



Clipston Courier

Your Village Newsletter
September 2021



Welcome!

What a difference a year makes! Reflecting back on the insular and restrictive nature of summer of 2020 it's hard not to feel a sense of liberation in how far we've come. Whilst we're likely to have to remain cautious for a while yet, there's no denying that the village is buzzing with laughter and excitement this season. With the imminence of the much-missed Clipston Festival, we at the Courier are thrilled to be able to celebrate with you all at the recreation field this year! Looking forward to Autumn and beyond the village has a veritable feast of events and opportunities on offer; whether you're looking to join the tennis club, take part in one of the fitness classes at the village hall, or embrace your theatrical side with a pantomime or murder mystery night, there's something for everyone! Pour yourself a cup of something hot and enjoy this edition of your village newsletter!


Rachel Smith
Editor


Jim Mcinulty
Co-Editor

Back at last!

The long-awaited return of the Clipston Festival



Full programme on page 5

Clipston Festival

Saturday 4 September - 3-10pm, Clipston Playing Field

Yes folks! It's finally here! On Saturday 4 September the village is all set to get together and enjoy an afternoon and evening filled with fun activities and live entertainment. After 18 months of restrictions on our social lives, you are warmly invited to the playing field where an array of stalls, games, food, drink, music and stage performances will provide fun for the whole family until late into the evening.

Enjoy cold beers and prosecco at the bar or relax with tea and delicious cakes served up from the pavilion. Attempt to splat the rat, or wang a welly as far as you possibly can, and take part in our festival quiz. Keep the kids amused with face painting, hair braiding, the bouncy castle, mini trampolines and a scavenger hunt, whilst you sit back and enjoy our talented local singers, musicians and performers on the main stage. Evening food will include hot dogs for the kids and tasty South African inspired food from local caterers Cape Lekker. It's promising to be a fantastic village party, and we're all looking forward to seeing as many people as possible there!

For the full programme of what's going on and when, turn to page 5.

HOW TO CONTACT US

Deadline for articles for Edition 28 is 8th November 2021

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

Memorial Lamp

Some of you will recall the previously leaning memorial lamp on the village green. Here is a photographic reminder (try to ignore the red car) which shows the problem. No, it's not the houses in the background leaning the other way; be serious please.

Apart from the quirky lean, the lamp was provided with funds by the village in 1953 in recognition of those who served in the First and/or Second World Wars, and inscribed as such, so there were compelling reasons for it to be restored. Accordingly, a grant was applied for - and received - from the Kelmarsh Windfarm Community Benefit fund and expert contractors were employed. It was a tricky job and with the additional benefit of a huge village team effort the lamp was un-tilted, cleaned and the metalwork painted. Particular thanks go to:

- **Lyn Redding** – contractor
- **David Wilford** - geometrics/leverage consultant/plank handler
- **David Holmes** - refreshment provider/night watchman/joke supplier
- **Val Carpenter** – refreshment provider
- **Peter and Linda Warren** - comfort station facilities providers
- **Peter Wilford** - archivist
- **Andy Blake** - surplus soil remover
- **Rob Davidson** - influencer
- **Rachel Wilford** - water (for concrete) and (yet more) refreshments provider
- **Liz Clarke** - signage



The second photo shows the finished item. Can you spot the difference? (...and it's not the SUV/summer foliage etc).

Tony Price

Stepping Stones

Stepping Stones Pre-school has enjoyed a fantastic academic year despite the limitations due to COVID restrictions. We have welcomed new children, some of whom will be staying with us for two years; enjoyed some lovely activities such as growing butterflies, a visit to Haddon Fields and lots of fun at Forest School making magic wands, toasting marshmallows over a fire, climbing and bug hunting. We finished our term with a trip to Kelmarsh Hall gardens where we did a fairy walk.

In conjunction with Clipston Playing Fields Trust we hosted an afternoon classical concert for children in early July, it was well attended and the children (and grown-ups) enjoyed some engaging and interactive children's music. We would like to extend a huge thanks to the musicians and helpers who put the event together, which raised £570 for our Pre-school. We also achieved our Eco Schools Silver Award and we are actively working to reduce our environmental impact and pass good habits onto our children.

We wish our older children who are due to start school after the holidays all the very best for their new adventures! 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.stepsstonesclipston.co.uk:

Telephone: **01858 525113** or

E-mail:

preschool1@clipston.northants.sch.uk

Royal British Legion

This year marks the centenary of the RBL – formed after the first World War to fight for the rights of those who gave so much. Sadly, it also marks the demise of the Clipston branch which for 52 years has carried out the village Poppy collection, raising around £58,000 throughout that time.

The branch is now too small to carry out wider fundraising activities but this does not mean there will not be a Poppy collection in the village in the future; hopefully the Poppy stall will be on the village green again on Saturday 30th October and there should be a house to house collection. Following that, we will commemorate Remembrance Day on Sunday 14th November at the war memorial, followed by a chapel service.

A huge thank you to our most willing collectors – we will still need you! Every Poppy counts, with contributions making a difference to all those that the RBL supports. So let's make this year's collection a good one and go out with a bang!

