

Vol 38 | No.3

FREE

CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

APRIL 2016

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A word from the Editor...

Hi everyone

I hope you all had a lovely Easter!

So we're into April now – a month with lots going on. It's **National Pet Month**, which is all about helping promote responsible pet ownership, and also **Stress Awareness Month**. Then we've got Saint George's Day on the 23rd and the London Marathon on the 24th. Good luck to any runners from Clophill, and do write in to let us know how you did.

Our village has lots going on, too – just take a look through Spotlight to see all our local events. And don't forget to check out the Diary page which has things to do over the next few months both in and around Clophill.

Enjoy April – see you back here in May!



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COPY DEADLINE

20th of the month

Don't forget you can now read Spotlight online at
www.clophillspotlight.co.uk



CLOPHILL ECO LODGES

Upcoming events



Twitcher's Treat

Combine professional bird photography tuition in a stunning monument setting on Saturday with bird visual and call identification on a beautiful trail with a birding expert on Sunday...the perfect twitcher's weekend!

15th - 17th April

£250 per person
(residential weekend)
Or £90 photography day
&/or £20 twitcher's day
Excluding pub lunch

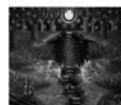


Real Ale Weekend

Join Clophill Heritage Trust and CAMRA on a real ale trail around the heart of Greensand Country. Visit the local pubs and try the brewery tour and tasting session ...see if you can spot our Old Church Ale.

28th May

£30 per person
excluding pub lunch
(residential weekend
price available)



Midsummer Night's Dream

Join our Midsummer Celebration with our centrepiece...the comedy play by William Shakespeare, portraying the events surrounding the marriage of the Duke of Athens, Theseus, and Hippolyta.

18th June

£5 per ticket
£3 for early birds



Art Appreciation & Skills Weekend

Join Katharina Kubrick to hone your art skills...from initial sketches to pen & ink, and oil development. Includes 2 nights stay, food and tuition.

15th - 16th July

£55 per person per day
(residential prices available)
£15 for equipment
starter pack

And many more, including :

Wicked Wine Weekend ...19th - 21st August

Celebrating Cider Weekend ...4th - 6th November

Foraging Weekend ... 7th - 9th October

Christmas Wreath Making ...3rd December

Pumpkin Festival ... 29th October

Christmas Craft Market ... 4th December

Clophill, Bedfordshire MK45 4BP



Come and stay at the Eco lodges and enjoy great views, tranquillity and some good food.

www.ClophillEcoLodges.org.uk

Tel.07935911207

Booking enquiries: info@clophillheritage.org

Facebook.com/Clophillecolodges

Twitter:@clophilleco



Clophill Heritage Trust

News from Clophill Heritage Trust



The Old Church and Eco Lodges

Our first **outdoor theatre performance** at The Old Church took place on the afternoon of Saturday 19th March, when the Saturday Youth Theatre attached to Bedford Girls School performed extracts from the 1970s musical 'GODSPELL'. Outdoor musical events risk the weather and require additional effort on the part of the singers and musicians, but thankfully it stayed dry if not somewhat cold and the church acoustics were good. The

dynamic performance was enjoyed by the audience who afterwards took tea and refreshments in 'The Nest'. Our next outdoor theatre production is Shakespeare's '**A Midsummer Nights Dream**', at 2pm on Saturday 18th June. Early bird price £3, or £5 on the door.

Lodges Accommodation

We're pleased to say that the overnight accommodation in the lodges is becoming increasingly popular – not just with just walkers and ramblers but also families, groups and individuals looking for weekend or short holiday breaks. Having recently carried out further grounds clearance and tree thinning works there are now improved views which extend across fields to the distant hills in the South.

If you're interested in becoming a volunteer please contact **Ali Bradbury** (07894 710001), **John Wright** (07860 839845) or **Barry Breed** (01525 860834)

Visit us at www.ClophillEcoLodges.org.uk or make a booking at info@ClophilHeritage.org We're also now on Facebook



A big thank you...

