

# Clipston Courier

Your Village Newsletter

March 2023



## Welcome!

Welcome to the Spring edition of the courier. The village is starting to spring into life and I am sure from the wonderful aerial shots you'll agree that Clipston is a beautiful place to live. Throughout this 32nd edition we have included many events to look forward to so be sure to add these to your diaries. As you walk around Clipston you may wonder about some of the history behind many of the interesting houses found in the village, we have included a 'Past and Present' profile of Number 1 High St (Clipston's oldest house) and a 'Through the Keyhole' look at the newly renovated barn on Naseby road. We hope that you will enjoy reading the newsletter and catching up on all of Clipstons news.

Caroline Pemberton  
Editor

Jim Mcinulty  
Co-Editor

## Clipston as you've never seen it before!

**A big thank you to Jim Tyson of Chapel Lane, who took this fantastic bird's eye view of the village for us, using his new drone camera.**

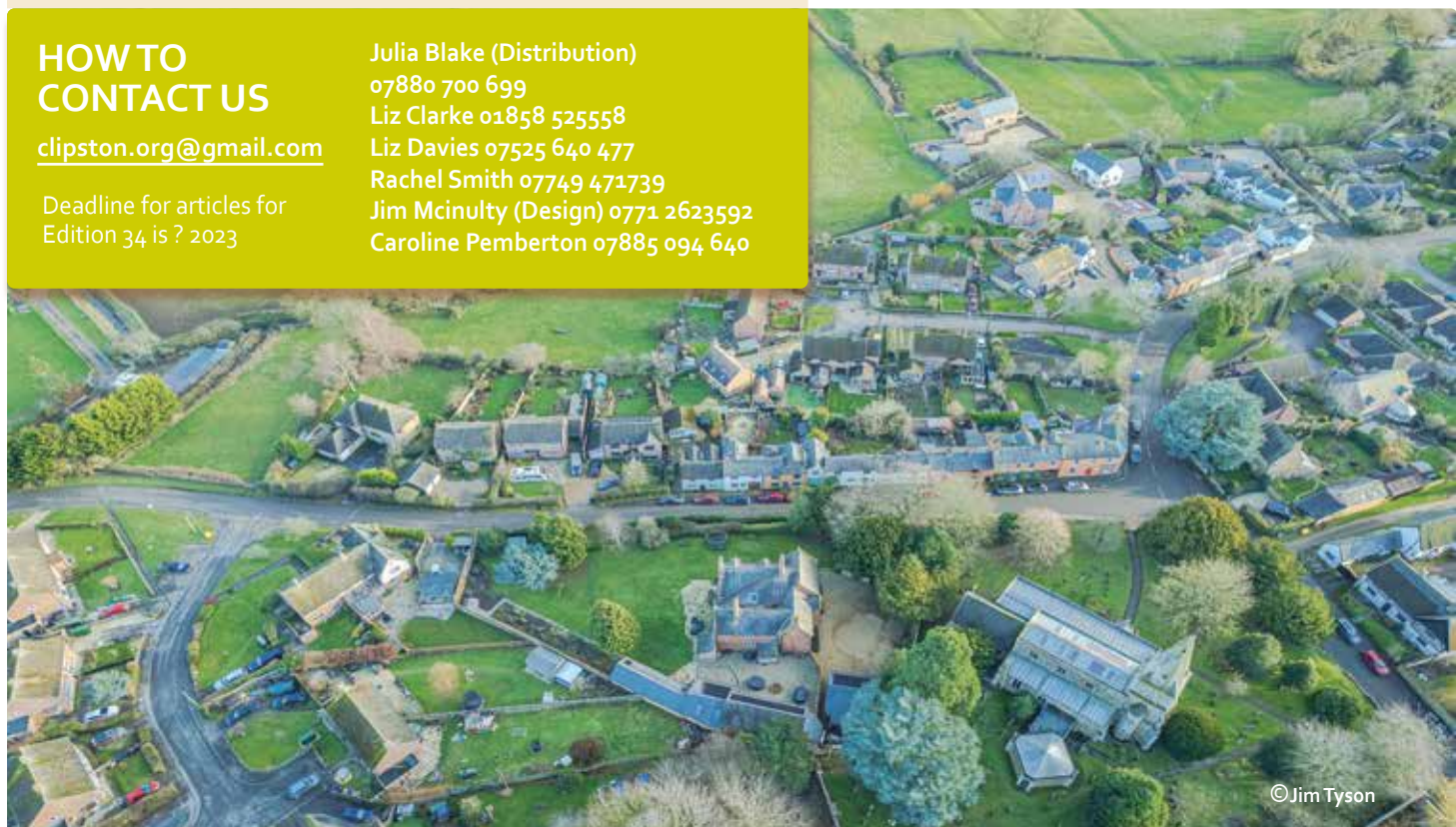
Jim, a keen photographer for 30 years, has become more involved in his hobby since he retired six years ago. He bought his drone just before Christmas and has loved exploring familiar places from a completely different angle. He's interested in using it to photograph local churches and other landmarks, as well as documenting community events and projects. Jim is happy to consider commissions on a not-for-profit basis, but his main motivation is the challenge and the fun of literally taking his hobby to a whole new level! Look out for future work in his posts on the Clipston Village Facebook page.

