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FREE

CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

APRIL 2015



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A word from the Editor...

Welcome to April

Last month I popped along to the village hall to find out more about the **Neighbourhood Plan**. It was a really informative event and I came away buzzing with ideas on how Clophill could look in the future.

I'd love it if the village had its very own butcher's shop (or, failing that, a mobile butcher's). I reckon it would be great for commuters to have a shuttle bus to Flitwick station. I'd like more of a business hub for people who work from home. And I'd just love to see a regular farmer's market here!

So how about you... what do you want Clophill to be? Somewhere that has interesting things to do for your bored teenagers? A place that has affordable housing for when your kids leave home? A village that isn't so congested you can't park outside your house? A safe haven for your elderly parents?

You can read more about the Neighbourhood Plan in this month's issue. The possibilities for Clophill could be endless... if we all make our voices heard!



See you back here in May!



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COPY DEADLINE

20th of the month

COVER
PICTURE

Owl photo taken by **Alex Saunders** during
February's photography course at the Old Church

News from Clophill Heritage Trust



A European Eagle Owl. Photo by Andy Fox LRPS

The Old Church and Eco lodges

On Saturday 28 February our first Birds of prey photography course took place at the lodges and was deemed a great success according to those who were there.

The course was led by Andy Fox, a specialist wildlife photographer who lives in Clophill. With guidance from Andy, the group were able to take short-range photographs of Barn, Tawny, Long-eared and European Eagle Owls, Kestrel and Peregrine. There are plans for a further course in the late summer/autumn featuring American bird species.

On **Tuesday 28 April** there will be an historical timeline exploration from the tower entitled 'History around you'. This is for KS2-4 kids and adults and lasts four hours.

We'd like to welcome **Sue O'Neill** as our Marketing and Advertising manager. As one-time executive assistant to the Director of Cranfield University, Sue comes to us with a vast amount of professional administrative experience.

Don't forget to visit www.ClophillEcoLodges.org.uk where you can find out more about The Old Church and Eco lodges, book courses and sign up to our mailing list. You can also book a course by emailing info@ClophilHeritage.org

Contacts: Ali Bradbury (07894 710001), John Wright (07860 839845) or Barry Breed (01525 860834).



Did you see last month's eclipse?



All eyes were on the sky on Friday 20th March for the solar eclipse. One villager who saw it sent in this picture. 'I took this photo at around the local peak of the eclipse at 09.35am, in Sheephill Orchard, Kiln Lane,' says Peter Byass. 'The sky was still cloudy but there were little patches of thin cloud that gave a good view of the eclipsed sun between thicker clouds, just at the right moment, and without it being too bright.'

News from Clophill Heritage Trust

Continued

Alex Saunders took part in the Bird of Prey photography course. He gives us a round-up of the day...

Although it was slightly windy – to say the least – up at the Old Church, there was a good turn-out of photographers of all skills. Along with course leader Andy Fox, we were joined by Emily of the English School Of Falconry who was very knowledgeable about her birds and was obviously very passionate about her job.

Among the birds of prey were a long-eared owl named Arthur and a rather sleepy tawny owl called Indy. The morning was spent taking static shots of the owls within the superb but windy old church. I hadn't been up there since the re-build and what a difference! I can see all the hard work that has gone into giving the church a new lease of life.

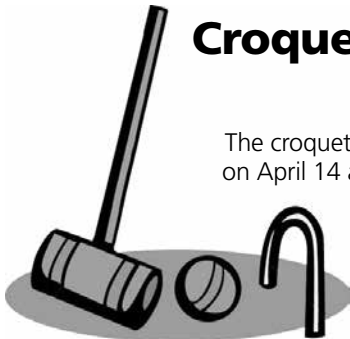
After a brief lunch and a warm-up of tea and fudge we took shots of a barn owl, tawny owl and kestrel in flight – which some found easy and I found impossible.

It was an enjoyable and very memorable day and I managed to get some stunning shots. We were also treated to a trip up the church tower, where we were joined by the peregrine falcon Fallow, who didn't seem so keen to go up the tower. All in all a great day! **Alex Saunders**



Photo by Alex Saunders

Croquet at Wrest Park, Silsoe Social Day, April 14



The croquet season gets underway in April with a social day on April 14 at the new lawns adjacent to the football/cricket ground at Wrest Park. Four lawns are now available and anyone interested in playing (or learning to play) is welcome to come along.

Club members play socially and there are league matches throughout the summer.

For more information, phone **Keith Palmer** on **01525 860724**

Hi everyone! Well, we always think the Autumn term goes the most quickly with so many festivals to cover and the nights drawing in, but it seems that this Spring term took us by surprise!



Certainly the second half saw us very busy with yet more new starters plus a Mother's Day Performance and Craft morning in aid of the I Can charity's **Chatterbox Challenge**. I Can works hard to support children with communication and language difficulties in the Early Years. We taught the children songs that they performed in front of their Mummies and other family members and we asked for donations towards tea and cake at the end. We even started the event with some Easter crafts for each grown-up to make with their child – from **planting daffodil bulbs** in pots they decorated themselves to making Hungry Caterpillar Cress bodies. We raised £50 for the charity.