...to the volunteers who've planted daffodils over the last few years in the open spaces of the village. They've looked so colourful on verges, junction triangles and of course in large swathes on The Green. Most were funded by generous donations from Michael Robotham, who deserves special thanks. **Jane Breed**

Westoning Players'
40th Birthday Celebration

RUBY REVUE
and supper

including a glass of bubbly

WESTONING VILLAGE HALL
Thursday, Friday, Saturday
14-16 April 2016 7.30pm
TICKETS £12

Box Office 01525 713239
joyce.bonner@btinternet.com

St Mary's Church Clophill

An invitation to



A Royal Celebration Lunch

to celebrate HM the Queen's 90th Birthday

20th April 12noon - 2pm

In the Church



2 courses with drink £6

Please wear something red, white or blue

To book a place please sign the sheet at the back of the Church or phone
Gill 01525 861058 or Carolyn 01462 815433

Clophill Preschool News



Hi everyone! What a busy time we've been having. **Nick the Music Man** came in to show the children a variety of stringed instruments and they all got to have a go. We definitely have some rock stars in the making! We ran for **Sport Relief** every day for a week and **raised £41** – so a huge thank you to those of you who donated. We also held our Mother's Day Coffee Morning when the children and their mummies decorated cakes and shared them over tea. The children also decorated a plate with a drawing of their

mummy – which the proud mums took away as a memento. We were able to provide these activities and resources for our families because of the kind donations given to us by our parents at our Nativity.

The Children's Centre has been to visit us again, with Kate reading stories and singing songs with the children. Because we take children as soon as they turn 2 years old we're working closely with the Children's Centre to monitor children's progress, providing data for Central Bedfordshire Council on children's development. The views and opinions of our parents as well as our own assessment both show the positive impact Early Years Education has on children starting Preschool from the age of two. The main areas in which our parents have noticed the greatest progress is in their child's increasing independence, **improved social and communication skills** and more confidence as their language skills take off.

We held our Easter Craft session just before the holiday and parents and families were great at getting stuck in. The children really love having their mums, dads and grandparents in to Preschool to share their activities and play together. Everyone enjoys the chance to have a chat, a cup of tea and biscuits and to get to know staff. We feel it's important that Preschool's doors are always 'open' to our families as we see our position within the community as one of friendship and support as well as a place of education.

We held our **3rd annual Egg Hunt and Indoor Fayre** at the Village hall on Easter Weekend. The indoor fayre was the busiest it's ever been with lots of local producers and businesses. Our parents loved the added bonus of the free Wuzzles (word puzzles) to keep them entertained as they took their children round the hunt. As well as the market we had face painting, tombolas, colouring competition, nail painting and tattoos plus a candy floss stall and cakes provided by the Preschool and Toddler group parents.

We're very proud of our great relationships with various people and groups throughout the village, one of which is the Toddler Group. They meet at the Village Hall every Friday from 10am to noon and we currently run a Messy Play activity for them on the first Friday of each month. On the first Friday in July we intend to set up the hall as we would for Preschool, both indoors and out, to give parents an idea of the vast range of activities we offer our children.

We always love the summer term as it gives us the opportunity to spend more and more time outside. Coming up we have **Dad's Week (13th-16th June)**, Sports Day (13th July) as well as our Coffee Mornings, Day Trip and End of Term Party. This term we intend to focus on science and the world around us. We'll be making massive bubbles using hoops, exploding volcanoes with vinegar and bicarbonate and creating our new digging pit so we can explore minibeasts and the natural environment.

- You can get in touch with Imogen on **07765 887868** or Chris on **07936 006381** – or drop us a line at clophillpreschool@gmail.com And check out our website at www.clophillpreschool.co.uk

Christine's quick 'n' easy recipe

Loin of Cod with Mushrooms & Courgettes



INGREDIENTS Serves 4 people

- 1 loin of cod cut into 4 pieces
- 300g wild mushrooms (chanterelle)
- 2 courgettes
- 1 large clove of garlic, chopped
- 1 sprig of rosemary
- 1 tsp tomato concentrate
- small glass of dry white wine
- extra virgin olive oil
- salt & freshly ground black pepper
- pinch of saffron fronds soaked in warm water

