



Clipston Courier

Your Village Newsletter

June 2021

Welcome!

Well, Clipston certainly knows how to come out of a pandemic with a bang! The Bulls Head is alive with the sound of happy chatter, clinking glass and the smell of delicious schwarma, the churchyard and Haddon Fields are becoming more and more havens for wildlife and the festival is scheduled for September. The school is getting a makeover, the tennis club is competing in real live competitions and the remarkable Clipston Quilt has even made it onto the BBC. Our village continues to delight and impress and the Courier is here to bring as much of it as possible to your doors. As we welcome new editor Liz Clarke to our committee, we very much hope you enjoy the June edition, and relish the lifting of restrictions so we can once again participate in all the wonderful activities and amenities available in Clipston.!


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The Clipston Festival Is Back – 4 September 2021

At last, only a year and a few months late, the much anticipated and longed-for Clipston Festival is back to truly make us feel like life is slowly going back to some sort of normal. Remember that last festival? Hot sun, great music, amazing food and happy, summer vibes! Bring it on...

Hopefully, the weather will be kind and we can enjoy a leisurely lie in the grass listening to Clipston's talented musicians, eating, drinking and being merry, trying our hands at a devilishly hard quiz, singing our favourite songs and dancing to our local bands, as well as, of course, being with friends and family. The afternoon will see various village organisations putting on money-making activities and the Clipston Covid Quilt will be presented by a celeb... Who will they get? There'll be a cake competition where everyone can vote and hopefully have a taste, and a bouncy castle, face painting, hair braiding, and the ever popular races for the children. There may even be a CADs solo performance too, (arm-twisting in progress). And of course, there will be cream teas and ice cream (provided by Stepping Stones) and food (from the brilliant Cape Lekker Food Van) and a bar. Looking forward to seeing you there! If you know anyone who would like a stall or would like to perform please email clipstonplayingfields@gmail.com



Image by Robert Leveritt©

Festival Helpers Meeting

Monday 28th June 7.30pm in the Bulls Head - Volunteers, we need you!

Join in the fun; give us your festival ideas and sign up for before, during or after the event for all sorts of helping activities. Thankyou. Or contact Nikki Bugla, Lucy Mayer or Julia Blake

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.

Beautiful Displays From The Flower Club

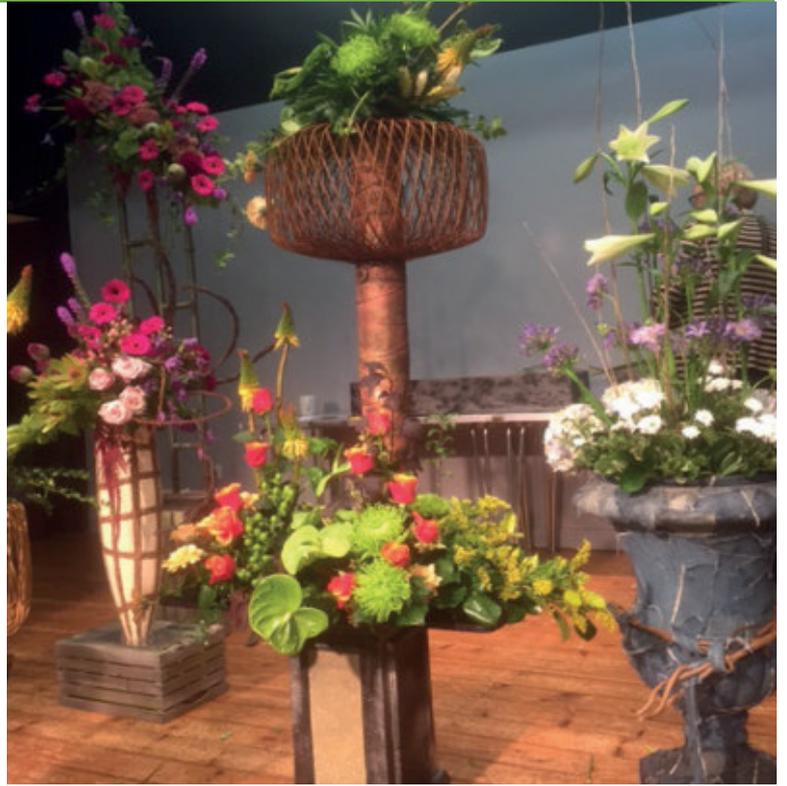
Hello Clipston.

Flower Club is sadly still on hold like many other clubs. As the situation improves and the village hall opens up, we hope to be up and running again and ready to welcome back our members and guests. This year is the 20th anniversary of the club and we have a very special event planned for October to celebrate. We will be welcoming national

demonstrator, Lorena Dyer, an exceptionally talented demonstrator and speaker. Numbers permitting, tickets for this not to be missed event will be available.

More on this at a later date. Meanwhile, some photos of some of the past club events, including the first prize completion entry and a recent demonstration evening.

Linda Warren



Church Wildlife Area Update

Following on from the last edition of the Courier we would like to share our proposals for the wildlife area in the churchyard: In order to maximise opportunities for plants and animals to thrive, the churchyard be divided into 3 areas:

Area A to the south – To retain as an area of permanent close-mown grass.

Area B to the east and north – To maintain this as an area of permanent short grass which is valuable for low-growing species such as mouse-ear hawkweed, self-heal or hoary plantain. Grass to be cut every 2-3 weeks allowing for adjustments to ensure that important species are able to flower and seed.

Area C to the west – To remain an area of permanent long grass to provide shelter, food and overwintering sites for invertebrates and other small animals such as frogs, lizards, field voles, etc. The area proposed has mainly very old graves and houses the compost heap and fallen stick store which already provide habitats for creatures. To prevent scrub invasion this area should be sub-divided into three sections with a