For this fantastic event the Times and Citizen paid us a visit and did a great article in the paper featuring our children and their crafts. They even managed to capture a few of the less stagestruck ones doing actions with their singing! If you'd like to see our article, look us up on the Bedford Today website under 'Getting creative at craft day'.

At Preschool we place communication – be it with children, parents or colleagues – at the top of our agenda. Without it we can't **share, learn or befriend**. Communication means more than language, especially with younger children. It begins with gesture, eye contact and facial expression developing into sounds and words. With this urge to communicate there's a need and gradual development of understanding both of other people and the world around them. At Preschool, how we the staff talk to the children as well as each other is very important as language and other forms of communication are the tools to learning. We demonstrate respect and humour as well as the give and take that's so valuable in communication.

One way of encouraging communication is through common experiences. Very popular with our children are our malleable resources and we see the importance of bringing the children together through their interests. We therefore experimented with a range of resources to see which ones really fired up the children's imaginations and drew them to the sand tray. We weren't surprised to see that it was the natural products: the **pine cones, pebbles, sticks and shells promoted the most creative and imaginative play**. We found those that tended to play alone were engaging with others and making friends creating stories and narratives as they played. The introduction of the different resources



Clophill Preschool News

Continued

encouraged the children to play in a different way in a medium that could often appear one-dimensional to them. The children never cease to amaze us with their creative abilities and what they can see in a pile of sticks!



Big thanks to Graham from the Methodist Church who came to visit us in March to tell the children the Easter Story complete with props including donkey, nails and egg.

Another visitor was one of our parents who's a radiographer and came to talk to the children about her job. They were all fascinated by the x-rays she brought and it sparked lots of talk, mark making and role play about bones, skeletons and hospitals. We always welcome visitors who'd like to share their jobs or interests with the children. Just give us a call or pop in.

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone who supported our 2nd Great Easter Egg Hunt. The day was a great success! *Chris & Imogen*

- Get in touch on **07732 872685** or clophillpreschool@gmail.com And check out our website for news updates and future events <http://www.clophillpreschool.co.uk>

CLOPHILL METHODIST CHURCH



SATURDAY 25TH APRIL :11am to 2pm

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TEA/COFFEE
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PROCEEDS IN AID OF CHURCH RAISE THE ROOF FUND



Clophill through the years

by Colin Watt

Edward Crouch – the father of Clophill

Edward Crouch was a farmer who lived at Cainhoe Park Farm, on the parish boundary with Gravenhurst. He also farmed Warren Farm and had land at Gravenhurst and Shillington. He lived for 91 years, from 1823 to 1914, and throughout his life he spent much time and effort in the service of the surrounding communities.

the Unionist Association at the Compasses Inn, and was a Guardian of the Poor, responsible for the Poorhouse.

As a farmer, he was a popular employer and entertained his employees to an annual repast at The Compasses Inn. In 1880 the labouring men of Clophill presented him with a silver inkstand inscribed with the

words 'Presented to Edward Crouch, Esq., by the labourers of Clophill.'

Edward's energies weren't all devoted to the parish of his birth. He owned a farm in Shillington and in 1870 was elected a member of the first Shillington School Board, where he held office for some

considerable time. In order to assist the Rector of Gravenhurst (the Rev. Mr Wade), who was a very old man, Edward took over the office of Treasurer and Correspondent of the Gravenhurst Schools, where he did much to keep matters going successfully. When the first County Council for Bedfordshire was formed, Edward was chosen as the member for Shillington, and sat through three councils

On his 80th birthday Edward was presented with a handsome walking stick set with a gold band with the inscription: 'To E. Crouch Esq. in commemoration of his 80th birthday Nov. 17th 1903, a token of respect and affection from the parish of Clophill'. It was an appropriate gift, as Edward regularly walked to church – twice on a Sunday –



The Lynch gate then and now



For 50 years Edward was a church warden at St Mary's Clophill (the old church) under three rectors. He was also invited to be the first chairman of the newly-formed Clophill Parish Council, even though he wasn't an elected member, and held the office for about six years. He was manager of Clophill School from 1871 to about 1910, during which time he always took the liveliest interest in the children of the village. And for over 50 years he was the most active trustee of the Clophill Charities, devoting much care and time to this work.

As if this wasn't enough to keep him busy, he was the first Chairman of the newly-formed Ampthill R.D.C., President of the Cricket Club, on the committee that ran the Reading Room, presided over meetings of

from his home in Cainhoe. He was also given a morocco-bound volume containing the names of some 500 subscribers. On the fly leaf was written: 'To E. Crouch Esq., 'Fourscore and Foursquare'.

