

CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

APRIL 2014



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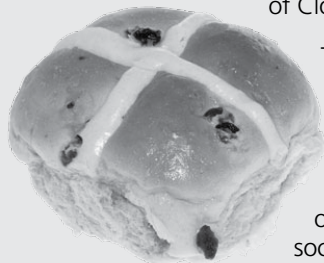
Email: benson.stuart@googlemail.com



A word from the Editor...

Hello everyone...

The daffodils are out, the clocks have gone forward and now that winter is over everything feels much lighter and brighter. Even better, we've got Easter to look forward to – cue **hot cross buns** and **chocolate eggs**. Not only that, children will be able to enjoy two Easter Egg Hunts over the Easter weekend courtesy of Clophill Preschool and The Stone Jug.



Talking of The Stone Jug, flick to 'Spotlight on...' to see landladies Vikki and Joyce receiving their award for CAMRA's **North Bedfordshire Pub of the Year** and find out why this little pub is such a hit with the locals.

Also in this issue, you'll find the latest news, articles on everything from dating to flowers plus a round-up of social events in the coming months. I hope you enjoy it!

See you again in May – bye for now.



The magazine staff

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Don't forget you can now read Spotlight online at

www.clohillspotlight.co.uk

Your letters...

Dear Spotlight

We're hoping to buy the property at 43 High Street and would like to restore the house to how it used to look. Does anyone have a photograph of the old house? If you can help at all, please contact us at geoffmead@btinternet.com

Thank you.

Angie and Geoff

St Mary's Church, Clophill

Church Fete

& Village Event

24th May 2014

12 – 4pm

in the Church grounds

FUN for ALL

Rides on
steam traction bus

*Shefford
Majorettes*

Safari Stu with
his exotic creatures

Lots of stalls

Sideshow

Barbeque

Entertainment for children

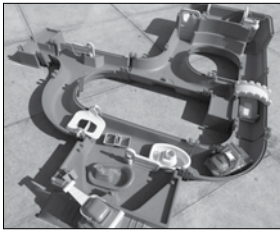
Refreshments in the Church Lunches and Teas

For further information – call Gill 01525 861058



Clophill Preschool News

We've been lucky enough to have **received funding money** from Central Bedfordshire Council. This has allowed us to buy new child- friendly sinks, rugs, bean bags, sand and water trays, a digital photo frame so parents can see what their children have been up to during session time, a camera plus trolleys to make outdoor resources more accessible for children to self-select. We also finally have **our new uniform** – we chose pale blue and green to reflect the grass and sky, which represents our ethos of enjoying our outdoor space.



It's been lovely **playing outside in the sunshine** and we've also restructured our outdoor space to complement our new indoor space. We have willow dens, a fenced-off bike/scooter area with road signs and a parking bay. Our new water and sand trays sit either side of our resources trolley, an investigation table, a construction table and of course our famous mud kitchen! We always have some kind of ball activity out, as well as our climbing frame and wooden stepping logs.

We're pleased to announce that **Julie Steadman** is now a permanent member of staff. We're very lucky to have Julie – who's been kindly helping us out from time to time since we began – as she's a fantastic practitioner (NVQ 3) who the children adore. Some of you may know her from Funzone where she also works. We also have **Kimberley Holland** joining as a volunteer. Kimberley is hoping to study Childcare and has chosen our setting to be her first step on the road to achieving her goal.

Graham the Minister, now a regular friendly face at Preschool, has been back to visit us again, telling the Easter Story to the children and having a cup of tea with staff and parents. Thanks as ever, Graham.

For **Mother's Day** the children performed their version of Monkey Puzzle by Julia Donaldson to family and friends and we held an Easter Craft Activity morning, where parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles came along to make Easter bunnies, baskets, biscuits and bonnets. Thank you to all our families for your fantastic continued support.



Easter Egg Hunt

Everyone is invited to our Easter Egg Hunt, which starts and finishes at the Village Hall. It costs **£2 per child** and all completed sheets will receive a Chocolate Surprise. **PLUS...** come along and have a go at activities such as 'Eggs in the Sand', 'Boiled or Not?' and 'Splat the Rat' – all for just 50p a go.

We will also have 'How Many Eggs in the Jar?'. For the first week of the Easter holidays you can also have a guess at the Café on the Green, which is showing its kind support for us and will have the Egg Jar on display.

We hope you can help us to make this village event a huge success and something we can repeat every year.



Clophill through the years

by Colin Watt

The history of Clophill charities

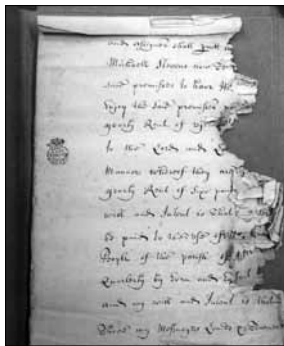
As well as providing Poor Relief, as an alternative to the workhouse Clophill had many charities that provided for the poor. In the March 2011 issue of Spotlight there was an article entitled 'Clophill United Charities'. It listed the following charities and the dates that they were founded:-

Thomas Dearmer	Will proved at Northampton 1630
John Bryan	Will and codicil dated 1655
Poor's Estate	Founded before 1707
Fuel Allotment	An award of 1826 pursuant to Inclosure Act
Marl allotment	Ditto
Sand and gravel allotment	Ditto

Bedford & Luton Archives & Records Office holds a selection of documents from the Charity Commission – the 'Annual Statement of Accounts' – which cover the period 1900 to 1955. They give details of the receipts and payments for each charity.

Thomas Dearmer's Charity (later spelt Dearman)

Thomas Dearman died in 1630 and is buried in Old St Mary's churchyard.



