

# The 2026 John Clare Festival

## 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> July



John Clare Cottage open extended hours – check their website ([clarecottage.org](http://clarecottage.org))



### Friday 10<sup>th</sup>

10.30 – 12.15 “Midsummer Cushions” at St Botolph’s Church  
2 pm “A walk to see Betsey” – c 5 miles, taking in the history of Helpston, Ashton and Bainton.  
Starting and ending at the Cottage.

6 pm “Poems, Praise and Prayer with John Clare” at St Botolph’s Church  
7 pm Folk night at John Clare Cottage

### Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>

*Helpston Local History Group Exhibition “Family” at the Scout Hut*  
*Book sales at the Scout Hut*  
*Open Gardens, Children’s Treasure Hunt , Local Artist’s Exhibitions*

9.30 am Meet the John Clare Cottage Team over coffee  
10.30 am John Clare Society AGM at St Botolph’s  
11.30 am President’s Address: introducing “Springtime” by Mike Hobson  
12 noon the Beauvale Recorders at the Cottage, Lunches at the Village Hall, Peterborough  
Morris and Crosskey Clog Morris at the Bluebell Inn  
2 pm “Westings Meadow” – family art and natural history fun with Art Pop-Up at the Cottage  
2 pm Keynote Speech by Dr David Stewart of Northumbria University  
3 pm Teas at the Village Hall  
4 pm Poetry Reading at St Botolph’s  
7 pm Peterborough Choral Society in concert at St Botolph’s

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>

10.30 am “The Flitting” – a walk in the footsteps of John Clare and his family, from Helpston  
John Clare Cottage to Northborough  
2.30 to 4.30 pm at Northborough Church: “Martha’s Northborough” (£5) with Clare  
Richardson, James Keech on “The Overseers of the Poor Book”

