

Vol 38 | No.1

FREE

# **CLOPHILL** **SPOTLIGHT**

FEBRUARY 2016



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## A word from the Editor...

### *Happy New Year!*

So, we're into 2016 and for those of you who have been having a Dry January, good news – the month is almost over! Which calls for a bit of a celebration, don't you think?

I'm celebrating the fact that Spotlight has a new distribution manager – **the wonderful Pete Liddle**. As I mentioned in my December letter, without a distribution manager we wouldn't be able to continue delivering Spotlight – which would probably have meant closing the magazine down. So I'm delighted that Pete came forward to volunteer for the job. He'll be coordinating delivery of Spotlight to our team of village distributors – who we can't do without either!

While we're on the subject of volunteering, **if anybody fancies being Spotlight's advertising manager** I'd love to hear from you.



Don't forget that this is your village magazine and if you have an article you want included, a column you want to write or have any suggestions on how we can improve things, just get in touch.



***Long live Spotlight!***

## The magazine staff

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Don't forget you can now read Spotlight online at  
**[www.clophillspotlight.co.uk](http://www.clophillspotlight.co.uk)**



Bedfordshire  
Cambridgeshire  
Northamptonshire

# Wildlife walks & talks



## Climate Change

**Monday 15th February, 7.45pm, Maulden Church Hall**

BCN Wildlife Trust's Chief Executive will talk on climate change, on its indicators and on its present and possible future effects. £2 per adult (includes hot drink & biscuits)

## Dazzling Damsels and Daunting Dragons

**Monday 21st March, 7.45pm, Maulden Church Hall**

Steve Cham is an expert on, and great photographer of, Odonata, the order of carnivorous insects. These summer creatures are a magical site on many ponds and lake margins.

£2 per adult (includes hot drink & biscuits)

**Open to all. There is no need to reserve a place for talks... just turn up!**

For additional information please email [flitvale.info@gmail.com](mailto:flitvale.info@gmail.com)  
or ring **Ann** on **07890 347327** between 6pm and 8pm or at weekends  
[www.flitvale.org.uk](http://www.flitvale.org.uk)



**Clophill Methodist Church**



# BEETLE DRIVE

**Saturday 27th February**

**6:30pm**

**Adults £5 Children £2.50**

**Refreshments**



In Aid of: Raise The Roof Fund

Tel: 01525 860695



# Happy 100th Birthday!

We have two BIG birthdays to celebrate...

## Emily Wilkinson celebrated her big day on Tuesday.

Emily came to Clophill 20 years ago but was originally from Newcastle upon Tyne. Her daughter, Valerie, tells us a little about her mother's life. 'Mum was one of 15 children and when she left school at 14 she got a job in a factory making boxes. She married my father, Jonathan, in 1939, the year the war started. He was in the King's Own Scottish Borders and was shot by a Japanese soldier – luckily the bullet went through his arm and he continued to do military service until he was demobbed in 1945.'



Valerie moved to Bedfordshire in 1973, and after her father died in 1977 she bought a cottage in Silsoe – her mother came to Clophill in 1995. 'She was lucky enough to move to Beverley Court and she took to her new flat very quickly,

joining in lots of the activities including the Tuesday Club. Over the years that she's lived here she's made many friends and continues to enjoy reasonable health'.

## Doris Pitts will be 100 next month.

Doris was born and raised in Clophill. She shares some wonderful memories with Spotlight. 'When I was young, the owner of the grocers on The Green used to give me free sweets if I took a mouse out of the mousetrap for him. At 14 I left school and got a job in Luton as an apprentice milliner – when the war broke out I made gurkha soldier hats. I started courting Jack when I was 17. We used to go for walks together and for a special treat we'd cycle to the cinema in Ampthill. At our wedding in 1940, the air raid sounded as we went into St Mary's Church but we got the "all clear" as we came out.'



Doris and Jack couldn't afford to rent a cottage in Clophill, so they moved to Silsoe until they were able to get one of the new council houses in Readshill in 1953. She continued to work in the hat trade, then for an engineering firm and finally as a domestic help. Both she and Jack retired at 70. 'I loved going to church, helping with a stall at the jumble sales and joining the Tuesday Club at Beverley Court. I also joined the Flower Club. After Jack's death in 2005 I wasn't sure if I'd be able to cope but I managed to stay in Readshill until last year. I'm now in the new Meppershall care home and I'd welcome any visitors so we can talk about the good times I had living in Clophill.'



