

**THE JOHN CLARE SOCIETY
GIFT AID DECLARATION**

Registered Charity Number 1124846

The Gift Aid information will be stored on computer by the Hon Secretary in order to reclaim Gift Aid from the Government in accordance with their rules and regulations.

Details of Donor

Title.....

Forename

Surname

Address.....

.....

.....Post Code

I wish the John Clare Society to treat all donations that I will make from the date of this Declaration until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations.

1. I pay Income and/or Capital Gains tax at least equal to the tax that the Charity reclaims on my donation in the tax year (currently 25 pence for each pound I give).
2. If my circumstances change and I no longer pay Income or Capital Gains tax, I will cancel this Declaration.
3. I will notify the Charity if I change my name or address.

Signature

Date

From The Progress of Rhyme

*I felt that I'd a right to song
And sung – but in a timid strain
Of fondness for my native plain
For every thing I felt a love
The weeds below the birds above
And weeds that bloomed in summers hours
I thought they should be reckoned flowers
They made a garden free for all
And so I loved them great and small...
And so it cheered me while I lay
Among their beautiful array
To think that I in humble dress
Might have a right to happiness
And sing as well as greater men
And then I strung the lyre agen
And heartened up and oer toil and fear
And lived with rapture every where ...
My harp tho simple was my own
When I was in the fields alone
With none to help and none to hear
To bid me either hope or fear...
No matter how the world approved
Twas nature listened – I that loved.*

Oxford Authors John Clare ed. Robinson
& Powell 1984 pp 155-8

The John Clare
Society



John Clare 1793 – 1864

John Clare was a unique poet whose verse will appeal to all who love the English countryside, its flowers, birds and animals, and its rich tradition of music, customs and folklore.

www.johnclare.org.uk

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THE JOHN CLARE SOCIETY was founded in 1981 to promote a wider and deeper knowledge of this remarkable poet.

THE SOCIETY'S AIMS are to bring together all lovers of JOHN CLARE'S poetry and prose who find him 'a voice for our own time'. It is also concerned to protect Helpston's environment and to encourage a rural education and sensitivity to the English countryside. The Society organises the annual **JOHN CLARE SOCIETY FESTIVAL** in Helpston held each July; it arranges exhibitions, poetry readings, conferences and talks.

HOW MEMBERS ARE KEPT INFORMED.

Members receive three Newsletters a year and an annual Journal in July. Additional news is also distributed via email.

THE SOCIETY NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT and a Membership Application Form is attached.

JOHN CLARE'S LIFE spanned one of the great ages of English poetry but, until about fifty years ago, few would have thought of putting his name with those of Wordsworth, Byron, Shelley or Keats.

BORN on 13 July 1793, the son of humble and almost illiterate parents, JOHN CLARE grew up in what was then the Northamptonshire village of Helpston and made the surrounding countryside his world.

AS A POET OF RURAL ENGLAND, he had few rivals. He has been described as 'the finest poet of Britain's minor naturalists, and the finest naturalist of all Britain's major poets.'

FOR ALMOST A CENTURY his work was forgotten by all but a few. Today more and more people are becoming aware of his evocative poetry, prose writings, and also the legacy of his collection of folk music. He now takes his rightful place with his famous contemporaries and speaks as much for the 21st century as he did for his own.

*"I found my poems in the fields
And only wrote them down."*



DATA PROTECTION ACT

*With your permission the information on the Membership Form will be stored on computer. It will not be disclosed to any other organisation and will be used solely to keep you informed about events of interest to members of the John Clare Society. Please ensure that you tick the relevant boxes. **If you do not opt-in for us to store this information we cannot send you any newsletters or the Journal.***

THE JOHN CLARE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name

Address

.....Post Code

Email.....

Telephone

Date

Please indicate which applies to you

I agree to the JCS storing my data for the purposes of membership information sharing and Gift Aid if appropriate

I prefer to receive Newsletters by email

I prefer to receive Newsletters by post

I wish to pay IN FUTURE by Standing Order (a form will be sent)

Individual £15.00

Double £20.00

Signed

Please send your cheque made payable to *The John Clare Society, to the Membership Secretary, Dr. Robert Heyes, 53 Judd Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2NH*