The will of Thomas Dearman (Bedford & Luton Archives & Record Office)

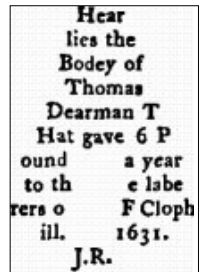
In his will he left '2 acres and 2 allotments of 6a, 3r, 29p and 1a, 3r, 2p'. (One acre = 4 roods. One rood = 40 poles). The rent from this land was to be used 'For the benefit of poor labourers not receiving parish relief'. Why it is referred to as 'Dearmer's Gift' when his name was Dearman isn't known.

In 1912 this charity received £30 10s in rent from property and land that it owned. It also received £7 6s 8d interest on East India stock that it held. It spent £27 8s of this distributing 4s each to 137 needy villagers. It also paid Corn Rent and Poor Rates. The Corn Rent was a tithe that was paid with money (rather than produce) and was linked to the price of corn (index-linked). The Poor Rate was a tax on property levied in each parish, which was used to provide poor relief, an alternative to the workhouse.

John Bryan's Charity (later spelt Bryant)

This charity's receipts came from 'Consols', originally short for 'consolidated annuities', which is a form of British government bond (gilt) dating originally from the 18th century. In 1907 a holding of £250 10s 3d yielded £6 5s 4d interest per year.

£1 10s 0d was spent on dress material from Mrs Mead who was a grocer and draper. Young Lilian Shotbolt (a dressmaker living at the Flying Horse) made up four dresses for 12s and Emily Upton (another dressmaker in the High Street) made up two more dresses. Five pairs of boots



The epitaph written in a quaint manner on the gravestone of Thomas Dearman. (Victoria County History)

were purchased from George Chapman, a shoe maker and gardener, for £2 10s, and Samuel Perkins, a market gardener, was paid 9s 6d for one pair. These dresses and boots may have been for poor young girls to wear to Sunday School. Also 10s was distributed to widows on St Thomas Day (December the 21st). In England on St Thomas Day, poor women and children went from door to door 'a-Thomassing'. They would beg for the ingredients or 'goodenings' for a Christmas feast, such as wheat for frumenty and flour for Yule bread.

The Poor's Estate

This was another charity getting income from the properties and lands that it held. In 1911 £27 8s was given as Clothing Tickets (worth four shillings each) to 137 needy villagers. £6 was given to the Picture Trust.

Fuel Allotment (includes sand, gravel and marl allotments.)

This charity collected rents from allotments that it owned and let to market gardeners. It also let three marl pits and a sand and gravel pit. Lord Lucas (Wrest Park) made an annual gift of £4. £28 6s 8d was spent on coal for the needy, 137 recipients getting 4 cwt each. The charity also paid the Poor Rate of £2 15s.

Library and Picture Trust

This charity didn't appear to have any assets but received money from some of the other charities or from bequests. In 1907 books were purchased from S.P.C.K. and pictures from Mansell & Co. A librarian was paid £2 a year and the books and pictures were insured. James Whittamore (carpenter) was paid £5 15s 6d to make a bookcase.

The library may have been in the Reading Room or attached to the school or have been part of a Sunday School. The books were from a religious source as may have been the pictures. Between the wars there was an annual Eisteddfod held in Bedford and in 1921 £4 7s was spent in transporting Clophill children to attend it.

Clophill Church Estate & The John Mendham Charity

These two charities owned property including cottages and meadows. The rent that they received from them didn't go to the poor but was spent by the churchwarden on maintaining the fabric of the church. In 1907 Mr W. T. Sharpe was paid £15 18s 5d for 'repairs to the church' while in 1946 £36 6s 9d was spent on 'Parish Room roof repair' (which was thatched). They also had to pay a 'corn rent' of 10s 8d. All property belonging to the Church was sold at or about Lady Day 1923 and the money invested in 3 ½% Stock.

Clophill United Charities

The Charity Commission accepted a scheme that finally united the charities so that they all came under the title of Clophill United Charities.

An additional item that was paid by the United Charities was Queen Anne's Bounty. A sum of £1 10s 4d was paid twice a year. Queen Anne's Bounty was a fund established in 1704 to augment the incomes of the poorer clergy of the Church of England. The bounty was funded by the tax on the incomes of all Church of England clergy.

The existence of the above charities show just how many poor families there were in the parish and what efforts were made to reduce the poverty.

If anyone has any corrections or additional information please contact
Colin on **01525 860922** or **colin.watt@mooncarrot.org.uk**.
Find out more about Clophill's History at www.clophillhistory.org.uk



Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire

Wildlife walks & talks



Plants and Insects

Monday 28th April, 7.45 pm, Maulden Church Hall

Join Brian Eversham, the Wildlife Trust BCN's chief executive, for a fascinating evening on one of his favourite subjects. *£2 per adult suggested donation.*

Bird Walk

Saturday 10th May, 10am, Flitwick Moor

Steve Halton, Ecology and Community Engagement for Central Beds, brings his expert ear and years of experience to reveal Flitwick Moor's bird life. Places are limited, so please book. *£1 per adult suggested donation.*

To reserve a space, or for additional information, please email flitvale.info@gmail.com or ring **Kathy** on **07890 347327** after 6pm or at weekends

Vintage Fair

Clophill Village Hall

Sunday 11th May, 10am-4pm

Come along and browse for furniture, clothes and homeware. There'll be a vintage tea room plus rock 'n' roll music and dancing.

£3 entry for adults; children free

Proceeds go to the *Freeman Academy*

For more information, contact Loraine Freeman on 0771 4014484

The Freeman Academy Boxing Club

Tuesdays and Fridays, Clophill Village Hall

Kids club: 4 to 11-year-olds. Time: 6pm-7pm

Senior club: 12 upwards. Time: 7pm-8pm

£2.50 a class; everyone welcome

This is a charity-based club with experienced trainers. For further details contact **Loraine** on **07714014484**



A date with the unknown!