Rose Anderson



Canine Partners

Since my last update sadly Todd has been withdrawn from the Canine Partners training programme to become an assistance dog due to health issues. A bright, affectionate and likeable dog, he has now been rehomed with a family in Derby and has settled in well.



The money we raised has now been redirected to cover the aftercare of Petra, a black Labrador-cross-golden-retriever who was puppy-walked in Bedford. Petra has been partnered with Joanna whom many will remember has been to our coffee mornings with Narnia her previous dog who has now retired. Joanna has been in touch to say thank you to everyone for our support. She says Petra has settled well and is working hard to fill those fabulous Narnia paws. Joanna hopes we can all get together in the future to meet Petra.

Printer cartridges/old jewellery & watches/used postage stamps - thank you to everyone who has donated these items. To keep things simple I have put a red box between my recycle bins so you can drop your items in any time - no need to ring - thank you, Jill, 2 Weskers Close.

Friendship club

Hello everyone. Although things seem to be easing a little with regards to the village hall usage, we are delaying restarting a little longer. Your committee will meet soon to discuss the next steps and we will contact you after that meeting.

Jill 525746

CRFT Report September 2021



The Recreation Field continues to be busy; it's great to see so many people using the space for many different outdoor activities!

We had an extremely successful outdoor concert for families with young children organised mainly by the Stepping Stones team; they are excellent to

work with and the whole event ran very smoothly. I'd also like to thank Robert Burnham for his help - without him events like these would not take place. Robert does a lot of other volunteering work and CRFT really appreciate his time with us. A final thank you, with regard to the concerts, is to the musicians. I know he's my brother and all that but for Chris to organise his professional musical friends and all the music is a big job and it's much appreciated! Long may they continue to enjoy their various musical reunions here and elsewhere!

The impact of the popularity of the playing field has meant that we have had to increase the amount of maintenance we need to carry out. We have an annual inspection for RoSPA each year and they had identified the increased wear in the surface of the young children's play area as a concern. We are now working with an excellent playground maintenance company who have installed all the new rubber mulch and the new basket swing.

This is all paid for by you, through the 100 Club and your attendance at our events. Without your contributions we would not be able to run the recreation field as we do. It's probably worth saying again that CRFT is an independent charity, we are not council funded like many other play areas. We appreciate the support from Clipston parish Council but the money that goes to run and improve the area comes from fundraising. If you'd like to join the 100 club please email me andyblake4@hotmail.com or, if you'd like to make a donation, please go to www.gofundme.com and search for Clipston playing fields

Finally, we have the Clipston Trail Half on Sunday 26th September. Details are on the Race Harborough web site. Thank you to the Austins from the Buttercup Meadow camp site for providing a free place to one of the musicians. Thank you for your continuing support.

Andy Blake - Chairman CRFT



Your Village Needs YOU!

As you will know from previous Courier editions, the Tennis Club entered teams into both the Men's and Mixed sections of the East Northants Tennis League. The Men's team have now finished their season and, as you can see from the table, they did not do that well! There are mitigating factors that could be offered up as an excuse:- we have not played competitively for over 16 years and are unused to the "cut and thrust" of playing to win; we were, on average, at least 15 years older than our opponents; the games were far tighter than the score lines suggest with many games going to deuce...but probably the greatest reason for our defeats is that...they were simply better than us!



TC	Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	SF	SA	GF	GA	W	Pts
☐	1	Finedon	8	5	0	3	36	28	290	261	5	36
☐	2	Kettering C	7	4	1	2	36	20	285	226	4	36
☐	3	Earls Barton	5	4	0	1	31	9	221	108	4	31
☐	4	Corby TC B	4	4	0	0	26	6	175	81	4	26
☐	5	Ferrers & Rushden B	5	2	0	3	23	17	171	151	2	23
☐	6	Thrapston B	4	3	0	1	21	11	158	111	3	21
☐	7	Desborough	4	1	1	2	11	21	105	158	1	11
☐	8	Burton Latimer	5	1	0	4	10	30	133	210	1	10
☐	9	Clipston	8	0	0	8	6	58	138	370	0	6

Unfortunately, the early results for the Mixed Team would suggest a similar fate! We have all enjoyed the experience and certainly will be entering teams again next season, but if you play a bit and would want to help change our fortunes then please do step forward! Onward and upward!

Martin Clarke

Clipston WI



The pandemic has still been affecting our planned programme but we continue to meet, mainly outdoors, dependent on the weather; one walk from Foxton to Gumley was cancelled due to heavy rain but completed another day. The Hanging Houghton walk turned into a nature trail (see picture) with various butterflies, house martins and larks "standing on air" being spotted.



Our June visit to Kelmars gardens was blessed with a sunny afternoon – our very own Tracey Spokes told us about all the hard work undertaken to revamp the garden – the walled garden being an absolute picture. We had great fun on a warm July evening dipping into Haddon Fields stream water, with Jules Howard on hand to help identify various small creatures. Steve Carpenter also explained the plan for rewinding the churchyard and pointed out the figure head of queen Victoria on the exterior church wall – next time you're there, see if you can find it. A garden tea party afternoon at Julie Connell's stunning garden, was met with sunshine and showers, though they did not spoil our enjoyment for feeling a bit more "normal" again, and having a good catch up. £60 was raised for the NGS.

