

Snow on Chapel Lane
Winter 2021

Clipston Courier

Your Village Newsletter

December 2022

Welcome

Can you believe it's nearly Christmas already? 2022 seems to have whizzed by. As we approach the festive season, this issue of the Courier brings you all the Christmas events going on around the village, from carol singing and Christmas services to a good old community knees up at the Bull's Head. So get the dates in your diary! In other news, it's a double whammy for Grace Burnham as we celebrate her 90th birthday AND her 76th anniversary of being a member of the Clipston WI (yes, really). We also say thank you and wave goodbye to Reverend Miranda who moved on to pastures new at the end of October. We wish each and every one of you a very very Merry Christmas and may 2023 bring good things for us all.



Liz Clarke & Liz Davies
Editors of this edition



The Courier Editorial Team takes it in turns to edit each issue. **Copy deadline for next issue is 2 February 2023**

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Scan this QR code with your phone camera to get onto the village website

Merry Christmas Clipston!



Well folks, we're making up for lost time this Christmas as the calendar of celebrations seems bigger than ever before!

Back with a bang, the **Christmas Fayre** returns to kick things off on Saturday 3rd December – this year held in the Bulls Head car park. Starting at 3pm, it's followed by live music in the evening for the adults to continue the party! Other highlights include a **Celebration of Christmas** at the church on 11 December, and **Christmas music, marshmallows and mulled wine** at Haddon Fields from 3-5pm on Saturday 17 Dec (see p7).

Here's the complete list so you don't miss anything! Have a wonderful time!

Saturday 3 December

Clipston Christmas Fayre (p5)
Bulls Head Car Park 3-6pm

Sunday 4 December

The York Waits Concert (p10)
All Saints Church 2.30pm
Christmas tree lighting on The Green
The Green, 5pm

Sunday 11 December

A Celebration of Christmas (p8)
All Saints Church, 5.30pm

Saturday 17 December

Winter in Haddon Fields (p7)
Haddon Fields (Field Centre) 3-6pm

Tuesday 20 December

Chapel Carol Service
Baptist Chapel, 7pm

Weds 21 December

WI Carol Singing round the village
Everyone welcome
Meet on The Green 6pm

Christmas Eve

Church Crib Service
All Saint's Church, 4pm
Carols at the pub
The Bulls Head from 5pm

Christmas Day

Church Festive Service
All Saint's Church, 11am

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

Clipston Village Hall



Redevelopment update

Following our open day in March, where the village showed its support for the refurbishment proposals, the village hall committee and Parish Council approved the proposals and gave the go ahead to seek planning permission and funding for the project.

Early conversations with the planning department highlighted the need for a bat survey and the first survey found some evidence of bat activity so that necessitated a second, emergence survey. Drawings and plans were submitted in July but in August we hit a stumbling block when the second survey found evidence of roosting bats in the main building. The next surveys, to determine the type of roost and whether a licence can be issued, cannot start until May (due to the hibernation period) and it will be mid-end July before a licence is issued to allow any works related to the main roof to go ahead. We have had to temporarily remove the solar panels on the main roof from the planning application to allow the rest of the application to move ahead and we expect to receive the planning department's decision by the end of November.

All this has hindered the application for grants (most of which won't consider an application until planning permission is secured) so the whole refurbishment will be delayed and won't be starting in early 2023 as we had hoped. Hopefully by the next edition we will have a new plan of attack and a new timetable (but that will remain subject to subsequent bat developments!). In the meantime, the hall will remain open and available for use.

There is still plenty of work to do re-cutting the timeline, developing the heating and lighting specifications, running tenders and seeking grant funding - if you feel able to help with this in any way, please get in touch.

Faye Tan

Jumble Sale

Thank you to everyone who helped to run and/or support the September jumble sale – this raised a fantastic £300.