1. Put a pan of salted water on to boil.
2. Clean the mushrooms with a piece of kitchen paper and cut into large pieces.
3. Heat a glug of extra virgin olive oil in a frying pan and throw in the chopped clove of garlic and the sprig of rosemary.
4. Add in the wild mushrooms and gently fry until softened without browning.
5. Meanwhile finely slice the courgettes lengthways using a mandolin or the blade on a square grater then blanch in salted boiling water for approximately 3 minutes. Drain and add to the mushrooms.
6. Add in the tomato concentrate, the saffron with soaking water and the small glass of white wine and cook for a further 2 minutes.
7. Remove the rosemary and transfer the vegetables to a dish and keep warm.
8. Using the same frying pan add in a drizzle of extra virgin olive oil and fry the cod pieces. Start with skin side down and fry for about 4 minutes each side.
9. Using a slotted spoon place your warm vegetables on a plate, place the pieces of cod on top then cover with the broth from the vegetables.



7.30pm, Saturday 7th May
Village Hall, Clophill

£7.30 per person, including fish and chip supper

Teams should consist of a maximum of six adults

To book, contact **Ann Jeffrey** on **01525 860336**

Clophill & District Flower Club



Our meeting last month entitled '**Spring Splendour for under £5**' saw the Village Hall full of members creating wonderful arrangements using supermarket bunches of flowers costing less than a fiver. The amazing talents of our members were fully demonstrated by the variety of designs and arrangements produced during the very sociable evening. Before we went home, we were

encouraged to look at all the arrangements and take away lots of ideas for future use.

Tip of the Month When buying supermarket flowers, always check that they've been kept in water and give them a really good drink of water before arranging them.

We hope to hold some **flower arranging classes for beginners** in April, at £4.50 per session. If you're interested in joining these please contact Carolyn Cranswick on **01234 815433** for further information. Plus, coming up we have National Demonstrator David Thomson with 'Celebrations' on 5th May, while June will see Kate Thomas demonstrating 'Hidden Gems'. For tickets please contact Gillian Hill **01525 860539**.



- Don't forget, you can find details of our upcoming meetings at www.clophillflowerclub.com



Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire

Wildlife walks & talks



Good Companions

Monday 18th April, 7.45pm, Maulden Church Hall

Tom Thomas, our county's Spider Recorder, will convince all but the most apprehensive of the delights of these constant companions from house, garden and field. £2 per adult

Evening Bird Walk

Wednesday 4th May, 7pm for 7.15pm, Flitton Moor

Steve Halton from Central Beds Council will bring his extensive knowledge and amazing ear for bird song to a 'dusk chorus'. £1 per adult

Open to all. No need to reserve for talks, but walks have group size limits.

For additional information and to reserve walk places flitvale.info@gmail.com
or ring Ann on **07890 347327** between 6pm and 8pm or at weekends
www.flitvale.org.uk

St Mary's Church, Clophill

Church Fete

& Village Event

Saturday 14th May

12 – 4pm in the Church grounds

FUN for ALL

Lots of stalls

Sideshowes

Barbeque

Entertainment 1.pm Maypole dancing display

2pm Shefford Majorettes

2.30pm Greensand Community Choir

Refreshments in the Church -

Lunches and Teas

For further information -

call Gill 01525 861058 or Carolyn 01462 815433

What's on in and around Clophill

APRIL		Thursday 14th – Saturday 16th Ruby Revue and supper 7.30pm, Westoning Village Hall. <i>See this issue for ticket details.</i>
		Friday 15th – Sunday 17th Twitcher's Treat Bird photography/twitcher's day. <i>See the Clophill Eco Lodges poster for full details.</i>
		Wednesday 20th A Royal Lunch Noon-2pm, St Mary's Church. <i>See this issue for details and prices.</i>
		Friday 22nd Jumble Sale 7pm, Clophill Village Hall
MAY		Saturday 7th Quiz Night 7.30pm, Clophill Village Hall. <i>See this issue for ticket details.</i>
		Saturday 14th Clophill Fete Noon-4pm, grounds of St Mary's Church. <i>See this issue for full details and prices.</i>

On throughout the month...

Wednesdays...

