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FREE

CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

FEBRUARY 2014

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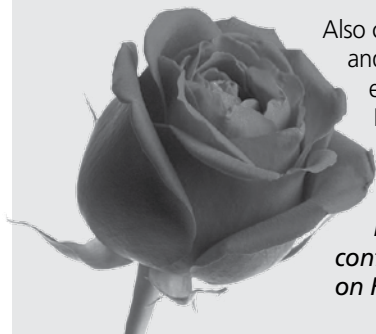
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A word from the Editor...

Welcome back...

So, that's Christmas done and dusted. Now it's time to look forward to the year ahead. Of course the big event this month is **Valentine's Day** and coinciding with it is **National Marriage week**, on from 7-14 February. If you want any ideas on celebrating your love or putting a bit of **extra romance** into your life, have a look at <http://marriage-week.org.uk/theme-for-2014>



Also coming up is **Fairtrade Fortnight** (24 February-9 March) and this year's theme is bananas. Apparently, in the UK we eat over 5 billion **bananas** each year, and the Fairtrade Foundation wants as many as these as possible to come from a Fairtrade source. Find out how you can help at <http://foncho.fairtrade.org.uk>

Let's just hope your loved one doesn't get confused and bring you a bunch of bananas on February 14th! See you next month.



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



Clophill through the years

by Colin Watt

While researching the history of his home, Taylor's Cottage on the High Street, **Peter Sharp** visited the archives of **Balliol College** at Oxford as the college owned the living at Clophill and chose the rector. There he found a set of letters about the appointment of a new rector. Many of the letters in the archive are between the chairman of Balliol's appointments committee Cyril Bailey (all signed Cyril) and the Bishop of St Albans, Michael Furse (signed Michael). Here is the story that the letters revealed.

The Sad Case of the Lonely Rector

In late 1932 the living became vacant and various candidates applied, probably as a result of an advertisement in the Church Times. Some are replied to; some have recommendations attached to them. Some are ignored altogether and not replied to. One such example is from the vicar of Walker, a depressed working class district in Newcastle on the banks of the Tyne. You can almost hear the accent in his short succinct request for an interview;

'I would like very much an opportunity to practise my vocation in a rural parish'.

His letter was not replied to.

Among the candidates who were replied to and considered was the **Rev. George H. Pattison**, a vicar in Croydon. He visited Clophill in January 1933 and was obviously pleased with the parish and keen to come and work here. He wrote to Balliol's appointments committee:

'I have today been down to Clophill and may say at once that in spite of the large Rectory and ugly church the prospect of going there appeals to me greatly. The parishioners that I met especially Mr and Mrs Tanqueray were so kindly and so obviously disposed to work harmoniously with their Rector. It is the helpful attitude of the people more than anything else which emboldens me to say, in the event of your Committee formally offering me the living, that I should be pleased to accept it.'

(The 'large Rectory' is of course now the 'Old Rectory' opposite St Mary's church. Mr. Tanqueray was a solicitor with a practice in Woburn. Vice-Chairman of Clophill Parish Church Council, he lived in Ivy House.)

The village however had different ideas; Andrew Tanqueray wrote to Balliol on the same day about the visit.

'We arranged with the Rev. G.H. Pattison to come to Clophill today to view the Church and Rectory, where I met him about noon with our Churchwardens. He subsequently lunched here and we had some conversation together. As a result of our interview I came to the conclusion (with which I find my colleagues in agreement) that the applicant is hardly suitable for Clophill by reason of:-

- (1) His deafness which, at his apparent age is unlikely to decrease, but rather the reverse.
- (2) A certain lack of animation and responsiveness probably due to his defect in hearing.
- (3) The fact that he is a bachelor is also in our opinion, against him as there are so few women in the village in a position to undertake Parochial work.

I am asked to communicate the above to you and to express the hope that you may have other more suitable and younger applicants for the Incumbency and, as I intimate above, we should prefer a married man whose wife would assist him in the Parish.

Despite these objections, Balliol appointed George Pattison as rector of Clophill. The Bishop of St. Albans could not officiate, as was usual, at his institution; in fact he never met him. The Reverend Pattison lived entirely alone in the Rectory, visited only a few days a week by his charlady.



Clophill Rectory about 1920. (Bedford & Luton Records & Archive Service)

It's sad to imagine this ageing, hard-of-hearing man with no family and limited social skills living a lonely life in a large cold rectory. We can only hope that he was unaware of the fact that no one wanted him there in the first place.

As if this wasn't sad enough, on Thursday 25th October 1934 the police were called to the Rectory because he had not been seen for some days and had not answered any knocks on the door. A constable forced entry through a window to find him lying in the hall against the front door, dead.

At the subsequent inquest the coroner ascertained that he had died of natural causes '...such as a seizure followed by a fall and severe blow to the head.'

He had no living relatives 'except a cousin which he referred to once in conversation' who could not be found. His possessions were 'disposed of'. To add further poignancy, new furniture that he had ordered to brighten up the house was delivered while the police were in the Rectory investigating his death.

