



Coronation Picnic
photos centre pages

Clipston Courier

Your Village Newsletter

June 2023

Welcome

Yes, summer is here everyone, and with it brings our latest edition, giving you all the village updates and events over the next few months.

From **film nights** (page 2) and a **classical music concert** (page 10) to the welcome return of this year's **Clipston Festival** (page 3), there's plenty to keep you entertained. But there's more serious news too, about the **threat to our wonderful church**, which is badly in need of maintenance help and fundraising to ensure its doors are kept open and preserved for future generations. Find out how you can support it on page 11. **Clipston's oldest charity** is also looking for help to keep its important work going, which, incredibly, it's been doing for over 300 years—learn more on page 6. And finally don't miss the wonderful **Coronation posters** from bygone years on page 7, which show how the coronations of 1937 and 1953 were celebrated by Clipston villagers.

It's another jam-packed issue—we hope you enjoy it.

Liz Clarke & Liz Davies
Editors of this edition

Unfortunately there won't be an edition in September (see page 4) but we'll be back with our usual Christmas issue in December. **Copy deadline is October 20th 2023**

HOW TO CONTACT US

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

For the full
festival line-up
see page 3

Clipston Music Festival

Saturday 24th June
3pm - 9.30pm
Clipston Playing Fields

Live Music - Local Bands
Dancing to the Folk Band

Bar & BBQ

Homemade cakes, tea and coffee

In aid of the Recreation Field Trust and other village charities

Made with PosterMyWall.com

CLIPSTON CHURCH MAY CLOSE WITHOUT YOUR HELP

See page 11



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



RE-DEVELOPMENT:

We have obtained multiple quotes for each element of the plan (lounge extension, damp proofing, roof repairs/ replacement, new heating and electrics, internal changes including refit of the kitchen and washrooms etc) and in total they amount to c.£350k. To date we have raised about 10% of that so there is a considerable way to go to afford everything. Some people took the opportunity at the 50th anniversary events to make donations to the refurbishment fund and if you would like to add a contribution this would be very welcome - we now accept cash, card, cheque and BACS! We are busy applying for several grants and expect to know by the end of the summer how much we have been awarded and therefore which elements of the plan can go ahead. Whilst we can't state any firm plans yet, we are hoping to be able to complete some outdoor works towards the end of the year and some internal works early next year.

PLAYGROUP:

Volunteers needed

Runs every Tuesday morning in term time. All parents/ carers and their babies, tots and pre-schoolers are welcome. Toys, music, story, drinks/snacks, socialisation and friendly faces are all included for £2.50 per child (additional children at £1.50). The group is run by volunteer(s) and needs new volunteers for the next school year (Sept '23 to July '24) in order to continue operating. If you can spare a few hours a week and would like to help on a weekly or rota basis or would like more information, please contact Catherine Poynton on 07788 298015.

Jumble Sale

The jumble sale held on the 6th April, 2023 raised £550 for the Village Hall funds. A big thank you to all who contributed in any way. The next Jumble Sale is on Thursday 7th September, so when you are having a clear out of unwanted items you can always donate them to this good cause. Thank you. (Angela)

DAY	WEEKLY WHAT'S ON
MON	9.30-11.30am - Over 50s 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 7.30pm (monthly, 1 st Wed) – Parish Council 7.30pm (monthly, 4 th Wed) – Clipston WI meeting
THURS	9.30-10.15am – Farrells fresh fish van (weekly) and Rita the refill roadster (fortnightly) 1.30-3.30pm – Whist Drive from September 7.15-8.15pm – Ballroom & Latin Dancing (Swing and Sway)
FRI	
SAT	SAT 10am – 12noon – Coffee morning on 3 rd Saturday of the month (17 th Jun, 15 th Jul, 19 th Aug, 16 th Sept, 21 st Oct, 18th Nov) <i>These offer a great opportunity to keep up to date with any Village Hall plans and progress.</i>
SUN	Children's screen school

For more information please see posters at the bottom of the village hall driveway.
All other times the hall is available for private hire.
Contact Faye Tan
faye@oldrectory.uk.net – 01858 525275 / 07725 427311



FILM NIGHTS

BACK IN OCTOBER! SECOND TUESDAY IN THE MONTH

Following a successful run of film showings earlier this year, Village Hall monthly Film Nights will be back this autumn!