In 1905, Edward's wife, Mary Ann, died aged 84. As a memorial, he erected a lych gate at the old church. It bore the inscription 'In the Glory of God and in memory of Mary Ann Crouch, wife of Edward Crouch of Cainhoe'. The gate was moved to the grounds of the new St Mary's Church sometime in the 1970s.

In 1909, King Edward VII visited Wrest Park as the guest of its tenant, the US Ambassador, Whitelaw Reid. Among the local dignitaries present was Lord Lucas's oldest tenant, Edward Crouch. After the King died in 1910 and George V succeeded to the throne, Edward was elected chairman of the committee that organised the Coronation celebrations in Clophill.

Also in 1910 funds were raised by public conscription to purchase a silver hot water jug as a gift for Edward. It was displayed in the Post Office window, and was inscribed: 'Presented to Edward Crouch, of Cainhoe, by the inhabitants of Clophill, for his fifty years of service and interest on their behalf.'

Due to advancing age and increasing deafness Edward had to slowly relinquish his duties, and in 1914 he finally retired. He gave up his farms and, as he had no children, all the stock and equipment was auctioned off. That year, on Sunday December 26, he retired to rest, but around midnight he took ill and died half an hour later. At 91, he had been Clophill's oldest inhabitant. The next day, it was with profound regret and deep sorrow that the people of the village heard the news of the passing of Clophill's most highly respected and best loved 'Grand Old Man'.

Find out more about Clophill's history at www.clophillhistory.org.uk



Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire

Wildlife walks & talks



Orchids

Monday 20 April, 7.45 pm, Maulden Church Hall

Graham Bellamy, co-author of the Wild Orchids of Bedfordshire, gives a talk on these countryside jewels of spring and early summer. **£2 per adult, includes hot drink & biscuits*

Bird Walk

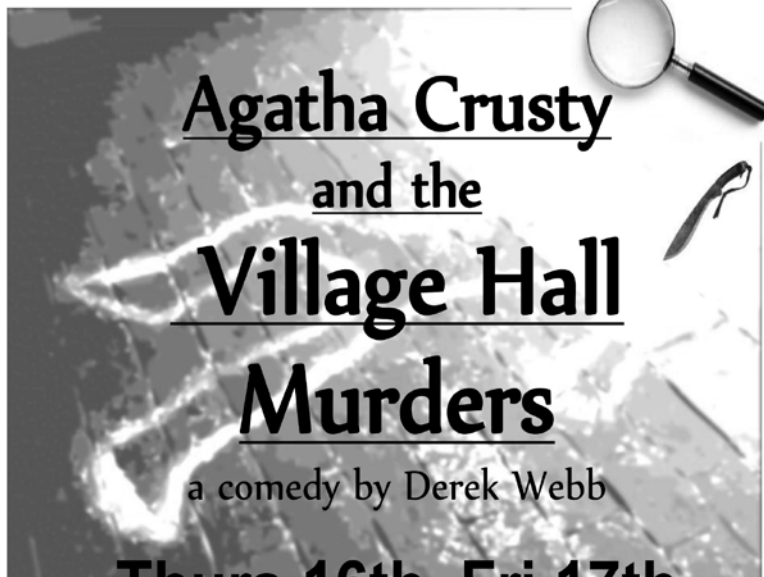
Saturday 2 May, 10am, Flitwick Moor

Join Steve Halton, Central Beds Council's Countryside Access Team birding expert, for a bird walk around the site. We should see and hear several summer migrants as well as resident birds. **£1 per adult*

Open to all. No need to reserve a place – just turn up!

For additional information please email flitvale.info@gmail.com
or ring **Ann** on **07890 347327** after 6pm or at weekends

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7.30pm

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Let's talk about...the Budget

with Sally Cobban



The Budget was announced last month and I'm sure you all read about it at the time... but here's a reminder of some of the key changes that could affect you.

Firstly the **personal allowance** has been increased from £10,000 to £10,600 so an extra £600 can be earned before any tax is due.

One change that isn't so good concerns the **starting rate of tax**. This used to be 10% for people who just have savings income, but as of 2015/2016 the starting rate will be gone – so all savings income will be taxed at 20%.

The **basic rate band of tax** has changed, so after your first 10,000 tax-free income, in the 2014/2015 tax year you'll suffer 20% tax on the next £31,865 that you earn and 40% after that. In 2015/2016 this amount goes down to £31,785 before 40% tax kicks in, making that hurdle slightly lower

– and therefore pushing a few more people into the 40% tax band.

The **marriage allowance** has also changed. If your income is less than £10,600 in the 2015/2016 tax year you may be able to reduce your husband's, wife's or civil partner's tax by up to £212. The new Marriage Allowance will let you transfer some of your personal allowance to your partner.