Clophill Methodist Church  
**COFFEE & CROISSANT  
MORNINGS**

All proceeds in aid of the 'Raise the Roof' fund

10am to 12noon, £1.50



Saturday 6th February  
Saturday 5th March  
Saturday 23rd April



**ALL WELCOME**

**Valentine's Day Pancake Races**

Sunday 14th February, Silsoe



- **Race down Silsoe High Street with your frying pan**  
– or just come and watch. Races for children, ladies and gentlemen as well as team race. Plus fancy dress race, with prizes for the winner and also for the best fancy dress.
- Delicious pancakes and hot drinks for sale from 9am in the village hall
  - The gift of a flower for every lady.
  - Lunchtime pancakes served in the village hall, accompanied by music from Bedford Brass Band

**Schedule**

**9am:** pancake breakfasts in the village hall

**9.30am:** registration opens for competitors

**10.30am:** races begin

**11.30am:** lunchtime pancake with hot drinks and live music, plus presentation of prizes

**All competitors need to provide their own frying pan and pancake**  
(pancakes available from the village hall)



Organised by Silsoe's Community Group – formed to help keep The George for our Village Community. For further information about the pancake races please contact *Maggie Herod* on **01525 860491**

# News from Clophill Heritage Trust

Charlie and Neil at the Old Church



## The Old Church and Eco Lodges

We've had several requests from local people to have walk-to-weddings at the lodges. One of our volunteers, Charlie Gardner, is getting married this May and had her pre-wedding photographs taken earlier this month... we're all looking forward to the big day.

## Tower tours and teas

Our warden, Kayleigh, had the great idea of opening the Church Tower for tours on Boxing Day, with the Eco Lodges also being open for teas and cakes. This provided a good stopping-off point for the many local families and visitors who took advantage of the sunny weather to walk off Christmas excess. The 'Nest' was turned into a café for four hours and was busy all afternoon. We intend to repeat this on at least one Sunday afternoon per month. What could be better than the steady climb up Old Church path on a loop of the village with a tea break halfway round?

## Lodge lettings

Two of the lodges were fully occupied over the Christmas and New Year fortnight and are currently available for letting. Whilst in the summer months the lodges will be ideal for walkers and other visitors, we believe that during the winter months they are particularly suited to business people looking for accommodation Monday-Friday. They've already been used for corporate residentials as well as for families and friends of local people.

## Logs for sale

The grounds surrounding the Old Church and the Lodges require continual maintenance and as part of this we've been cutting trees on site, mainly Oak and Hawthorn, to produce good hardwood logs for sale, with proceeds going to The Trust. Thank you to Steve Dear who generously supplies us with logs at a discount from his business at Beadlow. These are mixed varieties at very competitive prices. Now the winter is here you can top up your supply for open hearth chimneys, wood burning stoves and chimineas. **Logs are for sale at 49 High Street.**

## 2016 Events and classes

This year, we'll be running themed weekends for 'Spies and Coders', 'Wine', 'Art', 'Drama' plus day courses for fitness, photography, real ale and cider. Details will be released soon on our website, Facebook and around the village.

- We currently have one space available on our Friday morning **yoga class** with Sam Turner.
- **Baby massage** classes with Christine Sorley start in the Barn Owl room on 1st February. Contact us if you're interested.

## Volunteering

We're always looking for volunteers, especially those with skills in IT, HR, marketing, fundraising and event management. We're also looking for those with odd days to help with grounds work like hedge laying. If you're interested please contact: **Ali Bradbury** (07894 710001), **John Wright** (07860 839845) or **Barry Breed** (01525 860834).

Eco Lodges Warden: 07935 911207 Email: [info@ClophillHeritage.org](mailto:info@ClophillHeritage.org)  
[www.ClophillEcoLodges.org.uk](http://www.ClophillEcoLodges.org.uk) [facebook.com/clophillecolodges](https://facebook.com/clophillecolodges)



# St Mary's School News

It seems a long time ago now since the Christmas holidays, as once again the school is in full swing.

