4.9 stars!



100% of parents say their child is happy at Stepping Stones

100% of parents are happy with the quality of care their child receives

100% of parents believe their child is fully supported to meet their potential

If you are looking for an outstanding pre-school for your child please visit our website: www.steppingstonesclipston.co.uk or contact us on **01858 525113** for more information.

In July we said Goodbye to our children heading off to "big school"; though it wasn't our usual send-off we did enjoy a week's worth of parties with lots of fun and games. We wish all those children a healthy and happy future as they begin the next chapter of their learning adventure.

Vacancy

As well as our wonderful staff team, Stepping Stones has a Management Committee made up of parents, grandparents (or other close family members) and volunteers from the local community who offer their time and energy to promote and support our lovely village pre-school.

The committee works hand in hand with the pre-school manager and staff, and is vital to ensure the smooth running of the pre-school. Our Committee meets each half term (more recently via Zoom!) to oversee the running of the setting, make key business decisions, check that the budget remains on track, plan marketing and publicity, agree setting policies, check health and safety is maintained and ensure that the needs of all children and staff are being met.

Some members of the committee will be standing down this summer and we are seeking a volunteer for the role of Treasurer. The commitment required is approximately 1 hour per week to fulfil the role. If you think you may be able to help please contact **Sam Frape on 01858 525113**.

You can support us by playing our Local Lotto:

- Help us to make a difference to our community – play for just £1 a week
- For every £1 ticket our cause will receive 50p back, a further 10p goes to other great causes in the local area
- We can do so much more with your support
- It's a WIN-WIN for us both – you also get the chance to win up to £25,000 every week!

Go to:

<https://www.local-lotto.co.uk/support/stepping-stones-pre-school-clipston>



Dear Friends,

What an extraordinary few months we have experienced – quite unlike anything we have known before, and with many people seriously affected in various ways. One relatively minor effect has been that I am the first Rector to have ministered here with a closed church building - however, I am also the first to have seen how the Church has responded to this: it has remained committed to worshipping together, and has been even more active than ever in serving the parish's needs, alongside many others of goodwill.

These are hugely encouraging reminders of the fact that whilst All Saints' is there to glorify God, he is certainly not defined or constrained by it - any more than we, the Church, are. God created all things and God is God everywhere, and the Church is the Church wherever it is and whatever it is doing in the Lord's name.

It has been wonderful to see the ways in which the whole village has pulled together, has demonstrated a willingness to look beyond the personal to the wider needs of others. Whilst we are not through the pandemic yet and, clearly, the road ahead is not a smooth one (is it ever?), we can be sure that God is with us in all the good and kind things we do and say. As Jesus said, "God is love, and those who live in love, live in God, and God lives in them."

Much of what lies ahead remains wholly unknown to us but, at this time of profound uncertainty, we can be certain that God has a plan, a good and creative plan, for all our futures.

With my love and with my prayers,

Revd Miranda

Friends of Haddon Fields

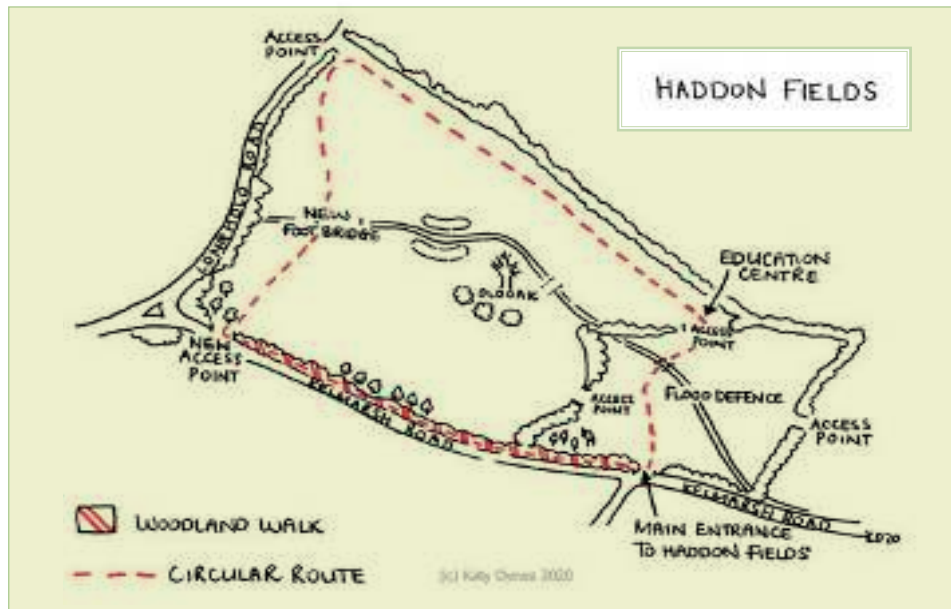
Welcome to Friends of Haddon Fields. The last few months of lockdown have caused many of our activities to be curtailed or delayed. But there have been some positives too. The new kissing gate is now installed and it was definitely worth waiting for!