To be able to claim the marriage allowance you must obviously be married, have an annual income of less than £10,600 (including pensions, savings and investments), your spouse must have an income of between £10,601 and £42,385 and you must both be born on or after 6 April 1935 (If you were born before this date you may be able to claim Married Couples Allowance). For further info on claiming marriage allowance, go to www.gov.uk/marriage-allowance

I hope you've found this helpful this month and as usual please do get in touch with any questions. I'm at sally@sjtax.co.uk or call me on **07899 808592**



St Mary's School News

We began this half term with an R.E. day. The children were grouped in their colour teams and worked through different activities as they experienced a 'Journey through Prayer'. The day ended with a balloon launch where children released helium balloons with prayers they'd written tied to them. We also wrote our contact details for anyone who found one of our balloons, and we did get a few responses from people – some as far away as France!

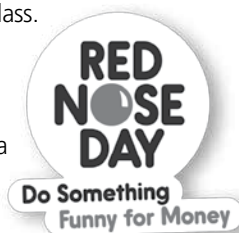
This half term, as part of the new National Curriculum, Oak class had five weeks of **swimming lessons** at Hilltop pool. The lessons have been thoroughly enjoyed by all of the children and we'd like to thank Sabina at Hilltop for having us. Our current year 3s will be participating next year.

We had lots of trips and events in school through March and there'll be more to come this month...

- Year 3 and 4 went to the **National Space Centre** in Leicester which complemented their topic this term of 'The Rise of the Robots'. Year 4 was also fortunate to be invited to an 'Easter Celebration' in Clapham for a live production of the Easter Story. As always, some of our Year 4 children assisted Ali Bradbury with Clophill's litter pick-up, which they always enjoy. And it's amazing how much litter is actually collected!
- Birch and Hazel class completed their dinosaur topic with a whole '**dinosaur**' day where they could dress up as a dinosaur or explorer. They're also looking forward to their '**Ecology is Everywhere**' trip in April, when they'll be going up to the village's Eco Lodges with Clophill Heritage Trust and the Community Tree Trust. They'll be exploring bug life and other forms of nature in our local area.
- Acorn and Chestnut class have a trip to **Standalone Farm** in Letchworth in April. This is their first 'proper' school trip so they're very excited about seeing the animals and eating their lunch at the farm.

We've been to Church on three occasions this half term. Firstly, on March 10, we had our school **Eucharist service**, which was based around the theme of our value, 'Love'. Then we were invited to the Church's Mothering Sunday service on March 15. And on March 26 we celebrated Easter with an end-of-term service in Church, led by Rowan Class.

School Council excelled this half term with their fund-raising ideas for Comic Relief. The children came to school dressed in red and they were able to purchase a milkshake at break. There was also a 'best decorated cake', 'crazy hair' and 'toss the 10p' competition. The day culminated in a cake sale – thank you again to all the parents and carers who contributed extra cakes for the sale. Through everyone's efforts, we're proud to report that **£322.71 was raised for Comic Relief!**



The school also managed to fit in three performances of our Lent play, The Joy of Disney. We picked Disney songs that we could sing and dance to and that also demonstrated our school values. The whole school participated and the children worked really hard and gave the parents and carers who came to watch an entertaining and joyful performance. Our parents and carers have been very generous and through the sale of tickets and the raffle **we've raised £937.50** for this year's chosen charity, Cystic Fibrosis.

St Mary's School News

Continued

Finally, sadly, we have had to say 'goodbye' to two dear members of our school community this half term, Mick Everitt and Fergus Milne.

Mick Everitt, our Vice-Chair of governors, passed away at the end of February. Mick began his role as a Governor in 2008 and was a representative of the Diocesan Board of Education on our Governing Body. He was extremely pro-active in supporting the school. He visited frequently to offer support in different capacities, particularly working with Mr Speake, our caretaker, to assess and plan for building maintenance works at the school. Mick also took an active role in the recruitment of new staff and he provided a strong connection between the Methodist Church and the school. Mick was especially linked to Birch class this year and spent time with the children during one of our Governing Body days in the Autumn Term. He was also particularly interested in Religious Education and worked with Mrs Arnold recently on policy. Mick was frequently available on parent consultation evenings to talk to parents on behalf of the Governors and he attended and supported at school events throughout the year.

Fergus Milne passed away in March. For many years, Fergus was a frequent visitor to the school with the 'Open the Book' team. The team come into school every Wednesday to lead worship. The children love the assembly as some of the older children are chosen to dress up alongside the 'Open the Book' members to act out and retell Bible stories. Fergus often played Jesus in these re-enactments and this is the name the children called him whenever they saw him out and about in the village.

Both Mick and Fergus will be sorely missed by the staff and children at St Mary's. We'll always be incredibly grateful for the time and energy they gave to supporting and enhancing our school.

Our value for April is *Unity*

Unity is harmony among individuals in a group. It's achieved by accepting and appreciating each other's involvement before working together. We'll be exploring this in school and would like to invite you to encourage your children to share their experiences with you and talk about unity. *Mrs K. Bingley, Headteacher*

Admissions for September 2015

- **Until 30 April** Late applications received during these dates will be processed in the late allocation round.
- **30 April** Parent/carers who are declining the place offered or wish to change their preferences need to submit a change of preference form by this date to be considered in the late allocation round.
- **8 June** Late allocation round offer day – decision letters posted out via a 2nd class post, so will arrive a few days later.
- **During June** Late applications received after 30 April will be processed during this month.