Next Friday, FOSM are once again hosting a 'Movie Night' for the children and will be serving hot dogs and other goodies, which the children adore. With the £5K raised last term, FOSM are also in the process of planning a schedule of improvements in the school for the children. We're very grateful for their continued energy and enthusiasm.

Other exciting events for the children during February include a sledging trip to SnoZone for Year 1 and 2. In addition, our children in Year 3 and 4 are dressing up as evacuees and visiting Holdenby House in Northamptonshire, where they'll get some idea of what some children during World War 2 experienced when they had to leave their homes and families during that time.



Child evacuees during World War 2

As many of you may be aware, St Mary's School is now running 'FunZone', the before and after school club. On behalf of all the parents and children in school who, over the years have benefitted from FunZone, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Rosemary Ilett for all the hard work and commitment she has invested in FunZone and to the committee for supporting Rosemary in the running of the club.

## Our value for this month is *Perseverance*

- Working to complete a task regardless of how long or how much effort it takes.
- Seeing a job through to the end.

**At school** we'll aim to help our pupils to understand that achievement isn't easy and to succeed requires time and effort. Giving up is easy but it doesn't usually result in satisfaction. We'll point out that houses are not built overnight, books are not written in a day and gardens don't look after themselves – all these things take hard work and perseverance. Pupils will be encouraged to spend time and effort over their activities this month and we'll celebrate the fruits of their labours by sharing their work in our celebration assemblies. It should be clear to everyone one that when you make the effort and do your best the feeling of satisfaction and pride makes it all worthwhile. As an example we will use the story of Michelangelo painting the ceiling of the Sistine chapel.

**At home** you could each choose a task that needs completing and find out who can see their task through to a successful conclusion. Hopefully everyone will achieve this and a lot of things that needed doing will be done and everyone will achieve satisfaction.



# Acorn Nursery News

Welcome to our new children, Joshua, Ayla, Maia, Blake and Savanna.

All the children are really enjoying Superheroes as a theme this term, designing and naming their own superhero, making masks and cuffs and talking about superpowers. As the weather changed, we've also looked at snow and ice, finding and breaking ice in the garden and watching the pieces melt. With money that was donated by ZigZag Pre-school, we've bought lots of new things for outside including a mud kitchen with pots and pans (which the children are really enjoying), basket ball hoops, pulleys and sparkly shapes. Our theme after half term is mini beasts so we'll be out spotting those as the weather warms up.



## Legion d'Honneur for former resident

Many residents will have fond memories of Mel Hughes,



former chairman of Clophill Parish Council, who died in 2013. His son, Owen, has been in touch to let us know that he recently received his late father's Legion d'Honneur. Owen says: *'Dad knew I had put the application forward and was very honoured to think that he might qualify. I'm sure he would have received the medal graciously and maybe had a small whisky to celebrate.'*



## News from Clophill Methodist Church

On behalf of Clophill Methodist Church, we'd like to wish you all a Happy New Year and **thank you for all your support over 2015**, helping in our ongoing fundraising effort for our new church roof.

This year, we'll be beginning our fundraising with our **Beetle Drive**, a fun event for all the family on Saturday 27th February (*see poster in this issue*). In 2016 we'll also be continuing with our regular events such as Tea and Chat, Lunches, Coffee and Croissant and Messy Church.

**We look forward to welcoming you into our church throughout the year.**

*Nicola Wood*

An Illustrated Talk at St Mary's Church, Clophill

Thursday 11th February at 7.30pm

# *Life is Just... a Film Show*

*By Nigel Lesmoir-Gordon*

Writer, film maker and Clophill resident Nigel Lesmoir-Gordon talks about his career in books and films, illustrated with films and readings.

**The films will include extracts from**

Syd Barrett's First Trip

Donovan's There is an Ocean

The Colours of Infinity with Arthur C Clarke and Pink Floyd

The Mysterious Michael A with Nicholas Jones

Nothing and Everywhere with Martin Shaw

**Extracts will be read from Nigel's books**

*Nothing and Everywhere*

*Life is Just...*

**There will be musical accompaniment by Luke Howard on the cello**

**Admission £5**

**For further details contact Heather Jarvis 860548 or Christine Fellini 861912**

## **Temporary closure of Ampthill Household Waste Recycling Centre**

Ampthill Household Waste Recycling Centre in Abbey Lane, Ampthill, will be closed for **six months from Sunday 14th February**. It will reopen as a new, modern facility with improved layout, safer access to the containers, enhanced signage and improved lighting.