The greatest benefit of the gate from the Woodland Walk into Great Hill is that walkers, including those with dogs, can now gain access to Haddon Fields and complete a whole circuit without having to walk on the dangerous Longhold road. The diagram below shows the type of circuit that may be completed without walking on the roadways, although there are many other options for exploring, as nobody is restricted by actual 'footpaths' in Haddon Fields.



Many people who visited Great Hill in late June and early July will have been entranced by the vast number of toad tadpoles that seemed to 'swarm' around a couple of selected areas of the brook. Hopefully many will survive to adulthood, but the probability of reaching maturity is unfortunately quite low (~1 in 500) as there are many predators that enjoy consuming the youngsters!

News about the Education Centre is positive and we hope that the installation will be completed in early September. Our initial idea was to 'open' the Education Centre at our Annual Open Day. Unfortunately, and very reluctantly we have concluded that we cannot hold the event this year due to the uncertainty regarding the Covid-19 regulations. Please look out for news and updates, including on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/257732142018258>



Now that we are developing the site for wider range of uses, we are having to meet some expenses, such as the maintenance costs for the education centre together with the necessary insurance. All the work in Haddon Fields is currently completed by volunteers and our funds are therefore limited. At our recent Friends of Haddon Fields meeting the committee agreed how fantastic it has been seeing so many people, families in particular, using the fields during lockdown and having such fun whilst learning so much at the same time. We wondered if people in the village that use Haddon Fields, might like to become Friends of Haddon Fields in return for a nominal sum each year?

We are proposing £5 per individual or £10 per family to become a 'Friend of Haddon Fields' and this would allow you to have a say and support on all the developments and community activities in and around Haddon Fields.

If you would like to become a friend of Haddon Fields or just make a donation, please get in touch with me or any of the committee listed below.

- Stephen Woodgate, Chairman,** (07909 535966)
- Judith Bayes** (07774 536058)
- Jim Tyson** (07801 388007)
- Robert Burnham** (525626 or 07729 861943)
- Jill Pick** (07761754888)
- Sue Marshall** (525479)

Church pantry/ library

The open pantry/library was a hugely popular initiative during lockdown, with many villagers choosing to call in on their daily walk to donate/collect supplies or browse the latest additions. Most of the money donated was reinvested in food items but at the end there was a surplus of close to £150. That money was divided between 3 charities whose usual fundraising events were all halted by the virus: Canine Partners, Stepping Stones and Clipston School Association – with each charity receiving £50. My thanks to All Saints Church for hosting it and to everyone who used it and made it such a success. Many of you suggested that a more permanent donation/exchange facility would be welcome so we are looking at ways to accommodate that. In the meantime, you may have noticed that a 'Hygiene Bank' box has been added where you can donate new and unused toiletries, personal care and household cleaning items for distribution to local people in need. For more information, please visit <https://thehygienebank.com/>
Faye Tan

Clipston Profile: Kris Seward

"If someone had told me seven years ago that I'd become ordained in the church, I'd have thought they were crazy", says Kris Seward, who has recently become the new curate for Clipston, Welford, and the surrounding villages. He and his wife Karen have been settling into The Vicarage in Welford since they arrived in June, and Kris has begun his role working alongside Reverend Miranda.

But, as he says, his decision to join the church was as much a surprise to him as anyone else. A former police dog handler, Kris worked in the police force for 15 years, tracking suspects, searching properties and investigating bomb alerts. His work provided quite a few hair-raising experiences, which left him with some very interesting stories to tell. He had grown up going to church, and his parents are Christian, but due to some personal difficulties in Kris's adult life, he reached a stage where he felt broken and would vent his hurt and anger at God. Despite this anger, he says "I always ended up experiencing great comfort and love as God carried me through the pain, and slowly I began to heal." He also had an incredible experience with his Dad who refused life-saving treatment for an illness after dreaming this was God's will. "I struggled to understand his decision, and yet he recovered against the odds. For me it was a miracle". It made Kris re-evaluate his faith, and he suddenly found himself on a very different journey. A journey which has brought him here.