A villager – who wishes to remain anonymous – shares her experience of internet dating.

Finding myself unexpectedly single again in my mid 40s and fed up with meals for one, I decided to take the cyberspace plunge and try internet dating. After the first hurdle – setting up an online profile – I embarked on my dating adventure...

Date No 1: ‘Goldfish Man’ Talked incessantly about his very large pet goldfish called Moby Dick. Um, not the greatest start, it has to be said.

Date No 2: ‘Mystery Man’ He never turned up, twice. The barman was very sympathetic and gave me a free drink.

Date No 3: ‘I’ve got a BMW Man’ I spent the entire evening listening to him bragging about his brand new BMW. At the end of the date, while I recovered in my car I saw him cycle off on a rusty old bike.

Date No 4: ‘I need a Nanny Man’ This man thought internet dating was a cheaper option than finding a nanny. Next!

Date No 5: ‘I’m 45, but really 65 Man’ A lovely chap, but on his internet profile he’d deducted 20 years off his age and used his friend’s photo.

Date No 6: ‘Cried in the Pub Man’ Said I was so nice to talk to. So he did. For 3 hours. He said it was better than his counsellor.

Date No 7: ‘Slap on the Rump Man’ As I stood in a queue getting a coffee, his welcoming greeting was a ‘thwump’ on my rear, causing me to spill most of my coffee over the waitress.

Date No 8: ‘Can I bring my Pet Goose Man’ No! Next!

Date No 9: ‘Valentine’s Man’ He arranged our date for 14 February and I was showered with roses, chocolates, champagne, dinner – then never heard from him again. That is, until six months later when he phoned to ask if we could ‘try again’.

Date No 10: ‘Forgot my Wallet Man’ Had asked if we could do dinner, ordered the meal then when it came to pay he slapped his pockets and did that old ‘I forgot my wallet’ routine.

Date No 11: ‘The Best Date Ever Man’
A wonderful evening. I took him on a whistlestop pub tour of mid-Beds and we arranged to see each other again. *And – drum roll – we’re now happily married.*

I’d like to point out that among the hilarity, I made some great new male friends – many of whom had suffered equally strange experiences with their female dates. So it wasn’t just me!
Go on, dip your toe in the water – it might be the start of something special!





Clophill Open Gardens Weekend

21st & 22nd June

12 - 6pm each day Adults £5 accompanied children free

Programmes from The Green, Church, Village Hall and Methodist Church

Refreshments at the Church

Children's Treasure Hunt

Plants at the Church

Proceeds to St Mary's Church, Clophill



Volunteers needed

Clophill's bi-annual Open Gardens takes place on 21 and 22 June – and included in this year's lovely selection are some gardens that have never been open before plus one garden that hasn't been open since the first event some 40 years ago.

Could you help out by spending a couple of hours sitting in a garden to check that visitors have tickets? If you can offer some time over the weekend please contact **Sue Hughes** on **861524**.

**Leonard
Cheshire
Disability**

Jumble Sale

7pm, Friday 25th April, Clophill Village Hall

Entry 30p per adult, accompanied children free. Refreshments available.

All profits are donated for the direct benefit of the residents at the **Leonard Cheshire DisABILITY Home in Ampthill**.

If you have any good-quality jumble for us or would like to help at the event please call **01525 861110**.

Clophill Friends of the Leonard Cheshire Disability Home at Ampthill

SPOTLIGHT on...The Stone Jug



Vikki and Joyce accepting their award from Roger Stokes, Branch Chairman (North Beds) of CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale)

On Monday 24th March, regulars at The Stone Jug gathered around the bar to see Vikki and Joyce Stevens being presented with an award for 'CAMRA's North Bedfordshire Pub of the Year'. They then toasted the pub's success – it's the fourth time they've won the award – with a glass of bubbly and the pub's legendary sausage rolls.

The pub – which serves three regular ales as well as ever-changing guest ales sourced from everywhere from Devon to Scotland – has been in the Stevens family since 1981. It was originally run by Joyce and her husband, but when Arthur passed away 14 years ago Vikki stepped in to become joint licensee with her mum. 'I'm very proud of this Back Street boozier because there aren't many "proper" pubs around anymore,' says Vikki. 'And The Stone Jug isn't just about being somewhere to get a drink – it's all about community.' Mum Joyce agrees. 'It's a lifeline for many of our customers. They can come in here for a chat if they've had a bad day or ask around for a plumber or a tree surgeon.'

It's very much an all-inclusive pub, too. You could find yourself supping a pint with a university student or with someone who can regale you with stories about the war. It's dog-friendly as well – there's always a water bowl outside and dog biscuits behind the bar. And along with quiz and music nights, the pub also hosts family-friendly events during holiday times like Easter. 'It's definitely a family pub,' says Joyce. 'I remember when kids used to play in our back room while their parents had a drink, and now those kids have grown up and drink in here themselves. Some of them even have children of their own now.'

Along with their loyal customers, the pub also has a troupe of long-serving staff. Barman Bob has been there for 32 years, while Kitchen Kim has put in around 15 years' service (not forgetting former staffer Doreen, who racked up 22 years behind the chip fryer).



'It's a real team effort and we'd like to thank everyone who works here,' say Vikki and Joyce. 'And of course our biggest thanks goes to our customers for continuing to support their local. This award is for everyone.'

For info on the pub's guest ales, check out
<https://www.facebook.com/thestonejugclophill?rf=163123120414524>



There's no
such thing
as the
Dog Poo
Fairy

Authorised by
Clophill Parish Council



Bag that poo –
any rubbish bin will do

KEEP
BRITAIN
TIDY

Love
where
YOU
Live

Let's talk about sole trading

with Sally Cobban



This month I'm going to talk to those of you who are self-employed as **sole traders**, who've been considering trading through a limited company. There are various things to consider.