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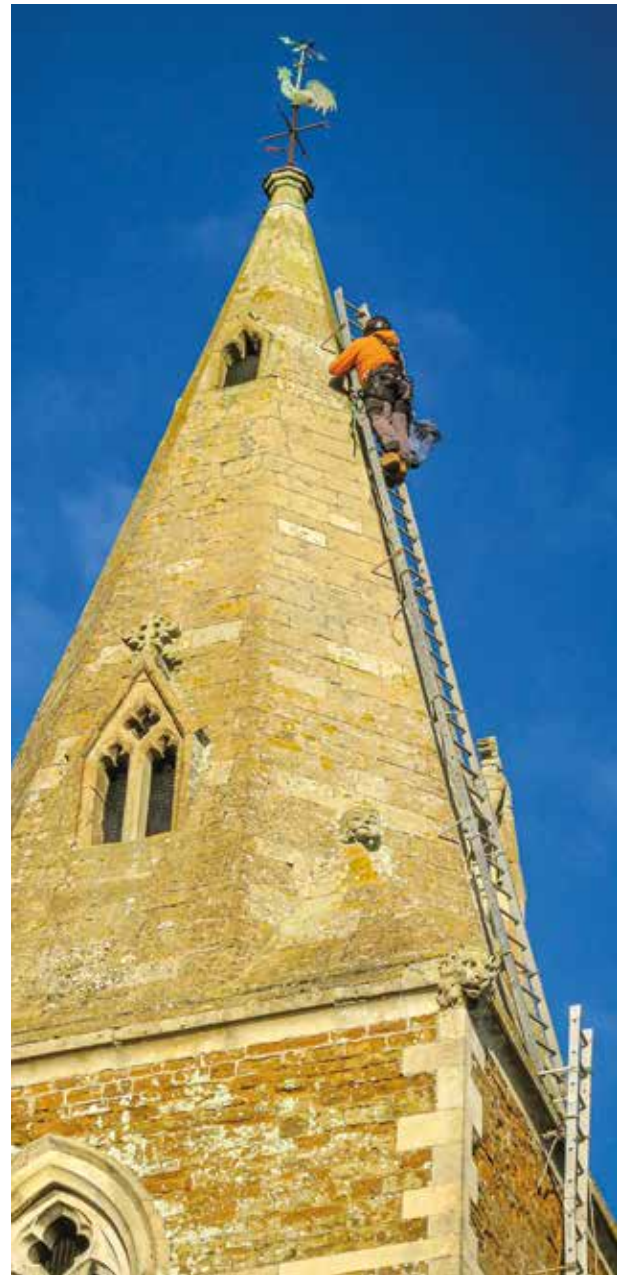
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# Clipston Church News

The past few months have been very challenging for All Saints church here in Clipston. Since our previous vicar Miranda moved on last year we have been working with the other 6 parishes in the benefice and the Diocese of Peterborough to find a replacement. At the time of writing, an advertisement is about to appear in the Church Times so we are hoping to have someone in place by the Summer. As any Facebook users will know, the church has continued to provide services during this period of vacancy and we have been able to do this largely because we have two Lay preachers in the village in Trevor Lake and Valerie Carpenter who have been preparing and providing a variety of services in Clipston and also in the other parishes in the benefice. In addition to the services, they have presided at funerals and other church related events as well as providing home communion for people who are unable to attend church.

The cafe church services run on the second Sunday of each month have been particularly successful and have attracted some people who find the informal nature of these services with the opportunity to discuss key issues of the day over a cup of coffee and a croissant different from traditional formal church services. The vital work to the church spire, clock faces and weather vane has begun, after more than two years having to revise proposals and provide more detailed specifications all of which almost trebled the cost of the work. Many thanks to all those people who helped out with the funding of this work. You know who you are.. Probably worth reminding people that the church receives NO MONEY from the Diocese, the government or anywhere other than from donations and occasionally through grants. Any way that you can help us through regular giving, bequests in wills or one off donations would be so welcomed.

Disappointingly we have decided not to continue with the wildlife area in the churchyard. We received a number of complaints that the uncut grass looked scruffy and so reluctantly we will be cutting all the grass down in future. However the wildlife pond will remain. The frogs and newts will have to cross the cut grass to get there but I am sure they will manage it. The annual cost of maintaining a large grade 1 listed building like our church is massive. The recent hikes in fuel costs have hit us hard and we are now faced with problems with the heating system, parts of which go back to Victorian times.



## Can you help?

It is fair to say that the church is at a critical point which it has probably faced many times in the past. Those of us running the church are all getting to an age where we will not be able to continue for much longer. During the vacancy a small number of people have been spending much time and effort in making sure that the church is available and clean. Trevor and Valerie are two of those people and they have been spending virtually full working weeks just on church business. They are not paid for this.

In the past as older people have had to back down from these duties, younger people have stepped in to help out and eventually take over. That is how we became involved many years ago.

So this is a heartfelt plea to anyone who might have a bit of spare time at their disposal to come along and help continue ensuring that the church is open, warm and welcoming for another thousand years. The alternative, a closed church which is boarded up and an overgrown churchyard doesn't bear thinking about!

## Forest church for families

Local families are embracing the outdoors to enjoy walks, campfires and child-friendly discussions about Christianity at monthly forest church sessions. These relaxed, informal get togethers meet at venues around Clipston, Sibbertoft and Welford on the third Sunday of the month. They involve a local walk followed by tea and biscuits (and sometimes s'mores round a camp fire). Run by local parents, the group is fun and welcoming, and provides time out of busy lives to enjoy some time with your family. The sessions are most suitable for children aged 6-14. To find out more or to be added to the WhatsApp group, please contact Alun Davies on 07875 643822.



# Spire Trouble - update



Three years ago we had to hire a firm of steeplejacks to remove a buddleia tree which was growing out of the stonework. Whilst they were up there, the steeplejacks pointed out that the weather vane was loose and there were several other issues with stonework and windows that would need to be done by steeplejacks.

Whilst we couldn't afford the scaffolding the original steeplejacks wanted to use, we found Walton steeplejacks from Stoke on Trent who could do the work using just ladders and ropes.

Jake Walton and Scott have taken down the weather vane and at the time of writing it is in a workshop being refurbished and possibly gilded. We decided that whilst they were up there the clock faces should also be refurbished and they too are in the workshop being shot-blasted and re-painted and gilded. They should look terrific when they are replaced and the clock is re-started.

Other works that Jake and Scott are doing include securing the windows to stop birds getting in and repointing the stonework where necessary. Once this is all done we would like to be able to light up the clock face from below and we hope to be able to get public support for this to be done.