"It's a really odd time to start this job," Kris admits, having begun his curacy in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, after two years at theological college in Durham. "But people have been so welcoming. It honestly feels like coming home." He has already discovered he and Reverend Miranda share a love of American football, dogs and walking



Kris Seward

(Kris and Karen have a Hungarian Vizsla called Archer and a ginger cat called Tiberius). Being a curate is all about meeting and engaging with people, but with the current restrictions in place and with many parishioners in the vulnerable category, it has made his job a bit of a challenge. "It's a lot harder to meet people over the phone!" he says.

"I have a deep pastoral concern for all, and I hope to add to the good work which is already going on within the parishes. I'm here to learn and develop as we seek to re-define what the Church means and how we can do things differently post covid-19. We need to continue to make the Church relevant and life-giving to

our communities." One of Kris's areas of interest and responsibility will be children's and youth ministry, as well as reaching out to those who are lost or in need, whether they go to church or not. His gentle nature and huge enthusiasm for his new role is evident and will serve him well as he gets to know people within the benefice.

So, if you see Kris wandering about the village, give him a friendly wave or stop for a socially-distanced chat. He's a lovely guy and we are lucky to have him working in our community.

Liz Davies

Friendship Club

Just a note from Jill, Hillary and the committee to all members. These notes are being written in July and the Covid 19 virus is still plaguing us so the village hall continues to be shut down. We will let you all know if and when circumstances change. Keep safe and well.

Above & Beyond

Faye and David Tan

During the pandemic, Faye and David could very easily have focused on the challenges and demands of home-working for David, and home-schooling the boys and supporting her wider family for Faye. However, from the outset they have done all that they can to support the community.

Faye was wonderfully quick to co-ordinate the setting-up of the Clipston Help Plan to 'buddy-up' volunteers with those who are vulnerable and isolated and ensure they were receiving the care and help they needed.

Faye also developed and enacted the provision of the Open Pantry at All Saints' – initially inside, but then in the porch, when the building closed. Again, an emergency food resource for those who were vulnerable, but this time particularly

anyone suffering financially as a result of Covid-19. However, it became much, much more than that, and something of a community hub, with toys, books etc – including Ruth Wallett's skilfully hand-made face-masks (of which she made 150 in the end, they proved so popular). Completely separately but, perhaps, related, she arranged for Galleone's Ice Cream Parlour van to visit, much to the delight of many children (and adults!). Alongside all this, as Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, Faye has continued to keep abreast of changing regulations and how these affect its function.

Last, but certainly not least, David and Faye have been instrumental in enabling the provision of our Sunday Virtual Worship Service, which has taken place every week since Mothering Sunday, following the closure of church buildings.

The first 'edition' was live-streamed from their living room, following a bit of a rehearsal the day before, to begin to see how Zoom might work for worship (and how the Rector might cope with the technology!). Due to the lockdown, every subsequent service has come from my study, and all associated technical challenges have been expertly and safely handled by David from his own home. Faye has played a full part in all this – putting slides together, recording songs, assisting with the Zoom process etc., and they have both offered patient support to less internet-savvy folk. Every problem we have encountered has been met with a willing and concerted effort to overcome it.

I couldn't be more grateful to them both.

Revd Miranda



The Bull's Head

Despite what everyone thinks, Mandy Stevens does not actually live at The Bulls Head. However, she is possibly one of their best customers and during lockdown she says that Steve and Helen were a huge part of 'keeping me sane', not only providing delicious takeaways, but laughter and company throughout... Here is Mandy's tribute to her favourite pub ever!



After witnessing the gradual closing of the pub during that last week before full lockdown, I remember feeling incredibly sad and worried about the future of our wonderful village pub, which for me has always been more than just a place to go and have a sociable drink.

But to see the way that Steve and Helen rallied around, literally days after the lockdown was enforced, was a true inspiration and I know I am not the only one who has been massively grateful for their continued service.

The doors to the pub shut officially on the 21 March but Steve, Helen and the team were already working hard to provide hot meals and a delivery

service to residents who were self-isolating and vulnerable. The first take-away menu was posted on 17 March and the pub has continued to provide us all with a variety of delicious meals throughout the whole pandemic, and continue to do so today, on a limited basis. I've already been in to eat since it has opened again, and I feel completely happy and at ease that the team has made the pub a Covid-secure environment. The outside marquee and seating area will remain for as long as needed, and inside, there are screens and hand sanitisers for protection. There is table service in operation for the time being and social distancing is in force, with Steve and Helen keeping a keen eye on ensuring everyone is safe.