When you're a sole trader (ST), there's no separation between you and your business – you don't even have to have a separate business account (although it's a good idea to

have one). That means if you're entering into contracts, loans or hire purchase agreements as an ST then if you default on payments, or get sued, then you'll be personally liable.

Also, as a sole trader **you'll pay income tax and class 4 national insurance on your business profits**. If you're a basic rate tax payer then that's 20% tax and 9% class 4 NI – 29%, ouch! ST accounts are private, though, and not published anywhere, so there's less paperwork and more privacy for a ST.

When you're profitable as a sole trader then it's tax efficient to look at **trading through a limited company**. This way you can avoid income tax (subject to your level of income) and pay corporation tax instead – corporation tax is payable by your company, and the smaller company rate is 20% with no national insurance being due.

When you're a limited company there are a few more paperwork hoops to jump through – you'll need a separate bank account as the limited company is a separate legal entity to you. Therefore contracts, loans and HP agreements in the companies' name will be separate liability to you personally. Limited companies have to publish their accounts annually and send an annual return to Companies House but the information that's published is reasonably limited – it's only the company balance sheet for a small company, with no profit and loss detail.

TAX FACT

Corporation tax rates
for March 2014

Company profits	Rate
First £300,000	20%
Next £1,200,000	23.75%
Over £1,500,000	23%

You can contact Sally at sally@sjtax.co.uk or **07899 808592**; www.sjtax.co.uk

CLOPHILL TODDLER GROUP

Understanding the importance of a child's play

LOTS OF TOYS, SPACE AND FRIENDS
FOR BABIES AND TODDLERS UNDER 3

FRIDAYS 10.00 – 12.00 at the Village Hall
See 'Village Groups' for contact details





St Mary's School News

Our Value for April is *Joy*

'A feeling of happiness and contentment brought about by special people, objects or events.' Joy is an inside happiness that makes it through to the outside – like the bubbles and fizz in a bottle of pop when you shake it up.

When Christians get really joyful they do so because of God, because his presence is so great and big and loving. When the joy in God bubbles up within a person, it can come out as shouting, singing, clapping, playing instruments, or even dancing. Sometimes Christians write hymns or poems to express their joy.



World Book Day

The children made a fantastic effort and there were some amazing costumes in school as you can see in the pictures. The £100 we raised has been forwarded to Book Aid International, which this year is sending books to Africa.

Lent Concert: 'A Spring Thing'

This year, through our Lent appeal, we supported The Duke Edwards Anglican School in Guyana. Members of the senior clergy and the Schools Diocesan team have been out to Guyana recently to create links between schools in our Diocese and schools in Guyana. This is the first stage of our link and we hope to develop it further throughout the year.

As usual, we raised money by staging a Lent Concert – this year's was entitled 'A Spring Thing'. In next month's Spotlight, we'll let you know how much we've raised.



A 'Surprise' Visit for Hazel Class (year 2)

We had a surprise visit from a fire engine as part of Key Stage 1's super starter for their 'Fire' topic. We talked about fire safety and even got to have a go at being a firefighter ourselves when we each had a go at spraying the hose.

St Mary's School News

Continued

Gardening Club

Thank you to Mrs Hutton, Mrs Lewis and Mrs Ball... it's lovely when you drive into school to see all the beautiful spring flowers that the Gardening Club have planted. They've also organised for some new wooden raised vegetable planters to be made – thank you, Mr Day, for kindly donating your time and resources to do this for us. These are for the children to plant their vegetable seeds in later in the season. The children are also being taught how to make Willow fencing by Mrs Lewis and these have been put around the planters.

Rowan (Yr 3) and Oak (Yr4) Class Activity

As part of their Asia topic, KS2 at St Mary's C of E Lower school celebrated the Hindu festival of colour, Holi. Everyone in year 3 and 4 got involved with throwing powder paint to mark the coming of Spring.

Free School Meals & New Parents

You can find information about free school meals at www.stmaryslower.info If your child is entitled to Free School Meals it's important that you register with Central Bedfordshire because even if your child doesn't take up the meals there are other things in school that your child will be entitled to free of charge. Parents who are new to the village will also find lots of useful information on our website.



Term Dates 2014

Summer Term

Term starts 22 April
Term ends 18 July
Half Term 26-30 May

Autumn Term

Term starts 3 September
Term ends 19 December
Half Term 27-31 October

Acorn Nursery News



We say 'Hello' to Jack, Niamh and Bailey and hope they enjoy their time with us.

Continuing our theme of 'Once upon a time' we've started to **grow beans** like Jack (from Jack and the Beanstalk) and before the holiday we'll be planting them outside. We've also sent home sunflowers which can be grown at home or returned to the nursery garden to be planted.

We've made our Mums beautiful cards and key rings and are starting our **Easter cards**, too, which will contain a little treat.

The Value within the nursery this half term is '**Love**'. Before Mothering Sunday we discussed who we love and how we show our love to family and friends (especially our Mums!).

**TADS THEATRE TODDINGTON PRESENTS
A TADS TEENS PRODUCTION
BY DAMIAN TRASLER, DAVID LOVERSY & STEVE CLARK**

nursery

CRIMES



25th and 26th April 2014 at 7.45pm

Adults £8 Concessions £6

For Tickets Call 07952633234

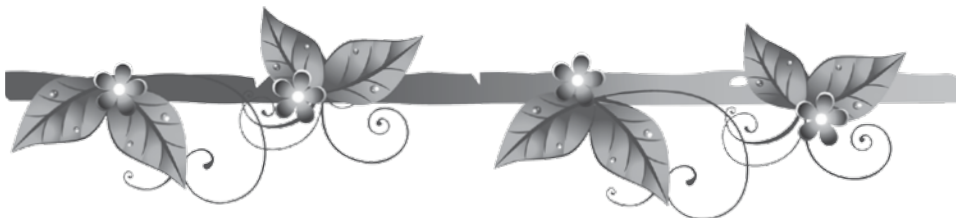
or Book Online at

www.tadstheatre.org



Charity No. 294694





Clophill & District Flower Club

On Thursday 6th March, the Club welcomed back Gill McGregor with her title 'The Romance of Flowers'.