To apply online go to www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/onlineadmissions



Acorn Nursery News

We've enjoyed a fantastic **Teddy Bears Picnic** day at the end of term to end our Bear theme. The children spent the morning with Chestnut class making their sandwiches, paw biscuits, teddy bracelets and pinning the nose on the bear, and in the afternoon they had their picnic and a bear hunt. All the children seemed to enjoy themselves and it was a very successful first transition day.



The Acorn Children enjoyed being part of the School Lent Concert, dancing to Bare Necessities. The children made Easter cards for their families and then we had a fun Easter Egg hunt and all the children found an egg to take home.

We're looking forward to our visit to Standalone Farm when we return to school. Our value when we go back is **'Sharing'**. We'll be looking at sharing our feelings, our resources and our friends.

Mrs K. Bingley, Headteacher

Grand Jumble Sale

7pm, Friday 24th April, Clophill Village Hall

Do come along to our jumble sale – all profits are donated for the direct benefit of the residents at the Leonard Cheshire DisABILITY Home in Amptill.

Entry costs 30p per adult, accompanied children are free.

Refreshments available.

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

**Leonard
Cheshire
Disability**

Bingo Night

Saturday 18 April, Silsoe Village Hall

Doors open at 7.30pm, Eyes down at 8pm sharp

Drinks/snacks available at the bar
(All drinks to be purchased at the bar)

Prizes Galore!!!

Free Entry/£5 per book This event is to raise funds for an expedition to Borneo in aid of helping local people of the Sabah region and the village of Tenom.



Christine's quick 'n' easy recipe

Italian Apple Pie with mascarpone and Rum



INGREDIENTS Makes 10 slices

- 320g plain flour
- 25g dark cocoa powder
- 200g unsalted butter, cubed
- 200g caster sugar
- grated zest & juice of 1 unwaxed lemon
- 1 whole free range egg
- 2 free range egg yolks*
- 800g Golden Delicious apples
- 3 drops vanilla extract
- 3 tbsp dark rum
- 500g mascarpone
- small pinch of salt

1. Prepare the pastry by combining 280g of plain flour, the cocoa powder, salt, 180g unsalted butter, 160g of caster sugar, 2 egg yolks and 1 whole egg. Wrap the pastry in clingfilm and leave to rest in the fridge for about ½ hour.
2. Pre-heat the oven to 180°.
3. Prepare the cream by first beating together 30g of caster sugar, the lemon zest and vanilla extract. Whisk in the mascarpone a little at a time then add the remaining 40g of flour and the rum.
4. Use 10g of unsalted butter to grease a flan tin. Roll out the pastry and line the flan tin. Prick the base of the pastry case with a fork.
5. Wash and peel the apples and cut into medium thin slices, then drizzle with the lemon juice to prevent them from going brown.
6. Pour the mascarpone cream into the pastry base and level it out with a spoon.
7. Arrange the apple slices on top of the cream in a spiral fashion starting at the outer edge of the flan working towards the centre.
8. Using a fork, gently press the apples into the cream.
9. Melt the remaining 10g of butter in the microwave and brush the top of the apples, then dust with the remaining caster sugar.
10. Bake in the oven for about 50-55 minutes.
11. Allow to cool before serving.



*You can freeze the two unused egg whites and use them another time to make meringues or pad out an omelette.

Christine Fellini runs Italian cookery classes at Casa Fellini www.casafellini.co.uk

Fancy an ad in Spotlight?

You can advertise for as little as £50 a year!

Email ads@clophillspotlight.co.uk



National Plant Monitoring Scheme

Monitoring our wild flowers

What is it?

The National Plant Monitoring Scheme (NPMS) is organised and funded by BSBI, CEH, JNCC and Plantlife. The aim is to collect data to provide an annual indication of changes in plant abundance and diversity.



Michael Fox, CEH

Why is it needed?

Thanks to volunteers, we have a very good understanding of changes in the populations of birds, butterflies and bats. Plants are the foundations of ecosystems, but currently we do not have a good measure of changes in plant populations.



Michael Fox, CEH

How will it work?

This is a scientific survey, so you will be randomly allocated a convenient 1km square to visit. The visit involves recording plant 'indicator species' in plots. Within your 1km square you will record around 5 plots.



Michael Fox, CEH

Who can take part?

Anyone interested in nature who can identify plants, or who is keen to learn. Different levels of participation ensure that all who are keen can participate: you do not have to be an experienced botanist. There will be training materials provided and the opportunity to attend workshops throughout the year.



Michael Fox, CEH

For more information visit: www.npms.org.uk



Clophill & District Flower Club



Gerberas



Our demonstrator in March was Jane Haas, whose title 'Spring Surprise' took various springtime celebrations as the inspiration for her designs.