But, for me, all the delicious takeaways have only been a part of what the pub has given to the village during this strange time – the weekly online quiz became the highlight of the week for so many of us, bringing laughter, fun and company into all our houses. Every week, they thought up a theme and Steve certainly 'dressed for the occasion' with his amazing array of hilarious fancy dress costumes – in fact, those seconds before he came on screen to reveal his outfit of the week, were truly nail-biting!



Now the pub is open the online version is no more, but the traditional curry and quiz on a Tuesday night is back up and running in the pub for £3.50!

It is so lovely to see the pub open again. I really feel that we are so lucky to live in a village where the pub landlords have our best interests at heart. Steve, Helen and the team have worked selflessly and tirelessly to provide hot meals, drinks, home delivery service and a fantastic quiz to keep us all sane and for that I hope the village will be forever grateful. I'm sure we all recognise what an institution they have become and I really hope we all reciprocate by showing them the amazing support they have given to us during the last four months.

Mandy Stevens



K.F. Troop and son AKA 'Troops'

As the enormity of the pandemic began to emerge in March and the supermarkets became desolate it became a worry as to where our food supplies would come from - however a post from Troops the Greengrocers on the Clipston Facebook page offering deliveries to Clipston was a welcome sight. A phone call was all it took and an order of a veg box was on its way - we were also relieved to see that as well as greengrocery we could order other staples such as bread, milk, butter and cheese...

The first delivery came in darkness as the driver had to find all the unfamiliar houses but since then every delivery has been during the day with a cheery greeting and chat from the driver - we now have a weekly order from Troops and look forward to whatever special might be in this week's veg box.

Mark Ginns

Neighbourhood Development Plan

By the time you are reading this the final version of the Strategic Environmental Assessment needed to progress the NDP should have been received. It follows the draft which approved the form of the pre-submission plan, and in particular the proposed allocated site for the new 10 houses including the four affordable units.

We are now able to progress the Regulation 14 Consultation which, in simple terms, requires publication of the pre-submission Neighbourhood Plan proposals to all people who live, work or carry out business in Clipston parish. In turn these people would be able to comment and make representations on the plan.

We would have liked to have held an Open Day in the Village Hall to publicise the plan, but the Covid-19 restrictions prevent that. However, in order to achieve a suitable and permissible

publication of neighbourhood plans, the Government have issued proposals enabling publication complying both with the Regulation 14 Consultation provisions and the Covid restrictions. The progression of the plan will follow these Government proposals and Clipston parishioners will be receiving communication from the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee as to their taking part in the Regulation 14 Consultation.

Once the Regulation 14 consultation process is completed all comments will be considered and all appropriate amendments made to the Neighbourhood Plan. The version of the plan will then be issued to the Daventry District Council and they will start a separate 6 week consultation process which will include publication on their own website where comments can also be made.

Once that period ends all comments are

considered, appropriate amendments are made and the plan is sent to an independent inspector appointed by Daventry District Council for his/her approval. Once that approval is received the plan is then put to the residents of Clipston Parish for a yes/no referendum.

It is a long haul but we are getting there.



NDP Advisory Committee

Neighbourhood Development Plan – Community Actions

As has been the case for most projects, progress on the Community Actions was halted by the pandemic but we are now looking to kick-start them again! By way of a reminder, these were the priorities agreed at the open day in January:

- The Bull's Head public house (considering whether to register the pub as an Asset of Community Value)
- Footpaths, pavements and road safety (tackling pedestrian and vehicle safety, traffic speed and parking issues)
- Biodiversity (including the creation and management of new habitat sites e.g. wildflower meadows, wetland and woodland)
- Green Spaces (including whether any are suitable for the development of a pocket park, community garden/ allotment or wildlife area/nature reserve)
- Trees (identifying notable trees that are suitable for Tree Preservation Order status)

- Public Transport (lobbying for changes to the existing provision and investigating alternative private means)

These 6 Community Actions need volunteers to take them forward with a nominated individual or small team for each action. Some people have already registered their willingness to get involved but we need more! If you offer your help you will be contacted during September and kick-off meetings (physical or virtual!) will be held soon after. Each team will be given all the background on the issues that have been identified and comments made so far and they will be asked to come up with solutions and seek funding (where necessary) to deliver them.