We will, at last, have our meeting in September in the village hall when Ian from Ganders Goats will give us an insight into his farming enterprise. They were winners of the Northamptonshire small enterprise business award. We have decided to postpone the trip to Cromford for now – hopefully next year! It is fast approaching our Annual meeting in October when I shall at last be retiring as President and a new committee will take us forward.

Rose Anderson - President

Forest Church

Have you ever experienced Forest Church before? Every 3rd Sunday of the month Naseby Group of Churches runs a Forest Church located at Midshires Covert which is an area of land between Harrington & Kelmars. This is an opportunity for families, children (7+), and young people to come together outdoors and connect with God in creation, sharing faith and friendship. There are games and activities, prayers, and Bible stories around the campfire. So if you have ever thought about faith, or where God can be found in creation, why not come along to this informal fun session which runs from 3-5pm. Please contact Fr. Kris for further details and directions at curate@nasebygroup.org

We look forward to welcoming you!

FOREST CHURCH

Welcoming children (7+) and families from across the Benefice



3pm Sunday 20th June (Then monthly on the 3rd Sunday) at our site close to Harrington.

New topics and challenges every week
Games/quizzes with prizes
Story and snacks around the campfire

God – Creation – Faith – Friendship



www.nasebygroup.org
Contact Fr. Kris for further details: curate@nasebygroup.org

Clipston Festival - All you need to know

Saturday 4 September, 3-10pm, Clipston Playing Field

Wrap up warm!
Remember it is September so be sure to bring warm clothes for the evening entertainment.



Food & Drink

3 - 10pm	Cash Bar, Beer, wine, prosecco bar run by the Tennis Club
3 - 6pm	Teas, cakes and ice creams run by Stepping Stones Pre-School
4.45 - 6.15pm	Children's hotdogs served
4.45 - 9.30pm	South African inspired food from Darrell of Cape Lekker

Afternoon events on stage 3pm-5.30pm

(rough timings)

2.50 - 3.20pm	Music from the Clipston Folk Band
3.20 - 3.30pm	Covid Quilt presentation (then available to see in the gazebo)
3.30 - 4.00pm	Line dancing hosted by fitness instructor Teresa Osborn (come and join in!)
4.00 - 4.35pm	Jazz and swing favourites from Clipston jazz group, Ragged Enz
4.40 - 5.00pm	Clipston Amateur Dramatics Society performance of a comedy radio sketch by Tony Hancock & Kenneth Williams "The Test Pilot"
5.00 - 5.20pm	Raffle winners and other prizes

Stalls & Activities 3-5pm

- **Games & Activities** including Splat the Rat, Bowls, Wellie Wanging, Face Painting, Hair Braiding, Mini trampolines with Danni Smith
- **Stalls** including Raffle, Massive Tombola, Water or Wine, Haddon Fields, Honey from Claire Rogers, Canine Partners, RSPCA Brixworth
- **Bouncy Castle**
- **Guilsborough Fire Engine**
- **Covid Quilt** on display
- **Cake competition** run by the WI (see below for more details)
- **Scavenger hunt** for younger children
- **Quiz** with 'happiness is' and 'cakes' theme

Evening Music 5.30pm - 10pm

- **Festival Singers** - popular songs and crowd singalong
- **Dr Sparkles and his Clipettes** - show tunes and classic songs from four talented local ladies
- **Parasite** - support this up-and-coming rock band of local 16-year-olds at their first gig!
- **Acoustic Mix** - selection of songs and tunes from various local singers
- **Hub Cap** - classic blues and rock duo
- **Kelmarsh Choir** - singing mashups of popular songs with kazoos
- **Clipston All Stars** - rock, pop and dance mix featuring nine singers to end the festival

The Great Clipston Bake Off

Enter the cake competition or come along for tastings on the day and vote for the winners!



How to enter

Bake a cake (or a minimum of 6 cupcakes) inspired by the theme 'Happiness is...' and bring it along to the WI stand by 3pm on the day of the festival. There will be three classes - Under 11, Under 18 and Adults. Please note, your cake will be partly cut up for tastings and any left-over will be given to the tea and cake stand.

How to vote

Visit the WI cake stall on the day and pay 50p to sample our delicious entries. You can then vote for your favourite and the winners will be announced on the main stage around 5pm.

Farming September 2021

With so much changing with regard to how society views the British countryside I thought I'd try to write about some of the factors uppermost in many people's minds.

British farms have drastically reduced in number and increased in size. Anyone who's been to many parts of the South West and other parts of the UK on holiday will see that the farms that used to be family businesses and a way of life are now converted to holiday accommodation. The farms that remain have had to get bigger to get the economies of scale, to reduce their costs, so that they can compete in the world market for producing food.

When I began working on farms in the 1970s a tractor was about the same size as the four-wheel drive vehicles we now see driving around our lanes. The wheelbase of this Fordson is just over 2 metres.