While the centre is closed, you can use sites in Biggleswade, Dunstable and Leighton Buzzard. Once the growing season starts, residents can dispose of garden waste only at the **Council Offices, Monks Walk, Chicksands SG17 5XY**.

The service will operate only on Saturdays and Sundays, 9am to 5pm.

• For full details of the temporary closure, go to [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/redevelopment](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/redevelopment)

# Clophill Preschool News

Hi and thank you to everyone who came to our Nativity with a Difference – it really was very different! Over a hundred of our children's friends and family turned up and it seemed everyone had a great morning. We certainly did!

As most of you know we're always keen to develop your children's Communication and Language skills and one way in which we do this is with the infamous **Talking Tina**. Each week children can put objects into Tina that they would like to show and talk about at group time. She also has a sound of the week, which we do in alphabetical order, so children can add in objects that begin with that week's sound as well.

We're finding with so many children now at Preschool, almost half of whom will be going to Reception in September this year, that it's important that we begin to get those older children ready for their next important step. This means we're introducing **Talking Terry** – a second box for the older children to put their Talkabout objects into. This means we can split into two groups when we want to do an adult-led focus. It also means that we can begin to push the children on a little further, particularly with their Communication, Language and Literacy as well as their Maths in preparation for Reception. As a Qualified Teacher, and having spent many years teaching both a Nursery Class and Reception, Imogen knows where the children need to be heading in their learning and can direct specific activities at these children to really help them as they head towards this transition in their education. We'll also discuss how we feel about moving on and what to expect to help allay any fears or misconceptions the children may have about this exciting next step.

We've also started our **new coffee morning**. We're holding two coffee morning every half term from 9.15am until 11am each on a different day of the week to give everyone the opportunity to come along. We have parents and grandparents who have dropped off their children as well as mums and their children who aren't in that session. We're also using the coffee mornings as an opportunity for prospective parents to come and chat with our existing parents and staff and take a look around. **Our next two coffee mornings are Wednesday 24th February and Thursday 10th March.**

Of course, we're very happy for any parents/carers etc to come in and join us for any session and to stay and play. Whether you'd like to come and do a talk about a hobby, a craft, your job, or to read a story or do songs with the children or simply to come in and play you'd be most welcome.

We're already looking towards our **Easter Egg Hunt** which we're holding on Good Friday 25th March. We'll have a large indoor fayre running alongside our ever popular egg hunt. If anyone would like a stall please get in contact asap to book a table.

*Imogen and Chris*

• You can get in touch with Imogen on **07765 887868** or Chris on **07936 006381** – or drop us a line at **[clophillpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:clophillpreschool@gmail.com)** And check out our website at **[www.clophillpreschool.co.uk](http://www.clophillpreschool.co.uk)**

# Ecclesiastical Buildings in Beds & Herts

Monday 1 February 2016

Michael Dales, director of the Michael Dales Partnership,  
talks about the challenge of these buildings' care and upkeep.

# Bedfordshire: An Unassuming County

Monday 7 March 2016

Brian Kerr, soil scientist and author, on local history and geology  
– how our lifestyle and future are reflected in our landscape.

Visitors are very welcome.

Venue: **Lecture Theatre, Flitwick Library**, 7.30pm for 7.45 pm  
£2 for members and £3 for visitors is payable on the door

For further details contact Clive Makin at [clive.makin@ntlworld.com](mailto:clive.makin@ntlworld.com)  
or call 01582 655785, [www.adalhs.org.uk](http://www.adalhs.org.uk)

**Ampthill & District Archaeological & Local History Society**



St Marys Church, Clophill

# Lent Lunches

**Raffle**



**Bring & Buy**

17th February  
24th February  
2nd March  
9th March  
16th March

St Mary's Church  
112 High Street  
Aragon House, 59 High Street  
Clophill Methodist Church  
72 High Street

**12 noon-2pm**

Donations will be given to **Wateraid**

*Everyone very welcome*

For information phone Liz Henman 01525 860108 Please call if you require transport

# How to have your happiest, fittest year ever

It may only be January, but already many of us will be looking ahead to getting fit for summer. But how long will your healthy resolutions last? Gary Sales from Full Bottle Fitness gives us some inspirational tips for mind, body and soul...