The hall is also available for private hire for meetings, parties and events – please contact Faye 525275 faye@oldrectory.uk.net

VILLAGE HALL WEEKLY PROGRAMME

DAY	WHAT'S ON
MON	9.30-11.30am - Dance Fitness followed by Strong and Steady Tai Chi
TUES	9.15-11.15am – Playgroup for babies and pre-schoolers with their grown ups
WEDS	9.15-10.15am – Pilates
THURS	9.30-10.45am - Rita the refill and Farrells fish van 1.30-3.30pm (alternate weeks) – Whist Drive 7-9pm - Ballroom and Latin Dancing
FRI	
SAT	9-11am - Children's dance school
SUN	Children's screen school

For more information please see posters at the bottom of the village hall driveway.
For enquires or bookings, call Faye on 525275

Village Hall Car Park THURSDAYS 9.30-10.45am



Rita the Refill Roadster

Refill your dry foods, body care, cleaning products, kitchen items, spices and more - all plastic-free!

www.refillrevolution.co.uk
Rita@refillrevolution.co.uk

Grace's amazing milestones!



Grace Burnham had very good reason to celebrate back in October, when she not only turned 90, but also marked an impressive 76th year as a member of the Clipston WI.

Her fellow WI members threw a birthday party for her at the village hall, where they toasted their longest-standing member along with daughter Angela (who has recently turned 70 and has clocked up 54 years as a WI member herself!).

Linda Warren made a delicious birthday cake for Grace, with candelabra candles, and Andrew Carpenter took photographs for the *Harborough Mail*. President, Julia Blake presented certificates to both Grace and Angela to mark 130 years of WI between them, and Liz Mirams presented Grace with a fantastic wooden bird feeder, made by Mick (whose daughter Helen runs the Bulls Head). Grace received a signed card from the WI complete with huge birthday badge, which she wore with pride.

All in all a very fine celebration for a very fine lady.

An incredible WI family tradition

Grace and her daughter Angela follow in the footsteps of Grace's mother Doris Woodhouse, who was a staunch member of Clipston WI for 69 years. She became a junior member at 12 in 1918 when Clipston's WI first began. Grace joined at 14 in 1946, and Angela at 16 in 1968. The three generations of women represent a year short of 200 years in their combined WI membership.



Remembering Rose

After the sad death of Rose Anderson this summer, Val Carpenter pays tribute to her friend, who contributed so much to Clipston village life.

My friendship with Rose began in 1982 when I found myself working as part of her team at Northampton Jobcentre. She took up a range of team leader and office manager roles over the years. Latterly, when she needed the flexibility of part time employment, she went to work as an NVQ assessor with Tresham college, where she was highly regarded.

Our friendship deepened after we had both moved to Clipston in the 1980s. In those early days she and I took up yoga and it is a sign of her diligence and love of exercise, that she was still taking part well into this year! Rose also enjoyed other activities including badminton, dance exercise, and was even known to go wild water swimming!

Despite her sometimes 'reserved' demeanour, Rose was an early member of CADS performing in several of our plays ranging from slightly silly to completely raucous! If, on occasion, she didn't have an acting part, she would happily support the production in other ways.

Always a good team player, Rose was also a capable leader and nowhere were her leadership qualities more in evidence, than in her Presidency of the Clipston Women's Institute – a role she held for 18 years only retiring last year. It was a daunting task but Rose made it



Rose Anderson, who died in August

look easy. She listened to people's views, found new and varied things to do and made best use of the skills she found amongst members.

It was, perhaps, when the time came to relinquish the Presidency role that she showed some of her greatest qualities. Having reached a stage in her life (and after Laurie's death) when she felt the need to pursue some new interests, she didn't 'just retire' as most people would have done. Her sense of duty wouldn't allow her to stand down until she was confident that the WI she had cherished for so long would remain in safe hands,

and this took nearly 2 years to achieve!

Rose was a great contributor to village life. She was a member of All Saints church and sang in the choir. She supported the Royal British Legion fundraising and village events - either by going to them or by helping to run them. She would bake cakes, serve teas, organise a major event or serve at the village jumble sale.

Rose's life was not always plain sailing, but her response to challenges was always to 'do the right thing' even if was not 'the easy thing'. She was loyal and compassionate - always acting with dignity and integrity. Even when life was difficult, she never wore it on her face or complained. She would just greet you with a cheery smile and say something like, "so what have you been up to then?" and be genuinely interested in your reply.