Michael wrote to Cyril; ***'You no doubt have seen of the sudden death of Mr. Pattison, Incumbent of Clophill. He seemed to be a lonely and primitive soul, and lived all alone in the Vicarage. I gather he was never happy there. It has been rather a sad business altogether.'***

A sad, sad business indeed – *Peter Sharp*

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

Sponsored Charity



**Clophill
Eco Lodge**

The
**Greensand
& Ridge Walk**

Challenge Walk 2014



15/16 March 2014

**The Clophill Heritage Trust
Charity would like you to join
them on:**

The Mini Walk

1 Day - 20 miles

**either Saturday or Sunday
OR**

The Full Walk

2 Days - 40 miles

over the weekend

Leighton Buzzard to Gamlingay

**Are you up
for the Challenge?**

Please help us to raise money for Clophill Heritage Trust to help fund our Eco Lodges including our community lodge to provide a unique educational provision for young people in heritage and nature as well as sustainable living to reduce all of our carbon footprints.

We are looking to raise as much money as possible for the charity, whether you are an individual or a walking group, everyone is welcome. Even your pet pooch will receive a certificate if they complete the walk. Set up your sponsorship link at

www.mydonate.bt.com/charities/clophillheritagetrust

The Greensand Ridge Walk is Bedfordshire's premier long distance walk passing through Buckinghamshire and Cambridgeshire. The walk was opened in 1986 and from its beginning has proved to be a popular route for both locals and visitors to Bedfordshire.

The route follows a ridge of greensand which rises from the clay vales on either side and is an ideal introduction to the history, landscape and wildlife of this beautiful and undiscovered part of the country. The 40 mile / 64 km walk starts in Leighton Buzzard and finishes in Gamlingay.

For Full information please visit our website
www.ClophillEcoLodges.org.uk. For the walks map and information about Greensand Ridge please visit
www.greensandridgewalk.co.uk and
www.GreensandRidgeTrails.org.uk

SPOTLIGHT meets...

This month, our reporter Aoife Mantini has been chatting to **Ed Green, a volunteer at the Greensands Trust** about the **Bird Survey at the Sandy Smith Nature Reserve**



Ed Green, a Greensands Trust volunteer

Over the past few months you might have spotted some badminton-type netting on the Sandy Smith Nature Reserve. This is a crucial piece of equipment for **an official bird-ringing survey** being conducted by volunteers from the Greensands Trust. The reserve, which is owned and managed by the Greensand Trust, is being developed to conserve important and threatened wetland and farmland habitats and species.

'The objective of the survey is to ring birds by trapping them in the netting then identify, age, weigh and record their statistics before releasing them back into the wild tagged and recorded for observation,' explains Ed. 'Bird ringing is used to study wild bird populations in order to better understand the health of populations, how well they are breeding, how long they live and where they move to and from, helping us to understand the range of wildlife on site and how it changes as the reserve develops.' Over 2,000 birds have been ringed to date with **48 species identified** (including breeders and non-breeders) and the Kingfisher grabbing the title of most colourful.



Dunnock and Blue Tit

On the 14th of December, when I was at the reserve walking my dog, I spoke with two volunteers, licensed by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) to conduct such work, who were completing this year's survey. While I was there they trapped and ringed four birds – **2 blue tits and 2 dunnocks** (hedge sparrows). A uniquely numbered ring is put on the bird so that when it's recaptured or found, it can be identified. Colour rings are also used to help with field observations. If you find a dead bird with a ring or see a colour-ringed bird, you can report it at www.ring.ac or write to the BTO and they will tell you where it came from.

Results from the bird-ringing survey to date include:

- **Rarest bird:** Lesser Spotted Woodpecker
- **Long-distance migrants** have been logged such as the Common Whitethroats (who migrate to the south of the Sahara Desert in Africa for winter) and middle-distance migrants such as Siskin (migrate within the UK & Europe).
- **Oldest bird:** Great Tit at 2 years and 259 days.
- **Most-caught species:** Blue Tit (340 new birds and 387 retraps).
- **Longest movement:** Siskin ringed at SSNR, recaptured in Callander, Scotland, 154 days later, 540 km away.
- **Foreign movement:** Siskin ringed in Wibrin, Belgium, caught at SSNR, 228 days later, 474km away.
- **Local movements:** Long Tailed Tit from Paxton Pits Nature Reserve, Cambridgeshire, to SSNR, 1 year and 190 days later, 26km away.
- **Breeders:** Green Woodpeckers, Common Whitethroats and Grasshopper Warblers

With thanks to Sue Raven, Senior Project Officer East, operating out of The Working Woodland Centre at Maulden Woods.

If you'd like to know more or get involved have a look at these websites: www.greensandstrust.org; <http://www.visitsheffield.co.uk/see/sandy-smith.shtm>; www.bto.org.uk; <http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/life>

St Mary's Church, Clophill

Clophill Heritage Trust



A talk by
Ali Bradbury and Richard Hudson
(Trustees of the Trust)

Thursday 20th March at 7.30pm
in St Mary's Church

Tickets £5. Refreshments will be served at the end of the talk
Tickets available from Heather Jarvis 860548 or Christine Fellini 861912

RACE NIGHT



CLOPHILL VILLAGE HALL

BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS

COMMENCE 7.30pm

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SATURDAY 8th FEBRUARY

TICKETS ONLY £7.50.....including

Fish & Chip Supper
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A GREAT VALUE EVENING AND LOTS OF FUN

News from Clophill Heritage Trust



Aerial photo showing Old Church clad with scaffold set against the Greensand Ridge countryside PHOTOS: Andy Fox, LRP5

We're pleased to confirm that we've received planning approval from CBC for the installation of a 2nd viewing platform at lower level in galvanised steel. This will complement the high-level platform at the top of the Old Church Tower.