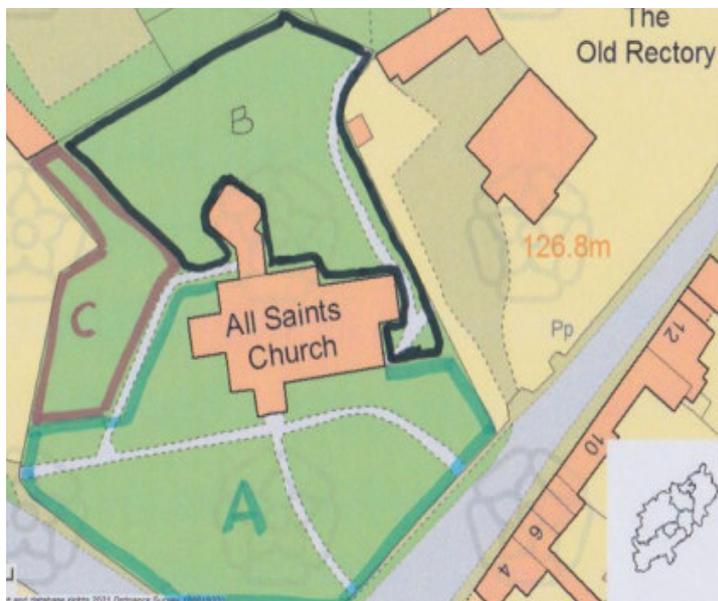
different section being cut in autumn each year in rotation. Cuttings should be removed. Two benches to be provided, one in or adjacent to area C. Ideally we hope to get sponsorship for these from local people. A small water feature be constructed within area C as habitat for aquatic creatures, and information boards be installed to let people know what we are doing. Bat boxes are already in place and we hope to erect bird boxes at strategic points as well.

The village will be invited to comment on the proposals and get involved in the planning and construction process. In particular we would like to have input from the school, Friends of Haddon Fields, and

local naturalists whether amateur or professional. An early part of the project will require a detailed professional survey, recording what plants and animals are there now.

This will act as a baseline from which we can manage progress over time. It is hoped to be able to start on the project by spring 2022. Costs should be minimal especially if we can organise a team of people to manage and work on the site. Grants are available should major costs be incurred and as stated, it is hoped to be able to attract sponsorship for some of the features.

Steve Carpenter



The Bulls Head Gears Up For Summer

The new outdoor spaces at The Bulls Head have given Clipston a real boost this spring – and it's only going to get better...

The ups and downs of the last year have certainly tested Steve and Helen to the limit, but still they kept going! We'll all look back and remember the takeaways, Steve's legendary Facebook Live quiz, the masks, the bubbles of six, and the outdoor drinking in sub-zero temperatures. But now, light is finally at the end of the tunnel and we're looking forward to the ditching of restrictions from late June when we can finally put all this behind us. Hurrah!

Forced into going al fresco from mid-April, the pub now boasts an impressively revamped outdoor space as well as a brand new street food shack, serving delicious freshly prepared shawarma, which will continue to be hugely popular long after Covid 19 is a distant memory.

"We probably needed a bit of a kick up the bum to change things a bit," says Steve "and we are hugely grateful to our son-in-law, Ed (who designed and built the new outdoor area), and the help we got from Chris Partridge, Chris Slaughter and Nick Smith to make it happen. Thanks so much, guys."

The new street food menu has already been a huge hit, inspired by Steve's admiration of the way the Israelis dealt with the pandemic.



"They really nailed the vaccine programme, and it just got me thinking about Israeli food. I bought a cookbook from Amazon, and shawarma just leapt out at me – it ticked all the boxes. A bit different, easy to make in the shack, perfect for outdoor dining – and most importantly it tastes good!"

The summer ahead looks set to be a good one, and the pub can't wait to get back to normal again. "We're so looking forward to the future and welcoming everyone back properly. We've had so much support and we again want to say an enormous heartfelt thank you to the whole village. You've honestly been amazing." In celebration of the lifting of restrictions, Steve and Helen are planning a big party with live music as soon as they are allowed to. Watch this space, Clipston – this will be one party nobody should miss!

Liz Davies



Let's Fill Clipston With Sunflowers

In early May, we were treated to an act of friendship that went beyond words alone. Jim Tyson shares how he and Stephen Woodgate kindly offered the village the opportunity to plant sunflower seeds in our front and back gardens via the village Facebook page – This act of kindness, will undoubtedly beautify our environs and add a sprinkling of joy through the summer months.



“The inspiration for this project for Clipston came from a similar idea that appeared on the Naseby Facebook page. Filled with enthusiasm, I shared the proposal with Stephen Woodgate and his response was ‘another project for the seniors in the village’ but agreed it was something we should do. So, after ordering over 600 seeds (4 different varieties) and 100 little yellow packets, making the labels and printing the planting instructions, we were ready, over the course of several hours, to put everything together.

We had four distribution locations around the village where folks could pick their ‘FREE’, yes, ‘FREE’, packets of seeds from (lots of folks were offering a donation but we insisted that none was required). Within five days all the 100 packets of seeds were gone! So, we are both looking forward to seeing lots of sunflowers around Clipston from late July until possibly October. Happy planting and thank you for taking part.”

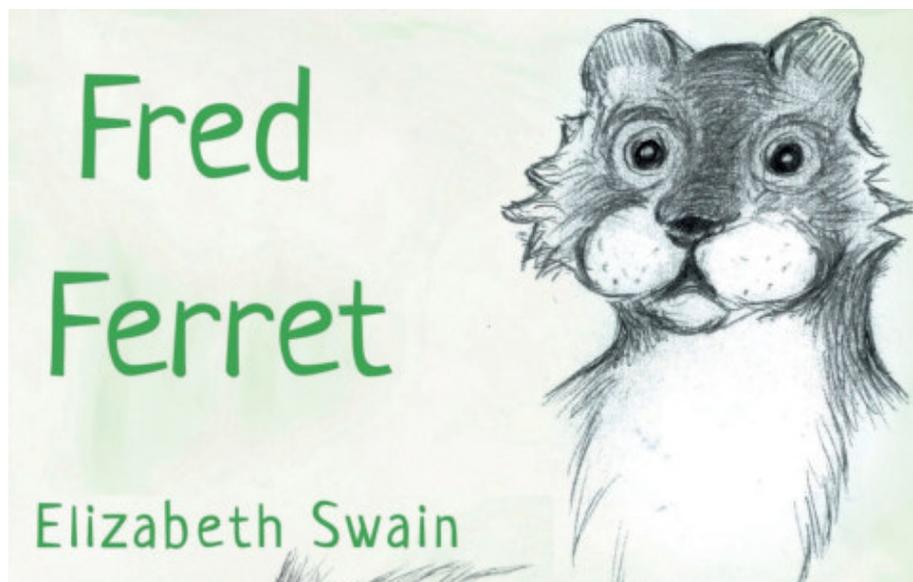
Jim Tyson and Stephen Woodgate



Introducing Fred Ferret

Fred Ferret is a book for young children, about a ferret who escapes from his pen and sets out on an adventure. He meets other animals and makes an extraordinary friendship. The author is Elizabeth Swain, better known in Clipston, where she grew up, as Buff Stanton. The older residents of the village will remember her riding her pony through the village, the afternoon teas at “The Limes” in aid of the church, her being a “Brownie”, then in the Young Farmers Club.