Dependent on the refurbishment, we are planning on showing a film on the second Tuesday of the month from this October until March 2024. The precise line-up is still being worked out, but may well include The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry and the upcoming India Jones film.

Full details will be appear on the village Facebook page and posters will be put up to advertise the film of the month.

We'd love to see you there – all proceeds go to the Village Hall, so a good night and a good cause!

FESTIVAL LINE UP 2023

Saturday 24 June
3pm to 9.30pm



Step back Glastonbury! Whoa there Shambala! It's time for the highly anticipated and thoroughly enjoyable *Clipston Festival* to return once again to our playing field, with its wonderful combination of food, drink, music and community spirit. Bring your families, bring your dancing shoes and bring the sunshine to join fellow villagers and a fantastic line-up of local musicians, singers and choirs at our favourite annual event. Get your toes tapping and your feet moving to kick off your 2023 summer in true Clipston-style!

On behalf of the whole village, we'd like to say a huge thank you to the festival team who work incredibly hard every year to make it all happen—you're all amazing!

Stage line up

3 - 9.30pm

Background music to play you in Ragged Enz Jazz classics
Local young musicians and singers
Rocky Road Pilgrims - traditional blue-grass and gospel music.
Dancing to the folk band - English folk tunes for you to dance to and enjoy.
Stonemonkey - Indie Psychedelia
Festival singers - join in with some well known tunes
Kelmarsh Choir - more singalong fun
HubCap classic blues/rock
All Stars Great mix of local singers to finish the night off with a bang and get everyone dancing

Food & drink

BAR OPEN 3-9.30pm

Featuring Langton Brewery real ale, lager, wine, prosecco and soft drinks, served up by the Tennis Club

AFTERNOON TEA 3-6pm

Homemade cakes, tea and coffee, Ice creams in the Pavilion run by Stepping Stones and Clipston WI

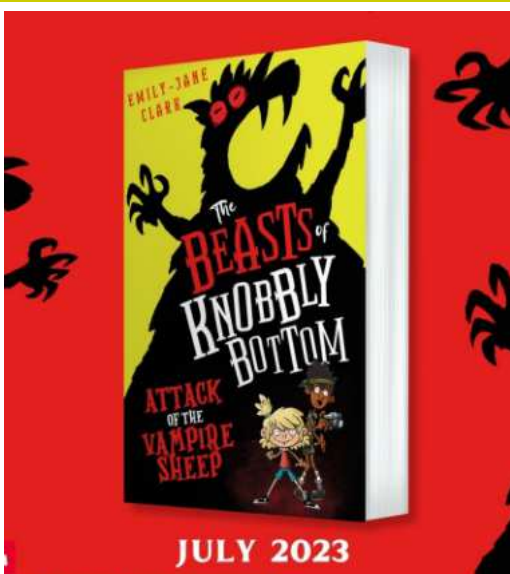
KIDS HOT DOGS 4-6pm

Early hot dogs to keep the kids happy

BBQ from 5pm

With veggie and gluten free options

Clipston author's laugh-out-loud new book!



Clipston's very own award-winning TV comedy writer Emily-Jane Clark is celebrating the launch of her hilarious new children's book in July—and you're all invited! **The Beasts of Knobbly Bottom—Attack of the Vampire Sheep**, will be launched by Quinn's bookshop at **Louisa's Place in Market Harborough on Thursday 6 July from 6-8pm** and any Clipston villagers who are interested in the book (or would just like free drink and cakes) are warmly invited.

Her brilliantly wacky story will delight kids aged 7-11, as it follows the adventures of sisters Maggie and Lily who move from a flat in Leicester to the boring village of Knobbly Bottom. But all is not as it seems, and upon discovering that local sheep are growing fangs they find themselves desperately trying to stop vampire sheep from taking over the world!

Emily-Jane's comedy-writing credits include shows like *Mock the Week*, *The Jonathan Ross Show* and *The Mash Report* (for which her most popular sketch has been shared a whopping 200 million times). So it's not surprising that the Beasts of Knobbly Bottom is being well-received, with a sequel on the way next year. Huge congratulations Emily-Jane, and good luck with the launch!

"Garlic baguettes and girl power- what's not to love! Absolutely bonkers and so much fun!" Ellie Taylor, Comedian, actor, author, presenter on Emily Jane's book

WHAT? No September Courier?