**Steve Carpenter**

## Swing & Sway at the Village Hall

Every Thursday couples from Clipston and surrounding villages meet at the village hall to dance, in fact I should probably say learn to dance! We are coached and encouraged by Teresa, a dance teacher of some 30 years International experience. The classes are fun and we learn a variety of dances from the rhythm FoxTrot to Rock & Roll in a relaxed and non judgemental way. Teresa has a passion for dance and fitness and her aim is to make each session enjoyable for all, 'It is very rewarding to see people come in for the 1st time when they do not know any steps and within 10 minutes they are dancing'. She also runs classes each Monday in the village hall, Dance Fitness 9:30 am -10:15 am (complimentary Tea & Coffee served after class) followed by Strong & Steady 10:30 am -11:15 am. This class is great for anyone who is looking to improve their strength, balance and coordination.

Teresa stresses that she would like to let people know how beneficial it is to keep active and enjoy the benefits of dancing and exercise especially for the over 50s.

She set up 'Happy Days Fitness' as a project during lockdown and recorded over 100 of the Dance Fitness routines, these are available online for those who would like to workout in the comfort of their own home. But I must stress that group exercise is fun and would definitely recommend coming down to the village hall to join in!

For further information go to [happydaysfitness.co.uk](http://happydaysfitness.co.uk) or call Teresa on 09731183832

**Caroline Pemberton**



## Friendship Club

The club starts again on Monday 17th April at 2 pm in the village hall. (The second Monday in April is Easter Monday).

Also as the 8th May has been declared a Bank Holiday our meeting will be on Monday 15th May. Look forward to seeing everyone. Jill on 525 746

# CWI - Clipston WI



CWI goes from strength to strength with 37 members across a broad age range, most from Clipston but a few from surrounding villages. We have plenty of room for more people so do get in touch if you want to know more about the group and take a look at the [Clipston.org](http://Clipston.org) webpage for information about what's going on. There is something for everyone with monthly interactive and informative meetings (3rd Wednesday) with invited speakers; social events and guided walks.

In November wig maker and make-up artist Lucy pink hair Swales wowed us with the history of and the amazing skills involved in creating Madame Tussaud's' waxworks. We were all inspired to pay a visit to the recently update venue in London. Continuing the craft theme we made some preparations for Christmas together- making cards, printing wrapping paper and trying the new technique of scrap paper spiral bowls.

A cold evening of Carol singing around the village in December was organised by the WI but a joint effort with the festival singers, musicians keeping us to tune and a number of villagers celebrating the festive season in this rousing way. We raised nearly £90 for Target Ovarian Cancer and young and old villagers seemed to appreciate it. Thanks so much to the Earnshaw's for their very welcome end of evening hospitality. We enjoyed our outing to Rushden Hall to see the many Christmas trees and enjoy a relaxed cuppa together.

Our first meeting of the new year was Caroline Bendix talking about the history of books and the craftsmanship involved in the preparation of the pages, the pressing and the bindings. The beautiful covers (or boards) made us think again about books as objects of art rather than just containers of stories and facts. Apparently, some of the books in the British library are so fragile that no one is allowed to open them to read them anymore.

## WI Dates for your diary:

### MARCH 22nd

This is our annual meeting. A good opportunity to get to know the group. This is followed by Lynda Hill talking about project Linus, making quilts for sick and disadvantaged children

### APRIL 26th

Come and learn the tranquil art of Dot Mandala with Tina Bodsworth. We will be creating geometric patterns on cards.

### MAY 24th

Ex Mercedes Chief engineer Phillip Prew will be delighting us with tales of F1 racing.

Guests are welcome for £5 to both these. Join on the night and get this refunded! Our guided monthly walks (3rd Tuesday 1.30pm) will commence on April 18th meet at Clipston Rec car park.



Our scrap paper spiral bowls



Carol singing around the village



Rushden Hall outing

## Film nights at the Village hall

By the time this edition of The Courier is published, we will have just finished our first Winter/Spring run of films at the Village Hall and will be taking a break before coming back in September or October for another six month run. We do however have a one off special on Tuesday 16th May when we will be showing The Three Musketeers. Thanks to subsidies from Film Hub Midlands and the Northants Community Partnership we can show the films on a huge screen with brilliant picture quality and sound and pay the appropriate licenses. Any profits that we make from tickets and refreshments are donated to the Village Hall restoration fund. It's been great to see so many people coming through the doors with a completely packed house for our January showing of Mrs Harris Goes to Paris and hopefully the atmosphere of watching a good film on the big screen in the



company of others has been rewarding. If you haven't made it down yet, we'd be delighted to see you! If you have any thoughts as to how we can improve the experience, have ideas for films to show, and how we can publicise the events better or even if you'd like to help out, please get in touch via email [taldersonsmith@gmail.com](mailto:taldersonsmith@gmail.com)

# Village hall

We were anticipating another challenging winter given the high price of electricity as we are reliant on electric storage and boost heaters to heat the hall, but thanks to a warm spaces grant from West Northamptonshire Council we have been able to keep the hall open and heated for the benefit of all users and hirers. In addition to all the weekly groups and hirers, our fortnightly whist drives and monthly film nights have seen large numbers of people enjoying the warmth and entertainment on offer. Unfortunately, as we were unable to secure a community event grant, we could not afford to run our annual pantomime this year but we hope this will return in the future.

## Redevelopment

We have secured planning permission for most of the changes we want to make and will soon be submitting a revised application for the remainder. We are now busy applying for grants, refining the specification and obtaining quotes for the works. There's a huge amount of work involved and we could really do with extra help to lighten the load. Tim Hackett has recently joined the team and is getting to grips with the heating and electrics. Could you spare some time over the next couple of months to help in another area? If so, please get in touch...! The ability to start work and the amount we can take on in each phase is entirely dependent on funding so we can't state any firm plans yet but we are hoping to be able to complete the most urgently needed works to the roofs and electrics later in the year.