She was married in the village church, her first son was christened there and the second confirmed there and she still remains very attached to the village. As Elizabeth herself says “children had such freedom in those days” and it is this freedom and her life growing up in Clipston that inspired her thoughts for Fred Ferret. She now hopes the younger members of the village and their friends will enjoy reading Fred Ferret, which is available direct from the publishers – Pegasus Elliot Mackenzie Publishers Ltd, or W H Smith, Waterstones and Amazon.



Canine Partners

I have no current information about our new dog, Todd, as Covid restrictions meant all training had to stop for some time and is still not back to full capacity. Our puppy parents are working hard to give extra home training for longer than normal – it is a tremendous commitment to their puppies and the charity. I hope to have his progress report for the next edition of the Courier. I am not restarting the monthly coffee mornings but am instead raising funds for Canine Partners by recycling various items:

PRINTER CARTRIDGES – please put through my front door (2 Weskers Close) or ring 525746 (please leave name and number on answer machine and I’ll ring you back). I have a list of the ones they accept – but sorry, no toner, laser and compatible cartridges.

OLD JEWELLERY AND WATCHES – any condition – again as above.

USED POSTAGE STAMPS – thank you to everyone who already collects these for us – keep going, please. Thank you, everyone, for your continued support.

Best wishes – Jill

Clipston Village Hall Is Back Open (And Covid Secure)!

After 14 months of closure, we were pleased to reopen as a polling station on 6th May and for bookings on the 17th May. In preparation, the hall was professionally deep cleaned and crockery dishwasher to ensure everything was hygienically clean for reopening. A one-way system is in place and there is plenty of signage to guide users on how to use the space responsibly ensuring the venue remains covid secure. Further details including our risk assessment and covid conditions of hire can be found at www.clipston.org. Whilst we navigate the remaining restrictions, Faye will handle all booking enquiries with Grace taking the reins when things return to normal. You can reach **Faye on 525275 or faye@oldrectory.uk.net**.

We would like to re-establish a once-a-month Saturday morning café at the village hall (from September, restrictions allowing) as an opportunity for socialising, table-top sales and to raise funds for the refurbishment of the hall. We need at least 4 people for each session and want to limit people's commitment to 2 or 3 times a year so we're looking for about 20 volunteers to join the rota.

We are also still looking for a new treasurer and others to join our management committee. If you are interested in any of the above, please contact Faye or other member of the committee for more details.

Faye Tan - 525275

Whats On

Tuesdays 9-11am	Carers and Tots Café
Wednesdays 8.30-10.30am	Community Café run by Rev'd Miranda
Thursdays 9-10am	FLOWYoga and Pilates Class with Danni

Future Dates

Wed 7th July 2pm	Village Hall AGM – residents are welcome to attend and stand for election to the management committee
Sun 28th November	Village Hall - CADs Murder Mystery Night
Sun 5th December	Pantomime – more details in the next issue

Village Panto

He's behind you! Oh no he isn't...
Oh yes he is!

Restrictions allowing, the village hall committee is hoping to welcome you back for a traditional family pantomime on Sunday 5th December 2021. We hope to have a matinee and early evening performance so please save the date and we will have more information for you in the next edition...

KWCB News

Kelmarsh Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund Grants have been approved to help develop the Village Hall Cafe and tennis coaching for young people throughout the summer, organised by the Clipston Tennis Club. Thank you to Rob Davidson for his work in his 3 years as a KWCB trustee for Clipston. Rob has retired from this role and Ian May has been elected in his place. Please contact me or Ian if you have any ideas as an individual or as part of an organisation for any charitable projects. We can help put the application together for you. Clipston will have another £7,000 available next March and there's still money in our share of the fund from previous years.

Andy Blake

Farming Update

At time of writing it's just rained! As you walk around you'll see this was desperately needed. Grass has not been growing as it usually does in the spring which means that cattle have only just been turned out and fresh grass was getting short for the many ewes and lambs. Winter cereals planted last autumn don't look too bad but the spring-sown crops have either not germinated or look very sad. Some moisture should help.

The cold, dry weather here and adverse weather affecting cereal crops in the US and Ukraine amongst other countries is contributing to a rapid rise in grain prices now and for next harvest. Expect your bread and beer to get more expensive! The post-Brexit trade arrangements are still causing difficulties for food exports. 90% of UK lamb exports go into the EU and hopefully things will become clearer and easier otherwise UK sheep farmers could well be facing lower prices. Could be good news for the BBQ season though! It's forever interesting to me how our local surrounding farming is so affected by world events. Listening to the radio on first bank holiday Monday there seemed to be endless concern about the rain spoiling the holiday and not a word about the benefits the rain brings. It raises the issue again about whether it matters that, in general, people have become somewhat removed from how and where our food is produced.

Andy Blake



Chris Blake And Friends Make A Welcome Return To Clipston!



Originally planned for March 2020, it was the first event in the village to be halted due to the pandemic. The postponement to November 2020 went ahead as a virtual concert, delivered as a 'YouTube premier' with more than 100 homes all watching at the same time as Chris and Ruth performed from their own homes in Ireland. We are delighted to finally be able to welcome them back to the village in person, for one of the first events since the lifting of restrictions.

The event will run in accordance with prevailing government guidelines and the audience capacity is expected to be limited so please secure your tickets early to avoid disappointment. Tickets are available from Alan Skinner on 525237.

We plan to record the concert and compile a video to watch at home for those who are unable to make it on the night. Copies of the November 2020 concert are also available. To register your interest in purchasing a digital video file, please email faye@oldrectory.uk.net. If you would like to sample Chris' musical talents and receive a weekly video taster, you are invited to join our WhatsApp group – send a message to Faye on 07725 427311 to be added to the group and join/leave at any time.