Teams will meet again as needed but a lot will be possible by individuals doing what they can when they can and reporting back by email. Hopefully by the time the next Courier lands on your doormat we'll

be able to tell you who is working on each Community Action and perhaps by the following edition we'll be able to tell you what progress has been made!

To register your interest, please contact clipston.org@gmail.com and say which area you'd like to get involved with. Without volunteers, there will be no Community Action and things will remain as they are so please help if you can!

Best wishes

Faye

Alex Pegram

We are very sad to report that Alex passed away peacefully, at his home in Clipston, on the 11th August. We will be paying tribute to Alex in the next edition.

Clipston WI

To meet or not to meet, that is the question. Whilst technically we could hold our meetings in the village hall again, we would have to wear masks and follow all of the current Covid precautions, and for some it may be a bit too early still.

However, by the time you read this we will hopefully have enjoyed a socially distancing picnic on the playing field in August, instead of holding our usual garden afternoon. Our first outdoor

committee meeting is also planned. One of the casualties of the current situation is Denman College, the WI's residential learning centre near Abington, which will close permanently. Clipston members over the years have enjoyed happy times there on walking holidays and other courses. Thankfully online learning will be available through Denman at Home – www.denman.org.uk

Members continue to support each other and we very much look forward to next year when hopefully we can enjoy a full and varied programme.

Rose Anderson, President 525481

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Clipston Consolidated Charities

The Trustees will be meeting during the first week of December to distribute charity funds. The charity is only for residents of Clipston, and is applicable as follows:

- 1) Contribution towards travelling expenses of patients to and from hospital
- 2) Contribution towards entering a trade or profession or study as a student for all persons under 21 years of age in further education.
- 3) Relief in sickness for food, fuel or clothing.
- 4) Gifts of money in case of emergency.
- 5) Contribution towards funeral expenses.
- 6) No applicant may receive money entitling them to recurrent benefits.

Applicants wishing to be considered by the Trustees please apply in writing to either the Secretary or Treasurer by no later than 30th November.

Hon. Secretary

Colin Morley
2 Church Close, Clipston
LE16 9RN

Hon. Treasurer

Jean E Wilford
6 Chapel Lane, Clipston
LE16 9RL

Farming 2020

Following a wet winter and early spring (which meant that many crops had to be planted in the spring rather than the autumn), the warm and damp weather has helped spring barley and the beans around us to get well established. For any of you that have sown your own patch of lawn you'll have found that you get to a stage when if you look at it from above it looks very thin but if you lie on the ground and look sideways the grass looks great. The barley crops may be in a similar state; they look great from the side as we walk along the footpaths, but in fact may not be very high yielding. This is a tough year for arable farmers.

Sheep farmers, on the other hand, are generally having a good season. Lambs were late to go outside but have grown well since due to the generally abundant grass and prices have remained good. Uncertainty remains though depending on the 'Brexit effect' for sheep exports.

Grass is such an important factor in feeding sheep and cattle. If it's growing well (think what your lawn likes – if you're out mowing all the time you might not be happy but farmers are), animals also grow well and silage and hay can be made for the following winter. Cattle and sheep are healthier, grow better and farmers' incomes are OK. The more we see sheep and cattle

in the fields in the spring, summer and autumn the better!

The search for alternatives to oilseed rape continue, as a solution to the pest problems seems to be hard to find. Beans look like the appropriate local alternative although on a recent trip to Wiltshire fields of poppies (for medicine) and chicory (for animal feed) brightened the landscape with their flowers. While they may not grow so well here on our heavier land there is a local company leading the way to another new alternative.

Hemp appears to be the next potential wonder crop and a potential replacement for oilseed rape. Apart from the flowers being processed for medicines including cannabis derivatives, the remainder of the plant can be used for insulation, concrete, paper and plastic amongst other things and a local company based in Harborough, Unyte Hemp, is leading the way.

Hemp needs a licence before it can be sown due to the cannabis derivative properties of the flowers but as a replacement for some of the environmentally damaging products listed in the previous paragraph it looks an exciting possibility.

It's exciting to see farming, as ever, responding to the changing needs of society.

Andy Blake



Flower Club

October would have seen us celebrating our 20th birthday for the club, but we will have to save that for another time. Our official birthday is October 2021 as we had to run the club for a year before being allowed to join the National Association of Flower Arrangers. Plans are already being made to celebrate next year.