Farm vehicles are now fantastic bits of very high-tech kit specialising in the field tasks they are designed for, covering much more ground in a day and being far more precise than in the past, resulting in less waste and reducing potential adverse environmental effects. Everything is now fully computerised and much of the field work is GPS controlled. Not only that but now these vehicles even have air conditioning – we simply had to adjust our temperature with clothes!

While the actual details of the new trade deal that the UK government have made with the Australian government are still not published, there's likely to be an impact on UK farmers.

One example is that Australia has a massive beef industry with larger farms than in the UK and with production methods not approved of for UK food production, including the use of growth hormones. This could mean that Australian beef could be cheaper than ours as they have lower production costs. This will put greater pressure on smaller UK beef producers and may drive more out of business. This same concern is felt by sheep farmers here.

No doubt the detail of the agreement will eventually make things clearer but one thing we could all do to help British farmers, irrespective of any trade deal, is to not buy Australian produced meat that's travelled half-way around the world!

Andy Blake



All Saints Church

Now that most of the COVID restrictions have been lifted, we are able to be more proactive in activities within the Church. That is not to say that there has been nothing going in here during the lockdowns; even over recent months we have had the magnificent concert with Chris Blake and friends and, of course, the fantastic COVID quilts which are now housed in the Orbell room. If you haven't seen these, make a point of visiting - they are really special and will remind us in years to come of what was hopefully a unique time. As most people know, we managed to run online services all through the pandemic as well as provide some actual services in the church when rules allowed. This has given us the chance to plan for a new service schedule including Zoom services (details of which are, for the time being, as below):

The Orbell café which had to stop at the first lockdown has continued to run on Zoom every week and has provided a useful lifeline for information and to have a natter!

We have applied for a grant to enable us to buy a set of bistro tables and chairs to improve the

flexibility and atmosphere at the café when we re-open in September. The Reverend Miranda and Father Kris have run a reality version of the café at the village hall recently when the mobile shop is there on Wednesdays.

The last edition of the Courier reported on the problems we have with the spire and especially the weathervane. Things have moved on and we have been fortunate to receive a generous donation from a supporter of the church which will enable us to do the work as soon as the Diocese give us planning permission. There is also excellent news about the planned wildlife area in the churchyard as mentioned in the last issue. The Diocese have approved our plans but without the inclusion of a water feature which we were very keen to include. However it does mean that we will be able to install the benches and grassland management as proposed. We will now be looking to set up a management group to make sure that anyone from the village who would like to be involved with the project is able to do so.

And finally, we are planning to set up a group of people to plan and manage fund raising and works to the fabric of the church. We are looking for people who are interested in seeing our beautiful grade 1 listed building kept in good condition and would be prepared to meet a few times a year to plan fund raising and determine how funds might best be used. You don't have to be an active church member but have skills in fund raising, architecture, building, planning etc. Please contact me on **525120** if you think you might be interested.

Steve Carpenter



Image © Matt Edwards

Date	Time	Where	Service
1st Sunday of the month	10:00 am	All Saints Clipston	A hybrid service of Holy Communion (that is to say that there will be a congregation and at the same time it will also be live on Zoom for anyone not wishing or not able to be there in person).
2nd Sunday of the month	11:00 am	All Saints Clipston	A service of the Word
3rd Sunday of the month	10:00 am	St Mary the Virgin, Welford	A hybrid service
4th Sunday of the month	11:00 am	All Saints Clipston	A varying style of All Age service
5th Sunday of the month	(when applicable)		A rotating location Benefice - service of Holy Communion

Christmas Celebrations



It's that time again when we put a plea out for anyone willing to assist with the planning of the Christmas Fayre and 'Tree on the Green'. If you're able to volunteer to help either in the preparations or on the day please let us know!

An overview of what's happening:

When?

Saturday December 4th in the afternoon (exact time tbc)

What?

Gift and craft stalls; Father Christmas; mulled wine and mince pies

Any help no matter how small will be greatly appreciated.

Emma Plowman (Chairperson)

emmaluisaplowman@gmail.com

News from Clipston Primary School

As the school year came to the end of what has been "quite a ride", we were very fortunate to remain relatively unscathed by the rising Covid infection rate and were relieved that there were no Bubble closures this term, and that the usual rites of passage, particularly our Year 6 Leavers, were able to go ahead, although not in quite the usual way.

Our youngest children celebrated the end of their first year at school with a special ceremony to present them with all their school photographs from their Reception Year. The Year 6 Leavers' Service was again a "virtual" event. Each pupil recorded special memories of their time at Clipston School and the whole school sang the Leavers' Song. It is lovely to know that being at Clipston School gives children life-long, happy memories – one pupil even voiced thanks to their parents for choosing to send them to Clipston Primary! Trophies were awarded to Auden for English, Henry for Maths, Bella for Effort & Perseverance and Freya for Sportsmanship. During their last Assembly, Year 6 were shown a book presented for Arithmetic to Mary Henderson when she left Clipston Grammar School in 1939 and they were fascinated to see that it was signed the then Head Master, Earnest Halestrap, after whom one of our School Houses is named. Year 6 were also presented with their Leavers' Bibles, with a Blessing offered by Rev. Miranda, and afterwards they celebrated with cake and chocolate treats.