Stepping Stones



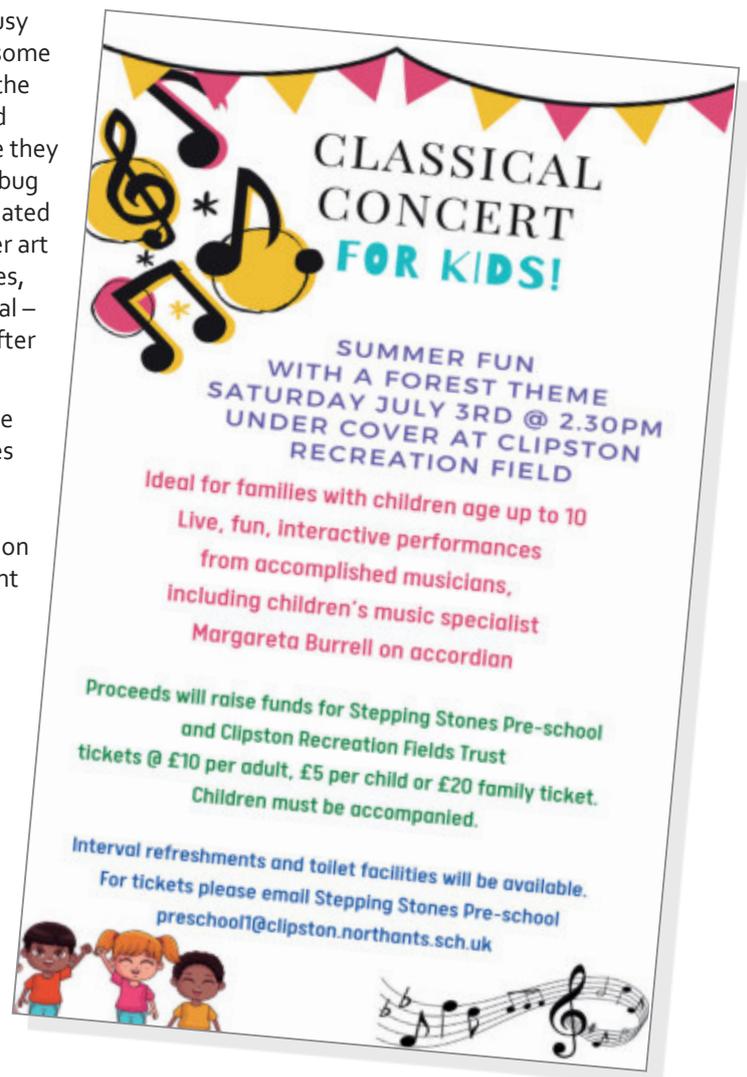
Stepping Stones Pre-school has had a busy few weeks and we have also welcomed some new children to our lovely setting. Over the last few weeks the children have enjoyed warmer weather at Forest School, where they have been chalk painting, making dens, bug hunting and also planting three new donated saplings. At the setting we created Easter art and craft among many other fun activities, and we have also had a special new arrival – five tiny caterpillars which we will look after until they hatch into butterflies.

We are also pleased to announce that a fantastic fundraising matinee concert will take place on July 3rd to raise money for Stepping Stones and Clipston Recreation Field Trust. This matinee performance will be aimed at families with children up to the age of around 10 and promises to be a fun, interactive musical event – a perfect introduction to classical music in a relaxed atmosphere. Please see our poster right for more information. For tickets please email preschool1@clipston.northants.sch.uk.

Our matinee performance has been kindly organised by the performers of a separate evening concert taking place on the evening of July 3rd at the church – for details and tickets of the evening performance please contact Alan Skinner at alanandanne.skinner@gmail.com.

We provide a fun, supportive, learning environment which helps prepare children for school. If you are interested in your child starting at Stepping Stones Pre-school we have spaces available from September 2021. See our website for more information www.stepsingstonesclipston.co.uk:

Telephone: 01858 525113 or E-mail: preschool1@clipston.northants.sch.uk



All Saints' Church Clock

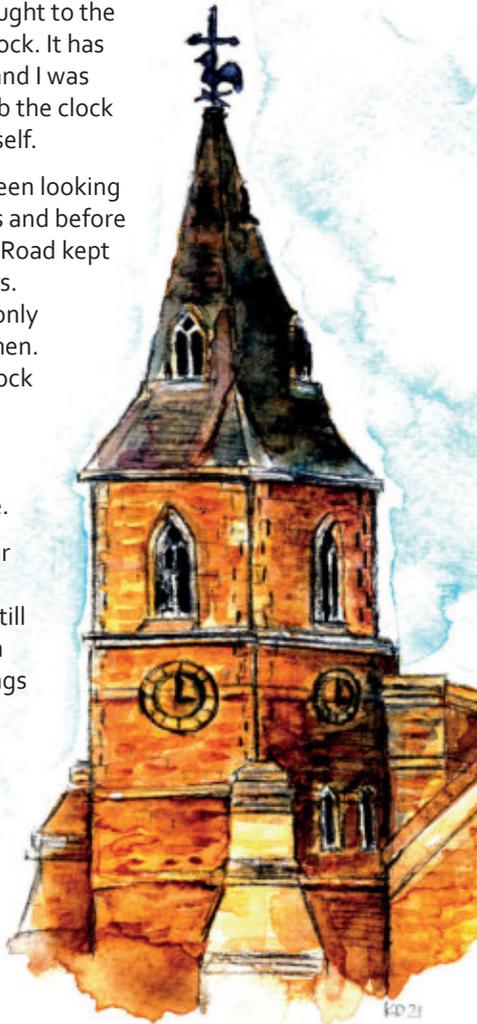
I wonder how many people give thought to the workings of our wonderful church clock. It has been a feature for nearly 200 years and I was delighted when I was invited to climb the clock tower to see how it all works for myself.

David Wilford from Church St. has been looking after the clock for the past few years and before that Arthur Butlin from Harborough Road kept the clock going for a number of years.

The clock was installed in 1884 and only 5 people have looked after it since then. All their names are written on the clock housing. The clock itself is housed in a wooden box with a pitched roof to protect it from damp and especially from pigeons who like to roost there.

The mechanism is a traditional tower clock made by Gillett and Son of Croydon in Surrey. The company is still operating and their mechanisms can be found in many prestigious buildings around the world. It is based on a cast-iron frame and is a masterpiece of English over-engineering in brass and steel.

There are large cogs and a massive escape mechanism and as you can imagine it exudes a sense of quiet stateliness. That is until the striking mechanism clicks in when the sound of the clock bell fills the little chamber.