The club was formed as a consequence of a Flower Festival in the village church in July 2000; lots of ladies were persuaded to help decorate the church and had so much fun that the club came to fruition in October 2000. The club have since held

festivals at Kelmarsh Hall and Market Harborough Baptist Church.

During the past few months we have had virtual flower shows – even Chelsea, Hampton Court, Malvern and others; virtual flower arranging classes, lots of photos of plants and gardens but now it's down to your REAL garden.

Lots of you will have Hydrangeas in your garden, but what do you really know about them?

There are 3 main types; the bush like plant, the climbing plant and the tree like plants.

There are also 3 main types of flowers: the

flat topped ones, the cone-like panicle and the rounded ball shaped heads.

In Victorian England Hydrangeas were said to represent boastfulness and vanity but in the USA they mark the 4th Wedding Anniversary to symbolise appreciation and heartfelt emotion.

Hydrangeas are relatively easy to grow and are happy in the shade. They come in a huge variety of colours, some depend on the PH of the soil, some change colour throughout their growing period (for example the *Hydrangea paniculata* changes from acid green to ivory to a rich pink). The flowers last from mid-summer to autumn and the faded flowers add lots of interest to the winter garden.

Hydrangeas can make wonderful displays in the house. Pick the flowers early in the morning and immediately put them in water; they do sometimes wilt after being cut, so to avoid this, sear the stems in boiling water for 30 seconds before arranging in room temperature water. Alternatively fill a container with water and lay the flowers in it for a couple of hours and they will be revived and ready to arrange.

The flowers are also popular in dried arrangements. The easiest way is to allow them to dry naturally on the plant before picking in the autumn or they can be cut and left to dry in a vase with or without water. Another way is to place the stems in a shallow mixture of one part glycerine and two parts hot water until all the water has been absorbed (about two weeks). This gives the flowers a soft silky texture. Once dried they can be sprayed different colours to use in arrangements, as Christmas decorations, or in wreaths etc.

Have some fun with Hydrangeas and if you haven't got any in your garden ask around, someone will have some. Perhaps we will see lots of Christmas wreaths on doors made from Hydrangea or perhaps it's too early to mention the "C" word?!



Dried or fresh
Hydrangea provide
a soft background
texture for a ring or
door wreath

Coffee and Chat and Canine Partners

Canine Partners have reached their 30th birthday this year and great celebrations were planned, but all has come to a halt. However it hasn't stopped supporters all over the country from doing whatever they can to raise funds. One of our partners has made over 350 face masks. Should anyone wish to order one Jill is able to take orders on her behalf Whilst we do not have an up-to-date photo of available fabrics at time of writing, you can contact Jill for information on 0776 1754 888. To help generate income CP have just launched their own weekly lottery. Prizes range from a handy £5 to a fantastic £10,000 could each week. For more information contact the CP lottery helpline on 01628 200343. Our "Todd fund" only needs £927 to complete our final £5,000 - thank you everyone for your donations so far. Jill, Anne, Jenny and the whole 'coffee and chat' team.

News from Clipston Primary School – July 2020

Once again, the school has been buzzing during the summer term. In line with the wider opening of schools, in addition to our Key Worker children, we welcomed pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 and latterly also children in Year 3, accommodated in five bubbles. The children in Years 2, 4 and 5 were also invited to pop back for a brief visit after school, enjoying the space in the school grounds plus the chance to meet friends face to face and chat over delicious cake and squash provided by Mrs Mercer.



On the sporting front, the school took part in the Virtual School Games Day Competition with dodgeball, athletics, goalball and gymnastics challenges - and our district of Daventry and South Northants came first! Clipston was also runner up in the Active School of the Year award and highly commended in the Sports Crew of the Year award. One of our pupils, Dyllon, was runner up in the Primary Sports Star of the Year award – so we are very proud that despite the restrictions on school sport this term, our efforts to remain committed to sport and children's health and well-being have been recognised.

Parents have continued to email in their children's work completed at home, plus news of all the exciting and resourceful things they have been up to during lockdown. At school, individual Bubbles have been very busy with a variety of exciting topics this term.

Owl class based some of their work around Dear Dinosaur by author Chae Strathie who replied to them via Twitter.

Kingfisher Class thoroughly enjoyed Mrs Weston's installments of the Gift of Dark Hollow by Kieran Larwood which were recorded and uploaded onto Youtube. Robin Class have enjoyed an exciting topic on Space and have also been kept updated with the developments in Mrs Butcher's pond where all manner of amphibians have thrived.