4 years ago she forged a wonderful new relationship with Roy – a local man from Sibbertoft she had known for some time. They were so happy in each other's company and, during their time together, their lives became a joint adventure.

We will all miss Rose in our many and different ways, but she will remain in our hearts and be an important part of the collective memory of this community that she loved so very much.

Val Carpenter

Tennis Club

The Tennis Club is now in "hibernation" for the winter and looking forward to the clocks changing again in the spring so that we can resume our serving, volleying, rallying, double-faulting etc..

The annual tournament was won, for the second year running, by an "outsider" from London! Tom Forgione, the brother of Jack (who is a member) took the Men's trophy but at least the Ladies trophy stayed in the village, being shared between Rosemary Tyson and Maggie Oldershaw. The Men's Team finished bottom (for the 2nd year running!) of the East Northants League, Division 2.....but once again there were mitigating circumstances and results did not mirror the performances. Hopefully next year we will actually win a match!

Remember, if you are interested in playing socially or competitively you will be most welcome.....just contact me on 01858 525558.

Martin Clarke



Christmas Fayre

Saturday 3rd December 3-6pm
The Bulls Head Car Park

Food & drinks, the famous hamper raffle, craft & gift stalls, a free mince pie & mulled wine, fruit drink & fairy cake for the children. Steve & Helen will be serving food from the Very Festive Food Shack with Christmas pizzas & Bratwurst. Santa will be in residence giving out a free gift for the young children in his grotto. Come along and enjoy the festive music and atmosphere during the afternoon followed by a live band (Empire) for the adults in the evening. FANCY DRESS ENCOURAGED!!!! Prizes will be awarded by Steve & Helen. . . . Let's kick Christmas off with a BIG cheer **Mishe Rengger**



Clipston WI

There has certainly been a lot of fun, celebration and support of our vibrant Clipston community at the WI these past few months.

Cakes galore it seemed at the Village Festival and the Clipston Trail run in September. Where would the village be without us!...Maybe a tad thinner! But seriously we are delighted to be able to support the village and community activities in this way and help raise the funds to support the many and varied facets of this special village. Cakes were also made for the Cynthia Spencer hospice in Northampton in August.

Also, in August we had a BBQ on the playing field. It was a glorious dry sunny evening with music provided by the Folk group practising in the background. We toasted our much-missed long-time president and friend Rose Anderson, laughed together and some were even converted to vegetarian Haggis!

In the past few months we've been learning a lot together. July we learned about the charity Teamwork Trust in Wellingborough and their work with autistic adults and on "National Fitness Day" in September Roz Strachan gave an interesting and very useful talk on how to promote Musculoskeletal health. We are now integrating the 5 minute 'YMCA' stretches into our everyday lives and our shoulders and backs are much appreciating this.

Our September social was a trip to Deene Park house and gardens, we even had a chat to the owner!



Deene Park House & Gardens,
our social trip in September

In October before our Annual Meeting, we celebrated the 90th Birthday of our amazing longest standing member (see page 3). Grace Burnham has been a member since she was 14 years old and has many stories to tell of events over the years.

Dates for your diary

December Wednesday 21, 6pm Meet on the Green "Carol singing around the village" in aid of Ovarian Cancer. Please join us or look out for us on the night!

January 25, 7.30pm Village Hall "Conservation of National Trust Libraries" Open meeting for everyone, including men. If you're interested in books look no further! Caroline Jackson nee Bendix, (from Sibbertoft) is a freelance

library conservator with 37 years' experience of working for major national conservation bodies will be talking about the "Conservation of National Trust Libraries"

A reviewer says "Caroline gave a very enthusiastic and dynamic lecture on the conservation of the National Trust (NT) libraries. She certainly brought it to life with her first-hand experience and clear passion for her work. It was a really interesting talk and will make you look at NT libraries in a different light."

February 22, 7.30pm Village Hall Colin Cohen will talk on "Oranges and Lemons a tour of London from your chair". The history and architecture of churches in the nursery rhyme.

Guests are welcome for £5 to both these meetings. Ladies, join CWI on the night and get this refunded!