## Celebrations

Although we are not able to proceed with the whole renovation this year as we had hoped there will still be plenty to celebrate as the hall turns 50 in May this year. We hope to mark this anniversary with a series of special events so please keep your eyes on posters and the village Facebook page for more details nearer the time.

**A JUMBLE SALE will be held in the village hall on Thursday 6th April at 7 pm - Donations Please!**

We need clothes, shoes, books and bric-a-brac to sell. All donations are very much appreciated and all proceeds go to the village hall funds. For more information contact Angela on 525612

Thank you

**A Big thank you from CADS**

"Thank you to all those who came and supported our Murder Mystery Night. We had huge fun doing it, and, with the support of the excellent Clipston Jazz Band and lovely food organised by Linda Warren, all our 'Awards guests' seemed to have a great time, too. As a bonus, we were able to donate £350 to the Village Hall funds, so thank you all again!"

**Liz Clarke (on behalf of CADS)**

## What's On:

<b>MON</b>	9.30-11.30am	Dance Fitness followed by Strong and Steady Tai Chi
<b>TUES</b>	9.15-11.15am	Playgroup for babies and pre-schoolers with their grown ups
<b>WEDS</b>	9.15-10.15am	Pilates
	7.30pm (monthly, 1st Wed)	Parish Council
	7.30pm (monthly, 4th Wed)	Clipston Women's Institute
<b>THUR</b>	9.30-10.15am	Farrells fish van (weekly) and Rita the Refill Roadster (fortnightly)
	1.30-3.30pm (alternate weeks)	Whist Drive
	6.15-8.15pm	Ballroom and Latin Dancing (Swing & Sway)

**FRIDAY, SATURDAY and SUNDAYS - all available for private hire**



## Dates for the diary....

Thurs 6th April	Jumble Sale (info from Angela)
Village Hall's 50th birthday celebrations (all currently tbc so please look out for posters and details on the village facebook page):	
Tues 16th May	Film Night – The Three Musketeers (1973)
Fri 19th May	Disco Night
Sun 21st May	Vintage Afternoon Tea

For all booking and other enquiries, please contact **Faye Tan** - [faye@oldrectory.uk.net](mailto:faye@oldrectory.uk.net) – 01858 525275 / 07725 427311.




# Anyone for hockey?

Have you ever wanted to see a game of Ice Hockey? Some of you may know that I am a keen fan and travel regularly to Nottingham to watch the Panthers play, and last year I actually went to Finland to watch Great Britain play in the top level of hockey at the World Championships. Unfortunately GB were relegated last year but we have the chance to regain our place in the top group when this year's Championships at the second level take place in Nottingham! The event takes place from April 29th until May 5th and GB are going to be playing matches against Lithuania, Romania, Korea & Poland - a very "winnable" group from a GB perspective.

If you are interested in sharing a car and attending a game or 2 (or all 4) please give me a ring (01858 525558) and I can give you more details (dates/times/cost etc) "Lets go GB!"

## Clipston Tennis Club



The season will recommence in March once the clocks go forward! Club night is Wednesdays from 5:00pm until dark, anyone is welcome to come and have a go. This season we will have a Men's Team in Division 2 of the East Northants League (because there is no Division 3!) We are also entering a team, in partnership with Crick & West Haddon Tennis Club, in the Super Veterans Summer League. NB Courts will not be available for general use when home fixtures are being played - info will be posted on the courts when details are known. Further details on any of the above from Martin Clarke (01858 525558)

## Canine Partners

Thank you everyone for your old postage stamps and used small printer cartridges. A box is still in the church porch. Keep them coming in please to raise money for Canine Partners. For those new to reading the Courier...Canine Partners train assistance dogs to support disabled people live their life to the full. To find out more please visit [caninepartners.org.uk](http://caninepartners.org.uk).

Jill 525 746.

# Wonderful Walks

## Little waterfall – Haselbech Hill Loop from Maidwell (Kamoot)

This is an easy yet lovely walk along bridleways, footpaths and quiet country lanes. The map starts the walk in Maidwell by the old Telephone Exchange, however it can be started in Haselbech from the Cottesbrooke Road taking in the magnificent views from Haselbech hill at the start of the walk. A lovely waypoint is the little waterfall by Dale Farm. At this point take the footpath by the farm's main gates. The walk is ideal for dogs as there are no stiles and there are only short spells along quiet roads. Enjoy!

Caroline Pemberton

**Distance:** 4.6 miles (7.4km)  
Allow about 1.5 hours for this walk



# From Clipston to the Med

Last summer, local cycling enthusiasts Jim Mcinulty and Tom Redpath ventured out on a long planned cycle trip through France pedalling from the Brittany coast down to the Med. Having spent the previous few months 'getting in shape' with training rides centred around the Clipston area, the pair set off at the end of June to catch the Thursday overnight channel crossing from Portsmouth. Rolling down the ferry ramps at 7am the next morning into a drizzly St. Malo and fuelled by a Brittany Ferries breakfast it was time to clip in and go for it.

Using the book "France en Velo" by Hannah Reynolds as a rough guide alongside the Kamoot navigation app and some GPX files, the journey kicked off with the coastal road towards Mont Saint-Michel, passing Oyster stalls at Cancale. Turning south it was then into cider making country on quiet back lanes and traffic free roads.

Covering 68 miles on day 1 was a great taster of what was to come, with each day typically rolling through medieval towns and villages such as Fougeres, Hautefort, Brantome and Figeac, past dazzling fields of sunflowers, grazing cattle and crossing wide meandering rivers (Loire and Dordogne to name but two).



Market bought cheese, tomatoes, baguettes and fruit made for an ideal re-fuelling daily lunch sitting on the steps of many a local church whilst observing the laid back pace of local village life and pondering the changing architectural styles and colours.