## BODY

- **Eat and drink right** Did you know that a whole pizza can add up to 2,400 calories, while ham and scrambled eggs is just 300? Most weight gain is down to us eating too many calories so it's worth using an online calorie tracker to see how many calories you're getting through each day. And don't forget that alcohol contains calories, too!
- **Breathe to relax** Stress can feel like hunger, which means we turn to food even though we're not hungry. When you're feeling overwhelmed, sit quietly and focus on your breathing for a few minutes.
- **Exercise** The government suggests we should do at least 20 minutes exercise to raise our heart rate at least three times a week. Trouble is, most of us ditch our exercise plans within 10 weeks of starting. The solution? Pick exercise that you enjoy or one that you can do with friends to keep you motivated.

## MIND

- **Sleep tight** A good night's sleep is the most efficient ways of recovering a stressed body or mind, so aim to get a good seven and a half hours a night.
- **Be happy** Don't feel like smiling? Do it anyway! Your brain will pick up the signal and boost your mood. Professional sports people use this brain programming to achieve the best results – and if you keep telling yourself you'll be happier and fitter, you can as well.
- **Take a break** Give yourself at least three timeouts during the day, to step away from work and clear your mind. Many people make one of their breaks a lunchtime walk – and burn some calories into the bargain.

## SOUL

- **Appreciate what you have** It's easy to focus on what you don't have, and that can lead to feeling miserable. Instead, when you're feeling fed up, think of the great moments in your life – your wedding day, seeing your son score his first goal.
- **Love who you are** None of us are perfect, so don't waste your energy stressing about your so-called 'bad' points. Celebrate all the things you like about yourself and what you're good at.
- **Live your passions** If you love fitness, get fitter. If you love running, run a half marathon. If you love films, go to the cinema. If you like food, dine out once a month. Live your life because nobody knows what tomorrow or next week will bring.



**Need more health inspiration or help with your workout?**

Get in touch at [info@fullbottlefitness.co.uk](mailto:info@fullbottlefitness.co.uk) or call **07758 812789**.

You can also find us at [www.fullbottlefitness.co.uk](http://www.fullbottlefitness.co.uk)

## Christine's quick 'n' easy recipe

# Tomato & Ricotta Tart



### INGREDIENTS

#### For the pastry

- 125 plain flour
- 60g ground polenta flour
- 60g freshly grated parmesan
- 1 tbsp caster sugar
- ½ tsp salt
- 140g salted butter
- 40-50ml water
- 1 egg yolk

#### For the filling

- 10 medium vine-ripened tomatoes
- 150g fresh ricotta
- 2 eggs
- 1 small bunch of fresh marjoram, finely chopped
- ½ tsp thyme leaves removed from stalks
- salt and freshly ground black pepper
- ½ clove of garlic, crushed
- extra virgin olive oil

1. Preheat your oven to 180°C.
2. Lightly oil a flan tin (approx 27cm).
3. Whisk together the water & egg yolk.
4. Mix together the flour, polenta flour, salt and sugar then rub in the butter to form a breadcrumb-like mix. Stir in the grated parmesan, then bring the dough together with the whisked water and egg yolk. Form a ball, wrap in clingfilm and chill for about 20 mins.
5. Roll out the dough and line your flan tin. Line with baking parchment and top with baking beans and bake for 15 minutes.
6. Remove the beans and parchment and bake for a further 10 minutes until golden.
7. Cut the tomatoes into thin slices.
8. Mix the ricotta with the eggs, herbs and crushed garlic.
9. Place this mixture into the base of the flan case and layer the tomatoes in a spiral on top.
10. Brush the tomatoes with olive oil and sprinkle with salt and freshly ground black pepper.
11. Bake for a further 15-20 minutes.
12. The flan can be served either hot or cold with a good mixed salad and some crusty bread – not forgetting a glass of chilled white wine!