We also have social events: In January, a morning **tour around Market Harborough theatre** by actress and director Liz Clarke and in February we're playing **skittles at the Bulls Head**, dates to be confirmed. Come and join us, £2 for a social. Walks starting again in April.

Take a look at www.clipston.org/wi for much more information and we hope you like our CWI programme delivered to you with the Courier this month.

Are you struggling to pay for food or fuel?

Grants are available to support local families and individuals currently undergoing hardship due to the rising cost of living. The grants come from the Kelmarsh Windfarm Community Benefit Fund (supported by Cubico Sustainable Investments & GLIL Infrastructure). Applications will be treated in confidence and processed as fast as possible.

Financial information will be required.

For an application form and further details, please contact Andy andyblake4@hotmail.com or Ian ianmay231@hotmail.co.uk

Canine Partners

This photograph is of Petra at the summer dog show held this year. She is with Joanna and is where our sponsorship money went to cover aftercare costs.

I now have Anni's cards and some pretty fabric bags made by her friend. Thank you for printer cartridges (small ones only please). Please drop off at 2 Weskers Close into the red box near my bins. Jill 525 746

Free Stickers "Do Not Knock"

Since 2019 Able Community Care, a Norfolk company, has given out almost 100,000 free 'DO NOT KNOCK' door stickers to older and disabled people who do not wish to answer the door to strangers. If you would like to receive any door stickers to give out to older or disabled people you know, please email to: info@ablecommunitycare.com with how many you would like to receive and an address to send them to (no addresses will be kept or passed on).



Friends of Haddon Fields

Welcome to Haddon Fields! These are some of the activities coming up.

Jubilee and Celebration trees:

I am pleased to say that by the time you read this article, trees will have been planted in both of the plantation areas. Seven oak trees will have been planted in the corners of the heptagon shape Platinum Jubilee area in Great Hill. In Little Hill, a total of 33 trees will have been planted in the Celebration plantation area. Each of these trees have been purchased by someone currently or previously living in Clipston and will have a wooden plaque containing a personalised message attached. Please see a photo of the first trees to be planted in early November.

Clipston Christmas Fayre

FoHF will attend the Christmas Fayre on December 3rd and will be promoting Haddon Fields as a community resource. We will be selling Friends of Haddon Fields Christmas cards and other merchandise to raise funds to be able to continue all our activities in Haddon Fields.

Winter music marshmallows & mulled wine in Haddon Fields

We are excited to announce a Christmas themed music by Clipston Folk band in the Field Centre at Haddon Fields. We will be serving mulled wine or cider and soft drinks, together with marshmallows that you can toast on a fire pit. Please dress up warm, bring a drinking cup and come along to soak up the Christmas atmosphere!

Be a 'Friend of Haddon Fields'

If you have already made a contribution to renew or become a Friend of Haddon Fields, thank you! If you haven't yet renewed your contribution or wish to become a Friend of Haddon Fields, please contact me.



Spring Frog watch in Haddon Fields

We are already planning ahead! Please put April 4th 2023 into your diary for an event in Haddon Fields led by Jules Howard who will be teaching us how to track down frog spawn and look for frog activity! More details in the Spring.

Stephen Woodgate , Chairman



Alan Skinner, Jim Tyson & Stephen Woodgate planting the first tree in Haddon Fields



For more details about the event, contact either Stephen Woodgate (07909 535966) or Jim Tyson (07801 388007)



Merry Christmas Messages

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
to all our friends in Clipston.
From Peter and Jo Butler*

Merry Christmas and
Happy New year to everyone
from Jill Pick

Peter and Linda Warren wish all
friends, neighbours and fellow
Clipstonites a happy, healthy, safe
Christmas and New Year.

*Wishing all our village friends
a very Happy Christmas and New
Year from Julia & Andy Blake
Xx*

*Wishing all our friends and
neighbours in the village a very
Merry Christmas, good health and
every happiness in 2023.
With love from Faye, David,
George and Joseph (Tan) xx*

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
to all our friends and neighbours.
Maggie and John Oldershaw x*

Wishing a happy and healthy
Christmas and New Year to all our
friends in Clipston
Stephen & Anne Woodgate



A celebration of Christmas



Bring the family and join us in All Saints Church, Clipston, to CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS with your favourite carols.

SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER AT 5.30pm.

There will be Christmas readings and poems, read by our talented locals, and our guest organist is Charles Swinfen. Some of our Clipston children will also be singing as a group and as soloists. Back by popular request will be the Hand Bell ringers who will ring more Christmas Carols. The Benefice choir will be singing some carols, accompanied by a range of instrumentalists, but their MAIN role, is to lead the audience in the singing of well known favourite Christmas Carols. We are expecting the audience to be in good voice!

We will be following the music and readings with free bubbly and mince pies (Soft drinks and biscuits for the children). Admission is FREE but any donations left on the plates or in the jars will be most welcome and will go to the Church. If anyone would rather give a donation by BACS payment please contact me.

Julie Connell
j.connell118@btinternet.com
01858 525336

Clipston Recreation Field Trust

Clipston Trail Run

The Clipston Trail Runs took place again in September. This year we introduced a 'Country 5 Miler' as well as the usual trail half marathon. The weather held off and the runners all enjoyed the run – we received many complementary comments from the runners on the day as well as some in print - a couple of which I have included below:

" Thanks so much for a great 5 mile trail run today. Great course, well signed and fab marshalling. Really enjoyed it and felt safe and included even though I'm slow !! Well done all "

"Once again thanks to everyone involved in organising this lovely race. On the way home with my daughter we were amazed that so many of the marshals recognised us from previous year's races. That friendly familiarity is what makes the Clipston Half such a lovely run. Thank you again"

We had the much-appreciated support of over 30 people from Clipston to help with the marshalling. As you have read the marshals are a key part of the success of the race. It's a tough day out on the half marathon course and encouragement really helps! Thank you to everyone who helped.

Thanks also go to the Morley family for allowing us to take over their fields for the start and finish and for car parking. Without their support this race could not take place.

Also, thanks to Alison Morley and the WI for the cakes for all the finishers – again this is a key feature of our event.

CRFT raised over £1,000 and the WI £200. It's great to organise a fund-raising event where the money raised comes from mainly outside the village.

The Clipston Trail Run will be back next year.



100 Club

CRFT remain hugely thankful to the 100 club members. If you would like to join, please email me. Here's some prize winners – 1st prize is £100; 2nd is £50 and 3rd - £25

July: Jasmine Nemhard-Francis; Stephen Woodgate; Claire Harvey
August: Stephen Carpenter; Peter Hartley; Mike Parrott

September: Faye Tan; Liz Davies; Andrew Wilkinson

October: Peter Warren; Val Carpenter; Jim Tyson

If you're interested in joining the 100 club, please contact me:
Andy Blake – Chairman CRFT
andyblake4@hotmail.com

Recreational Field

Thank you to David Wilford (Wilf), Neil Ainsworth, Tim Mayer, James McTaggart, Toby Alderson-Smith and Shaun Beasley for mowing the young children's play area again this summer. Having volunteers do this part of the mowing saves a lot on the running costs of the field.

Clipston Church News

All change at the Church

As many of you will know, Miranda, our rector for the past four years has moved on to a new post in Yorkshire. We wish her well in her new appointment.

The Diocese is actively seeking a replacement for Miranda, and it is hoped that this will be successful over the next few months. However, the changes do not mean that your church will not be doing anything during that time. *Far from it!*

Holy Communion services will be held in Clipston and across the 7 parishes with guest ministers helping us out until a new appointment is made. Here in Clipston, we are also fortunate to have the services of Trevor Lake and Val Carpenter, both of whom were re-licensed by the Bishop this October.

Members of our Ministry Team can offer many aspects of support that a vicar would normally provide. They are available to visit people at home and provide Home Communion to those unable to get to church. Please contact Val or Trevor if you or someone you know would like a visit.

Weddings and funerals will still be possible in the church during the vacancy so do contact Steve Carpenter, the churchwarden, if you want to talk about these or any other church issues.

In these difficult times we want to play our part in making life in Clipston enjoyable, comfortable and one in which everyone feels cared for.