- **'Tea and Chat'** 10.30am-noon, Clophill Methodist Church Schoolroom
- **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** 4pm-6pm, Clophill Methodist Church, 16 April; 7 May; 11 June; 16 July; 17 September; 15 October; 19 November; 17 December.
All-age craft activities, worship and a meal for all the family. No fixed charge, donations welcome, 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

Clophill Methodist Church COFFEE & CROISSANT MORNINGS

All proceeds in aid of the 'Raise the Roof' fund
10am to 12noon, £1.50



Saturday 23rd April
Saturday 7th May
Saturday 4th June
ALL WELCOME



Parish Registers for April

Two village notables in the registers this time – Doris Platt (1916 baptisms) is better known as Doris Pitts, who celebrated her 100th birthday last month, and Gordon Jackson (1966 marriages) is a former school caretaker, who now lives in a care home in Arlesey but still regularly comes to Clophill for the church lunches.

1816

Baptisms

April 12	Elizabeth Millard Emma Millard
April 14	Mary Ann Ansell
April 17	William Maddams
April 28	Joseph ? Sarah ? Maria Brazier (?) Ann Alice Brooks Chipperfield

Burials

April 30	Elizabeth Wilmore (?) wife of George
----------	---

1866

Baptisms

No baptisms legible for April

Marriages

April 5	Samuel Webb, 20, to Mary Arnold, 37
April 28	Eben Summerfield, 21, to Sarah Stimson, 19

Burials

April 14	John Langley (?), 31
April 19	Ellen Stimson, 3

1916

Baptisms

April 30	Doris Ruby Platt Leslie Cooper Constance Mary Izzard
----------	--

Marriages

April 3	Adolph Kunstall (?) of Flitwick to Ermintrude (?) Kendall
---------	---

Burials

April 12	Samuel Mitchell, 58
April 27	Emma Wooton (sic), 79

1966

Marriages

April 2	William Ray Sheppard, 22, to Marlene Margaret Marie McGarry, 20
April 9	Barry William Eaton, 22, to Tuila T (?) Laine (?), 24 Gordon Jackson, 25, to Gillian Denise Garrett
April 11	Ronald Vernon Sullens, 23, to Catherine Mary Bolsover, 22

ST MARY'S CHURCH REGISTERS FOR MARCH 2016

Funeral Mass

March 24	Fr. Philip Swindells, 82
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**Leonard
Cheshire
Disability**

Grand Jumble Sale

Friday, 22nd April, Clophill Village Hall

Doors open at 7pm. Entry costs 30p per adult, accompanied children go 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

Clophill Parish Council

Notes from the Parish Council meeting held on 29th March

This is a resume only of the meeting. The parish council minutes are published and can be found on the internet after they are authorised (approximately five weeks after the relevant meeting).

Neighbourhood Watch

On the evening of Wednesday 6th April there was a Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) meeting at the Methodist Church. Clophill Parish Council arranged for the Central Bedfordshire NHW Coordinator to come to the village in order to generate a discussion about revitalising our existing NHW and selecting a Coordinator for Clophill.

The concept of NHW first came to the UK in 1982 following successful similar schemes in the United States. The objectives of NHW schemes are commonly considered to be about preventing crime through increased community vigilance and crime prevention awareness, but often they will also consider other community issues such as fire safety and raising community spirit.

We hope that by working with the Central Bedfordshire NHW team we can ensure that the village continues to feel like a safe place to live in, and that our more vulnerable residents feel protected. Clophill isn't a village that can rely on regular police patrols so we do have to remain vigilant, and the Parish Council will be pleased to support a galvanized village NHW initiative. To read more about the different NHW campaigns across the UK, visit www.ourwatch.org.uk

Neighbourhood Plan

A quick update from our Neighbourhood Plan team – a huge thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out the questionnaire in last month's Spotlight regarding recent planning applications for housing at both the Readshill and 'Lakes' sites. It's so important that we as a council have a good understanding of what the majority of our villagers want for Clophill – and hearing a large range of views gives us an excellent consensus opinion that we can then communicate to Central Bedfordshire Council and their planning team.

We've recently been awarded a grant of £4,500 from Locality and this is to be used to fund the ongoing Neighbourhood Plan work. Clophill Parish Council has appointed a firm of consultants to help write the plan, with direction given by the steering group and based upon the evidence that we've obtained from the two different questionnaires that the village completed. The firm has already provided an initial draft document with plenty of action points for us to consider.

As part of the process, we'll be going through these action points, undertaking actions where necessary, obtaining additional evidence and providing input in the direction that the NP takes for the future of Clophill. We value any additional support from anyone in the village who wishes to get involved in steering the future development of Clophill – please contact mantinigp@gmail.com if you'd like to help.