**Christine Fellini runs Italian cookery classes at Casa Fellini [www.casafellini.co.uk](http://www.casafellini.co.uk)**

# Clophill & District Flower Club



For our final meeting of 2015, we had a super demonstration from Jane Fox entitled '**Winter Wonderland**'. Jane interpreted her Christmas ideas and experiences using predominately white flowers to fit her theme, and we were all enthralled as her spectacular designs began to fill the stage at the village hall.

The demonstration began with presents, with Jane making two large white, silver and black designs on top of two boxes tied with big bows. This was followed by Christmas bells so we were treated to a design of huge wicker bells with white flowers and

gold accessories. Jane's next design was inspired by a huge icicle she had on her house one Christmas – the arrangement included frosty twigs, white flowers, icicles and lights. A really fun design was the one Jane used to depict children sledging down a snowy mountain. For this Jane used some large triangles from which she hung subtly coloured flowers, including two beautiful lilac and green ornamental cabbages. The finale was an interpretation of a winter walk in the wood, with animals, birds, bare twigs and evergreens. Jane created a huge tableau in the centre of the stage that completed an excellent demonstration. Someone said they had never been in an audience that was so quiet – we were all just spellbound!



The evening ended with the raffle, with those who won left wondering how on earth to get their huge arrangement into the car. **Doris Pitts, our Honorary Member and 100 next month**, was thrilled when she won a beautiful design and so was everyone else.

With increased membership and some excellent demonstrations and practical evenings, the Club had a very good 2015. Earlier this month we held our AGM, during which we re-elected the Committee. We have a lot of talent in the Club and have arranged flowers at many big events.

This year will be our **40th Anniversary** and we're planning some special events to celebrate. One of them will be a Flower Festival at St Mary's Church in September, which will also be a celebration of the queen's 90th birthday.

**Carolyn Cranswick, chairman**

• We now have our own website where you can see our 2016 programme with details of our meetings and activities. We always welcome new members so do take a look at [www.clophillflowerclub.com](http://www.clophillflowerclub.com)





## Ampthill and District Probus Club

Probus' is a meeting point for retired professional and businessmen that was founded 50 years ago. The Ampthill and District Probus Club has been going for 42 years and covers the area from Toddington to Houghton Conquest.

Our members are a friendly crowd and love to welcome new members. We meet on the **first Tuesday of every month** at The Cross Keys in Pulloxhill between 12.30pm and 2.30pm for lunch and socialising, and regularly have guest speakers. We also have two weekend breaks a year, along with occasional visits to places of interest and ladies invitation lunches.

If you'd like to come along, please contact paul at [pscriv@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pscriv@hotmail.co.uk)

## Clophill Post Office

Deepak and Dakhsa would like to let all their customers and friends in the village know that the post office is back up for sale. Unfortunately, the buyers have pulled out (without giving a reason) and so Deepak and Dakhsa will be running the post office for the foreseeable future.

If anybody is interested in purchasing the post office, please drop in to see Deepak or call him on **01525 860988**.





# Parish Registers for January & February

One of the most interesting parts of researching these records is tracing the surnames through from the early 19th century to more modern times. Sadly, many have disappeared in recent years. I don't know that there are any of the 3Gs – Gobey, Grummitt or Gudgin – left in the village, for example. Grummitt is particularly interesting as it occurred in various forms here from the Norman Conquest and is of Norman origin as Gromont.

Another name that appears in different spellings is Wittamore, which sometimes has an 'e' in the middle, and this year I found it with an 'l'. But we still have the Harris and Roberts families here, and there are two appearances of Diggins this year.

*Adrienne Gordon*

## 1816

### Baptisms

January 25 John Palmer  
 January 28 Philip Gudgin  
 February 2 Hannah(?) Hardwicke

### Burials

January 14 Mary ?, wife of William  
 January 22 Mary Knights (?), widow  
 February 1 Ann, wife of Edward Parker

## 1866

### Baptisms

Unfortunately the microfiche for these registers was very poor. Of the six baptisms on January 7th only three were legible.