All Saints Church is YOUR village church. It is there for everyone, whether you are a regular attender, have attended occasionally or if you have never had any involvement with the church at all. Any ideas that you might have about this would be welcomed.

Café Church

You may have noticed that over the past few months we have been trying new forms of worship, one of which is 'Café Church'. This is an informal gathering that starts with breakfast – normally coffee and croissants. The event is based around an appropriate theme for the time with music, taking the form of modern hymns and worship songs usually accompanied by David Holmes on the piano. A key aim of the gathering is informality and the encouragement of open discussion on the topic of the day. All this in the warmth and comfort of the Orbell room. No pews, no hymn books, no holy communion and no preaching. But we do try to relate the discussion to the teachings from the Bible and the life of Christ. Café Church has proved to be popular, and we will continue and possibly extend this offering over the coming months. It is suited to people of all ages and children are all made very welcome.

Church porch use

The use of the church porch during the pandemic showed how the church building is an important feature of the village and it is lovely to see villagers still using it for sharing excess fruits and vegetables from their gardens and bringing books for others to enjoy.

Orbell Café

Wednesday mornings

The Orbell café continues to be available every Wednesday morning. It provides a friendly and informal place for people of all ages to meet up and enjoy tea, coffee and light snacks. The Café has been operating now for nearly six years and goes from strength to strength.

Music Events

The church has proved to be an excellent venue for musical events and we are fortunate to have Julie Connell as our resident organist, choir leader and organiser of so many successful musical events. We want to provide more music in the future so look out for a varied and exciting programme.



Christmas Services & Events

Sunday 4 December at 9:30am
All Saints Naseby Holy Communion where the Chaplain of Northampton University will preside

Sunday 4 December at 2:30pm
The York Waits Concert at the church followed by Christmas tree lighting on the green

Sunday 11 December at 5:30 pm
Celebration of Christmas

Saturday 24 December at 4 pm
CHRISTMAS EVE CRIB SERVICE
Our customary lead up to Christmas Day followed by extra carols at the pub

Sunday 25 December at 11am
CHRISTMAS DAY – A service of worship for all ages together with Holy Communion.

Sunday 1 January 2023 at 10 am the Bishop of Peterborough will preside at our Benefice Service at Welford Church.

For details on all benefice services visit www.nasebygroup.org

CHURCH CONTACTS

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Churchwarden

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Lay Reader

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Val Carpenter

Lay Reader

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01858 525120

Goodbye from Reverend Miranda



Dear Friends,

By the time you read this, I will have moved away from Clipston and be settling in to my new Yorkshire parishes near Rotherham.

I did just want to say, though, what a wonderful privilege it was to be your Rector, and to thank you so much for welcoming me into the village - it was hugely appreciated.

If you happen to be travelling north, do drop in on me as I would love to see you!

My new address is: The Rectory,
217 Nursery Road, Dinnington S25
2QU

With every blessing,
Miranda

Clipston Parish Council : Crossroads Anxiety

Residents are rightly concerned about the dangers associated with the Naseby Road/Longhold Road crossroads. The Parish Council has been trying to address this problem for some considerable time. Further on-site meetings were held last year with the District Council Highways Department to see what they would do to improve safety.

Regrettably, other than the improved signage and repainting the white lines, the answer was not very positive. Our request to purchase a mirror for example, to improve visibility, was refused. It seems that whereas newly approved accesses and road junctions are required to meet certain standards for visibility for drivers of emerging vehicles, the many existing difficult accesses and crossroads in towns and villages across the country apparently are not. Traffic mirrors would require special authorisation from the Department of Transport and permission is unlikely to be granted. In any case their use has always been refused by the District Council.

Early this year the Parish Council requested a 40 mph speed limit on the Naseby Road, covering the crossroads. This request was reviewed by a panel made up of representatives of the District Council and the Police and was declined. Some comments of the panel were that signage on all approaches to the crossroads has been significantly improved and there should be no reason why a careful and competent motorist cannot navigate these



crossroads. They felt that non-compliance would become an issue and merely lowering the speed limit would not translate into conformity.