Until comparatively recently it was necessary to wind the clock manually every week but now thankfully an electric motor has been installed to ensure that the clock doesn't stop. However, as David pointed out, when we have a power cut of more than a minute or so, he has to go up there and start it up again!

As mentioned in the previous Courier, work is urgently needed to the church spire and provided we can afford it, we would like to refurbish the clock faces at the same time. So, the next time you hear the church clock chiming give a thought to our Victorian clockmakers and David who looks after it.

Steve Carpenter - Chuchwarden

Wise Words from Reverend Miranda

Hopefully, this summer will be a time of increasing freedom as we emerge from months of restrictions and lockdowns. How will we feel about that, I wonder? Will some of us remain fearful of the world beyond our front rooms? I think that almost certainly some will, having become so accustomed to limitations that they may feel uncomfortable or anxious without them. The complicated regulations have meant that it has sometimes been easier not to do things, rather than try and work out whether we are, in fact, allowed to do them. How important it will be to support one another as we begin to venture out, to push at boundaries that we would once have thought unimaginably restrictive, to do things that we would once have taken for granted, but now seem like mountains to climb. Hopefully, the weather will be a help but lots of us will need the support of family, friends and neighbours to build up our confidence. Clipston has been wonderful at reaching out to one another in these difficult times, and I am sure this will continue, that we will notice those who are isolated, fearful, or anxious and offer them our love and care.

All Saints' Church will be opening up for worship and activities, so do keep an eye open for what is going on. It has been a long time, and we would love to see you again - or even for the first time! With every blessing on you all as we continue our walk into God's future, a challenging future, yes, but a future full of promise, opportunity, and new life.

Miranda

Save The Date

July 3rd	Afternoon and evening concerts – Chris Blake
July 7th	Village Hall AGM
Sept 4th	Clipston Festival
Sept 12th	Haddon Fields Field Centre opens
Sept 26th	Clipston Trail Run
Dec 5th	Pantomime

Friendship Club

Hello, everyone. Your committee is keeping a close eye on the situation at the village hall and will be in touch as soon as we have more news.

Jill

Friends Of Haddon Fields



It's great to see the sheep and lambs back in Haddon Fields this spring and many thanks to all the dog owners who have kept their dogs on a lead; particularly important with young lambs gambolling around the fields. It's lovely to see the field centre being used by people in the village now that some of the Covid restrictions are easing. If you would like to use it for an event please let me know!

We are working with the Woodland Trust to set aside the corner of the field near to the field centre so that it can return to a more natural, wild habitat. It will be fenced (with a gateway to prevent sheep grazing). Among other ideas, we hope to establish beetle banks, bug hotels and other features to encourage wildlife and increase biodiversity. Being close to the field centre will allow some studies, such as surveying, to take place on a regular basis. Friends of Haddon Fields would welcome more volunteers to join the small group of 'Friends' with the jobs that need doing. Some of the regular jobs include;

Trimming vegetation and laying bark pathways

Removal of plastic guards as the trees mature

Improving biodiversity by building beetle banks, bug hotels, bird boxes

Maintenance of the field centre - treating the wood

Helping with educational activities or workshops

If you would you like to volunteer, please get in touch with me. Please put Sunday September 12th in your diary! With fingers firmly crossed that we will be back to something like 'normal', we will be holding an afternoon of events highlighting all the activities in Haddon Fields, led by Jules Howard and team. The field centre will also be formally 'opened'! Look out for more details on posters around the village and on the Clipston Facebook page.

Stephen Woodgate 07909 535966



Clipston Tennis Club Joins Local League

By the time you read this a couple of exciting new initiatives will already be up and running, alongside our regular Tuesday evening club nights. First of all we now have professional coaching available both for adults and juniors. For further details please contact **Laura** on **0776 655 7122**. Secondly, after a gap of more than 15 years, Clipston has entered teams into the East Northants League in both the men's and mixed categories (unfortunately our pool of players was too small to enter a team in the women's section – hopefully next season?). The teams are captained by John Tilbrook and Jack Balderson respectively with matches consisting of 2 pairs playing both their opposing pairs over 2 sets. Most home matches will take place on Wednesdays (a couple on Fridays) :

As you can see, our first match against Burton Latimer (the village, not the names of our opponents!) ended in a 3-5 defeat. Both Clipston pairings, Jack Balderson & Peter Hartley, and John Tilbrook & Martin Clarke did their best but were just not good enough on the night! An enjoyable, albeit slightly frustrating, evening. Onward and upward! I'm sure you will be wishing us all the best and I'm equally sure we will need it!

Martin Clarke

Day	Date	Time	Opponent	Format	Result
Wednesday	5th May	6.30	Burton Latimer	Men's	3-5
Friday	14th May	6.30	Earls Barton	Men's	0-8
Wednesday	19th May	6.30	Kettering C	Men's	0-8
Wednesday	26th May	6.30	Desborough	Men's	3-5
Friday	4th June	6.30	Thrapston B	Men's	
Friday	25th June	6.30	Ferrers & Rushden	Men's	
Wednesday	30th June	6.30	Kettering C	Mixed	
Wednesday	14th July	6.30	Finedon	Mixed	
Wednesday	28th July	6.30	Oundle	Mixed	



Clipston Quilt Makes BBC News

As reported in the last Courier, talented residents have joined together to create a really quite remarkable piece of art to remember the 'Year that was Covid'! It is now finished and looks truly amazing. Full of creativity, fun and meaning, there are lots of dog walkers, rainbows, beautiful countryside scenes, and even one depicting the delicious takeaways from the Bulls Head. Each square is totally unique providing a wonderful memory of the past year that we will enjoy and reflect on for a long time to come. The quilt has been constructed in two parts each with 32 squares and it was quite some challenge putting together the 64 squares, especially on a windy day in April. There is also an



additional square, too heavy to incorporate in the quilt itself but displayed alongside. We will be displaying it at the festival in September and it will have a home in the Orbell room along with an album which tells you who did which square and the motivation and meaning behind it. This info will also be on the village website. Excitingly, East Midlands Today picked up on the news story and Christina was interviewed, explaining how each square was clearly made with 'love, thought and effort'. The first opportunity to see it is on Saturday 26th June 11-12pm. Revd Miranda Hayes will be giving thanks for this community project and there will be the opportunity to take a look over a cup of coffee in the Orbell room. Come and spot your square and marvel at those by others. We do hope that you enjoy it.