Opting to ditch the camping route this time, the mid price/ budget hotel stops mostly lived up to their 2-3 star rating with only a couple that were in the 'never again' category. Irrespective, the promise of an end of ride beer on arrival and a shower was a great incentive when the going got tough and the weather really began to heat up.

11 days later, with 10 departments crossed, 750 miles cycled and amazingly zero punctures, the finishing post was in sight with the pyrenees looming to the southwest and the med glinting in the far distance south of Beziers. If you're looking for something more than just a holiday, discovering another country by cycle is definitely an immersive way to travel and makes for an adventure that is truly life affirming.

**Jim Mcinulty**



## A Favourite Local Cycle Ride

**Clipston, Naseby, Brixworth, Lamport Loop**

(Distance: approx. 24 miles)



Using mostly quiet roads and taking in some stunning local scenery, this little rollercoaster of a ride is even better on a sunny spring or summers day.

Starting from Clipston, head up Longhold Road towards Sibbertoft and take a left before the village onto Naseby Road/ Dust Hill. Head out of Naseby on the Cottesbrooke Road. Take a left turn onto the Cottesbrooke Estate and continue through and then left on the gated Road to Brixworth. Stop for a coffee at the Workhouse opposite the Co-Op before heading on and through Scaldwell, left to Lamport, right for Draughton, Maidwell, Haselbech then back to Clipston via Naseby.

**Jim Mcinulty**

# News from Clipston Primary School

It has been another busy term with so many wonderful learning opportunities being enjoyed by children across the school. The School and Eco Council have been working hard to improve the playground with a Litter Pick Day and the planting of bulbs in our Peace Garden. Older pupils thoroughly enjoyed a visit by local Magistrates to learn about their role and the processes of the Magistrates Court. They are looking forward to a trip to Stratford in March, as part of their Shakespeare English Unit. Pupils in Year 5 completed their Bikeability Course, perfecting the skills they need to keep safe when riding on local roads and country lanes.



During Enrichment Day, children across the whole school enjoyed learning about Gaudi, making Gaudi-inspired Spires and Chimneys as part of the Art and Design Architects Unit. Every child also took part in basic First Aid training with the older children all learning CPR. In assemblies this term, themes have included marking Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Holocaust Remembrance Day, and children articulated thoughtful and insightful comments about these sensitive topics.

In the younger classes, children thoroughly enjoyed a trip to a local farm and were lucky enough to see a lamb being born! They have also made bird feeders to help the local wildlife survive the harsh winter months. Key Stage 1 pupils have been learning about The Victorians and in particular they enjoyed a Victorian School Day which included Mrs Mercer in role as a very strict School Teacher, "slates" to write on and the dreaded Dunce's Hat! A variety of clubs and other opportunities continue to enrich the curriculum with children taking part in Cross Country, Gymnastics, Coding, French, Drama, Science and Basketball Clubs as well as Music Lessons.



Key Stage 2 pupils have had the opportunity to spend a Saturday at Robert Smyth Academy taking part in the Primary Science Conference led by staff from Clipston and other local schools. It's always exciting to explore a "huge" secondary school and see their Science Labs in action! One particular highlight this term, was the Choir Trip to Young

Voices at the Resorts World Arena in Birmingham. There really is nothing quite like singing your heart out with thousands of other children from across the country in an enormous arena.

As the school year approaches its mid-point, we are looking forward to hosting nearly 70 pupils from Sparkenhoe, our link school in Leicester, in March, including a visit to the church and a walk around the village. World Book Day will be focusing on Bedtime Reading. Every child eagerly awaits their turn to take home the Bedtime Book Bag filled with a selection of stories to share, followed by a Pyjama Day in school when we read some of our favourite books together. Our Easter Service will be in church (9.15am on 31st March) and everyone is welcome, as are visitors to the school from the local community. The Board of Governors is currently seeking to fill a vacancy and anyone interested in volunteering for a few hours each month during term time, should express their interest to the Clerk to the Governors, via the school office: [office@clipston.northants.sch.uk](mailto:office@clipston.northants.sch.uk). School is open for all children aged 4 to 11 years old from 7.30am each morning (Breakfast Club). Further information about the school is available on our website: [www.clipstonprimaryschool.org](http://www.clipstonprimaryschool.org) and our Twitter page [@ClipstonSchool](https://twitter.com/ClipstonSchool).

**Emma Mercer - Head Teacher**



# Clipston Past & Present

## Wellcroft House, Number 1 High Street

Opposite Clipston church between Kelmarsh Road and the entrance to the village hall, is Number 1 High Street, which is known to be Clipston's oldest house. Built in 1575, when Queen Elizabeth I was on the throne, it pre-dates even Clipston school, and displays many interesting visual clues that reveal its history.

The obvious ones are the decorative stone inscriptions or designs set into the stonework of the building. The most intricate of these (picture 1) mentions John Buswell, who was the grandfather of Sir George Buswell, founder of Clipston School.



Picture 1

Current owners of the house, Julia and Andy Blake, tracked down a copy of John's last will and testament, written in 1574 in Latin. The will reveals that he was a wealthy landowner, who left (among many other things) a plot of land described as 'three leas [meadows] in Clipston felde, in Wellcroft corner' to his wife Mary, for the benefit of his son Thomas. Wellcroft Corner was the name of the plot where the house now sits, and the inscriptions suggest that Mary built the house for Thomas shortly after John's death.



Picture 2



The second inscription 1575 T Bus wel (picture 2) supports this theory as we assume it was the date of the build and its first owner, Thomas. Interestingly Andy Blake only uncovered the last three letters of this inscription a few years ago (up until that point it just said T Bus, which was a little more cryptic!). An architect visiting the Blakes around the time they purchased the house in 2004, also threw some



Picture 3

light on the third clue - a diamond-shaped design in the stonework that he described as a widow's lozenge (picture 3). This heraldry represents a widowed woman - further proof that the house was built by Mary for son Thomas after John died.