On the positive side the Parish Council has successfully installed radar speed calming signs, at locations that comply with Highways regulations, to try to reduce the speed of vehicles driving through the village. These signs will also collect data to record and monitor the actual speeds measured, which could perhaps be used by the Parish Council to continue to press for changes.

Stepping Stones Pre-School

This term the children have been enjoying lots of outdoor play, seasonal craft activities to mark Diwali, Halloween and Bonfire Night, as well as playing with our lovely toys. We have our new group of children attending our ever-popular Forest School sessions. They've enjoyed bug hunting, magic potions, making leaf necklaces, the climbing log and trying to find our Forest School squirrel, Sidney!

Stepping Stones relies on a volunteer Committee and we would like to extend a special thanks to the parents from past years and to the new parents who have just joined the Committee.

This year we have a very exciting Christmas Raffle. Much like last year there is a list of exceptional prizes including tickets



to Cheltenham Races, a Christmas Wreath, a Reflexology voucher and to top it all the first prize is a "Booze Barrow", yes, a wheelbarrow full of booze (with a few mixers!). Please do support us and get yourself in with a chance of

winning by buying tickets from Stepping Stones directly, pop in or email pre-school1@clipston.northants.sch.uk or get them from one of the committee members. Thank you in advance for your support.

Finally, if you are struggling to think of a Christmas gift for a child, why not give them a book? Giving the gift of reading is a great way to get children into books. It makes books feel extra special when they are wrapped as a present. There is such a huge range to choose from, fact or fiction, and there are some amazing books that you can have personalised which are always well received.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year from all at Stepping Stones Pre-school.

Carolyn's Commonwealth Triumph!

Clipston villager and award-winning sound designer Carolyn Downing had an exciting summer working on the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games, which took place in Birmingham at the end of July.

Carolyn, who worked as part of a creative team responsible for all the sound and music used throughout the event, was particularly involved in creating the bull sounds which accompanied the incredible mechanical bull - a memorable highlight of the ceremony. Neighbours had reported strange noises coming from Carolyn's studio in her back garden, where she was working full time on the project from April until the end of July. But on the night of the event, all became clear! "It was a joy to be part of such a talented and dedicated team," she says of her experience. "I had the opportunity to visit Birmingham's factories and museums to research and record sounds that eventually became part of the final compositions. I met some extraordinary people and was struck by the warm and friendly welcome I received."

Carolyn took her children Alice and Albie along to the dress rehearsal at the Alexander Stadium to get a behind-the-scenes sneak preview, where a highlight for them was eating giant ice creams. We're sure they were proud of their mum's achievement as well...



Above: Carolyn with Dan Jones, Head of Sound & Music and BAFTA winning composer

Left: The Bull during rehearsals

Below: Alice & Albie enjoying the atmosphere with their ice creams



Clipston Primary School

In September, we welcomed our cohort of new starters and they have all happily settled into primary school life and the daily routines in the Reception Class.

Our annual Harvest Festival once again supported the Jubilee Foodbank in Market Harborough and our link school in Karisalpatti, India, for whom we raised over £300.

The children have enjoyed a huge number of activities to enrich their learning this term. Year 5 and Year 6 pupils took part in the Diocesan School's Dedication Service at Peterborough Cathedral – a magnificent event with children from a large number of other primary and secondary schools. As part of their visit, Clipston children undertook a number of workshops led by Cathedral Education Team, including a trip up the Cathedral Tower with magnificent views across the city and beyond.

Children in Reception visited Windmill Farm Park. They had an amazing day feeding the animals, picking pumpkins, having tractor rides and getting lots of exercise and fresh air.

Key Stage 1 children had an exciting day at the 1620s House in Donington le Heath, learning about the Gunpowder Plot as part of their History topic. Lady Digby travelled forward in time over 400 years to meet the children in the house in which she once lived with her husband Everard Digby who was one of the main Plotters.

All the infant children have really enjoyed their 4-week Balanceability Mini-bikers Course, developing their physical agility and core strength.

Earlier this term, we were delighted to have been selected from dozens of applicants to receive over fifty books generously donated to schools by the children of the late Shirley Hughes. The children thoroughly enjoy the stories and the books have made a wonderful addition to our Library.