Stone masonry students at Bedford College are liaising with the main contractors, Universal stone, for a further visit to work on site as part of our Heritage Skills Programme. In addition, one of the regional groups we are working with is the **Bedford**

Geology Group and three geologists are arranging to log the site properly because of its special interest. These are just two examples of the long-term benefits now beginning to emerge from the project.

We'd like to thank all **the local contractors** who've worked with us over the year and wish them well for 2014 when the fruits of their/our labours should come to bear.

In a similar vein, we must express our sincere **thanks to all local residents** who've made donations to the Trust. This can still be done by going to the **MYDONATE** website; <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/clophillheritagetrust>

Contacts:

Ali Bradbury (07894 710001) John Wright (07860 839845) Barry Breed (01525 860834)



Photo showing the current state of repairs to the stonework



My name is
Theo

I am an elderly cat and I urgently need a new home as my owner can no longer look after me.

I am quiet, friendly, and I like to be indoors. Please ring **860875**

Clophill Eco Lodges Appeal

The restoration of St Mary's Old Church in Clophill and construction of the adjacent Eco Lodges is well underway. However, more funding is desperately needed to complete the projects. This is one of the most exciting and ambitious projects of its kind in the UK, as highlighted in a major BBC1 television programme just last week. We are delighted to offer the residents of Clophill the opportunity to be part of it.

Over a £1m has been raised to date, but another £140k is needed to finish. The project is entirely not-for-profit and run by local volunteers. All funding has been raised from charitable donations, so this is not a council or government funded project. The project is restoring the Old Church to make it a safe and stable ruin, and restoring the spiral staircase and installing a new viewing platform in the tower. The adjacent Eco Lodges provide 8 en-suite bedrooms plus a central community space and warden's lodge.

As featured on
BBC1's **Restoring England's Heritage** on 5th Dec 2013 with
John Sergeant – watch on
http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJn48Sm8r1XrC_xtOCXqfA
Or www.ClophillEcoLodges.org.uk
under 'read more'

Why is the project good for Clophill?

- **Restoring and preserving the Old Church:** a Grade II* scheduled ancient monument, the first national entry on English Heritage's At Risk Register, and a priceless piece of history dating back to before the 1066 conquest.
- **Long term solution for anti-social behaviour:** that has plagued the site for years – including vandalism, drugs and all sorts of other crime involving people from all over the UK. Only the Eco Lodges provide the permanent warden presence and long term funding to maintain and protect the site, and provide a long term, beneficial solution.
- **Providing jobs, education and helping the under-privileged:** the project provides direct employment (local builders, wardens, etc) as well as indirect employment and revenue (as a key village attraction that brings more business to our pubs, restaurants, shop and other amenities). It is also an education centre for heritage building skills that is helping some of the most under-privileged people from surrounding urban areas; including engaging some of those who used to cause trouble at the site.

Clophill Old Church



Clophill Eco Lodge



How can I help?

We are delighted to offer 4 levels of sponsorship, which will attach your (your family's, or chosen other's) name to this exciting project as a permanent legacy – an innovative Christmas gift, perhaps?:

- **Bronze (£20):** Your name listed as a sponsor in Lodge literature.
- **Silver – Eco Option (£250):** Support the eco-features of the Lodge including off-grid electricity, water abstraction, pump house, and geothermal heating. Your name on a specific plaque thanking eco-sponsors.
- **Silver – Disabled Access Option (£250):** Support the disabled access features of the Lodge including disabled bathroom, equipment and access facilities. Your name on a specific plaque thanking disabled access sponsors.
- **Gold – Name a Lodge (£5000):** One of the 8 rooms named after you, your family, or a suitable organisation of your choice. The room (e.g. "The John Smith Room") will be noted on a plaque above the door & in all Lodge literature.

To donate please use <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/clophillheritagetrust> or transfer your donation to Clophill Heritage Trust at sort code 20-85-73, account number 23300862. Please also then send an email to info@clophillheritage.org with details of your donation and your name for the sponsorship plaque. For any queries, please use that email address or call 07894 710 001. If you cannot afford any of the sponsorship options, a donation of any size will be much appreciated and put to good use. For more information please visit www.clophillecolodges.org.uk

Thank you! - Clophill Heritage Trust



Clophill Preschool News

Happy New Year everyone. We can't really talk about 2014 until we've had time to reflect upon what a fantastic year 2013 was for Clophill Preschool. As many of you know, we opened our doors last September, keeping the more than 40-year tradition of a Preschool going in our village and giving vital support to our village infrastructure. Since then we've grown at quite a pace, spreading our



intake to include children and families from Maulden, Gravenhurst and Barton. Our ethos of **exploratory, hands-on learning** through play means we go outdoors in all weathers, investigating everything from mole hills to magnets. Our parents know to send in spare clothes because they understand that to truly have fun, discover new things and learn you always need to get a bit messy!

We ended our first term with a week of festive activities when all our parents, both current and prospective, came in to get to know each other and join in the fun. We had a Christmas Craft session, making tree decorations from slices of tree branches and gluing sparkly bits to our bread snowflakes for the Christmas tree. Then Graham Claydon-Knights, the Minister from Clophill Methodist Church, came along to tell the Nativity story to the children. We can still picture us all, **waving our**

arms like the angel Gabriel. We also managed to rope him and some of the parents into helping to build our role-play shop front.