No, unfortunately there won't be an issue of the Courier this September.

As a team we're all busy with various family and job commitments and so we try to rotate the responsibility for producing each edition so no-one is expected to do more than 1 or 2 issues a year. But because of availability we aren't able to commit to the next one. Unless we can find others to help, we may only be able to produce 3 issues a year going forward.

Perhaps you could join us? Can you work to time-scales? Can you commit to giving up just a few hours a year? We're looking for co-ordinators and designers to join our friendly team, which meets quarterly to

plan ahead (and drink wine). You would only be required to help out with one issue out of four, so it's not a huge commitment.

A co-ordinator role is basically an organising job - you would e-mail regular contributors for copy (including sending reminders), then check the copy for any basic typos, do a word count and forward the articles and any images to whoever is putting the design together. It requires very little actual editing (which we think may have put people off in the past). You could always share the responsibility with a friend!

A designer role involves the design and layout so would need basic knowledge of using either Publisher or Adobe Indesign. You would work with the co-ordinator to create the final issue.

But neither of these roles are done in isolation. The team support each other throughout, meeting up as a group before each issue to agree what will be included, as well as signing off each edition.

We'd be so delighted to hear from anyone who'd like to join us. Our contact details are listed on the front page.

In the meantime, our next issue will be out early in December.

Canine Partners

What a turnout! You all came out in force to the two DIY coffee mornings held in March and April. Total raised £442 which was split between Canine Partners and Clipston village hall refurbishment fund. Thank you to everyone for helping make them a success.

Next coffee date for Canine Partners is July 15th. Find out more about this charity visit caninepartners.org.uk

Jill 525 746



Here is Anni with Labrador in training called Inca. This is the dog she has sponsored by raising money from her beautiful cards that you have bought over the many years at the coffee and chat mornings.

Celebrate a Tree in Haddon Fields



Plant a tree* to commemorate a loved one, to mark a special event or just to show that you love trees!



Sessile Oak

£50



Field Maple

£40



Downy Birch

£45

The cost of these UK grown trees includes a small extra amount to fund upkeep of the area including care of the Coronation Copse. If you would like to make an additional donation, you are welcome to do so!

***In the 'Coronation Copse' in Haddon Fields.....
With a 'Coronation Oak' in the centre.**

The specimen trees will be 1.5 - 2.0 m high and ready for planting between November & December 2023

To order a tree or for more information, please contact:
Stephen Woodgate 525566 stephenwoodgate@gmail.com
Jim Tyson 525697 jim.tyson101@outlook.com

Friends of Haddon Fields

OPEN DAY IN APRIL

It was fantastic to welcome about 60 people, both children and adults, to the Haddon Fields open day on a sunny Sunday afternoon in April. The open day centred around searching for frog spawn with our own Jules Howard and Ellen Pentland from the Northants (BCN) Wildlife Trust. Jules led the search for frogspawn and other wildlife in the stream while Ellen brought lots of interesting items from the BCN head office at Rushden Lakes*, to the Field Centre for children to use to investigate the environment and report their observations.

* By the way Rushden Lakes is worth a visit, for visiting the wildlife reserve and head office and of course the opportunity for some retail therapy!

CORONATION COPSE

I am very pleased to say that we have been given the go ahead to plant another area of Haddon Fields with trees. The area in Little Hill will be known as the Coronation Copse (see photo) and will be in the shape of a circle with a Coronation Oak planted in the centre.

I'm pleased to say that we have sufficient funds to complete the fencing of the perimeter to protect the trees from hungry sheep! We will, once again, offer residents or those with a village connection the opportunity to buy a tree and plant it themselves later in the year. Please see the advertisement (left) for details about our plans for inviting community participation with the planting event.



If you are interested in helping out the Friends of Haddon Fields or would like to make a donation to help us maintain this wonderful community resource, please get in touch with me.

Finally, please enjoy the benefits of Haddon Fields this summer, but please respect all the wildlife, including the sheep and lambs that will be present during the summer months.

Stephen Woodgate



ABOVE & FAR LEFT: Our open day in April
BELOW: Location of our planned Coronation Copse—see advert on opposite page



Can you help Clipston's oldest charity?