January 7 Harriet Roberts  
 January 7 Rose Lomas  
 January 7 Ellen Webb

### Marriages

January 24 Samuel Green, 34,  
 to Sarah Elizabeth Low

### Burials

February 4 Elizabeth Wittamore, 73  
 February 10 Wm Brittain (Maulden), 36

## CHURCH REGISTERS FOR DECEMBER 2015 AND JANUARY 2016

### Baptism at the Methodist Church

December 13 Charlotte May Milne

### Wedding at St. Mary's

December 19 Paul Clements to Lynnn Southall

### Funeral at the Methodist Church

January 14 (Ruby) Stella Jeffrey, 97

## 1916

### Baptisms

January 23 Bertram Alfred Diggins,  
 son of Bertram & Florence

### Marriages

February ? James Sydney Jones, 21,  
 private soldier, to Annie ?  
 Nellie Durston, 21

### Burials

January 11 Louise Wittimore (sic), 89  
 February 16 William Harris, 81

## 1966

### Baptisms

February 27 Gavin John Griffiths




### Burials

February 20 Hayley Louise Thomas,  
 13 months



# What's on in and around Clophill

FEBRUARY

**Thursday 11th**  
**Life is Just...A Film Show** Illustrated talk by writer and film-maker Nigel Lesmoir-Gordon. 7.30pm, St Mary's Church, Clophill. *See this issue for full details.*

**Sunday 14th**  
**Pancake Races** Join one of the races or watch from the sidelines. From 9am, Silsoe. *See this issue for full details.*

**Saturday 27th**  
**Beetle Drive** 6.30pm, Clophill Methodist Church. *See this issue for full details.*

## On throughout the month...

### Wednesdays...

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

### Thursdays...

- **Coffee & Catch-up** 9am-10am, Clophill Methodist Church. *Term time only.*

### 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, 13 February; 12 March; 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](mailto:clophillspotlight1@hotmail.co.uk)

## Village groups

Beverley Court		860920
Brownies	<a href="https://enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk">https://enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk</a>	
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
	<a href="mailto:victoriajhiggins@hotmail.co.uk">victoriajhiggins@hotmail.co.uk</a>	
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

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<b>Electricity</b> (Emergency)		0800 7838838
<b>Emergency Fire/Police/Ambulance</b>		999
<b>Water/Sewage</b> (Anglian Water)		0845 7145145
<b>Telephone</b>	(Customer Services) 150 (Faults)	151
<b>Highways Department</b> (Central Bedfordshire Council)		0300 3008049
<b>Benefits Agency</b> (Bedford office)		01234 361500
<b>Registrar's Office</b> (Births/deaths/marriages)		0300 3008089
<b>Rail</b> (Enquiries)		0845 7484950
<b>Buses</b> 01234 262151	(Link A Ride) 01525 840511 (Flittabus)	01582 406561
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## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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

## HOSPITALS

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		Appointments	01234 359012
<b>Luton &amp; Dunstable</b>			0845 1270127

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<b>Shefford</b>	Enquiries 01462 818620	Appointments	01462 810034
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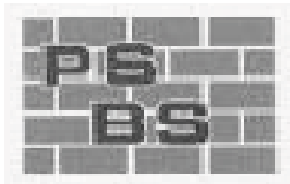
<b>County Police HQ</b>		Non Emergency	101
<b>Ampt Hill Station</b>			01234 841212
<b>Clophill Local Policing Team</b>			101
			01234 842613

## CHURCHES

<b>St Mary's Parish Church</b>		Liz Henman	01525 860108
<b>St Francis of Assisi Shefford</b>			01462 813436
<b>Clophill Methodist Church</b>		(Mr Jim Davies)	01525 860829

## SCHOOLS

<b>Clophill St Mary's C of E Lower School &amp; Nursery</b> (Headteacher Mrs K Bingley)		01525 860206
<b>Harlington Upper School</b> , Harlington		01525 755100
<b>Preschool</b> clophillpreschool@gmail.com (Chris) 07936 006381 or (Imogen)		07765 887868
<b>Redborne Upper School</b> , Ampt Hill		01525 404462
<b>Robert Bloomfield Middle School</b> , Shefford		01462 628800



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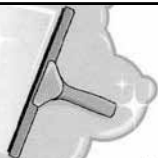
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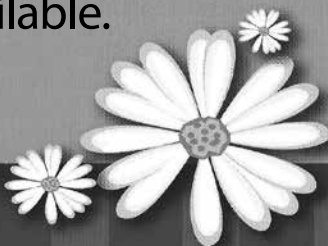
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