We enjoyed the feel of Spring with a traditional arrangement of flowering hawthorn, yellow daffodils, white narcissus, pink tulips and white iris set against dark green garden foliage.

Red padded hearts were the accessories for a design for Valentine's Day – a dramatic display of trimmed palm leaves, ivy and two shades of red roses, accompanied by entertaining stories of being a florist and taking orders for 14th February.

All sorts of natural items are now included in floral design and Gill used some globe artichokes in a horizontal design on a deep red vase, as well as showing us how to plait, fold and roll leaves for different effect. The addition of dark red tulips and red anthurium made this a stunning arrangement.



Gill's penultimate design included a flower she hadn't used before but couldn't resist buying. This was the Eucharist Lily, five of which made a stunning but simple arrangement with dark green backdrop of Fatsia with rolled and pinned Aspidistra leaves.

The introduction of a blue mesh screen, green medilino sticks and a blue vase heralded the final design. Using Palm, Aspidistra and Dracaena foliage, Gill added an unusual focal point – **a deconstructed blue net shower mop!** She then added some beautiful Agapanthus and green chrysanthemums.

We wish Gill well with her trials for becoming a National demonstrator.

Gillian Hill

1st May – 'Colour My World' with National Demonstrator Tan Strong
Tickets: £10 for visitors, including a glass of wine. Call 01525 860539 or 860713

SPOTLIGHT meets...

In last month's Spotlight we highlighted the story of **Lorna McLellan**, who had been selected to go forward for the London audition for BBC1's **Great British Bake Off**.

Unfortunately, Lorna had to pull out of the audition because of a hand operation.

We wish her a speedy recovery - and look forward to hearing how she gets on when she applies again next year!

Christine's quick 'n' easy recipe

Fettucine with Courgettes



INGREDIENTS Serves 4 people

- 400g fettucine or tagliatelle
- 50g of pancetta or streaky bacon
- 6-8 baby courgettes, finely sliced
- 2 cloves of garlic, crushed
- Pinch of crushed chilli
- Pinch of saffron
- Extra virgin olive oil
- Fresh flat-leaf parsley, chopped
- 1 medium shallot, finely chopped
- Salt and freshly ground pepper
- Freshly grated Parmesan cheese

1. Put a large pan of salted water on to boil.
2. In a separate pan heat a good glug of olive oil.
3. To this add the crushed garlic and finely chopped shallot and fry gently until softened but not browned.
4. Add in the pinch of chilli flakes and saffron.
5. Add in the finely chopped pancetta and fry for another minute.
6. Finely slice the courgettes in rounds and add to the pan.
7. Add in two soup ladles of hot water and continue to cook until the courgettes are tender.
8. Season to taste (bear in mind that the pancetta might be a little salty).
9. Boil the pasta until 'al dente' – cooked but still with a bite.
10. Drain the pasta and add to the courgettes. Mix well.
11. Place in a warmed serving dish and sprinkle with the parsley.
12. Serve with freshly grated Parmesan cheese.

Christine Fellini runs Italian cookery classes in Clophill www.casafellini.co.uk

Are you planning to commemorate the First World War?

If so, the **Heritage Lottery Fund** may be able to provide funding to help you.

Heritage Lottery Fund can provide funding to help groups, communities and organisations mark the centenary of the First World War by exploring, conserving and sharing the heritage of the First World War, from memorials, buildings and sites, to photographs, letters and literature.

For further details, log onto <http://www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/whatwefund/FirstWorldWar/Pages/FirstWorldWar>

News from Clophill Heritage Trust

The Greensand Ridge Charity Walk to raise money to help fund our Eco lodges took place over the weekend of 15th/16th March. Day 1 – Saturday – meant an early rise for a 6.30am departure by mini-bus from Clophill Village Green to the canal-side at Linslade where **21 hardy souls started the walk at 7.25am**. The route crossed water-meadows, Rushmere and Stockgrove country parks and after some woodland mud-hopping, on through the Woburn Abbey Estate to The Green Man at Eversholt. We were there by 11.15am, and the friendly landlord opened up early for us (it wasn't too early for a pint) and served excellent vittles to fuel the next stage. After crossing long stretches of farmland, the M1 and skirting the Millbrook proving ground, we met around 12 youngsters and parents at The Chequers in Millbrook for them to begin their 7-mile challenge. They **positively skipped along**, unlike the worthies who'd already walked 17 miles and who took the further opportunity for refreshment of an amber nature. By the time we arrived back in Clophill it was just after 5pm, having walked 24 miles. Some sought refuge in The Stone Jug.

On Sunday we got a lie-in as we didn't have to leave Clophill Old Church until 7.15am. The route took us around Chicksands Wood to Haynes, over the A600 and through the Northill Estate woodland where **kites, buzzards and pheasants** were much in evidence. Another early lunch was taken at The Crown, Northill, around 11am, then it was onwards over the A1 and the River Ivel at Sandy towards Everton. We finished the walk at around 3.45pm in Gamlingay, where we had tea and cakes at The Hub after completing 17 miles that day.



At the finish in a field in Gamlingay

Everyone, including pet pooches, was deemed certifiable and thus received appropriate paperwork from the organisers Ali and John Bradbury. Sincere thanks also go to Linda Moon for her hard work in organising the event.