Christina, Ruth, Linda and Rosemary.



CRFT

The CRFT continues to appreciate your support in funding the ongoing maintenance of the recreation field and pavilion. Thanks to Lucy Mayer for organising work on the plumbing and electrics which have now been updated. We hope to do significant work in the young children's play area as the ground continues to become more uneven from moles, the weather and lots of use and we will be planning what needs to be done over the next few weeks.

Key to our fundraising is the 100 Club. Here are the recent winners:

1st Prize (£100)		2nd Prize (£50)		3rd Prize (£25)	
January 21	Marsha Day	Beth Wakefield	Cara Bolton		
February 21	Moira Willey	Dave Wilford	Hannah Eveleigh		
March 21	Jim Tyson	Trish Towers	Peter Hartley		

The Clipston Festival and Chris Blake concerts are covered elsewhere in the Courier. The other main event we are involved in is the Clipston Trail Run which we hope will take place on Sunday 26th September. We will be following the same course and have individual timing so that we can again have a staggered start. There's lots of interest in trail runs following the lockdowns so enter soon to avoid disappointment! Here's the web link -

<https://raceharborough.co.uk/clipston-trail-half/>.

This year Stepping Stones will be joining CRFT and Clipston WI in the organisation.

Andy Blake - Chairman CRFT

Clipston Profile: Christina Faull

Christina Faull has lived in Clipston with her family for 16 years and is a doctor specialising in palliative care. She works at the LOROS hospice in Glenfield, Leicester, which put her right on the frontline in the spring of 2020.

She talked to me about her journey into her chosen career, her experience of Covid 19 and how she copes with the emotional challenges of her job.



Christina Faull

"When I was about eight, I used to watch my dad doing operations on sheep," Christina says, recalling her childhood growing up on the Wirral. "He was a teaching vet and sometimes took me to work with him. He was always encouraging me to ask the question why?" These early experiences fostered a love of science, which eventually led to her studying medicine at Newcastle University.

Soon after qualifying as a doctor, she spent 18 months working in New Zealand, followed by a stint at a missionary hospital in Papua New Guinea. "A lot of the work was completely terrifying," she remembers, referring to her experience as a flying doctor, treating tribal people who had very little contact with the outside world.

"I wasn't familiar with a lot of the illnesses, so had to look things up in a book to see if I could do it, knowing that if I didn't help them, they'd die anyway. I felt completely useless, but I learned a lot."

Returning to Newcastle, she threw herself into the gruelling schedule of a junior doctor, working punishing hours on the wards.

"I would sometimes start work at 8am on Friday, and finish at 6pm Monday, having had possibly no sleep in that time," she remembers. Describing this as 'hard' seems woefully inadequate, although many people would consider her later specialism in palliative care to be even harder. Her decision to move into this area was partly because it combined her interest in both the psychological and physical aspects of medicine, but also because she felt very strongly that she wanted to help people in those very hard months and weeks before they die. When I asked how she deals with this, she talks about being pretty good at intellectualising things and reflecting on her work without getting too emotionally involved. "I've requested counselling at certain points," (which is offered to all doctors) "but mostly it's about having my own strategies for coping with things". She admits it does sometimes get to her though; "There are some people who do stay with you."

Over the last year, Covid 19 has presented even more challenges. Having moved more into training and research, Christina was required to return to the ward in March 2020 to help with the pandemic (40% of her hospice colleagues contracted Covid 19, leading to staff shortages). "The biggest impact was not being able to allow visitors" she says. "It was difficult getting used to the PPE and new procedures, but for us doing a good job means doing it well for the family, so that bit was really tough." They did their best though - use of iPads and even staff phones were employed to ensure that patients could keep in touch with their friends and family.

Making a difference is incredibly important to Christina, both as a doctor and in other areas of her life. She enjoys community work and has recently got involved with the Clipston WI. Early in 2021, (inspired by her recollection of HIV quilts which were made during the AIDS epidemic of the 1980s) she set about galvanising the residents of Clipston to record their thoughts and experiences of Covid by creating a quilt of individually-made squares (see page 9). It was a cathartic thing for villagers, but I'm guessing it was cathartic for Christina herself too. Her idea has helped to create a tangible collection of memories from this time, which will be a little piece of history for villagers of the future. It must be said that in whatever she does, Christina Faull proves herself to be quite a remarkable woman.

Liz Davies

Battersea Dogs' Home Founder Has Clipston Connection

TEMPORARY HOME FOR LOST AND STARVING DOGS.

FOOD and Shelter are required every day for thousands of Lost Dogs and Cats rescued from the streets and starvation. All Animals are kept seven days, to enable



While researching a non-fiction book about dogs, I came across a rather lovely little piece of Clipston history that I thought I'd share on these pages. It relates to the Revd Edward Bates, appointed headmaster of Clipston School in 1844 - he apparently went on to become master of the medical school at Clipston in 1856.

At around this time, Bates, who apparently lived with his father in Kelmash, took in his sister who had become estranged from her husband. She lived there for a time, finding her feet before moving to London. In 1860, Edward followed. The family had plans... Edward's sister was none other than Mary Tealby, the founder of "The Temporary Home for and Starving Dogs" (which would become Battersea Dogs' Home). Tealby's building really was quite something for its time. Within years, it would play home to as many as 12,500 dogs— some (but by no means all) re-homed among London's newly brimming bourgeois. There was nothing like it in the world. Mary Tealby herself was something of a cultural enigma: a powerful, committed, energetic female campaigner in the mould of Emmeline Pankhurst or Francis Cobbe.

Charles Dickens, particularly, was a keen supporter and ally and even Queen Victoria ended up re-homing a dog from the institution.

Perhaps Mary's brief presence in and around Clipston is well known in the "I-remember-when-this-was-all-fields"

demographic (!) but I was certainly pleasantly surprised and honoured to find out that we share, perhaps only fleetingly, a home patch with such illustrious company.

If anyone knows anything about Mary's time here, I'd love to hear from you. You can email me on

jules@juleshoward.co.uk



Westnorthamptonshire Council

The elections for our new unitary council took place on the 6th May and Cecile Irving-Swift (Conservative), Kevin Parker (Conservative) and Jonathan Harris (Lib Dem) are our local councillors. They have been discussing the NDP and new conservation area with MP Chris Heaton-Harris, the objective of both to protect the beauty of the village and to control its growth. If you need further information, you can access Westnorthamptonshire council website (www.westnorthants.gov.uk) and type 'Conservation Area Daventry' or 'Neighbourhood Plan Clipston'. Cecile lives in Arthingworth and can be contacted on Cecile.Irving-swift@westnorthants.gov.uk.