The Clipston School & Hospital Foundation was set up over 300 years ago, and is looking for new trustees to help continue the important work it does in the village. Now two charities (known as the Clipston School Charity and Clipston Almshouse Charity), they help look after the old school building and run the two almshouses next door, which provide subsidised accommodation and support for people who need it. Here Peter Goodchild explains more about the charity's very long history and what the role of a trustee involves.

A bit about the history

The large stone building we all know as Clipston School, which stands in the High Street was originally endowed and founded as a school building and a Hospital by Sir George Buswell in 1668. The original parchment deed is signed under seal and kept at the Northamptonshire Records Office, Wootton Hall, Northampton. The deed is written in old English.

The building, which included the School in the centre part, with the two 'Hospital' wings at the sides, was completed in 1673. The term 'Hospital' then referred to almshouse accommodation for elderly or poor persons. Although the school was in the centre part of the building, the ground floor was also the Master's living accommodation. The floor above was the School Room, and the original school desks are still in place today.

In 1926 a decision was taken to fully refurbish the school building allowing the former girls and infants school



If you think you'd like to become a trustee to help the good work of this charity continue, contact:

Peter Goodchild
07795 201 763

(now the village hall) to be housed in the same building. At this time too, two small bungalows were built adjacent (4 dwellings in semi detached layout) for the remaining occupants of the hospital. The school was re-opened in January 1928 as a central school with the hospital wings converted into classrooms.

The Charity Commission made an order in February 1928 for the division of the previous "School and Hospital Foundation" charity into the two separate charities we have today. The School Charity owns the school and is now only concerned with the safeguarding of the old school building, as since 1972 it became a Voluntary Controlled School administered by the County Council. The Almshouse Charity owns, manages and controls the bungalows which have now been converted into two detached dwellings.

Could you be a trustee?

Both charities are run by a board of voluntary local Trustees who meet twice a year. **At the end of this year our Treasurer and Secretary are leaving us** after years of service, which means we are looking for two replacement Trustees.

The general role of the Board of Trustees is to look after the buildings owned by the charities. This means supporting school governors and teaching staff to protect the old school building, and also provide active building maintenance and assistance for the bungalow occupiers.

The Treasurer looks after charity finances, including controlling and making payments, keeping track of expenses and receipts, the preparation of an annual financial report and making financial recommendations to the Trustees when considering annual rents.

The Secretary looks after the charity records, submits annual returns to the Charity Commission, publishes agendas for the biannual meetings and takes minutes at Trustee meetings.



The Bake Shed

Many of you will have already discovered the delicious delights of Nichola Jenkins' Bake Shed, but if you haven't, we urge you to check it out! It's outside her house on the High Street every Friday, Saturday and Sunday with a fresh and tantalising selection of baked goods, pastries and cakes for sale. Contact her on 07769 882703.

Friendship Club

This year's dates are:

July 10th

August 14th (garden meeting)