We were saddened to hear the news that Irene Allen died recently. Irene worked as a Teaching Assistant alongside me in the Reception Class for over ten years and after she retired, she became one of our Sewing Volunteers for several years. Many, many children in the Infants will have worn at least one of the Nativity Costumes she made, some of which are still in use.

Irene will always be part of Clipston School's rich history and we send our condolences to her family.

Clipston Primary School (cont.)

There have been many highlights this term. All the children thoroughly enjoyed our Sports Days. The Infant Sports was won by Coles House with 741 points. Junior Sports was won by Buswell House with 439 points and the overall winners with 1173 points was Buswell House (Halestrap 991, Isham 959, Coles 971). Kingfisher Class thoroughly enjoyed a trip to Haddon Fields supported by Mr Woodgate from "Friends of Haddon Fields" and Jules Howard, who arranged a very exciting session of "stream dipping". The children were thrilled to learn about the stream - which is teeming with wildlife - and a lovely afternoon was had by all.



In July, we were delighted to welcome back Mrs Judd, whose mother wrote and published her own poetry. Mrs Judd was thrilled to watch each class recite the poem they have learnt this year. The poetry runners up were William, Tommy, Ethan, Cissy, Annabel, Elwood and Imogen, and the Poetry Cup was awarded to Scarlett in Year 5 for her poignant poem entitled "I Will Try".



Irene Christina Allen 10.07.1940 - 2.07.2021

It seems fitting that I should write a few words about Irene, a dear friend and neighbour, who lived and took an active part in Clipston village life for 35 years.

Irene, her husband, Stan, and 2 boys came to Clipston from Tysoe, Warks, when the houses in Chestnut Grove were new. She was a very practical person, actually liking woodwork and was an excellent sewer, knitter and baker. As well as running the home Irene used her skills at Clipston school, assisting Emma Mercer in the reception class where, as Emma says she, "anticipated what needed to be done and intuitively was on it" before Emma said a word.

After retirement she led the Wednesday sewing sessions; her reconditioning of props and costumes was legendary and long-lasting, proven by the fact they're still in use to this day! She took delight and interest in seeing all the children grow and develop, especially of course her own 3 grandsons, who still talk of their visits to see Nanny in Clipston. She even found time to belong to the WI, Flower Club and help Linda Lake with the admin and costumes for her keep-fit classes. Irene was a good listener – she offered wise advice if asked and great support and understanding when needed. Stoical in the face of personal tragedy, after losing her son Chris, and uncomplaining as her eyesight began to fail. At the end of 2015, in order to maintain her independence, Irene moved back to Tysoe - a village with more amenities.

An all-round "good egg" who enriched the lives of all who knew her, Irene's favourite poem was "Leisure" by the Welsh poet, W H Davies –

"What is life, if full of care, we have no time to stand and stare..."

Let us take a leaf out of Irene's book to appreciate the beauty around us and take time to remember those that pass through it.

Rest in Peace, Irene.

Rose Anderson.



Irene Allen

The Lilies of the Field - SEW

I know that older people, of whom I am one, often seem to go on about 'the good old days'. Of course they were not all good, but for much of our wildlife they were conspicuously better. So much so that earlier this year a parliamentary committee published a report for the Government with the title 'Biodiversity: Bloom or Bust': in other words nature must be allowed to flourish again or it will collapse. What does this mean for Clipston? What used to be better?

The report describes what has been lost: the numbers of wildflower meadows, ponds, insects, birds and animals and what could happen if we ignore what is taking place. There used to be flocks of lapwings on the playing field; there were far more swallows and swifts visiting in the summer; our car windscreens and number plates used to be covered in dead insects, and some of the stretches of verges even had cowslips in the spring. These examples are obviously connected; without so many varied flowers we have fewer insects, many of which we rely on to pollinate our crops. And without enough insects to feed on: fewer birds. Recent research has shown that arable fields with beetle banks and edged with

wildflowers are threatened by pesticides. Even allowing wildflowers to grow in pastures with cattle - traditional meadows in fact - can benefit the health of the animals (BBC 'Farming Today', 24th July). And we know that without insects the food chain cycle will break down, as it has in parts of China, where some of the fruit and almond trees already have to be pollinated by hand.



Considering all this, what can Clipston do to help the situation? Could you allow even a small patch of garden (if you have one) to grow a few 'weeds', or some long grass? We don't like nettles much, but some butterflies rely on them to lay their eggs. Butterflies like thistle flowers too, and goldfinches love the seeds. I'm not suggesting a wilderness, but patches for the creatures which help sustain us, and in the case of butterflies - who are such a pleasure to watch in the summer - these areas are essential. More obviously, must we mow down all the verges? Where tall grasses and flowers affect visibility, safety must come first, but there are some verges where this is not an issue. Cow Parsley (Queen Anne's lace), Meadowsweet, Red Campion - these all grow along our verges in summer and are



Images © Jim Mcinulty

The Lilies of the Field - (cont.)

surely attractive enough to be in any herbaceous border. Even the humble dandelion feeds the bees early in the season. While we take this plant for granted Singaporeans are now desperate to collect its seeds and grow it for its bright yellow flowers and the vitamin content of the leaves. And there is good news for all these wildflowers, and for less tidy gardeners: The Royal Horticultural Society has awarded a gold medal to a garden full of 'weeds' at the Tatton Park Flower Show in Cheshire! The garden is called 'Weed Thriller' and was created by someone who wished to celebrate the beauty of our native wildflowers and weeds.