Other visual clues suggest the house was originally bigger, maybe double the width it is today. The stonework

on the left of the building is random rubble rather than cut stone and there's a blocked-up door on the left gable wall which could have been an internal door.

A fourth inscription on the opposite gable end wall reads M E & B 1750, - local history books suggest a Matthew Buswell made changes to the building and was recording his family's contribution.

Over the centuries the house has been occupied by many families, most of whom had the surnames either Buswell, Wilford or Burnham. The last Buswell, Phillip, died a few years ago but there are still Wilford and Burnham families who live in Clipston today.

# Stepping Stones Pre-School



We have had such a busy start to the year, with new families joining the Stepping Stones community, our weekly forest school and lots of daily fun and games. Follow us on facebook to see more about what we have been doing -

[www.facebook.com/SteppingStonesPreschool-Clipston](https://www.facebook.com/SteppingStonesPreschool-Clipston)

On 4th February 2023 we held a "Lambing event" – another super fundraising event organised and hosted by Louise and Did Gowling. It was so lovely to see the newborn lambs, and surprise calves! It was an incredible opportunity for the children of Stepping Stones to see a real working farm – we all thoroughly enjoyed it. Thank you very much Louise and Did.

Our next fundraising event is the Easter Egg Hunt around Clipston on Sunday 26th March, please see the poster for information on how to book your place – it is sure to be a fun morning, everyone welcome. We look forward to seeing you there.



## DIY Coffee Morning

Do you remember the Coffee and Chat coffee mornings?  
Well here's another event

### DIY COFFEE MORNING

(no hammer and nails involved)  
A simple coffee morning because it's good to catch up with friends from near and far. Proceeds to Canine Partners and the village hall refurbishment fund.  
Jill 525 746.



**Saturday 15th April**  
**10 til 12 in Clipston**  
**village hall.**

## Feeling Lucky

The Local Lotto is a weekly online lottery which gives players the chance to win prizes of between £5 and £25,000.

Visit [www.local-lotto.co.uk](http://www.local-lotto.co.uk) search the name of the organisation you want to support 'Stepping Stones Pre-School Clipston' and then purchase your tickets - 40p from every £1 ticket you buy will go directly to us. 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 2023, see our website for more information



[www.steppingstonesclipston.co.uk](http://www.steppingstonesclipston.co.uk)

Contact us for more information:  
Telephone: 01858 525113 or  
E-mail: [preschool1@clipston.northants.sch.uk](mailto:preschool1@clipston.northants.sch.uk)

# The Old and the New

Andrew and Jennifer are no strangers to Clipston or the many challenges and rewards that come from the revitalisation of unique and distinctive buildings. Here, they have kindly shared with us a fascinating 'through the keyhole' look into their latest project and 30-year journey.

Since their marriage in April 1993, Andrew and Jennifer have lived in four different homes in Clipston. Living on Kelmars Road, Kell's Cottage and moving to 'Hillcrest' on Harborough Road in 2004 with their three girls Amber, Beth and Cate and baby son Jacob. Their time spent at Hillcrest involved renovations and changes that helped to ensure many happy and cherished family memories and no doubt prepared Andrew and Jennifer for the move and work that was to come.

In 2000, Andrew and Jennifer purchased 'the barn' from Rick Percival. The building, circa Mid 19th Century, formed part of farmyard buildings that were the original Chestnut Farm situated on the corner of Gold Street. Whilst the barn had already been converted by Rick during his ownership, it underwent further works in 2000 by Andrew's company, (JWA Architects) who occupied the building from 2000 to early 2021.

In 2019, JWA decided to relocate to Market Harborough and Jennifer and Andrew took the bold step they knew they just had to take! They set about devising a plan of action: to turn the barn from a stylish architect's office into a sleek and welcoming home for their family. The initial planning work began in earnest in 2019, extending through 2020, with the conversion work finally commencing in April 2021.



Having worked in the barn for over 20 years, Andrew reflected on the plan going forward:

*'I did not want to feel like I was living in my old office, so we decided to completely demolish and strip out all of the office interior associated with the business, taking the building back to basically four walls and a roof, albeit keeping the historical timbers / structure intact - designing a modern home and interior, fit, to work in tandem with the historical timber fabric and the 1980's structural steel frame that effectively keeps the barn external walls in position.'*

Andrew and Jennifer shared some of the quirky challenges that unfolded:

*'The funny thing was, that you could literally see, if you stood at one end, that it was narrower than the other! ...you could literally see the walls going outwards ... we had problems trying to work out how we were going to do the walls and the tiling. We spent hours trying to get plumb lines through, trying to get things sort of lined - up! 'It actually looks like some of the windows are falling out, because of the way they had to be installed...because of the crookedness...'*

The conversion work was undoubtedly extensive! consisting of completely removing and replacing the first floor; insulating throughout. The barn was also future-proofed with an air source heating system, along with underfloor heating. Finally, the conversion was completed with new windows and doors at the end of May 2022, with Andrew and Jennifer moving in on 1st June that year.

**Natasha Wilkinson**



# CRFT Clipston Recreation Ground 100 Club



The playing fields and facilities, including the pitches, pavilion, tennis courts, woodland and playgrounds are a valuable village asset enjoyed by many. You may not be aware that there is no automatic funding to maintain

or improve these facilities and so we run a 100 Club to help raise funds and have fun in the process! Prizes are £100, £50 & £25 each month. The draw takes place monthly, the subscription is £5 per entry per month.



CRFT have been very pleased to be awarded a grant from The Lottery. This has paid for upgrades to the pavilion lights, the car park lights, the installation of a defibrillator and some new sound and light equipment for the festival and other events.