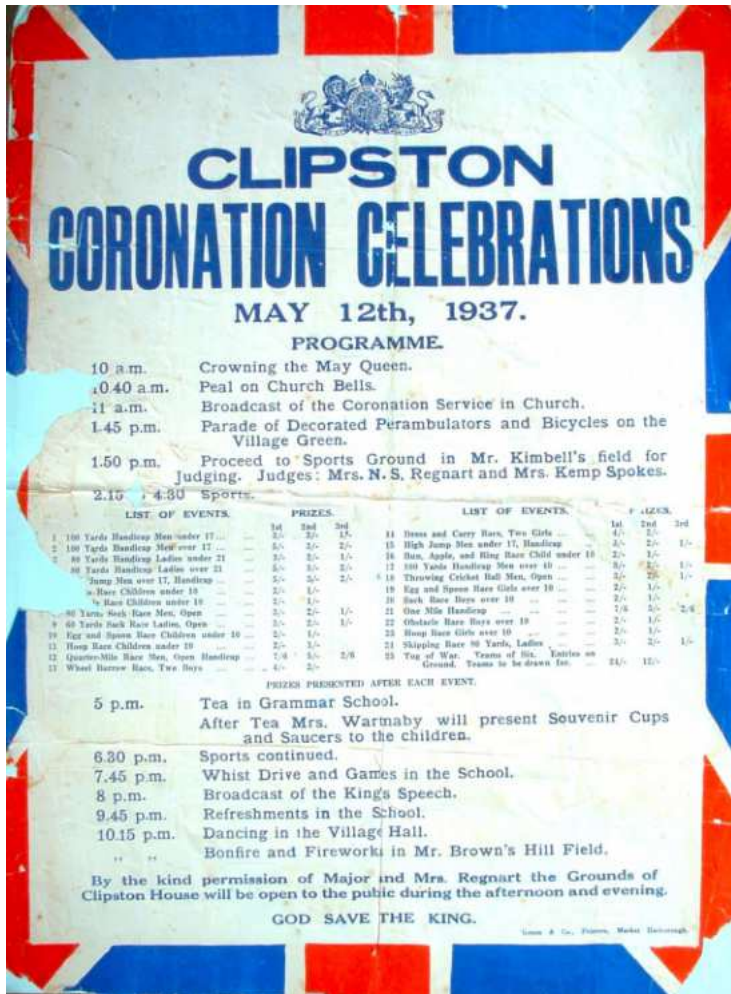
September 11th

October 9th

2 till 4 pm in Clipston village hall.

Jill 525 746

How Clipston celebrated coronations in the past



These fantastic old posters given to the Clipston Courier by Peter Wilford remind us that our recent celebration picnic wasn't the only coronation event to have taken place in the village! The poster from 1937 was kept by Peter's father, and lists a full day of festivities for the coronation of King George VI. It began at 10am with the crowning of the May Queen and continued until well after dark with dancing in the village hall and a bonfire and fireworks. The 'parade of decorated perambulators and bicycles on the Green' sounds like quite the spectacle, and it would be nice to know more about the 'Bun, apple and ring race' hidden amongst the usual races involving sacks, obstacles and egg and spoon. A similar programme was rolled out for our late Queen in 1953, including fancy dress and best decorated house competitions, with many activities focused around Clipston House with its ballroom and large garden (now Chestnut Grove). The 1953 poster was given to Peter by the daughter of the late Alex Pegram. A huge thank you to Peter for sharing these with us. And if you turn over the page, you can take a look at how Clipston celebrated the crowning of King Charles II, on 6 May 2023...

Clipston Tennis Club

The tennis season is now well and truly back ... as are the ageing tennis club members!

The Tennis Club continues to play socially on Wednesdays (from about 5pm) and will always welcome potential new members so please, if you can swing a racket, do come and join us.

In terms of competitive tennis, we have joined forces with Crick & West Haddon Tennis Club to jointly field a team in a new 50+ Summer Medley League (men, women and mixed format). We lost our first match 8-0 (to Heyford) but hopefully, by the time this is being read, we will have picked up at least a point!

The men's team, captained by John Tilbrook, having finished bottom of their league for the last 2 seasons, are confident of winning at least one match this season being bolstered by some new, younger talent (step forward Chris Spokes!) but let's not get ahead of ourselves yet! Dates of home fixtures will be displayed on the tennis courts and hopefully will not inconvenience anyone who uses the courts on a personal basis.

For more information please contact Martin on 525558



Clipston Coronation Pic



The glorious May sunshine shone on our Coronation festival as everyone gathered together with family, friends and neighbours from all over the village to celebrate the coronation of King Charles II with a huge village picnic. For most of the day it had not looked promising, so we were all delighted (and not surprised) to see the gazebos as sun shades rather than umbrellas! With bunting and a tasty looking picnic food, it really was a picnic to remember.

Thanks to Jim Tyson for his fabulous aerial shot above and several others for their contributions.



pic - Sunday 7 May 2023



ivities on Sunday 7 May, as we
n midday to mark the crowning
ne previous week the weather
ot a little relieved) to set up our
and flags galore and some very
pic fit for a King.

ral of the other photos here.





Clipston WI

Dates for your diary

June 28th Style Adviser Lesley Clarke

<https://lesley-clarke.co.uk> Calling all ladies! Come along to see how Lesley can help us discover what clothes, styles and colours work to bring out our best selves in *Looking Good, Feeling Great*. 7.30pm start.

July 26th Due to a cancellation speaker to be confirmed.

August 23rd meeting is an evening picnic/BBQ get together. Hoping for excellent weather!

September 27th: Steven Pateman will tell the story of how he saved his family factory with his red 'kinky Boots'. We will watch the film earlier that month through house gatherings and amazon prime.