For well over a year now things have been difficult and unhappy for many people, due to Covid restrictions. In Clipston we appreciate how lucky we are to live in a village surrounded by fields, and to have the kindness of friends and neighbours who offered help, or a socially distanced chat and a smile. All over the country communities are creating memorials for those who have died in the pandemic. Clipston now has it's beautiful quilt, London a wall of hearts, and so on.

It was decided to hold a memorial on the second anniversary of the ending of First World War, the focus of which would be an empty tomb, a so-called Cenotaph in Whitehall. This was duly designed, and, like a stage set, was made of wood and plaster

so that it could be made and destroyed quickly after the ceremony. But so many people came to lay flowers, letters and messages to their departed loved ones that it was agreed to remake the monument in stone. Not everyone could go to London, and so villages have set up their own stone memorials to remember their losses. The thing uniting the whole country on Armistice Day is the small red poppy which



flourished on the battlefields in France, despite the destruction. These poppies are natural signs of hope and regeneration.

Could Clipston remember the months of the pandemic with other kinds of flowers: not paper or plastic poppies, but living stretches of verge and patches in Churchyards and gardens, which will change with the seasons but which will also make sure that there is a healthy future for our wildlife, and therefore for future generations of humanity?

This piece is called 'The Lilies of the Field', not because it's a phrase used in the Bible, but because I think it's the best way to describe our wildflowers and some of our 'weeds' as natural friends and essential sustainable resources.

If we think of them like this we can hope, amid the environmental gloom, that the future will be kinder to them, and to us.

Sue Wragg



Neighbourhood Development Plan

In the last edition of the Courier we reported that the comments from the public on the latest form of the Neighbourhood Plan had been uploaded onto the West Northamptonshire Council's website, and that an independent Examiner was to be appointed to finally approve or otherwise the form of the plan, before its submission to the Clipston Parish residents for the yes/no referendum.

The independent examiner (agreed between the West Northamptonshire Council ("WNC") and the Parish Council) has been appointed. The examiner is considering all of the plan documentation and the majority of his report has been completed. Inevitably the examiner has raised queries which have been answered and these queries and the Parish Council's answers will be uploaded onto the WNC website.

The independent examiner may well propose amendments to the Plan. Any such amendments will be available for viewing on the WNC website. Following the conclusion of the Examiner's report and WNC formally approving the plan, a referendum will take place at the village hall, Clipston for the Clipston Parish residents to vote either for or against the adoption of the plan. The referendum process will be managed by WNC and appropriate advertising and notification will be given publicising the referendum process.

NDP Advisory Committee



Clipston Village Hall

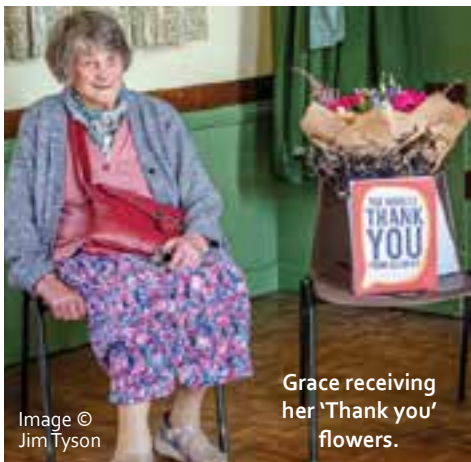
Committee News

The village hall committee held their AGM on the 7th July and were very pleased to welcome three new trustees – Amanda Wilford, Valerie Carpenter and Toby Alderson-Smith. Helen Bellamy stepped down as a trustee but has continued to serve as Treasurer and we are immensely grateful to her for that and all she has done over the last two years. Liz Mirams has agreed to join us as our new Treasurer and we are delighted to have all these new committee members on board. Grace Burnham decided to stand down from her role as Bookings Secretary and after almost 50 years of service to the village hall we think she deserves a well-earned rest but we are grateful that she will continue to offer her experience and counsel as a trustee.

Other news

Since reopening in May we've aimed to offer a range of activities to encourage people back to the hall and we successfully applied for grants from KWCB and Sport England to help get those activities off the ground. We've been holding weekly cafes on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and fitness classes on Mondays and Thursdays. The very popular mobile shops continue to visit on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. If there is an activity you would like to see on offer at the hall please get in touch. We have a few volunteers for our Saturday morning cafes (see details in 'what's on – dates for your diary' section...) but still need more – if you could help on one or two Saturdays per year, please get in touch. Prevailing government restrictions and guidance allowing, the hall is available for hire for private parties and events. For the latest information, please visit our webpage www.clipston.org/clipston-village-hall and/or direct all booking enquiries to **Faye Tan (01858 525275 / 07725 427311 / faye@oldrectory.uk.net)**.

Faye Tan



Grace receiving her 'Thank you' flowers.