We start this term with three new arrivals and a truly transformed space with more resources and activities than ever. In the past month, we've focused a lot on numbers. We painted our own number line outside using long-handled brushes to develop our shoulder muscles ready for writing. **We played hopscotch** outside, drawing chalk numbers on the ground, and counted the log stepping stones before jumping off the end. We also learnt that we don't just have to count objects but that we can count our actions, too, like claps and jumps. Our sand play developed into lots of measuring and capacity play using pens to mark levels and counting spoonfuls.



The children have really enjoyed using our huge selection of puppets as props for songs. In the coming weeks, we're going to make story sacks together to develop our Communication, Language and Literacy skills.

Other ideas for the coming weeks include setting up our new **colourful interactive display boards**, reconfiguring our room to enable us to construct a cosy den corner and introducing the outdoor mud kitchen. If you have any small (real) pots and pans please let us know as we'll be able to make great use of them cooking up mud stew! Do keep an eye on our **Facebook page** as we keep it up to date with our activities and resource requests.

Finally, we can now declare our website is up and running. Huge thanks go to Felicity Tompkins for all her hard work and dedication. You can find us at www.clophillpreschool.co.uk.

*Unleash your inner child... this month try jumping in lots of muddy puddles!
(Don't forget your wellies!)*



St Mary's School News

Our Value for February is *Perseverance*

In school we've been reflecting on the importance of not giving up even when we find things difficult. If you'd like to help your child understand more about perseverance you could use the following quote from Albert Einstein as a starting point to your discussion: *'I think and think for months and years. Ninety-nine times, the conclusion is false. The hundredth time I am right.'*

You could also think about times when they found something hard but didn't give up. How did they feel once they had succeeded? What steps did they take to help them succeed? Could they give advice to someone who was finding something hard?

Endurance and perseverance are only possible where there is hope and that hope is based on the enduring nature of God's love and faithfulness. Even Jesus, for all his strength and ability to endure, looked to his disciples to help and sustain him by watching and praying with him (Matthew 26).

Staffing News – Amanda Arnold is expecting her first baby and is now on maternity leave.

We wish Amanda and A-J well for this exciting new phase in their lives. Laura Collins has been appointed to cover the maternity leave as a job share with Alison Wood, who's been working with the class regularly since they were in Hazel. Alison will be teaching on Monday and Tuesday, and Laura on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

New Club – Rowan and Oak Class – Following the successful debut of our new hand chimes in the Christmas play, we'll be starting a lunchtime club for children in Y3&4 to explore their potential.

'Wicked Wrapping Paper' Governors Fundraiser to Help Build the New Nursery Building

– If you'd like to help the school raise funds for the nursery building and at the same time create your own wrapping paper (a unique and fun activity, suitable for both adults and children), then please visit: wickedwrappingpaper.com/friendsandfamily. Don't forget to use our unique code, smarys1, so that the school benefits from your creative endeavours.

Term dates for your diary

Spring Term

Term started 7 January
Term ends 4 April
Half Term 17-21 February

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

Other dates for your diary

11th February
14th February
4th March, 9.15am
14th March, 9am

Year 4 Tag Rugby Competition
Individual and Family Photographs
Ash Wednesday Eucharist
Year 3 and 4 will experience 'Bollywood' and Chinese dance lessons from an outside provider, culminating in a show for parents at 2pm

St Mary's School News

Continued

Sainsbury's Vouchers – We're currently collecting Sainsbury's vouchers. They're a great way for us to buy additional resources without costing any money, so if you can donate yours we'd be very grateful. There's a collection box in Reception.

Information for New Parents in the Village – Our website, www.stmaryslower.info, is packed with useful information about the school. Of particular interest is the 'Parent Information' section. If you have a child approaching school age or perhaps in another school but would like to know what we do here, please don't hesitate to call us to request a visit.

Clophill United Charities – The trustees of Clophill United Charities are keen to support families in times of hardship to ensure that all children have access to school activities and trips. This support is provided in total confidence and further information is available from Sharon or directly from the Clophill Charities Clerk, Gillian Hill, on 01525 860539. In the past, the charity has helped families towards the cost of the Y4 French trip, the residential trip offered to Y3 /4 and other such activities. They are very approachable and any help provided is totally confidential.

Acorn Nursery News

Goodbye... At the end of last term we said goodbye to Lisa and we wish her well in her new job. Joy will take over the full position of Manager.

Hello....to Caroline, who some of you know already as she works in the nursery in the after-school club. We also welcome Lauren who will also be working in the nursery. And 'Hello' as well to Olivia, who's new to Acorn this term – we hope she enjoys her time with us.



This term's theme is 'Once upon a time'. We'll also be celebrating Shrove Tuesday, visiting Church on Ash Wednesday, Mothering Sunday and Easter.

We will also enjoy the snow when it arrives. We'll be planning activities to look at the following stories: Week 4 – The Egg, Week 6 – Sleeping Beauty and Week 8 – Jack and the Beanstalk.

Our Nursery Value – The Value within the nursery this term is 'Friendship'. Many of the children have made new friends since the nursery opened and so we'll be celebrating these new and old friendships, looking at how to be a good friend and ensuring we show friendly behaviour to each other.

Phonics – Last term we focused on number recognition and shapes. This term we will introduce phonics. Reception class teach phonics using 'Sounds Write' so it has been decided that we'll use the same programme. 'Sounds Write' teaches phonics in a particular order, grouping sounds together, so the sounds we'll start with are 'a' and 'i'.