A reception was held for our funders and dignitaries at The Old Church on Thursday 20th March, and the photo shows a group at the top of the 'restored' nave. CHT are working with these and other potential funders to meet our remaining funding deficit for the Eco lodges. The feedback from our guests was very encouraging – as was the feedback at our village communication event at St Mary's Church the same evening.



It's not too late to make a donation to the cause. Just visit www.mydonate.bt.com/charities/clophillheritagetrust

Greensand Community Choir

'Calling all Singers!'

come along to our **new** community choir for a free taster event, Monday 7th April, 8.00-9.30 pm at St. Mary's Church, Clophill.

- come and sing with an exciting new local choir led by a professional musical director
- uplifting music in a variety of styles: musicals, classic pop, folksongs, sacred and world music
- welcoming singers of all abilities - no need to read music!

Enquiries to:

greensandcommunitychoir@gmail.com
or phone Luke on: **01525 838199**

Parish registers for April

1814

Baptisms

April 10th Ann Ansel (sic)
Lucy Odel (sic)
James Roberts

Marriages

Date unreadable William Day to
Mary Harbourne (?)

1864

Baptisms

April 10th Elizabeth Hopkins (?)

Burials

April 6th Elizabeth (?)
Thomas Willison

1914

Baptisms

April 17th George Parkinson
April 26th Olive Harris

Burials

April 9th Henry Tingey, 85

1964

Baptisms

April 14th Lynda Joyce Haswell
April 26th Ian John Stanforth

Burials

April 11th Percy Samuel Mann, 78

ST. MARY'S CHURCH REGISTERS FOR MARCH 2014

Funerals

March 4th Peter Eric Middleton (Pete), 57
March 5th John Hugh Turner, 70

NB: Last month there was an omission –
1964 burial/March 18/Eileen Alice Wilson, 48

If you have any stories or information about the people named in the records, which you would like to share with us, please get in touch.

Clophill Parish Council

Notes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 25th March 2014

(Readers are reminded that these notes are a resume only, official minutes are available both on the internet and notice boards. All official correspondence should be sent to the parish clerk and not individual councillors.)

Public Question Time

There was one question from villagers who attended the meeting regarding the proposal for placing a large mobile home in a garden at Goodwood Close. While there was a discussion concerning this, rather than repeat what appears later in this article I would refer the reader to the planning report submitted by the Parish Council's Planning Sub Committee.

Police Report

The council received a report from Bedfordshire Police regarding crime within the village. Our crime rate is low compared to other like areas but there were two significant offences. The first was an arson attack to the newly built lodge at the old church. This took place on the night of 9th/10th March. The police are investigating the offence but I would urge anyone who has any helpful information to contact the police. This can be done by use of a confidential telephone line. The second offence was a burglary of a house in the Old Silsoe Road, which took place during daylight hours. The message, as always, is keep your homes secure. Report suspicious people or incidents – by these methods we can help keep our community safe.

The Lands Committees

As you're aware the parish council has been trying to get Bedfordshire Highways Department to take action for remedial work to our roads within the village. We've had some success and some of the potholes have been repaired. There is still much work to do however and the pressure will be kept up to ensure that when possible this work will be undertaken.

A request has been received from a resident asking for the re-instatement of the salt bin at the junction of the High Street and The Causeway. The possibility is being researched by the council.

We're still awaiting proposals from Amey (the Bedfordshire Highway's contractor) for the removal of the redundant footbridge at The Green.

Planning – March 2014

Applications Received by Central Bedfordshire

CB/13/04467/FULL

Location: 5C Back Street
Proposal: Erection of new front porch following removal of existing porch
Applicant: Mr C Deverill

Plan is to replace existing porch with one almost exactly similar, but slightly larger. **SUPPORT**

CB/14/00156/LDC

Location: 7 Goodwood Close
Proposal: Siting of a mobile home
Applicant: Mr K Garwood

Clophill Parish Council

Continued

This application seeks to obtain a legal (ie not Planning) decision to introduce a very large mobile home (2 bedrooms, kitchen/lounge, wet room and lobby) into the garden for use as a granny annex. Such a procedure completely evades the planning process and ignores ALL planning rules. The PC only discovered this application by accident and has been told that the decision will be purely legal and that the PC's and neighbour's views won't be considered. Further, neither the PC nor residents have ANY right of notification. The PC is most concerned over this procedure and its possible implications and is pursuing with CBC. Although told that it's a legal and not a planning application and nothing to do with the PC, the PC is objecting strongly. Last month, we reported in Spotlight that this same applicant had submitted an application to extend the existing house, including on the ground floor, making it a five-bedroomed dwelling (which the PC supported without any knowledge of the LDC application). The LDC application now asks for this large mobile home for the part-time use of an elderly mother who will spend most of her time in and use the services of the existing (enlarged) dwelling. **OBJECT STRONGLY**

CB/14/00465/FULL

Location: Plots 3 & 4, Paradise Farm, The Causeway
Proposal: Erection of two stables
Applicant: Mr N Gumble and Mr S Greenhalgh

Proposal is to install two off-the-peg timber stables, each with two stable doors. The one on Plot 3 (immediately east of the existing two gypsy plots) will be located facing south immediately adjacent to the entrance track. The second, on Plot 4 will be placed to face east. **SUPPORT**

CB/14/00693/FULL

Location: 9, Old Silsoe Road
Proposal: Variation of Condition No 9 to allow for conversion and use of garage as utility room/office
Applicant: Mr R Ebdon

Proposal is to amend original, approved application to allow the removal of the integral garage in full keeping with the house to permit use as an office and utility room in part for family medical reasons. There will be no commercial traffic and there's no problem with parking. **SUPPORT**

CB/14/00877/FULL

CB/14/00878/LB

Location: Speeds Dairy Farm house, Beadlow
Proposal: Erection of garden room to rear of dwelling
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Hind