Image © Jim Tyson

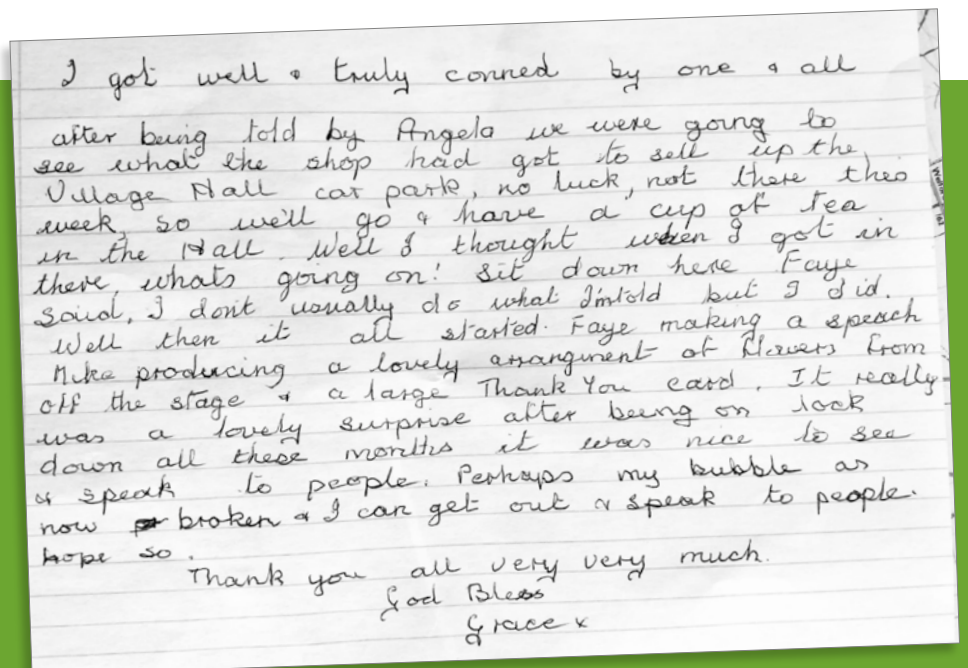
Grace Burnham's name is synonymous with Clipston village hall. She has been central to the running and management of the hall since its inception. Even before the building became a community hall she was cooking meals there for the school!

Her commitment has been tireless, running fund-raising jumble sales, bingo and whist drives, keeping the hall clean and tidy, and, of course, overseeing all the bookings using her trusty wall calendar.

Onwards and upwards!

The Village Hall will be celebrating its 50th anniversary next year! Built in 1862 it was originally a Church of England Girls' and Infant School, before becoming the Church Hall in 1928. It was then purchased by the village in 1972 as a village amenity and officially opened in May 1973 by the High Sheriff of Northamptonshire. The building and car park have since seen a number of improvements, thanks to the work of successive management committees and fundraising support from villagers.

Now, almost 50 years on, it is time for a full refurbishment to improve the facilities and activities on offer. At the Open Day in January 2020, the village showed its support and voted overwhelmingly to retain the existing site and building with a view to complete modernisation. Suggestions were made about the size and flexibility of the space and ways to lower its environmental impact. Since then, the committee have been working on two alternative plans for re-development: one to extend into the courtyard at the rear and another to keep the existing footprint. The Covid-19 pandemic stalled any further progress but will help to shape details of the specification. It is hoped it won't be too long before those designs can be shared at another village Open Day, when comments and suggestions will again be welcomed. The aim is that by the time the 50th anniversary rolls around in 2022, the plan will be fixed such that it can continue to serve as a hub for community activity for many more years to come.



She and her family were even fund-raising to buy the building for the community in the first place – it really is in her blood!

With countless years involvement with the building, as a church hall and, latterly, as a village hall, stepping down as Bookings Secretary was not an easy decision. During all that time she has, of course, accumulated countless memories – far too many to mention here. We really hope those memories can be documented in some way, not only as a village record, but as a tribute to all she has done.

What's On – weekly activities at the village hall from September:

Weekly activities at the village hall from September:

Mondays: 9.30-10.15am 10.45-11.30	Dance Fitness, Strong and Steady with Teresa
Tuesdays: 9-11am	Playgroup (if you would like to be added to the WhatsApp group please send a message to 07788 298015)
Wednesdays: 8.30am-12.30pm	Back-to-Basics mobile shop
Thursdays: 9-10am 10.15-11am 1.30pm 6.15-7.15pm!	FLOW pilates and yoga with Danni Farrell's Fish mobile shop Whist Drive (alternate Thursdays from 9th September) Swing, Latin & Ballroom Social Dance with Teresa (starting September)
Fridays: 9.30-10.15am 10.45-11.30	Dance Fitness, Strong and Steady with Teresa

Call Teresa
07931 183 832

It's time to feel good again!