## Pavilion Hire.

Please contact me to book the pavilion. The charges remain £10 per hour for the length of your event. Setting up and cleaning free of charge. (Use of the showers is an extra charge).  
Andy Blake – [andyblake4@hotmail.com](mailto:andyblake4@hotmail.com)

To become a member of the CRFT 100 Club, please either:

1

### Pay annually:

Send cash or a cheque for £60 made payable to "Clipston Recreation Ground c/o Mr A Blake, 1 High Street Clipston LE16 9RU

2

### Standing Order:

Set up a standing order for £5.00 per month as follows: Clipston Recreation Ground, HSBC bank, Sort Code: 40-32-04, Account No: 91072595.

For more information or to confirm that you have set this standing order email: [clipstonplayingfields@gmail.com](mailto:clipstonplayingfields@gmail.com)

## 100 Club Winners

December	Jean Wilford	Alan Skinner	Sue Ashton
January	Moira Willey	Jim Tyson	Helen Bellamy

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 24 th September

### Clipston Trail Races

5 miles and half marathon races to choose from



# The Coronation weekend

**The Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort will take place at Westminster Abbey on Saturday 6th May, 2023.**

A weekend of celebration has been planned to mark the occasion nationally.

On Sunday, 7th May 2023, a special Coronation Concert will take place at Windsor Castle, it will bring global music icons and contemporary stars together in celebration of the historic occasion. The concert is to be broadcast by the BBC. In addition neighbours and communities across the United Kingdom are invited to share food and fun together at Coronation Big Lunches on Sunday 7th May 2023. With this in mind Clipston is to have a Coronation picnic on the playing fields.

Our coronation picnic will take place on Sunday 7th May, as part of the national act of celebration and friendship. So grab your chairs, rugs and picnics and come down to the Clipston Playing Fields on that date between 12 noon until 5pm.

We will have the pavilion open for the use of amenities and Colin playing music in the background. Activities for adults and children are in the planning so please look out for further information on posters around the village and announcements on the Clipston Facebook page. We hope many of you will come down and enjoy the 'Big Lunch' get together, make memories and celebrate King Charles III coronation. Hopefully, the sun will be shining brightly for us too.

**Mishe Rengger**



## Kelmarsh Windfarm Community Benefit

The next deadline for grant applications is Friday April 21st.  
Details at [www.kwcb.co.uk](http://www.kwcb.co.uk)



# Friends of Haddon Fields - Welcome to 2023



Hopefully you are enjoying all that Haddon Fields has to offer during the winter months. I'm sure that dog walkers have especially made the most of the open space to exercise their dogs during the rest period with no sheep or lambs around. But please note, lambs will be back in late March or early April, so Please, Please, put your dogs on a lead then! I hope that you enjoyed the Christmas music and mulled wine in Haddon Fields in December – even if it was freezing!

Nonetheless, everyone who came along seemed to enjoy the music and mulled wine with marshmallows. A special thanks to the Clipston Folk band and Friends of Haddon Fields volunteers who made the event special, so close to Christmas.

We are now looking forward to a Spring Open Day on Sunday 2nd April between 2-4 pm. This event will feature our own Jules Howard leading a frog-filled session! Jules will chat about frogs to start off, then there will be some trays of frog spawn ready for you to look at. Then the parents and kids will go looking for spawn around Haddon Fields. There will be a map of Haddon Fields for children to mark up with where the frogspawn blobs are. Jules will also try to find some toads which children might want to hold! Ellen Pentland from Northants Wildlife Trust will also be coming over too and will bring along some of our spring-themed wildlife spotter sheets for people to use around the field so that everything that is spotted can be used to create a species list. Ellen will also bring some display information about the life cycles of animals, which could tie in nicely with frogs! Ellen will be showing how to make nature wands by finding twigs, leaves, feathers, flowers, and then tying them around the stick with string.

**Spring Open day**  
April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2-4pm  
Meet at the Field Centre

**Join Jules & Ellen\* to...**  
Search for Frogs & Frogspawn  
Look for Toads & Wildlife  
Find twigs, leaves & feathers  
and make a Nature wand

**\*Jules Howard from Clipston & Ellen Pentland from Northants Wildlife**

**Enjoy Haddon Fields for free...**  
**All ages welcome !**

More details from Stephen Woodgate 07909535966



## Trees, Trees and more trees

No doubt many of you will have seen or been involved with the two compartments that were planted in Little Hill. The Celebration tree planting in November was a special community event and all the trees were planted, staked and had their commemorative tag attached. An aerial photo (courtesy of Jim Tyson) shows the Celebration trees within the fenced plantation area.

We are very grateful to Kelmarsh Windfarm Community Benefit (KWCB) for their very significant grant which contributed to the overall cost of fencing the two plantation areas. We also want to thank Rodney Dexter for his professional installation of the stock fencing - made even more difficult than normal due to the rock hard ground conditions last summer. In December, Seven Jubilee Oaks were planted in the Platinum Jubilee plantation area, along with over 100 saplings. We hope to plant more saplings in the Spring, so watch out for notices on Facebook and on lamp posts if you want to get involved. If you would like to be involved with Friends of Haddon Fields and make a contribution to the maintenance and development of Haddon Fields as Clipston's Community asset, please contact me.

Stephen



© Jim Tyson

# CLIPSTON BUSINESS DIRECTORY

## ACCOMMODATION

**Naseby Old Post House - B&B & Holiday Let**  
Leah & Nigel Gardner  
01604 740 985 / 07850 624 128  
[oldposthouse56@btinternet.com](mailto:oldposthouse56@btinternet.com)  
[www.theoldposthousenaseby.co.uk](http://www.theoldposthousenaseby.co.uk)

## ACCOUNTANTS

**Contra Accounting Ltd**  
Accountancy and Taxation Services  
[www.contra-accounting.co.uk](http://www.contra-accounting.co.uk)  
Chris Partridge 01858 414210 / 07912 058 431  
[chris@contra-accounting.co.uk](mailto:chris@contra-accounting.co.uk)

## Venture Accounting

Alun Davies Chartered Accountant  
tel: 01858 437 430  
[www.ventureaccounting.co.uk](http://www.ventureaccounting.co.uk)

