

CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

JULY 2014



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A word from the Editor...

Welcome...

So here we are in sunny July and we've got another great issue for you all. Inside, you can meet a woman who's in training for next year's marathon, find out about local walks and get a quick 'n' easy summer recipe. And of course there's the diary page, which is full of events in and around Clophill.



As for national events, the annual **Love Parks Week** is on from 25th July to 3rd August. There'll be lots of things going on so have a look at the website <http://loveparksweek.org.uk> to see what you fancy.



Spotlight takes a break in August and returns again in September, so until next time the team wishes everyone a very happy holiday.

Ta-ta for now!

PS: Just a reminder to all our contributors that the **next copy deadline is 20th August** for publication on 6th/7th September.

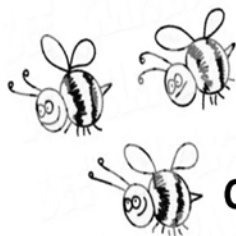


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Don't forget you can now read Spotlight online at
www.clophillspotlight.co.uk

St Mary's Church, Clophill



Come and listen to a talk on

The Busy Buzzy Life of Bees

by Kate & Andrew Gardener.



Thursday 11th September
7.30pm

in St Mary's Church, Clophill.



Tickets £5 - including refreshments

available from Christine Fellini 861912 or Heather Jarvis
860548

Your letters...

Dear Friends and Neighbours

We'd like to thank all our friends and neighbours for their kind messages of sympathy through the lovely cards and letters sent to us at the very sad and sudden passing of our beloved son, Timothy. It has been a great comfort to us to know that we're in your thoughts and prayers. Thank you all.

Kaye and Jimmy Davies, Cainhoe Road, Clophill

We'd like to thank everyone who contributed to the clearance of Elaine Goodall's house. The sale on June 14 realised approx £500 out of a total to date of £2,650 towards Elaine's Care Home costs. Many people have kindly been enquiring after Elaine. She's now happily settled in Chase House in Arlesey.

At the time of writing, we still have a few saleable items, including a reconditioned fridge/freezer, a couple of electric steamers, dozens of CDs of classical music and packs of playing cards from all over the world. If you're interested in any of these please ring **860875**.

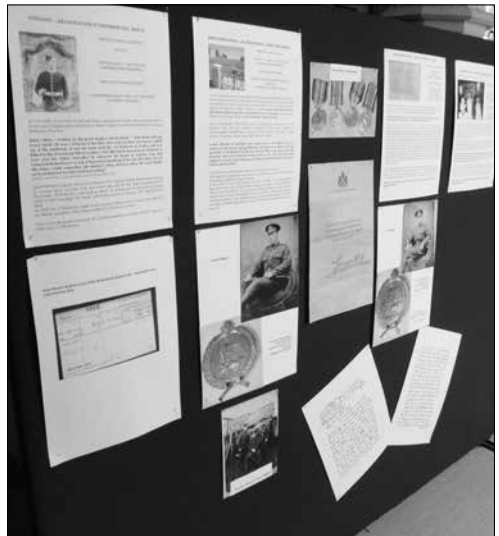
Ian and Adrienne Gordon

First World War Exhibition

People who came to enjoy Clophill's Open Gardens last month were also treated to an exhibition of First World War memorabilia at St Mary's Church. Photos, medals and postcards were donated by relatives of some of the 24 local men who gave their lives in the war and whose names appear on the war memorial at the church.

Clophill resident Sue Pearson, who came up with the idea of the exhibition, would like to thank everyone involved for their contributions as well as Colin Watt, who assisted with research and also created a timeline showing the men's deaths in relation to major events at the time.

It's thought that a hundred men from Clophill were sent to fight, and Sue is interested in researching the stories of the men who returned. If you have any information you'd like to pass on, you can contact Sue on 861110 or at richard.sue.pearson@gmail.com



St Mary's Church, Clophill

You are invited to

A Talk by Kevin Simms

(or Richard Farquharson)

on his book *'Musings from Maulden'*

Thursday 24th July

**7.30pm
in the Church**

"In the course of a year, the author muses on what he sees around him. God at work in His world. Diary, travelogue, personal jotter, this book is set against the background of village life and travels further afield. The book also gives tantalising glimpses into monastic life."

Tickets £5

Refreshments will be served at the end.

Richard farquharson



**MUSINGS
FROM
MAULDEN**

A year of reflective observations

Tickets are available from Heather Jarvis 860548 or Christine Fellini 861912

News from Clophill Heritage Trust



Church tower looking east Photo: Andrew Fox Photography

The Old Church

The main contractors for the consolidation works at the old church have now completed all works under the supervision of our architects. A new church path has been built in raiaby, which is flat, of a hard-wearing nature and in a colour sympathetic to its surroundings. The interior of the nave has been laid with grass and a disabled access gravel path. And the surrounding meadow has also received some maintenance work in the form of new turf and grass seed around the path

plus some cutting and weeding. The church isn't open yet but we'll let villagers know as soon as it's safe for the public. Until that time please refrain from entering the site. We're currently planning an official public opening ceremony, of which further news will soon be released. In the meantime, this Saturday (5th) children of all ages have been invited to launch their brave Teddies from the church tower onto a target in the drop zone.