Valentine's Day was a heart-shaped arrangement of red roses and pink tulips in a tall red vase. St Patrick's Day was depicted in all green using green carnations, chrysanthemums and a beautiful orchid. Next up was a Mother's Day design with purple stocks, pink roses and cerise carnations in a large wicker basket.

For Easter, Jane made a lovely arrangement of pussy willow, lilies,

yellow gerberas, carnations and daffodils. As daffodils don't like floral foam, Jane gave us **an excellent tip**: insert small tubes into the foam and place the daffodils in the tubes, remembering that the tubes will need topping up with water daily.

As May 1 is National Flower Arranging Day, when clubs are encouraged to leave a bouquet of flowers in a public place for someone to pick up and take home, Jane showed some easy-to-make but effective bouquets using only three leaves and three flowers.



On May 1 National Demonstrator Irene Bowkett will be here with 'Curtain Up'.

Tickets £6 for members; £10 for non-members, available from Gillian Hill on 01525 860539



An evening of songs...

Sunday 21 June, 6.30pm, Grove Theatre, Dunstable

Caritas Harmony (formerly Pasque Harmony) will be singing a varied programme of songs to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. Guest artist and compere to be confirmed.

Tickets £15, available from the box office on **01582602080**



Clophill Neighbourhood Plan



With work well underway on the Neighbourhood Plan, Spotlight will be bringing you regular updates on this exciting opportunity to shape our village...

Let's start with this fact – the Neighbourhood Plan won't happen unless we as a village accept it. That's why a **referendum** will be held later this year. If the NP is accepted, it means that Central Bedfordshire will have to take our Plan

into account when considering any development (land use) within the Parish. That's not to say there can be no further development – but any development will take into account the views of villagers, schools, shops, utilities suppliers, land owners etc about the amount and style of development, and associated infrastructure.

Just so you know, the NP will be created under the 2011 Localism Act. In 2013 the Parish Council registered the entire Parish with Central Bedfordshire (CBC) as the geographic area to be subject to the NP. The NP won't come into effect, though, without going through a series of steps in line with process as set out by the 2011 Act.

That process has already started. Last year at events such as the Village Fete we began canvassing views then putting together a **Vision Statement** and list of **Strategic Themes**. We've also consulted with planning professionals and CBC staff to ensure we're doing the right things, in the right way.

VISION STATEMENT

To preserve and enhance Clophill as...

- A **rural oasis**, retaining the aesthetic and cultural character of an English country village.
- An engaged community, **master of our own destiny** and empowered in our decision-making.
- A **safe and supportive community**, where we take ownership and responsibility.
- A springboard for **local microenterprise and innovation**.
- An atmosphere of **shared moral spirit** and willingness to help others.

STRATEGIC THEMES

- **Scale and nature of development** What type do we need and why? Where will it be built? Who will build and own it?
- **Local enterprise** What type do we want and where? Who will run it?
- **Community, including schools** What does this look like and how will this change?
- **Environment – built and natural** What does this look like, how should it change – and why?
- **Amenities and infrastructure** What do we currently have? What do we need and why? How will it be created/funded?

Clophill Neighbourhood Plan

Continued

The next step involves YOU! We need to know what each and every person in the village wants for Clophill. In the next few weeks **a questionnaire** will be popping through your door – stick the kettle on and spend a few minutes filling it in. Can't be bothered? Remember, this really is **a golden opportunity** to have your say on Clophill's future. What do you want Clophill to look like? What sort of village do you want for your children? What will your ageing parents need? **This is your chance to make Clophill everything you want it to be – and more!**

Later this year – armed with all the information from your questionnaires – we'll put a draft Plan to Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) that aligns with their own Development Strategy. If CBC agrees with our Plan, and an independent Inspector okays the process we've taken to form the Plan, then we as a village will be asked to vote on the Plan.

We've started the journey towards the Neighbourhood Plan, and we sincerely hope everyone in the village will understand the importance and benefit of making it happen. Remember, **it's your Neighbourhood Plan** – it's your Clophill. Cllr Paul Downing

- Can you spare some time to help with the Neighbourhood Plan? We need volunteers to collect and analyse the questionnaire. Contact clophillneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com
- For more information on the Neighbourhood Plan, go to <https://sites.google.com/site/clophillneighbourhoodplan>

Clophill Neighbourhood Plan

for the preservation and enhancement of Clophill

AGM and Talks from Society Members

Monday 13 April

A short AGM followed by updates on work carried out recently by some of our members. Two talks are confirmed. Kevan Fadden will discuss his research into the recent find of light railway points at the Greensand Trust Headquarters in the A6 Deadman's Hill lay-by. Colin Watt will talk about Trade Tokens of the 17th Century and include a Clophill example. Visitors are very welcome.