Our Year 6 leavers were disappointed, thinking that they would not be able to have their usual end of year performance. However, not to be beaten, they pulled out of the bag a brilliant show called "I'm a Year 6, get me out of here" filmed and then released on YouTube – culminating in the successful completion of several jungle challenges and the reward of a final meal of pizza, delivered by Mrs Mercer. In an effort not to miss the traditional Leaver's Service, the presentation of Bibles took place prior to a virtual service with contributions from all the children in school, including the Year 6 Memories and some wonderful, socially distanced singing. You can enjoy it at: <https://youtu.be/ZCfUy3JpuBc>.

We wish all our Year 6 pupils the very best of luck as they move onto the next stage of their educational journey. As we begin another new year at Clipston Primary School, we very much look forward to welcoming all our pupils back to school in September.

Mrs Emma Mercer: Head Teacher

News from the Tennis Club

Well that was a strange tennis season! Just as we were gearing up for it, the lockdown happened and we had to endure the sight of empty courts in brilliant weather. Very galling. Then, although tennis was one of the first sports to be re-instated we were limited to playing singles only: a major departure for a club that previously concentrated on doubles! We then introduced a "booking system" for 1 day a week for Club Members (in order that they could arrange fixtures confident the court would be available) and this proved so popular that we have decided to maintain this even though most of the Covid restrictions have ended (at the time of writing). So, as many of you will be aware, whilst the Tennis Courts remain a free community resource, available to anyone for the majority of the time, for the foreseeable future Thursdays (9:00am – 5:00pm) and Tuesdays (5:00pm till dark) priority will be given to Club members, with our traditional "doubles-mixing" taking place on Tuesdays and assorted singles/doubles taking place on a pre-booked basis on Thursdays.

We hope that everyone is OK with these arrangements and if you would like to be a member in order to get this priority access then please contact me, Martin Clarke, on **525558**, for more details.



Village Hall update

Village Hall reopening

The committee met on 19th August to decide whether to reopen in September or remain closed for longer. We have decided not to plan a reopening for the remainder of this year, unless there is a significant change in the advice about outdoor gatherings. All regular user groups have cancelled all their indoor meetings (the guidelines around social distancing and the wearing of masks is prohibitive for most groups) through to the end of the year, so there is currently no demand for reopening.

Prior to any future reopening we will need to conduct a full risk assessment and ensure the necessary protocols and signage are in place. We recognise that the hall is an important venue for village groups and much needed social interaction so we all want to see it reopened as soon as possible but we will only reopen when we are confident it is safe for users and committee volunteers to do so.

Village Hall development plans

Like so many other projects, the plans for developing the village hall were halted by the pandemic. We are currently working with JWA architects on some alternative schemes and will be testing those with user groups as soon as the situation allows for such consultation. We will share these plans with the wider village audience as soon as that is possible but this may not be until 2021 now.

Windfarm Trust

Kelmarsh Windfarm Community Benefit (KWCB) charity has been supporting Clipston residents experiencing difficulty during the Coronavirus lockdown through our new hardship fund and also saying thank you to our local NHS workers for their amazing work during the epidemic.

In the village we have a wide range of NHS workers staff from doctors, nurses and paramedics to specialists in cardiology, palliative care and first response careers. We have provided vouchers for takeaway meals from the Bull's Head to save our wonderful workers from having to cook every day after long and stressful days looking after other people. The meals provided by the Bull's Head were very much appreciated by NHS workers and we would like to thank all of the staff and manager for their help.

Our usual ongoing work has continued with a number of new projects being supported, including improvements to the library at Clipston School, a new study centre for Haddon Fields and the purchase and planting of a Christmas tree for the Village Green which will mean that we do not have to replace it every year. A new request for funds to refurbish the memorial lantern on The Green in recognition of 75 years passing since the end of the Second World War is also currently being considered.

New projects are always welcome and applications forms can be found on our website at www.kwcb.co.uk

Reflections on Lockdown

I remember sitting in a pub in Clapham on a sunny Monday afternoon. The Prime Minister appeared on all the big screens to make his announcement that we were likely to be heading into full lockdown, and within the hour I'd packed up all of my work things and was at St. Pancras station, about to board an eerily quiet train back to Market Harborough. Within a week the whole country was under orders not to go outside unless it was a 'critical trip'.

Holy s**t, this feels like the start of a disaster movie.