Take a look at the website for more details and events in the later autumn <https://www.clipston.org/wi>

Guests are welcome for £5 to these meetings. Join on the night and get this refunded!

We were truly blown away on a cold February night by the wonderful architectural history tour around churches in London that feature in the *Oranges and Lemons* nursery rhyme. Colin Cohen was a font of great knowledge and made the armchair tour very entertaining. We are now planning our real trip to London to 'look-up' and explore many backstreets for their historical sites.



In March we were joined by the wonderful Lynda Hill who is the local co-ordinator of the Linus quilt project for disadvantaged children. Beautiful handmade quilts and lovely stories of how the children find them so meaningful in their hard times.

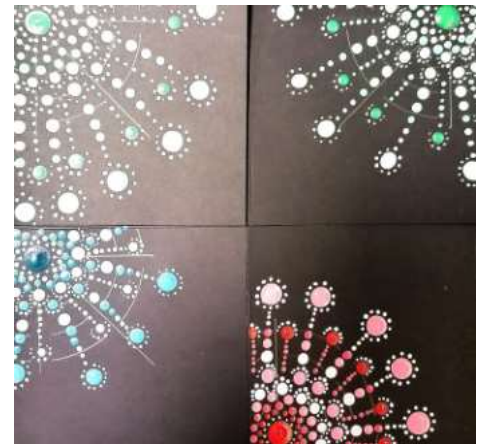
Mandala Dotting with acrylic paints and creating the most beautiful cards was how we spent the evening in April. Even those who felt they are not crafty or arty found that they surprised themselves

with lovely creations. Thanks so much to tutor Tina Bodsworth for bringing out our creative sides.

The less formal social evenings have been a real hoot. There were several near misses on the skittles night in the Bull's head. Jean tells me the bruises weren't too bad! The interior designs of Arts and Crafts designer Charles Rennie Mackintosh were a real pleasure to see at 78 Derngate in Northampton. Lunch at the Red Lion in East Haddon was excellent after exploring the small but beautiful Haddonstones Garden.

Our monthly walks (third Tuesday of the month) are mostly gentle and very much enjoyed. Well behaved dogs on leads. Meet at Clipston Rec car park, leave 1.30pm prompt.

Thanks to the committee and everyone for organising these events and making CWI such a vibrant and fun group.



Classical Concert:

Friday 25th August 2023 at 6pm, Clipston All Saints Church

Short Concert given by our talented local musicians

Featuring Charles Swinfen Organ, The Benefice Choir, Trumpeter, Flautist.

Followed by light refreshment, coffee, tea, wine.

Free Entry, no tickets required

Jars and plates will be put out for donations to go to the upkeep of the Church and Organ.

Card Reader available. Donations by BACS will be very welcome.

Details from Julie Connell j.connell118@btinternet.com. 01858 525336 or 07850 500474

Protect Clipston Church from Closure

As you probably already know from the leaflets delivered in May, Clipston church is desperate for the help of the wider community to keep it going. The upkeep of our important historic building is an enormous challenge for the small number of people who run the church, and without your support we may not have a working church for much longer. No one wants to see the doors boarded up and the churchyard overgrown.

The recent meeting held on 23 May explained how the church receives NO funding from the Church of England—it's *entirely reliant on donations from the community* to keep the building running. From the excavations required to fix a recent water leak which cost £7000 to the £15,000 that needed to be spent on the weather vane to make it safe (it was in danger of falling down), finances are not surprisingly running very low, which means even paying basic bills (electricity, heating etc) will become increasingly harder.

You don't have to be a church-goer to care about the future of this wonderful building at the heart of our village. Even if you aren't religious, we hope you still feel it's important to preserve its history for future generations.

How you could help:

1. Consider giving a donation

Every little helps. Please consider giving a one-off or regular donation to contribute to the upkeep of the church. To donate visit www.parishgiving.org.uk and search for Clipston All Saints.

2. Join the new fundraising committee

We plan to resurrect the 'Friends of Clipston Church' fundraising committee made up of people from the wider community, to generate ideas, and get some activities going to complement the concerts and garden events that happen already. If you would like to join others to help make this happen, please email Steve.