WOW board – We have a WOW board in our book corner. Children love receiving praise for even small achievements and we encourage parents to complete a WOW slip when their child behaves well/achieves something at home. When the slip comes into school we'll read it out and celebrate at group time with the children's friends.

A Matinee Presentation
"IN CONCERT"
with the
Vauxhall Male Voice Choir



With special guest
Kevin Kavanagh
Master of the
Euphonium



Tickets
£8.00

The Choir is delighted to return to, and perform, at the recently
refurbished

Parkside Hall
Woburn Street, Ampthill, Beds MK45 2HX

Saturday 29 March 2014 2:30pm
(doors open 2:00pm)

Refreshments included during interval

Tickets available from Ken Jones 01525-753110 or
Brian Matthews 01525-841077 or on the door

Choir Website: www.vmvc.org

Come into the kitchen

with Christine Fellini



A healthy start...

After the excesses of Christmas many of us are trying to cut down a little so why not try this quick, easy and very healthy recipe.

ORATE AL FORNO CON POMODORINI E OLIVE (Oven-baked bream with cherry tomatoes and black olives)

Serves 2 people

- 2 bream
- 100g pitted black olives
- 1 tsp of capers
- 200g ripe cherry tomatoes
- Bunch flat leaf parsley
- 2 cloves of garlic
- Extra virgin olive oil
- Salt & freshly ground black pepper

1. Heat the oven to 2000°C.
2. Wash and dry the bream.
3. Finely chop together the garlic and half of the parsley.
4. Place in a bowl and season well.
5. Divide the mixture in half and spread on the inside of each fish.
6. Oil an ovenproof dish and place the fish in it.
7. Cut the tomatoes in half and add to the dish together with the olives, capers (rinsed and drained) and the rest of the parsley, finely chopped.
8. Bake in the oven for approximately 30 minutes.
9. Serve with a lightly dressed mixed salad.

Cookery Demonstrations

I'm looking to put together a rolling programme of international cookery demonstrations and as a start we have the following...

The Fast Italian

I'll give a demonstration of quick, easy and healthy recipes that you will be able to taste together with a glass of wine or soft drink. Date & time: **27 February, 11am**

Venue: **3 Beverley Gardens, Clophill** (01525 861912)

Danish Delights

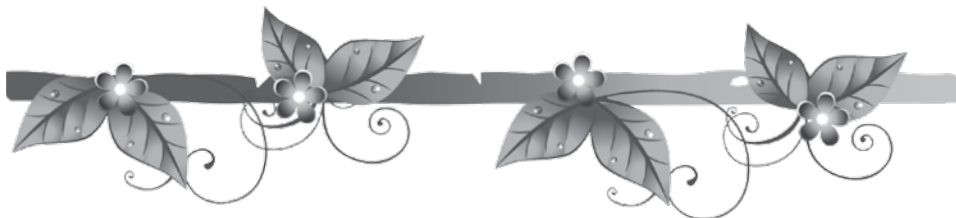
Sue Hughes will give a demonstration of traditional Danish dishes that you will be able to taste together with a glass of wine or soft drink. Date & time: **27 March, 11am**

Venue: **London House, 45 High Street, Clophill** (01525 861524)

Tickets cost £15 each and as room is strictly limited at both venues it's advisable to buy your tickets early. There will be a fabulous raffle at each event so please remember to bring your wallet. All profits from the cookery demonstrations will be donated to the restoration fund at St Mary the Virgin Church, Clophill.

DO YOU HAVE ANY TRIED-AND-TESTED RECIPES OR HOUSEHOLD TIPS TO SHARE?

Please get in touch at christine@casafellini.co.uk or call me on 861912



Clophill & District Flower Club

Last December, the Club welcomed members and visitors to Clophill village hall to celebrate the festivities. Around 100 of us enjoyed mince pies, mulled wine and browsing the Christmas stalls, including our monthly charity stall.



Joy Cooper Watson from the Sue Ryder Moggerhanger Hospice receiving a cheque from Club Chairman Carolyn Cranswick

At the beginning of the evening Club Chairman Carolyn Cranswick **presented a cheque for £1,000** – proceeds from our summer tea party and charity stall – to Joy Cooper Watson from the Sue Ryder Moggerhanger Hospice.

John Chennell, an award-winning National Demonstrator, then presented his ideas for 'In Festive Mood'. Believing that flower arranging should be fun and a pleasure to be seen, he proceeded to show us what he meant. His **extravagant designs** comprised mixtures

of evergreens, reds of amaryllis, poinsetta, carnations, gerberas and anthuriums – as well as acid-green chrysanthemums, cabbage-size roses and white lilies and orchid. To complement the containers, John added gold-sprayed aspidistra leaves, baubles, oversize icicles and willow framework angel wings. In all, we had six arrangements to give to the lucky winners of the raffle.