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Mondays & Fridays (NEW!)
 9:30 - 10:15 Dance Fitness
 10:45 - 11:30 Strong & Steady
 Complimentary Tea & Coffee

CLIPSTON VILLAGE HALL
 Register at HAPPYDAYSFITNESS.CO.UK

Laugh Out Loud Theatre presents

TREASURE ISLAND

A swashbuckling traditional family pantomime

CLIPSTON VILLAGE HALL,
 SUNDAY 5TH DECEMBER, 2PM AND 5PM
 ALL SEATS £8
 TICKETS SOLD IN AID OF
 VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT
 AND AVAILABLE FROM FAYE TAN:
 01858 525275 - 07725 427311
 FAYE@OLDIRECTORY.UK.NET

CADS presents

A Murder Mystery Evening

Saturday, 27th November
 Clipston Village Hall

Travel back to the 1920s! The Balderdash family have arrived at a seaside hotel for a welcome break, but find more than they bargained for...

Join us for a fun evening of entertainment and sleuthing!

Tickets: £10.00 (payable in advance) to include a 2-course meal (inc. veg. option) available from Liz Clarke (lizandmartin@talktalk.net or 01858 525558)
 Arrive 7 pm for 7.30 pm start.

♦ Bar ♦ Clipston Jazz Band

Numbers limited.

What's On – dates for your diary:

Saturday 2nd October and Saturday 18th December 10am-12noon:	Café & Mini Market (for food, drink, home and gift) featuring Back-to-Basics, Wren and Moss and other local businesses. Join us for a morning of socialising and shopping!
Saturday 27th November 7-30pm:	C.A.D.S. Murder Mystery evening
Sunday 5th December at 2pm and 5pm:	Panto fun for all the family with 'Treasure Island' from Laugh out Loud Theatre



Friends Of Haddon Fields

Welcome to Haddon Fields!

I hope that you have enjoyed our summer and have been able to make the most of the wonderful resource on our doorstep.

It is particularly encouraging that pupils from the school and Stepping Stones have been able to visit Haddon Fields recently to conduct their 'nature study' classes in the open air! We hope that this is the start of more regular visits by both in the years to come and no doubt they will benefit by using the Field Centre for studying wildlife in more depth. To enhance their understanding of the natural world the whole school took part in class projects to make models or artwork on the theme of 'wildlife'.

Please note that our annual Open Day will be held on Sunday 12th September. After having to skip last year because of Covid, we are especially looking forward to welcoming you. The winners and runners up of the wildlife projects will be on display during the afternoon. We will also be holding a short opening ceremony of the Field Centre in addition to holding the normal wildlife exploration activities led by Jules Howard.

Please see the promotion advert right for details.



FRIENDS of HADDON FIELDS

Open Day at HADDON FIELDS



Sunday 12th September 2021 [2-5pm]

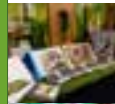


Opening of the **Field Centre**

Activities for all...led by **Jules Howard**

Hunt for Water life, Bugs & Fossils....

And also....



Display of entries into the school 'wildlife' project.



Support the maintenance of Haddon Fields and the development of our new wildlife habitat area around the Field Centre;



❖ Buy Haddon Fields notelet cards

❖ Buy Haddon Fields Coasters, Tree tags

❖ Become a 'Friend of Haddon Fields'

and receive a membership card & free Key ring



Bring along a picnic and enjoy Haddon Fields!

Contact Stephen Woodgate (525566) for more details

Please also take the opportunity to renew your membership and receive a wooden crafted Friends of Haddon Fields key ring. Other items will also be available for sale on the day, so please help us by buying one or more items from our range of unique items, including greetings cards featuring artwork by local artist Janet Alderson-Smith, and wooden craft items produced by Mick Higgins.

The Friends of Haddon Fields will have a display at the village festival on the 4th September so please drop by and talk to some of the Friends about how you can get involved in the maintenance and further development of Haddon Fields.

Stephen Woodgate 525566

CLIPSTON BUSINESS DIRECTORY

ACCOMMODATION

Naseby Old Post House - B&B & Holiday Let
Leah & Nigel Gardner
01604 740 985 / 07850 624 128
oldposthouse56@btinternet.com
www.theoldposthousenaseby.co.uk

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Contra Accounting Ltd
Accountancy and Taxation Services
www.contra-accounting.co.uk
Chris Partridge 01858 414210 / 07912 058 431
chris@contra-accounting.co.uk

Grange Accounting
Alun Davies Chartered Accountant
tel: 01858 437 430
www.grangeaccounting.co.uk

ARCHITECTS/PLANNING

JWA Architects
apm@jwa-architects.co.uk
Andy Morris 01858 525 343

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Sjaneaustin@outlook.com

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bethwakefield41@gmail.com

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Advertise your business here for just £20 a year!

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

New customers or clients may be right on your doorstep!

Contact Julia Blake 07880 700 699 or email clipston.org@gmail.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)

A friendly group who enjoy putting on productions or supporting events on an 'as and when' basis! New members always welcome for both acting and supporting roles.

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

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, 1.30pm at the village hall. Come and join us.

Grace Burnham 01858 525327

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

Faye Tan 01858 525275 / 07725 427311

faye@oldrectory.uk.net

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

Clipston Consolidated Charities

Colin Morley 01858 525337

Clipston School Charity

Peter Goodchild 01858 525532

Kelmarsh Wind Farm

Community Benefit

clipston@kwcb.co.uk

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