We are looking forward to our Christmas celebrations with a whole school trip to the Pantomime and our traditional Bazaar, Nativity Performance and Carol Concert.

Emma Mercer
Head Teacher



Clipston School Information

Clipston School is open for all children aged 4 to 11 years old from 7.30am (Breakfast Club).

We also offer After School and Holiday Care in liaison with Castle Lane Day Nursery in Market Harborough.

Visit www.clipstonprimaryschool.org and our Twitter page @ClipstonSchool for further information

Wonderful Walks

Wonderful Walks (3)

Northamptonshire walks website

Walk 103: Harrington Circular

Distance: 5.5 miles (8.85km)

This truly is a wonderful walk that takes in spectacular views over the rolling Northamptonshire countryside. Park in Harrington village near the Village Hall and head through the small gate to the left opposite the hall. This takes you along a bridle path that is followed throughout most of the walk. It is an ideal dog walk as there are no stiles at all. The walk is surprisingly hilly in parts but you are definitely rewarded with the views. I cannot recommend this walk enough - it is a gem, with the bonus of the Tollemache Arms serving delicious food as a reward at the end!

Caroline Pemberton

If you have a favourite local walk please let us know! Email your ideas to us at clipston.org@gmail.com



Clipston Shooting Club

Clipston Shooting Club (CSC) is well on target for another season of clay busting. It has been established now over 36 years. It's amazing to think that it was started by friends and associates of Clipston at the village fete in 1986, when they got out their shotguns and invited people to have a go (Pete Martin, Laurie Anderson and Jeff Betts).

Currently our oldest members are Ivan Howe (Spratton) and Rodney Dexter (Clipston) who started in 1988. Our membership is still mainly from the Clipston – Naseby - Sibbertoft area but many are from other surrounding towns/ villages such as Desborough, Rothwell & Lubenham.

We recently had a 50-clay memorial shoot in honour of one of our members, John Morson, who is no longer with us and sadly missed. This is an annual shoot which is in addition to the other shoots we hold, mainly locally, on the last Sunday of every month.

At our recent AGM we awarded the 2021 -22 season 'Ladies High Gun' trophy to Laurie Tyrrell (Clipston) and 'Men's High Gun' trophy to Bob Gardner (Desborough). These were presented by the club secretary Alan Bott. CSC are a non-profit making club and we have donated £200 to Ovarian Cancer research and £200 to the Air Ambulance.

We are always happy to see new faces at

the shoot and offer a 'come and have a go policy'. We teach gun safety and provide safe mentoring of new arrivals.

For more information you can find us on Facebook [clipstonclayshootingclub](https://www.facebook.com/clipstonclayshootingclub) or email the Secretary, Alan Bott at alanbott100@hotmail.co.uk



CLIPSTON BUSINESS DIRECTORY

ACCOMMODATION

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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 of people 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 WI

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

Christina Faull 07714470 452

Forest Church

Family gatherings and nature walks for kids aged 7+ usually on the third Sunday of the month. New families extremely welcome.

Email Alun Davies

alundavies@ventreaccounting.co.uk

Friends of Haddon Fields

Come and join a group of volunteers maintaining and improving Haddon Fields as a community asset. Everyone is welcome.

Stephen Woodgate 07909 535966

Stephenlwoodgate@gmail.com

Friendship Club

Meetings are held in the Village Hall on the second Monday of each month at 2pm, from April to October inclusive. Guests welcome, fee £2.

Jill Pick 01858 525746

Parents & Tots Group

Friendly group for parents and carers with new-borns to 4-year-olds. We meet Tuesdays in term time in the village hall 9.15-11.15am. £2 for one child, £1 for each additional child. Includes refreshments.

Catherine Poynton 07788 298 015

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

Tennis Club

We meet on Wednesday 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.allsaintsclipston.org

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 525275

faye@oldrectory.uk.net

Flood Warden

Ann Essen 07709 411 262

Footpath Warden

Julia Blake 07880 700 699

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 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

andyblake4@hotmail.com

ianmay231@hotmail.com

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Is your group information up to date?

Please let us know if things have changed.
Email the editorial team on clipston.org@gmail.com