Proposal replaces previously approved application (CB/13/04072/FULL, CB/13/04073/LB) to erect a garden room on the rear of this listed building. The PC had objected to the original proposal as being unsuitable. The new application is exactly as the PC had suggested originally in its objection. This enhances the building and the PC welcomes the new proposal. **SUPPORT**

Clophill Parish Council

Continued

CB/14/00928/FULL

Location: Land to the east of Castle Hill Court
Proposal: Erection of nine dwellings including access from Shefford Road (six dwellings) and an access through Castle Hill Court for three dwellings.
Applicant: Greene King via Mr B Sherry

This site for nine dwellings was finally approved by Government as a part of CBCs' Site Allocations Development Plan. Two developments were authorised for Clophill. They were both subjected to a public hearing at Chicksands with a government Inspector before final approval was given. This, for nine dwellings, was one. Greene King submitted a planning application for the nine dwellings in 2012 (CB/12/03123/FULL) – three affordable and six five-bedroom dwellings – which was approved. This application now seeks planning approval for a different layout to ensure that the three affordable two-bedroom houses included will be accepted and managed by the same agency as Castle Hill Court, rather than delete them altogether and pay a compensating sum to CBC (hence the access via Castle Hill Court). Considerable research has been undertaken by the applicant including discussion with CBC before submission. Account has been taken of the issue of access to and impact on Shefford Road, and including the construction of a footpath.

SUPPORT

Applications Approved by Central Bedfordshire

CB/14/00141/FULL

Location: 89 High Street
Proposal: Garage conversion; replacing the single-glazed garage doors with a window that matches those at the front of the house
Applicant: Ms Brunsden-Parsons

Intention is to convert existing garage into a playroom. PC had supported but was concerned that plans didn't match the main house. CBC approval now requires this (only a minor requirement).

CB/14/00156/LDC

Location: 7 Goodwood Close
Proposal: Siting of a mobile home
Applicant: Mr K Garwood

Details of this proposal and the PC's concerns are detailed above. Despite all the reasoning (and including that the intended single occupant will spend most of her time in the adjacent large house and not in this mobile home) and that this is a very real flood plain, CBC have approved the issue of the required certificate. This was done purely on legal grounds, planning rules weren't considered (and, no doubt, influenced by historic legal precedents around the UK). The PC is angry and upset, both by the approval given and the refusal by CBC to consult or even advise the PC of this application.

Clophill Parish Council

Continued

CB/14/00290/FULL

Location: 2 Northfield Cottages, Great Lane
Proposal: Erection of two-storey extension to rear and single-storey extension to side
Applicant: Mr C Jones

Plan is to enlarge and modernise this old semi-detached dwelling (similar to what has been achieved with No 1). PC had supported.

Notice of Tree Works

CB/TPO/14/00056

Location: 1 Hawthorne Close
Proposal: Reduce crown of ash tree in rear garden by 2-3 metres
Applicant: Mr G Walford

Tree is one of three on rear boundary next to Jacques Lane. The other two (both oaks) were similarly reduced last year. Concern is to reduce risk of felling in high winds.

Care Village Proposals

Following an approach by the company (English Care Villages) the PC advised them that it wouldn't take a position until ECV submitted their Planning Application to CBC (now expected to be in the second half of this year). Preparatory to that ECV were recommended to brief all Clophill residents and to discuss key issues, in advance, with CBC (eg access, sewage removal). The brochure 'drop' and the exhibition were ECV's initial response. ECV is a commercial company and their plans are also commercial.

The quarry site lies outside the existing settlement envelope. However, as residents will be well aware, the government is pressing for increased housing development in the South East. The (local) owner of the quarry site is keen to sell and two developers separately have previously, unsuccessfully, sought to create a large housing development on the site. If ECV don't succeed, or don't proceed, with their application it's virtually certain that other developers will follow, with a willing landowner. The PC is concerned that, as time goes on, there will be increasing difficulty in opposing a large development on the site. The ECV proposal should be seen in this wider context. But, as stated, the full PC won't make any decision until a formal application is made and the views of Clophill residents taken into account.

CBC Consultation, Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan

The PC has responded to the CBC Consultation into its Pre-Submission Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan. The final plan is required by government instruction. No potential site has been listed for Clophill and the PC is satisfied with its contents, but won't comment on the suitability or otherwise of selected sites in other parishes. Given the recent history of gypsy arrivals in Clophill on an unsuitable site which had been purchased by the residents, and CBC's immediate acceptance of the now legally-approved location as a 'windfall', the PC is concerned over the consultation's intention to consider future 'windfall' sites and has expressed its concerns in its response.

The next meeting of the parish council will be on 22nd April 2014 commencing at 7pm. It will be a short meeting that will be followed at 7.45pm by the annual parish meeting.

What's on in and around Clophill

- APRIL**
-  **Friday 18th**
Live music 9pm, The Stone Jug, Clophill
 -  **Saturday 19th**
Quiz night 8.30pm, The Stone Jug, Clophill. Teams of 4-5. Cash prizes
 -  **Sunday 20th**
Family Day From 4pm, The Stone Jug, Clophill.
Egg-hunting, games for the children plus a magician
 -  **Friday 25th**
Jumble Sale 7pm, Friday 25th April, Clophill Village Hall
 -  **Friday 25th and Saturday 26th**
Nursery Crimes TADS Theatre, Toddington, 7.45pm.
See this issue for details and ticket price

- MAY**
-  **Thursday 8th**
The Art of Body Painting A talk and live demonstration by Alex Saunders, 7.30pm, St Mary the Virgin Church, Clophill. *See the March issue for ticket details*
 -  **Sunday 11th**
Free entry to the Ailesbury Mausoleum & Crypt
From 3-5pm, Maulden. Plus tea and cakes in St Mary's Church, Church Road, Maulden
 -  **Sunday 11th**
Vintage Fair 10am-4pm, Clophill Village Hall. *See this issue for details*
 -  **Saturday 24th**
Clophill Fete 12pm-4pm, St Mary's Church, Clophill

On every month...