Our Founding Fathers!!

From all the editorial team, we would like to say a huge thank you to Jim Tyson, Stephen Woodgate and Roger Walleth who founded the current version of our village newsletter – the Clipston Courier. Without their enthusiasm and hard work the Courier would never have existed and we have benefitted hugely from their knowledge and experience to make the Courier what it is today. Understandably, all three are ready to pass over the reins now but not before they ensured we all knew exactly what we were doing to keep our wonderful newsletter alive.

So, a huge, huge thank you from us all and we wish you all well with your future endeavours – because knowing you, you will get involved in something else new and wonderful to keep you busy and out of mischief!



Stephen Woodgate and Jim Tyson with Issue No. 1 of the Courier from April 2015

Clipston Conservation Area

On 18th March 2021 the then Daventry District Council approved what is called the Clipston Conservation Area Appraisal Plan.

A copy of this is accessible on the West Northamptonshire Council website and is also on the Parish Council website:

<http://www.clipstonparishcouncil.org.uk/>

The process for the area plan was conducted by Daventry District Council and started with the open event/drop-in session held in the village hall on one of those fondly remembered Covid free days of 3rd March 2020.

Sadly Covid subsequently intervened and the council's second proposed open event was forbidden: instead the advertised online virtual session took place on the 16th November 2020.

The session was recorded and is on YouTube so, if your constitution is strong enough, you can see some of the villagers on show. Thank you for those villagers who contributed to the district council's procedures.

Clipston Parish Council

Neighbourhood Development Plan

Following on from the Courier's last edition update of the NDP, the West Northamptonshire Council (previously called Daventry District Council) has now received comments from the general public and statutory consultees on its latest form and related documents previously uploaded onto the West Northamptonshire Council's website.

These latest comments have also been uploaded on to the council website. There are 12 sets of comments which, we are advised, is slightly fewer than the average number the council would expect. As stated in the last Courier, an independent examiner (agreed between the Parish Council and the West Northamptonshire Council) will now be appointed and upon final approval, it will be put to Clipston parish residents for the yes/no referendum.

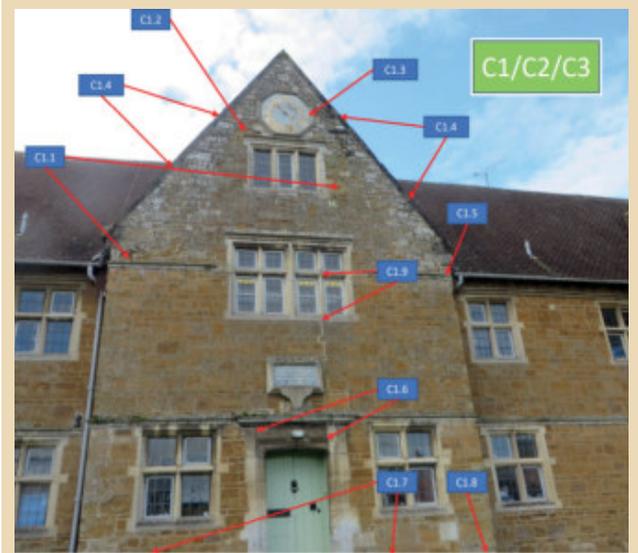
NDP Advisory Committee

News From Clipston School Governors

The Board of Governors at Clipston School is delighted that, following extensive negotiations, the school has been earmarked for a substantial investment from West Northamptonshire Council. This finance, by way of a grant, is being managed by the council.

Our beautiful and historic Grade II listed building will have various works undertaken over the summer holiday, mainly to refurbish the fabric of the stonework. Phase 1 of the works to the inside of the building, under the roof, took place over Easter. Phase 2 begins in July – look out for the entire original building being enveloped in scaffolding! We are delighted that this grant will help preserve the school building for many years to come.

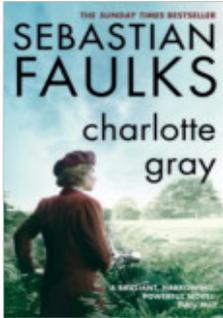
Helen Bellamy – Chair of Governors.



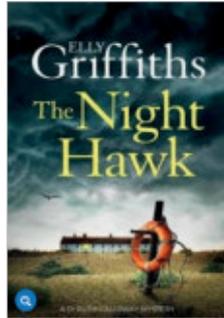
Recommended Books For Summer

With restrictions gradually lifting hopefully many of you will be planning to get away for a holiday this year. The Courier team thought we would share some of our favourite holiday reads to give you some ideas of books you could take along. There is a real mixed bag and we hope there might be something for everyone!

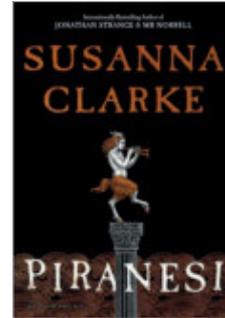
Hannah Eveleigh



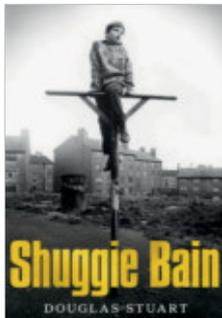
Hannah Eveleigh - 'Charlotte Gray' by Sebastian Faulks
The last of Faulks's French trilogy. It is the most inward-looking of the three books, dealing with themes of memory and loss.



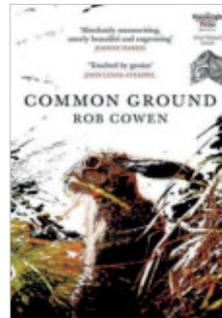
Stephen Woodgate - 'The Night Hawks' by Elly Griffiths
A new novel featuring forensic archaeologist Dr. Ruth Galloway solving another mystery. Great story lines leaving you wanting more.



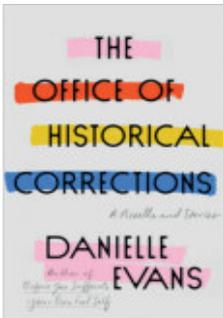
Katy Dynes - 'Piranesi' by Susanna Clarke
A compelling and extraordinary fantasy novel containing an amazing story within a story.