## ARCHITECTS/PLANNING

**JWA Architects**  
[apm@jwa-architects.co.uk](mailto:apm@jwa-architects.co.uk)  
Andy Morris 01858 525 343

## Vinter & Prentice Ltd

Domestic & commercial: new build  
,extensions  
[Lindsey@vinterandprentice.co.uk](mailto:Lindsey@vinterandprentice.co.uk)  
Lindsey Cuoghi-Jackson 07711 067018

## AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS

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by George Archdale on all collectables  
Pictures, China, Silver, Books, Furniture,  
Jewellery, Medals, Sporting etc. Julie Connell  
01858 525336. [j.connell118@btinternet.com](mailto:j.connell118@btinternet.com)

## CABINETMAKER

**Jamie McAllister Cabinetmaker**  
Handmade furniture and kitchens,  
Antique restoration. 07970 584787  
[Facebook@jamie Mcallister](mailto:Facebook@jamie Mcallister)  
[handmade furniture and kitchens](http://handmade furniture and kitchens)

## CAMPING

**Buttercup Meadow Caravan and  
Motorhome site.** Jane Austin 07905 016 316  
Open from April until October. Adults only,  
off grid. [www.Buttercup-meadows.co.uk](http://www.Buttercup-meadows.co.uk)  
[Sjaneaustin@outlook.com](mailto:Sjaneaustin@outlook.com)

## CHILDMINDER

**Catherine Poynton Childminder**  
The Old Police House, Clipston  
Providing childcare for little people of all  
ages. OFSTED registered;  
tel: 07788 298 015

## COPYWRITING

**Freelance Copywriter**  
Writing services including websites,  
brochures, newsletters, email marketing etc.  
Liz Davies 07525 640 477  
[www.elizabethdaviescopywriter.co.uk](http://www.elizabethdaviescopywriter.co.uk)

## DIGITAL SCANNING SERVICES

**SCAN AND SHARE** your old/new  
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with a local trustworthy service  
Call to discuss 07801 388 007  
[jim.tyson101@outlook.com](mailto:jim.tyson101@outlook.com)

## DOG & PET SERVICES

**Nik Nack's - Dog Grooming**  
[niknacksdogs@hotmail.com](mailto:niknacksdogs@hotmail.com)  
Nikita McCauley  
07544 107 817

## The Dog House - Beth Wakefield

Dog walking, puppy visits, cat & small  
animal feeding.  
01858 525 556 / 07710 988 218  
[bethwakefield41@gmail.com](mailto:bethwakefield41@gmail.com)

## DOMESTIC APPLIANCE REPAIRS

**Appliance Corner**  
Washing machine, Dishwasher, Oven and  
Fridge Freezer repairs/sales.  
Colin Rengger 07500 562 462  
[appliancecorner.repairs@gmail.com](mailto:appliancecorner.repairs@gmail.com)

## EGG DELIVERY

**Clipston Egg Company**  
[Free range eggs delivered or collection](http://Free range eggs delivered or collection)  
Mrs A. Essen 07709 411 262

## ENVIRONMENTAL ENERGY

**Environmental Energies**  
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Zara Glew 01858 525 407  
[www.environmentalenergies.co.uk](http://www.environmentalenergies.co.uk)

## GARDENING

**Great Little Garden Company**  
Clipston garden maintenance  
Contact Dan Martin Tel. 07920 853 933  
[hello@greatlittlegardencompany.com](mailto:hello@greatlittlegardencompany.com)

## HANDYMAN

**Stefan the Handyman**  
Quality woodwork, tiling, decorating,  
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## THERAPY SERVICES

**Nila Lakhani**  
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Paediatric and Adult Physiotherapy  
0774 789 6740  
[nilalakhani@childrenstherapyservices.co.uk](mailto:nilalakhani@childrenstherapyservices.co.uk)

## Tania Richards

Specialist Speech and Language Therapist  
[www.figureofspeechandlanguage.co.uk](http://www.figureofspeechandlanguage.co.uk)  
Tel. 07759 327 039  
[taniaslt@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:taniaslt@yahoo.co.uk)

## Jane Trent Counselling Therapist

Adults and Children. Experienced working in  
NHS, Schools, Private. Bereavement, Trauma,  
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text 07901732156 [janetrent@gmail.com](mailto:janetrent@gmail.com)

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**Travel Counsellors - 01858 897 510**  
Your Local Personal Travel Expert -  
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## TREE SURGERY

**James Stevenson - 07541 253 869**  
Operating since 2003. Fully qualified &  
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All aspects of tree care. Free quotations  
Facebook: jamesstevensonstreesurgery  
[jamesryanstevenson@hotmail.com](mailto:jamesryanstevenson@hotmail.com)

## TUTORING

**Rachel Smith - 07749 471 739**  
English tutoring in Clipston  
Language/Literature tutoring of KS3-5  
11 years experience.  
[rootedenglishtutoring@gmail.com](mailto:rootedenglishtutoring@gmail.com)

Advertise your business  
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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](mailto: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 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**

## CWI - 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 - Secretary 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](mailto: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**

[Stephenwoodgate@gmail.com](mailto:Stephenwoodgate@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 newborns 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at village hall at 7.30pm.

[clerk@clipstonparishcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@clipstonparishcouncil.org)

[www.clipstonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.clipstonparishcouncil.org.uk)

### 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](mailto:andyblake4@hotmail.com)

[ianmay231@hotmail.com](mailto:ianmay231@hotmail.com)

## Bus Service to Harborough

Clipston to Harborough return  
on Tuesdays and Fridays only

Dep Clipston 10.10

Arr Harborough 10.35

Dep Harborough 12.50

Arr Clipston 13.17

## Is your group information up to date?

*Please let us know if things have changed.*

*Email the editorial team on [clipston.org@gmail.com](mailto:clipston.org@gmail.com)*