3. Volunteer for maintenance and other jobs

We desperately need help with general maintenance and cleaning jobs that are becoming too much for the church congregation. If you enjoy gardening, perhaps you could help with mowing, weed-



ing or clearing pathways in the churchyard? Or maybe you would find general cleaning or polishing the ancient brasses a satisfying job? We also need volunteers who can help out with refreshments at the Orbell Café, church services and other events. As we said, you don't need to be a church-goer, but you may enjoy volunteering once in a while, knowing this kind of help makes an enormous difference to lighten the load.

Please act now to help save Clipston Church!
To offer your support, please contact Steve Carpenter
ashtoncarpenter@btinternet.com
07722887153

Weather Vane & Clock Restoration



You will all by now have seen the fantastic job done on the church spire by Jake and Scott, the steeplejacks from Stoke on Trent. The new clock faces and the refurbished weather vane have been restored and are back in place again. Very many thanks to everyone who contributed to make this happen. **Steve Carpenter**

Stepping Stones Pre-School

This term the children have had great fun playing in our new playhouse and mud kitchen. A huge thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraising events that paid for the playhouse and to the Market Harborough Building Society Charitable Foundation who funded the mud kitchen. They have really revitalised the garden area and we are sure to have a lot of fun with them for many years to come.



Our next fundraising event is a coffee morning at Clipston Village Hall on Saturday 17th June from 10am-12noon. For this event we are working in partnership with Clipston Primary School PTA and there will be plenty of tea/coffee and cake - what better way to start the week-end. Everyone welcome. We look forward to seeing you there.



During the term we have been very busy with our usual wide range of activities and experiences including our weekly forest school, we have had caterpillars which we watched grow into butterflies, lots of dressing up, play with popular toys such as trains and dolls as well as a wide range of craft activities. We are looking forward to our end of year celebrations as we send 18 children off to "big school" this year with the very best wishes.

We will then have spaces available from September 2023. If you are interested in finding out more about our amazing pre-school, please contact us for more information.

Call us on 01858 525113 or email us at preschool1@clipston.northants.sch.uk

Clipston Recreational Field Trust

Dates for your diary:

Our two big events are coming up in the next few months—the **Clipston Music Festival returns on Saturday 24th June** - (more information on page 3) and the **Clipston Trail Races on Sunday 24th September**, with 5 miles and half marathon races to choose from (see right). We hope you enjoy them.

100 Club winners

January

Moira Willey
Jim Tyson
Helen Bellamy

February

Andrew Wallis
Beck Tomkins

March

Rosemary Tyson
Jon Oldershaw
Martin Clarke

The 100 Club helps raise funds for CRFT. Prizes are £100, £50 and £25 each month. The monthly subscription is £5. For more information email clipstonplayingfields@gmail.com

The Clipston Trail Half Run Sunday 24 September

Now in its fifth year the trail run takes in the bridleways and rolling countryside around Clipston, Haselbech, Maidwell and Kelmarsh and is well regarded by competitors, many of whom return each year to take on the challenge.

Following on from its successful inauguration last year we also see the return of the Country 5 miler route which proved so popular with runners looking for an introduction to trail running (or just something a little shorter). All competitors receive home-made cakes at the end of the run which are gratefully received, and all add to the appeal of this special event.



Register to run:

You can become part of the event either as a competitor by registering here <https://raceharborough.co.uk/clipston-trail-half/>

Join the marshalling team:

Mark Ginns will once again recruiting volunteers for marshalling duties and can be contacted on 07949 954 363.



Clipston Primary School

It has been a busy spring at Clipston School with lots of exciting activities and events to embellish the children's learning. Our Easter Service was a joyous and uplifting celebration with the traditional dressing of the Lenten Cross and prayers and readings given by the children. Afterwards, parents were invited into school to view a super display of Year 5 and Year 6 work based on their studying of Shakespeare and The Tudors, which included a trip to Mary Arden's House in Stratford. Children had created excellent animated presentations and 3D Globe Theatres using all manner of different media, including the edible variety!

We celebrated World Book Day as a whole school focussing on Bedtime Reading with everyone coming dressed in their pyjamas and with a favourite book to share. One of the main highlights of the term was watching eggs hatching and chicks being born, an event that was witnessed over several days by the whole school.