One of John Chennell's fabulous arrangements

On 6th March, Gill McGregor will be exhibiting 'The Romance of Flowers'

The Inner Wheel Club of Luton Chiltern *is seeking your help in supporting School Aid*

School Aid sends school books and other educational resources direct to schools in need in Eritrea, Sierra, Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

Materials are collected in the UK from schools and other donors. We currently need Primary level material. If you have Early learning books, jigsaws or any other items (not battery operated) please contact **Maureen Parker** on **01234 743108**



Come Join Our Flower Club

*Since joining Clophill Flower Club some 25 years ago
My interest in my garden really began to grow
Not only in the garden, but in the flowers, too
The names of which – I must admit – I only knew a few.
My garden looks much better than it ever did before
As from my flower club plant stall I have added plants galore.*

*Since joining Clophill Flower Club I have made a lot of friends
And with super demonstrations, the pleasure never ends
I've learned to make arrangements – not expertly I know
But now the flowers in my home really seem to glow
My hubby looks in wonder and can't believe I did it
'Cos in the past I'd grab a vase and stick the flowers in it!*

*Since joining Clophill Flower Club I've learned to tie nice bows
My gifts now look impressive – my new skill clearly shows
My friends are always asking me to show them how it's done
My answer is to 'Join our Club – it really is good fun'
We only meet up once a month which is not much time at all
But after just a few short months I bet you'll have had a ball.*

*Since joining Clophill Flower Club the years have really flown
I've helped at Flower Festivals and events I'd never known
We gather at the Village Hall for monthly demonstrations
Or sometimes at somebody's home arranging flowers for celebrations
It really is so pleasing to do lovely things with flowers
So why not join a Flower Club –
starting NOW with OURS!*



Joan Palmer
Club Secretary (01582 507392)

Annual Membership, £25
Visitors, £5 which includes tea/coffee and biscuits
Doors open 6.45pm for 7.30pm start

Volunteers cheer the fruits of their labour

It was a nail-biting end to the season for volunteers at Warden Abbey Community Vineyard as the cold start to last year meant a late harvest. But the lovely summer weather brought its rewards and the vineyard is celebrating collecting over 6.5 tonnes of beautiful clean fruit. This should equate to around **4,700 bottles** – **almost four times** the amount bottled in the difficult conditions of 2012.

In 2014, vineyard sessions will be held again on Tuesdays and Fridays, and some Sunday sessions will also be held at key points throughout the year. **New volunteers are always welcome** and training is provided. If you are interested, please contact vineyard manager Jane Markham on **07981 113 714** or email info@wardenvineyard.org.uk

Freeman Academy Open Day

Clophill Village Hall, Saturday 22 February, 10am-4pm

The Freeman Academy is holding an open day to show you what our boxing club is all about. We need as much support as we can to help this worthy cause to get our kids focused and off the streets – so all you **little and big aspiring boxers** bring your kit along and have a go in the Freeman Academy gym. We'll have **Billy Schwer, former World Boxing Champion**, as well as other world champions helping and giving advice, plus **pro trainers showing you the ropes**.



£2.50 for adults; £1.50 for children under 16

For more information, contact **Loraine Freeman** on **0771 4014484**



Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire

Wildlife walks & talks



Otters in Bedfordshire

Wednesday 26th February, 7.45pm, Maulden Church Hall

Following on from his review of all mammals in Bedfordshire in late 2011, Richard Lawrence, BNHS County Mammal Recorder, will discuss this elusive aquatic county resident. *£2 per adult suggested donation.*

British Reptiles

Monday 24th March, 7.45 pm, Maulden Church Hall

After her introduction to amphibians last year, Helen Muir-Howie, BNHS County Herpetofauna Recorder, returns to talks about snakes, lizards and turtles. *£2 per adult suggested donation.*

Open to all, but please reserve. For additional information, or to reserve your place, please email flitvale.info@gmail.com or ring **Kathy** on **07890 347327** after 6pm or at weekends

FunZone Breakfast/After School Club

Ofsted inspection

At about 3pm on Monday 9 December, the Play Leaders were preparing for a regular FunZone After School Session when **an Ofsted Inspector arrived** and announced that she'd come to make an inspection of the Club – no previous notice is given or expected of such a visit.

The Inspector made a very close examination of the FunZone Policies and Procedures and her conclusion was that **all policies were to a good standard** and she was complimentary on the overall management and committee's supervision of the setting.

Most importantly, the Inspector recognised the excellent input of the FunZone staff in planning challenging activities and good teaching that supports the children's learning. Commendation was made that the staff invite children to make decisions regarding activities for sessions to include everyone in **an enjoyable play session**.

The Inspector spent time observing the children at play and also discussed their likes and dislikes with them. On the afternoon the Inspector was present, members of the management committee had the opportunity to describe the management practices employed at FunZone, and parents arriving to collect their children also spoke with her and made clear their support of the Club.

The FunZone children presented themselves as a happy and contented group and the staff displayed true professionalism, and it is to their credit that **the Ofsted Inspector rated FunZone as Good**.

A copy of the Ofsted Inspection report is available at the club for the FunZone parents to look at, and there's a copy of the published report on the Ofsted website www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports.

The Parochial Church Council of St Mary the Virgin Church, Clophill as the overall provider of FunZone together with the FunZone Management Committee is very proud of the dedication shown by all the FunZone staff – Play Leaders, Play Workers and volunteer helpers and we commend them in achieving this result.

Rosemary ILETT – FunZone Administrator

Charlotte Benjamin – FunZone Chairman

Revd Dean Henley – St Mary the Virgin Church, Clophill



Vintage Fair

Clophill Village Hall, Sunday 9 February, 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**



Clophill Methodist Church News

Clophill Methodist Church ended 2013 with our annual Christmas Weekend.