Flitwick Library Lecture Theatre, 7.30pm for 7.45 pm
£2 for members and £2.50 for visitors, payable on the door

For further details contact Clive Makin on 01582 655785
or clive.makin@ntlworld.com, www.adalhs.org.uk

Ampthill & District Archaeological & Local History Society



Clophill Parish Council

Notes from the Parish Council meeting held on 31 March 2015

Readers are reminded that this is a resume only of the meeting. 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 were no members of the public present.

Police Report

The council received a report from Bedfordshire Police regarding crime within the village. Whilst it was pleasing to see that the instances of crime were low, of concern were thefts of livestock and a pony. In addition, a storage yard was entered and a large amount of diesel stolen. The places where these offences occurred are isolated, however if you see anything suspicious during your walks in and around the village, phone the police. If there's a vehicle involved, don't forget to make a note of the registration number. If we work together we can help prevent and combat crime.

The Lands Committees

The new **grit bin** at the junction of The Causeway and High Street has now been re-positioned from the centre island.

Work has commenced to tidy up the village **burial ground**.

The parish council has undertaken a review of all rents for **allotment land**. Some of these parcels of land run into many acres and, with the help of a valuer, rents have been re-assessed. Notices have been given to some tenants to reflect these rent increase. The rents for the smaller allotments for the growing of fruit, vegetables and flowers will remain unchanged.

The work of removing the **old footbridge** and landscaping of the area at The Green is now complete.

The Neighbourhood Plan

A few villagers attended the meetings regarding the Neighbourhood Plan last month. Following that process a questionnaire has now been finalised and is ready to be sent to the printers. Hopefully in the next few weeks each household will receive a copy and it's hoped that you will all take the time to complete the questionnaire and return it to us. This is your chance to help shape the future of this village.

Planning – March 2015

CB/15/0001121/FULL

Location: Waterworks House, Shefford Road, Clophill

Proposal: This application is for a part single-storey side and rear extension and part two-storey side and rear extension. **SUPPORT**

CB/1500762/FULL

Location: 56 High Street, Clophill

Proposal: This application is for the erection of a two-bedroom bungalow and new access to the High Street. The parish council supports this

Clophill Parish Council

Continued

application provided the Highways Department approves of the designs that have been submitted.

SUPPORT

CB/TCA/15/00065

Location: Broom Cottage, Little Lane, Clophill

Proposal: Application to prune trees. This is essential work to prune a beech tree in the front garden.

SUPPORT

The next Parish Council meeting will take place in the village hall on Tuesday 28 April, commencing at 7pm. This will be followed at 7.45pm by the **Annual Parish Meeting**. Interested groups within the village are invited to come to the meeting and give a short presentation to both the parish council and attending villagers, explaining what they do and perhaps giving a brief resume of their high points during the last year.

If you'd like to take part please contact either the parish clerk or parish council chairman (see 'Useful numbers' for contact details).

News from Clophill Parish Action

The Clophill Clean-up

There was a satisfactory response to CPA's call for people to spring clean the village last month. Most of our roads and footpaths were cleared, and the Y4 children of the school cleared the Playing Field. Also, the white gates and bollards on the A6 were cleaned, giving a much better impression of our village to visitors and passersby. Thank you to everyone who turned out to do this service to the community.

Sadly, however, our roads didn't remain pristine for long. Within 24 hours litter had appeared in several places, most notably The Green.

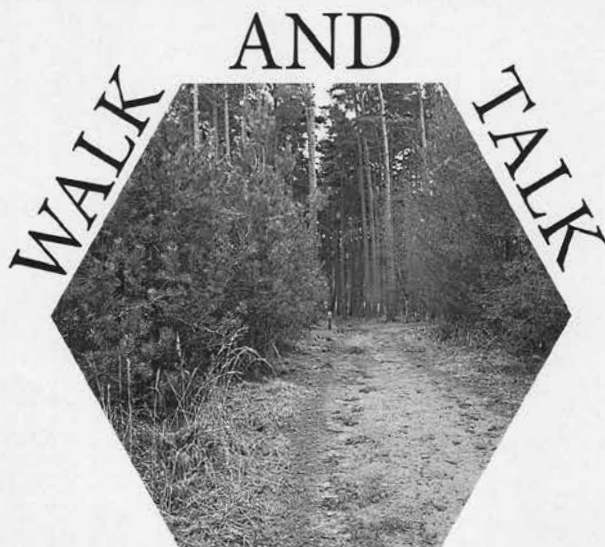
There's really no excuse for dropping litter or for allowing dogs to foul footpaths and areas where children play. The main culprits seem to be:-

- **Smokers:** cigarette packets, wrappers and dog ends
- **Dog walkers:** uncleared mess, plastic bags, wet wipes and disposable gloves.
- **Drinkers:** cans and bottles.
- **Snackers:** crisp packets and sweet wrappers.
- **Take away eaters:** food containers and coffee cups.