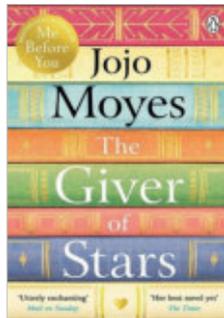
Julia Blake - 'Shuggie Bain' by Douglas Stuart
An insightful portrayal of family, poverty, alcoholism and growing up in the Glasgow slums of the early 1980's.



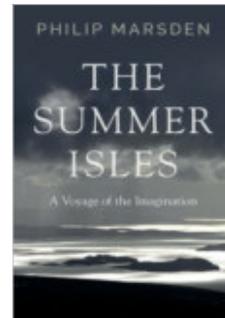
Liz Clarke - 'Common Ground' by Rob Cohen
A beautifully written account of the simple magic of nature which the author discovers on a nearby piece of wasteland.



Natasha Willkinson - 'The Office of Historical Corrections' by Danielle Evans
A wonderfully rich and at times amusing range of stories that capture the complexity of race relations, grief, belonging and love.



Liz Davies - 'The Giver of Stars' by Jojo Moyes
Set in 1930s Kentucky, this is the story of a group of women who deliver library books on horseback to people who live off the beaten track amongst the mountains.



Jim Mcinulty - 'The Summer Isles' by Philip Marsden
Sailing solo from Cornwall to an archipelago off the Northwest coast of Scotland via the Irish Atlantic coast, with tales of imaginary islands and the Celtic otherworld.

Clipston WI

Although we still haven't been able to meet in the village hall our recent recruitment initiative has paid dividends with membership now up to 29 ladies. We have been zooming away with a most enthusiastic talk from our resident ballroom dancer, Roz Strachan. She related how she achieved first place in the Silver Rumba at the 2019 Grand Final at the famous Blackpool Ballroom through sheer hard work and determination. Other activities have included a walk round Sywell Reservoir, and over the fields at Great Oxenden on a recently very windy afternoon. As an Easter treat we delivered cake to a few elderly residents and those living alone.

We are very much hoping to run a trip to the World Heritage site of Cromford Mills, Derbyshire in September – this would be open to anyone who would like to come along – so please let me know if you are interested. It looks like we won't be meeting in the village hall until hopefully July when we are hosting a "Feeling Good, Looking Great" event discovering what clothes styles and colours suit you best. Just in time for being released from full lockdown and getting out of those trackie bottoms! As always, if lockdown has encouraged you to engage more with your village community, then give us a try and you will receive a warm welcome. Enjoy the new freedoms and as my uncle used to say, "take it, but take it easy"!

Rose Anderson, President

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

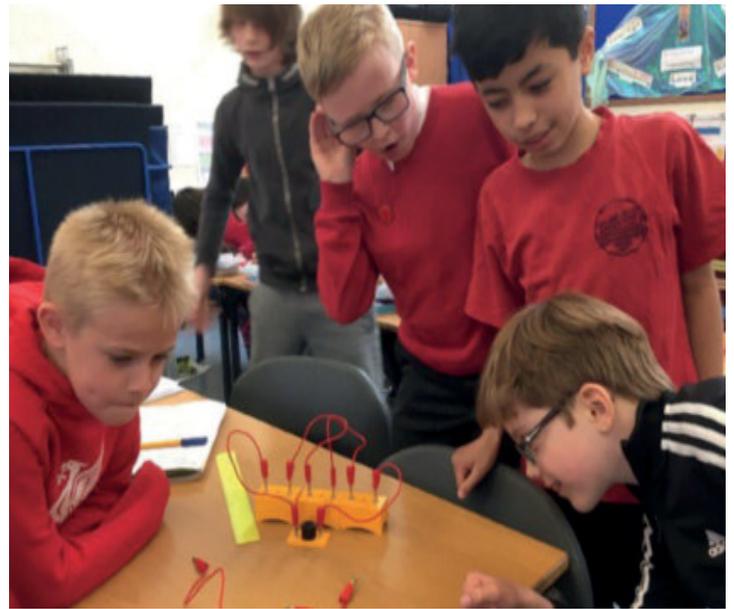
Clipston Primary School

School has been so busy since we fully re-opened to all pupils in March. We can safely say that we very much hope not to have another lockdown and that schools are much lovelier places when they are filled with children buzzing with excitement and engaged in their learning! Our online Easter celebration involving all the children was joyous and uplifting, and very well received by so many people in the village. We were delighted to contribute to the Clipston Village Covid Quilt and are looking forward to seeing the completed artwork when we are next in church. After-school sports clubs are back up and running and the children have had lots of opportunities to take part in physical activity this term with the Daily Mile, boccia, orienteering and

Super Mover activities – all so important for physical and mental health. The children in every class have been thrilled to get back into the swing of face-to-face learning. Woodpecker Class has been studying electrical circuits and measuring voltage and Kingfishers have been learning about the human body and even having a go at making muscles and a digestive system! Robin Class has been outside in the sunshine finding out about Signs of Spring and the children in Owl Class enjoyed a walk around the village and made kites with firey tails in preparation for Pentecost. In other exciting news, we congratulated Mr and Mrs Butcher on the arrival of their daughter Rosie May, earlier this term!

The school is open for all children aged 4 to 11 years old from 7.30am (Breakfast Club). Further information about the school is available on our website: www.clipstonprimaryschool.org and our Twitter page [@ClipstonSchool](https://twitter.com/ClipstonSchool).

Emma Mercer - Head Teacher



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Rachel.k.smith@hotmail.com

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

Dog Training

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

Rachel Wilford 07788 475129

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

Kelmarsh Windfarm Community Benefit

A charity that allocates funds from the wind farm to charitable projects. Applications for grants can be from village groups or individuals. Please contact Andy Blake or Ian May for more information.

andyblake4@hotmail.com

ianmay231@hotmail.co.uk

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)

Helen Bellamy 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 07768 554 395

Stepping Stones Pre-School

Sam Frape 01858 525113

Tree Warden

Mick Higgins 01858 525302

Charities

Almshouse Charity

Peter Goodchild 01858 525532

British Legion

Rupert Ellenborough 01858 525380

Clipston Consolidated Charities

Colin Morley 01858 525337

Clipston School Charity

Peter Goodchild 01858 525532

Kelmarsh Wind Farm

Community Benefit

clipston@kwcb.co.uk