For the previous 2 years, I'd been travelling down to London on a Monday and returning home on a Thursday night. My home had become a place to do my washing and sleep, with the occasional catch up with my parents on a Sunday if I wasn't feeling too grumpy in the face of the weekly grind beginning again the following day. Lockdown has completely changed all that.

I've been incredibly lucky to be able to continue working remotely. The first few weeks of lockdown were spent both supporting and being supported by friends and colleagues; writing 'How to stay happy whilst working from home without wine' guides and trying to keep morale up - all whilst things seemed to be falling apart around the world.



My introverted self soon realised how lucky I am to have my house with a garden but also how much I love this village too. To be able to have space to feel like you can breathe, to be surrounded by picturesque countryside and to exist within a community that came together like it has is something I won't ever take for granted again.

But for me, the best and most important bit of this very odd period has been getting to spend a lot more time with my parents. The reasons why that happened are obviously horrible, but if it wasn't for the amazing company, being able to cook for each other, teaching them about Netflix and just having some jolly good laughs when times got tough, these last few months would have been almost impossibly hard and I'm sure I would have spent a lot more time floating around in my own Pinot Grigio lake.

Yes, I've worn the same pair of shorts for the last four months and no, it's not the washing machine that's making them magically shrink (along with all my other clothes) but for me, lockdown has been a great awakener for realising just what's there in front of us and how lucky we are to have it; we just had to have the time to see it.

Alastair Woodgate

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Christmas Tree on the Green

You'll have seen that it's there already! The committee had been concerned about the environmental and cost implications of buying and disposing of a large tree every year so when the idea came up to approach the Kelmarsh Wind Farm Community Benefit fund for a grant to buy a live tree that can grow on the green for many a decade we wanted to support it.

The tree is a Norway Spruce which has nice historical links especially as it's growing so close to our war memorial. It's the species that the Norwegian government gave to the UK to be displayed in Trafalgar square in thanks

for the UK's support during WW2.

The tree will be given careful nurturing for the first couple of years. (Please leave watering to Andy and Robert to avoid over watering).

Apart from the environmental benefit we will now have more funds available for local children and the Christmas tree lighting event that we hold in early December. More details to follow.

Many thanks to Kelmarsh Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund, Clipston Parish Council and Andy Blake for making this happen.

Christmas Tree On The Green committee



Sulby Gardens Apple Days October 2020, under the National Gardens Scheme

We very much hope to be able to run our Apple Days here at Sulby gardens in early October, as the NGS is running a new scheme at present to take account of the safety of visitors and volunteers due to the Covid-19 threat.

All tickets must be pre-booked on line at ngs.org.uk/garden-tickets and are made available for booking a few days prior to opening. You can choose from various hourly slots throughout the two days. Our published dates are Thursday 8 and Friday 9 October so we suggest you check the site from Monday 28 September. Sadly, we are unlikely to be able to provide refreshments, or toilet facilities, but hope some of you feel like coming along to enjoy the garden and the apple display. Plants and apple juice may also be available for sale.

Royal British Legion

Just to let you know there will be a Poppy Appeal this year but no house to house or pub collections. The national appeal will probably raise around half of the usual total. Items can be ordered on line at the Poppy Shop.

Rose Anderson

Carole's Farewell

After almost 50 years in the village, I have decided to downsize and move into a bungalow in Market Harborough. I would like to say farewell to all my friends and neighbours and a huge thank you for your kindness and help during this coronavirus crisis, especially Clare, Louise, Angela and Liz.

I shall be back often no doubt!
Best wishes and kind regards,

Carole Morrison.

CLIPSTON BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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chris@contra-accounting.co.uk

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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

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 2.30pm 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

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

Clipston to Harborough return on Tuesdays and Fridays only
Departs Clipston 10.10 > 10.35
Departs Harborough 12.50 > 13.17

Church & Chapel Services

All Saints Church

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

Baptist Chapel

Sundays at 10.45am. All welcome.

Useful Contacts

All Saints Church

Trevor Lake 01858 525422

Baptist Chapel

Rob Thompsett 01858 466370

Bus Service (Centrebus)

www.centrebus/info

Clipston School (office)

Helen Rhodes 01858 525261

Clipston School 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

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Peter Goodchild 01858 525532

British Legion

Rupert Ellenborough 01858 525380

Clipston Consolidated Charities

Colin Morley 01858 525337

Clipston School Charity

Peter Goodchild 01858 525532

Kelmarsh Wind Farm

Community Benefit

clipston@kwcb.co.uk or 01858 525346