Our youngest volunteer, Primrose, inspects her haul in Jacques Lane

If **YOU** are responsible for any of these, please remember to dispose of your litter correctly and help to **KEEP CLOPHILL CLEAN.** *Adrienne Gordon*



With Family & Friends

Sunday, 26 April, 2015

In The Afternoon

START- From any Parish in the area - distances to suit all walkers
(details phone 01525 403139)

TO ARRIVE - at Ampthill Church by 5:00pm

From 5.00 pm - ***Food and Drink*** ***Free of charge***

Baked Jackets with various fillings

Beer, cider, fruit juice

6.00 pm - ***'Cobwebs, Burnt-out Cars and Tigers'***

The Bishop of Bedford tells his story

ALL WELCOME

Village groups

Beverley Court	Sharon Soper	860920
Boxing Club	Lorraine 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	Emma Topliff	07921 810424
Clophill United Charities	Gillian Hill	860539
Conservation Group	Brian Adams	862297
Crafty Pastimes	Anita Errick	860695
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	
Pre-school	clophillpreschool@gmail.com	07732 872685
St Mary's PTA	Lindsey Jones	07879 430956
Scouts and Cubs	Ralph Rayner	403956
Tuesday Club	Betty Hampson	860750
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Marilyn Browning	07821 643936

Parish registers for April

1815

Baptisms

April 2	Mary (?)
April 9	Elizabeth Field (?), 28
	Thomas Field (?)

Burials

April 6	Mary Rawlett (?), wife of William
April 23	Elizabeth Burrows, wife of James

1865

Baptisms

April 2	Ann Chapman
	James Samuel Everitt
	Eliza Gobby
	Elizabeth Evans (?)

Burials

April 3	James Thomas Parrish, 51
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If you have any stories or information about the people named in the records, which you'd like to share with us, please get in touch.

Baptisms

April 18	Jessie Eleanor Joan Dixon of Liverpool
----------	---

Marriages

April 3	Percy Walker Cummings, 25, to Alice Emma Gardiner, 24
---------	--

Burials

March 20	Mary Ann Page, 56 (omitted in error)
April 21	George William Ansell, 11, burnt to death

1965

Baptisms

April 18	Hayley Louise Thomas
----------	----------------------

No marriages or burials recorded



ST MARY'S CHURCH REGISTERS FOR FEBRUARY 2015


Desposition of Ashes

February 26	Derrick James Keens, 83
-------------	-------------------------

What's on in and around Clophill

APRIL		Monday 13th Ampthill and District Archaeological and Local History Society talk 7.30pm, Lecture Theatre, Flitwick Library. <i>See this issue for full details</i>
		Tuesday 14th Croquet at Wrest Park <i>See this issue for more information</i>
		Thursday 16th - Saturday 18th Agatha Crusty and the Village Hall Murders 7.30pm, Westoning Village Hall <i>See this issue for ticket details</i>
		Saturday 18th Bingo Night 7.30pm, Silsoe Village Hall
		Friday 24th Jumble Sale 7pm, Clophill Village Hall
		Saturday 25th Spring Fair 11am-2pm, Methodist Church, Clophill. Free entry <i>See this issue for details</i>
		Sunday 26th Walk, Talk & Supper 5pm, Ampthill Church. <i>See this issue for details</i>

MAY		Saturday 9th Quiz Night 7pm for 7.30pm start, Clophill Village Hall
		Saturday 16th Clophill Fete 12-4pm, in the grounds of St Mary's Church, Clophill

JUNE		Sunday 21st An Evening of Song 6.30pm, Grove Theatre, Dunstable <i>See this issue for ticket details</i>
------	--	--

On throughout the month...

Tuesdays...

• **Crafty Pastimes** Clophill Methodist Church School Room, 2pm-4pm. Bring along your knitting, sewing, tapestry, sketching or whatever Crafty Pastime you have. £1 donation, includes hot drink and biscuits. See 'Village Groups' for contact details.

Wednesdays...

- **'Tea and Chat'** in Clophill Methodist Church Schoolroom, 10.30am-noon
- **Zumba Toning** 8pm-9pm, Clophill Village Hall

Fridays...

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

One Saturday a month...

- **Messy Church** Clophill Methodist Church, 4pm-6pm, 18 April; 16 May; 20 June; 18 July; 12 September; 10 October; 14 November; 12 December. 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 (Enquiries)		0845 7484950
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	Ampthill	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

Ampthill	(Houghton Close) 0844 8151055	(Oliver Street)	01525 631395
		(Greensands)	01525 631390
Shefford	Enquiries 01462 818620	Appointments	01462 810034
Barton 01582 528700		Flitwick	01525 715300

POLICE

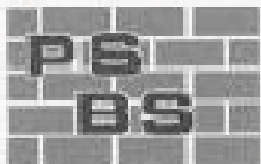
County Police HQ		Non Emergency	101
Ampthill Station			01234 841212
Clophill Local Policing Team			101
			01234 842613

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 K Bingley)	01525 860206
Harlington Upper School , Harlington		01525 755100
Redborne Upper School , Ampthill		01525 404462
Robert Bloomfield Middle School , Shefford		01462 628800



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