This began with our concert with **The Decibels**, a group of ten members of Bedford Town Band. We were treated to a varied repertoire ranging from smooth jazz to opera, songs from the shows and a jolly sing-a-long of Christmas carols all conducted by a member of the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

On the Saturday we held our **annual Christmas market**, with lots of stalls and refreshments, and rounded off the weekend with our Advent service, with the collection traditionally raising monies for Action For Children.

Over the past year, during our various fundraising events we've **raised £220** for our chosen charity, which was presented to Carers in Bedfordshire at our January Lunch.

We would like to again give a big thank you to all those who have supported us.

Nicola Wood (on behalf of the Social Committee)

Village groups

Beverley Court	Sharon Soper	860920
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 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
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

Clophill Parish Council

Notes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st January 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 some discussion over the gates that have been erected at each end of the private road that joins Old Kiln Lane with pathways to The Slade. The Land Owners, for whom the private road serves to give them access to their land, state that this private road is available for the public to walk or horse riders to use, but isn't available to motor vehicles or other agricultural machinery without the Land Owners specific permission.

Precept

The Council approved the Finance Committee proposal for the budget and to set the precept at £22,650 for the coming financial year 2014/2015. This is **16% lower than the current year** (£26,970) and the effect on the equivalent Band D property is to reduce the charge from £38.09 to £32.04 bringing us back into line with last year's requirements. The Council have been able to achieve this by careful management of our expenses over the year and it's expected that we will hold this level for at least a further year.

Councillor Resignation and Appointments

Mr Duncan Beattie has tendered his resignation which has been regretfully accepted. Duncan advised that his work commitments were such that he was unable to give the Council the attention and help that he should. Following consultation with Central Bedfordshire Council, we're now able to co-opt, and welcome, Mr Paul Downing as our new Councillor joining in February.

Additionally, the Council co-opted Mr Peter Liddle to the Planning Committee to assist in compiling responses on planning matters. He will be engaged on seeking parishioner's views on planning applications for the committee and help with drafting an appropriate response. As a co-opted member he won't have a vote on the committee or the Council.

The Land Committees

In December we reported that we were looking into a further street light at the top end of The Slade. We've now received the full costs of achieving this. UK Power Networks have advised that a minimum cost for their works to modify the cables will be at least £4,500 to which the cost of the lamp post, and installation of same, will mean total costs could exceed £6,000. Bearing in mind that parishioners at the top of The Slade weren't particularly interested in a light, the Council has decided, due to the very high costs, to discontinue with the proposal.

Salt Bins are now in place at the Village Hall and Readshill, and by the time you receive this Spotlight they will have been filled. The salt in these bins and the one at the junction of Mill Lane and Kiln Lane is for the public to use when appropriate on the **PUBLIC HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATHS ONLY. IT IS NOT FOR USE ON PRIVATE DRIVES.** We ask you to use the salt appropriately and spread thinly to gain maximum benefit.

Mid Beds Link a Ride

The Council has increased its donation from £50 to £75 in recognition of the admirable service it provides to the community. We're also aware that some of its current funding may be under threat.

Clophill Parish Council

Continued

Neighbourhood Plans

At our previous meeting the Council had requested Central Bedfordshire Council to designate Clophill Parish as a Neighbourhood Area and this has been done. This month, following a presentation by two of our Councillors, it was agreed that we should go ahead to formally create a Neighbourhood Area Plan and incorporate an update to the existing Parish Plan (now some five years old and 80% completed). The Plan will concentrate mostly on determining where and how much building the parish wishes to accommodate over the next 15-20 years. When properly completed and signed off by the Parish, Central Bedfordshire and the Government Planning Inspector, it will require the Local Authority to take the Plan into full consideration when determining planning applications in our Parish. This will be our opportunity to have a major say in how Clophill will develop over the coming years.

Boxing Club

The Council has been approached to help financially those persons who are trying to form a Boxing Club for the youngsters and teenagers in the village. It's always been the Council's policy to encourage developments of this nature and so it's happy to help. Initially it will pay the cost of hiring the village hall for the first six months to hopefully enable a successful start-up.

Planning – December 2013/January 2014

Applications Received by Central Bedfordshire

C/13/04072/FULL

CB/13/04073/LB

Location: Speeds Dairy Farm, Beadlow

Proposal: Erection of rear sunroom

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Hind

Proposal is to erect a large sunroom of timber with a tiled roof which will match existing tiles in the centre of the south-east elevation (ie side opposite the main entrance) at this listed building. However, as planned, the new room projects away from the house as a narrow appendage and is inappropriate and out of keeping with the listed building. **OBJECT**

CB/13/04223/FULL

Location: Hilltop Farm, Back Street

Proposal: First-floor extension to create an annexe; first-floor rear extension

Applicant: Mr P Valentino

Proposal is to build a full annexe over the west-end ground floor providing four bedrooms (one en-suite), boudoir, bathroom, shower room, WC, family room, dining area and kitchen and, over the east end, a four-bedroom annexe (one en suite), bathroom, and office (kitchens and reception room already exist on ground floor). PC is concerned that the proposal constitutes over-development of an already very prominent building on the skyline. A proposal to extend a much smaller building on the immediately adjacent (east) site was refused by CBC/MBDC a few years ago, mainly because of the skyline location. **OBJECT**

Clophill Parish Council

Continued

CB/13/04281/FULL

Location: Mouse Farm, Shefford Road
Proposal: Erection of agricultural barn (retrospective)
Applicant: Mr & Mrs M Hawkins

The title of this application is misleading. The application seeks approval for work already completed. In part, some construction was originally authorised by MBDC (MB/05/02044/FULL) in 2005. However, some extension was undertaken subsequently following the needs of the animals (sheep) and after break-ins and a fire.