A short Parish Council meeting will take place at 7pm on Tuesday 26th April. Afterwards, at 7.45pm in the main village hall, there will be an Annual Parish meeting at which each of the Sub Committee Chairs will give a short presentation of the work completed over the last year. In addition we would invite any other parish group who wish to address the meeting to attend. The meeting is of course open to all of our villagers and we hope that many will attend. Time will be set aside for a question and answer session.

Clophill Parish Council

Continued

Planning

CB/16/00744/FULL

Location: 9a Shefford Road, Clophill
Proposal: Single-storey rear extension **SUPPORT**

CB/16/00679/VOC

Location: The Eco Lodges, Church Path, Clophill
Proposal: A variation order. It seeks to extend the range of activities and, due to that, an increase in traffic. The Parish Council is extremely supportive of this project. However, one of the key elements of the project was, on behalf of the residents, to restrict the number of vehicles. The Parish Council's opinion is that the expected increase in traffic needs to be defined and, subject to that being acceptable to residents of Church Path, the Parish Council supports the application. **SUPPORT**

CB/TCA/16/00099

Location: 1 Howard Mews, Clophill
Proposal: Fell a Chestnut Tree in the rear garden. The Parish Council understands that this appears to be necessary due to the size and supports the application, with the proviso that a replacement tree is planted. **SUPPORT**

Village groups

Beverley Court	860920
Brownies	https://enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk
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
Flower Club	Gillian Hill 860539
Friends of the Cheshire Home	Sue Pearson 861110
Funzone After School Club	07903 167493
Indoor Carpet Bowls	Tony Meredith 860754
Messy Church	Victoria Higgins 07920 568861
	victoriajhiggins@hotmail.co.uk
St Mary's PTA	Lindsey Jones 07879 430956
Scouts and Cubs	Ralph Rayner 403956
Tea and Chat	Anita Errick 860695
Tuesday Club	Betty Hampson 860750
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Marilyn Browning 07821 643936

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) 01525 300898	(Oliver Street)	01525 631395
		(Greensands)	01525 631390
Shefford	Enquiries 01462 818620	Appointments	01462 810034
Barton 01582 528700		Flitwick	01525 715300

POLICE

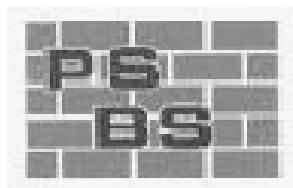
County Police HQ	Non Emergency	101
Ampthill Station		01234 841212
Clophill Local Policing Team		101
		01234 842613

CHURCHES

St Mary's Parish Church	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
Preschool clophillpreschool@gmail.com (Chris) 07936 006381 or (Imogen)		07765 887868
Redborne Upper School , Ampthill		01525 404462
Robert Bloomfield Middle School , Shefford		01462 628800



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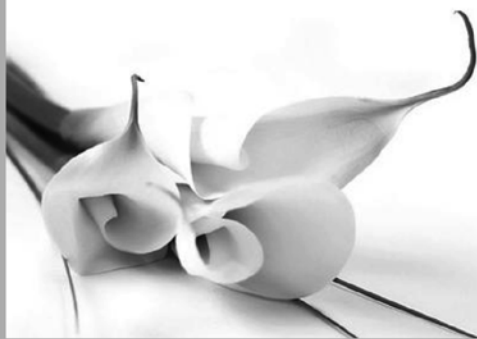
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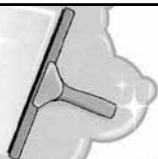
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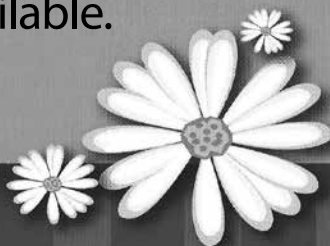
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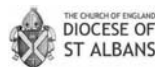
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2 Steppingley Road, Flitwick, Bedfordshire MK45 1AJ
01525 720 095 www.tanningstation.co.uk



Opening Times

Monday - Tuesday	09.00 - 19.00
Wednesday - Thursday	09.00 - 21.00
Friday	09.00 - 19.00
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