Tuesdays and Fridays

- **Boxing Club** Kids' club: 4-11-year-olds, 6pm-7pm; senior club: 12 upwards, 7pm-8pm. £2.50 a class. See 'Village Groups' for contact details

Every Wednesday

- **'Tea and Chat'** in Clophill Methodist Church Schoolroom, 10.30am-noon
- **Celtic Evening Prayer**, Clophill Methodist Church, 7.15pm. All are welcome

Every Friday

- **Clophill Toddler Group** Clophill Village Hall, 10am-noon See 'Village Groups' for contact details

One Saturday a month

- **Messy Church** Clophill Methodist Church, 4-6pm. April 12th; May 17th; June 21st; July 12th; September 20th; October 11th; November 15th; December 13th

All-age craft activities, worship and a meal for all the family. No fixed charge, donations welcome to cover costs, children must be accompanied by an adult. See 'Village Groups' for contact details.

If you have any diary dates that you would like included on this page, please email clophillspotlight1@hotmail.co.uk

Useful numbers

Gas (Emergency)			0800 111999
Electricity (Emergency)			0800 7838838
Emergency Fire/Police/Ambulance			999
Water/Sewage (Anglian Water)			0845 7145145
Telephone	(Customer Services) 150	(Faults)	151
Highways Department (Central Bedfordshire Council)			0300 3008049
Benefits Agency (Bedford office)			01234 361500
Registrar's Office (Births/deaths/marriages)			0300 3008089
Rail	(Bedford) 01234 269686	(Flitwick)	01582 27612
Buses 01234 262151	(Link A Ride) 01525 840511	(Flittabus)	01582 406561
Luton Airport			01582 405100
Swimming	(Flitwick) 01525 717744	(Robinson Pool)	01234 212479

LIBRARIES

Bedford	01234 350931	Ampt Hill	01525 402278
Barton	01582 881101	Flitwick	01525 715268

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Central Beds Offices (Chicksands)			0300 300 8000
Mid-Beds MP		Nadine Dorries	01462 811992
Central Bedfordshire Councillors		Michael Blair	01525 404513
	Paul Duckett 07988 184061	Mark Smith	01525 402560
Clophill Parish Council		Peter Clarke	01525 861179
	(Clerk)	Mrs Lyn Lyman	01908 584159

HOSPITALS

Bedford (North & South)	01234 355122	Admissions	01234 261150
		Appointments	01234 359012
Luton & Dunstable			0845 1270127

DOCTOR'S CLINICS

Ampt Hill	(Houghton Close) 0844 8151055	(Oliver Street)	01525 631395
		(Greensands)	01525 631390
Shefford	Enquiries 01462 818620	Appointments	01462 810034
Barton 01582 528700		Flitwick	0844 4996928

POLICE

County Police HQ		Non Emergency	101
Ampt Hill Station			01234 841212
Clophill Local Policing Team			101
			01234 842613

CHURCHES

St Mary's Parish Church	(Gill Jones) 01525 861058	or (Liz Henman)	01525 860108
St Francis of Assisi Shefford			01462 813436
Clophill Methodist Church		(Mr Jim Davies)	01525 860829

SCHOOLS

Clophill St Mary's C of E Lower School & Nursery	(Headteacher Mrs C Spurgeon)		01525 860206
Harlington Upper School , Harlington			01525 755100
Redborne Upper School , Ampt Hill			01525 404462
Robert Bloomfield Middle School , Shefford			01462 628800

Village groups

Beverley Court	Sharon Soper	860920
Boxing Club	Loraine Freeman	07714 014484
Brownies	https://enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk	
Christians Together in Clophill	Fergus Milne	860894
Clophill Community Care	Duty Contact	07791 773705
Clophill Heritage Trust	Ali Bradbury	07894 710001
Clophill Parish Action	Ali Bradbury	07894 710001
Clophill St Mary's C of E Lower School & Nursery	Sharon Kempson	860206
Clophill Toddler Group	Louisa Sherry	861039
Clophill United Charities	Gillian Hill	860539
Conservation Group	Brian Adams	862297
Flower Club	Gillian Hill	860539
Friends of the Cheshire Home	Sue Pearson	861110
Funzone After School Club	Rosemary Ilett	860274
Indoor Carpet Bowls	Tony Meredith	860754
Messy Church	Victoria Higgins	07920 568861
	victoriajhiggins@hotmail.co.uk	
Neighbourhood Watch	Mick Everitt	861049
Pre-school	clophillpreschool@gmail.com	07732 872685
St Mary's PTA	Charlotte Benjamin	861185
Scouts and Cubs	Ralph Rayner	403956
Tuesday Club	Betty Hampson	860750
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Marilyn Browning	07821 643936

Welcome to Clophill St Mary's C of E Lower School and Nursery

St Mary's
CLOPHILL
C of E SCHOOL

St Mary's is a Voluntary Aided Church of England Lower School based in the village of Clophill. We are a small friendly village school with close links to the local community, taking children aged from 2 years 7 months to 9 years.

St. Mary's is a Values Based school which provides children with a framework for living, tightly woven into the positive Christian ethos of the school.

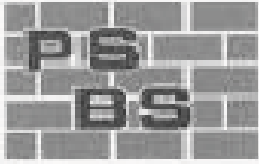
Our vision at St Mary's is to provide a secure, inclusive and stimulating child centred environment, where all children are inspired to achieve their full potential.

Our aim is that every child will develop as a caring, respectful member of the community and society as a whole. We will achieve this through a creative curriculum based on our values, reflecting the Christian ethos of our school.

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