SUPPORT

CB/13/04358/FULL

Location: 126A, High Street
Proposal: Demolition of existing 2-bedroom bungalow. Erection of 4-bedroom detached dwelling
Applicant: Mr D Ward-Clark

Proposal is to demolish the existing small bungalow and to replace it by erecting a large, 4-bedroomed house complete with en-suite bathroom, garage, study and playroom on the same plot, mainly using the original narrow site. The proposed building is too large for this site and inappropriate.

OBJECT

CB/13/04452/LB

Location: 6 The Green
Proposal: Listed building consent for insertion of internal door through to adjoining property on the ground floor
Applicant: Mrs A de Montfort

Application refers to semi-detached, listed thatched cottage. Intention is to create a single dwelling and no external work is proposed.

SUPPORT

Applications Approved by Central Bedfordshire

CB/13/03980/FULL

Location: 126 High Street
Proposal: Replacement park home
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Wales

Application is similar to previously approved CB/13/02306/FULL for the replacement of an existing badly fire-damaged home on the same site. Essentially, the same footprint is retained with minor internal re-arrangements, raising the floor and switching the entrance door to the opposite (north) side of the building. One of the conditions imposed is to limit the occupants to a single household of which a person shall be employed in the operation of Sealawn Cattery. The PC had supported.

**The next Parish Council meeting will take place at 7.45 on Tuesday
25 February 2014, with a surgery for parishioners commencing at 7.30pm.**

Parish registers for January and February

Every year the searches at the County Records Office in Bedford throw up interesting and sometimes puzzling information. This year I've looked more closely at the occupations listed for the fathers of the children baptized. Most often it states 'labourer', but this time in 1814 we see draper, miller, husbandman and cordwainer, and in 1864 a painter marrying a bonnet sewer. The puzzle also occurs in 1814, as you will see in the baptisms for January.

Sadly once again there are too many names that are impossible to decipher as the plethora of '?'s indicates.

1814

Baptisms

January 30th Thomas Matthews, son of Stephen (draper), and Margaret Ann? Thomas Matthews, son of Stephen (labourer) and Margaret

Burials

January 19th Elizabeth Maddams ? Wittamore
February 11th John Gee (?)
February 16th Mary Chipperfield

1864

Baptisms

January Charles ?
George Cunningham (?)
William Stimson (?)
Mary Wittamore (?)
January Mary Wittamore (?)
February Ellen Bryant (?)
2 totally illegible

Marriages

January 9th William Chapman, 54, widower, to Mary Allberry, 34
January 22nd John Stimson, 22, to Kate Eliza Roberts

1864 continued

Burials

January ? Joseph (?) infant
January 6th William Barker
January 20th Ellen Clark
January 27th ? Austin
January 30th Mary Grummitt
February 23rd Eileen ?
February 27th William ?

1914

Baptisms

January 4th Selina Mary Porter

Burials

January 26th Sarah Maud Gardner, 15
February 9th Randolph James Chapman, 28

1964

Marriages

February 2nd Rodney William Harris to Doreen Ann Lincoln

Burials

February 1st Marion Dunham, 86

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.

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See 'Village Groups' for contact details



What's on in and around Clophill

FEBRUARY



Sunday 9th

Vintage Fair, Clophill Village Hall, 10am-4pm. *See this issue for details and ticket price*



Saturday 22nd

Freeman Academy Open Day, Clophill Village Hall, 10am-4pm.

See this issue for details and ticket price



Saturday 22nd

Quiz Night at The Stone Jug, Clophill. Teams of 4-5 people, 8.30pm start



Thursday 27th

The Fast Italian cookery demonstration. 11am at 3 Beverley Gardens, Clophill.

See 'Come into the Kitchen' page for details

MARCH



Thursday 20th

A talk about the Clophill Heritage Trust by Ali Bradbury and Richard Hudson.

St Mary the Virgin Church, Clophill, 7.30am. *See this issue for details and ticket price*



Thursday 27th

Danish Delights cookery demonstration. 11am at 45 High Street, Clophill.

See 'Come into the Kitchen' page for details



Saturday 29th

Vauxhall Male Voice Choir, Parkside Hall, Ampthill, 2.30pm.

See this issue for details and ticket price

Messy Church @ Clophill Methodist Church



Saturday February 15th – 4.00-6.00pm

Saturday March 15th – 4.00-6.00pm

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)

For further information please contact
Victoria at victoriajhiggins@hotmail.co.uk

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

If you have any diary dates that you would like included on this page, please email editorial@clophillspotlight.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	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	0844 4996928

POLICE

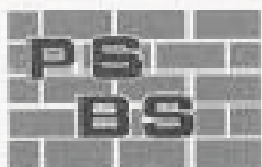
County Police HQ		Non Emergency	101
Ampthill Station			01234 841212
Clophill Local Policing Team			101
			01234 842613

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

St Mary's School , Clophill			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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Still quality real ale.

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Please call Anita on 01525 861743 or info@wrestparkdaynursery.co.uk
www.wrestparkdaynursery.co.uk










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