Our friends from Sparkenhoe School in Leicester visited us for the day and enjoyed a "What can you see?" walk around the village and a trip to the church. They also enjoyed seeing the chicks and watching a lamb being bottle fed in the school hall – huge thanks to Mrs Morse for arranging this! The reciprocal relationship between our two schools has been running for well over thirty-five years and some of our existing parents remember taking part when they were at Clipston! We are looking forward to our visit to Sparkenhoe next term.



Other exciting events have included a trip to Robert Smyth Academy to watch their performance of High School Musical – the children really enjoyed seeing past pupils performing on stage. The Whole School Archery Day, Literacy Trust's Reading Champion Quiz and Superheroes Sports Day have all added to the excitement this term. Children in Year 3 and Year 4 have also enjoyed perfecting their sewing skills and creating Sampler Bookmarks.

To mark the Coronation, every child received a souvenir mug and bookmark and the whole school entertained the Clipston Friendship Club with singing and Coronation Cakes in the Village Hall.

Clipston School is open for all children aged 4 to 11 years old from 7.30am each morning (Breakfast Club). And we also offer After School and Holiday Care in liaison with Castle Lane Day Nursery in Market Harborough. 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. Further information about the school is available on our website.

Emma Mercer - Head Teacher

www.clipstonprimaryschool.org.



Wonderful Walks: Lamport

Northamptonshire walks website

Walk 103: Lamport Circular Walk

Distance: 3.7 miles (5.94km)

Time to walk: Roughly 1 hour 20 minutes at a steady pace

Difficulty: A mixture of field edges, gravel and hard paths. This is an "Up & Down" walk and there's roughly 1/2 mile climb up a steady incline. There are no stiles.

Parking: We parked in the pub car park at the Swan in Lamport



If you have a favourite local walk please let us know!

Email your ideas to us at clipston.org@gmail.com

Another 'Wonderful Walk' this time starting in Lamport and taking in the village of Hanging Houghton. Park in the car park for the Swan at Lamport, turn left and follow the road towards Market Harborough for a short stretch until you reach the bridleway. From here walk across the fields taking in the beautiful views until you reach the Brampton Valley way. Walk left along the footpath until you come to the sign for Hanging Houghton, this sends you along a quiet lane up into the village. Once through the

village, cross the main road and into the Lamport Estate. The footpath leads you through the estate grounds eventually reaching Lamport village and back down to the Swan.

For a more detailed route visit

<https://northamptonshirewalks.co.uk/about/walk-118-lamport-circular-walk-spot-the-mushroom/>

Caroline Pemberton



The Clipston Twitcher

Before the pandemic I used to write a short piece for the Courier on birds in the village. I have been inundated with requests to start this up again!

So, has anyone seen anything unusual of late? Here in the north of the village the most notable change over recent years has been the number of red kites that we see every day.

Not long ago they were never seen in the village but the release programme in the Corby area has gradually spread them west and it will not be long before they meet up with the many from the release site in the Chilterns which has spread rapidly along the M40 corridor.

Another big and welcome change is the number of great spotted woodpeckers using our peanut feeders. We already have a small number of lesser egrets doing the rounds of the village wet areas. Keep your eyes out for its bigger cousin the great egret. I think I saw a couple recently and they are in the county. On the negative side however, numbers of



Egret photo by Bob Brewer on Unsplash

finches have dropped dramatically. Partly through a deadly disease we no longer see so many greenfinches or chaffinches. But, numbers of goldfinches seems to be on the up.

At this time of year one of the blessings of having to get up at the crack of dawn to answer a call of nature also gives us

the chance to take in another call. That of the dawn chorus. No finer sound in my opinion.

Let me know if you see anything out of the ordinary.

Steve Carpenter

CLIPSTON BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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

Clipston Groups & Organisations

Bell Ringers

We usually ring the bells before a service at 10.30am on a Sunday (normally at Clipston, but other churches in the benefice too). We warmly welcome new members and anyone who would like to watch.

Lydie Melvin 07866 622063

Bulls Head Skittles Team

We play home and away matches on Fridays from October to March and Wednesdays from April to September. New members welcome.

Robert Burnham 01858 525628

Clipston Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS)

A friendly group 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 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.nasebygroup.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 07795 201 763

Clipston Consolidated Charities

Colin Morley 01858 525337

Clipston School Charity

Peter Goodchild 07795 201 763

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