Old Church path track

The Trust have completed much needed work on some 30+ large pot holes along the track which have been dug out, filled with concrete crush, compacted and then topped with road planings and re-compacted. Local residents and users of the path have been pleased with the improvements.

The Eco Lodges

Work has progressed slowly and the emphasis during June was with the continuation of the timber decking and verandas for each lodge. We can also announce that we've received early interest from walkers wanting overnight stays in the units.

Friends of Old St Mary's

We'd like to invite members of the community to become a 'Friend of Old St Mary's'. This would involve anything from half a day to 10 days a month assisting the Trust in running the site. It would require some training about the history of the site and landscape and educational information when accompanying selected groups up the tower. If you're interested, please contact info@ClophillHeritage.org

Painting competition

Last month, the Flying Horse held a Gala Day in aid of Clophill Heritage Trust. We ran an art stall with information about the Trust's work and there were also some children's activities including a painting table. Two of Clophill's local artists, Barry Breed and Fergus Milne, kindly judged the children's artwork competition and agreed that, despite the high standard, six-year-old Chloe Bichener should win with her 'Pony Club' painting. Fergus said: 'It was an excellent cartoon style pony with limbs, head and body all in proportion.' The happy pony summed up the fun day everyone had. Well done Chloe. And thank you to the Flying Horse for supporting the local charity through this fun Gala Day.



Volunteers required

From building work to IT and accountancy, Clophill Heritage Trust always looking for people to help. If you'd like to get involved, contact: Ali Bradbury (07894 710001); John Wright (07860 839845) or Barry Breed (01525 860834)



Clophill through the years

by Colin Watt

The Cross Tree

In the middle of Great Lane where it joins the High Street, there used to stand an old tree known as the Cross Tree. Why it was so called isn't known. It is at a T-junction, not a cross road.

The first reference to it, according to Mary Phillips (*The Clophill Story*), was in a survey of 1606. In 1716, she says, there was a house called Cross Tree House (King's cottage) owned by John Carter, and in 1738 the house is mentioned in a quit claim (conveyance). The tree is also mentioned in a will of 1810.



In the Quarter Session Rolls of 1810 and 1812 it's referred to as the Stocks Tree. Was this the site of the village stocks, an early form of punishment that restrained the victim's legs between wooden boards as a public form of punishment?

In Ampthill News for November 25, 1911, it was reported that *"The Old Cross Tree, which stands in the centre of the village, has been lopped this week. It is an elm, and has stood for many years. It is quite hollow – a mere shell – but it still seems full of vigour. The oldest inhabitant can remember it when it had just begun to decay. It is lopped every six or seven years, or its head would become too heavy. The village boys love to climb up inside the tree, and look out at the top. Very soon it is to be enclosed with an iron railing as it is one of the few venerable things which the village possess."*

In December, Mr Edward Crouch paid for an iron fence to protect it from injury and to commemorate the accession of King George V (6th May 1910). A plaque can be seen in the photograph, presumably inscribed to this effect.

Within two weeks, two horses attached to a vehicle of the Signalling Department at Haynes Park (a training camp for the Royal Engineers in World War One) bolted and collided with the iron fence.

During World War Two the tree was regarded as a danger to traffic in the blackout and removed. During the blackout, street lamps were switched off and vehicles had to dim their lights with black paint or newspaper. This resulted in a huge increase in accidents. People were encouraged to walk facing the traffic and men were advised to leave their shirt-tails hanging out so that they could be seen by cars with dimmed headlights.

If the hollow tree that was finally cut down was the same tree as existed in 1606 then it certainly had a long life.

If anyone has any corrections or additional information please contact
Colin on **01525 860922** or **colin.watt@mooncarrot.org.uk**.

St Mary's Church



Clophill Fete and Village Event – ‘Thank You’

On behalf of the Fete Committee I'd like to thank everyone for the support at the Church Fete and Village Event in May. It was a shame that the weather was very unpredictable and made the organisation on the day very difficult. We had to cancel some of the entertainment but everyone worked together to carry on as usual. We had some stalls and exhibitions inside the Church and the **new Community Choir entertained the visitors** to great applause.

We were delighted with the whole event as we had an excellent range of stalls and sideshows from the local organisations, and Safari Stu with his exotic creatures was very popular. The total raised during the afternoon by all the stalls and organisations was **£2,540**.

Our aim was to create **a traditional Fete for the village** and we were delighted with the number of visitors and the friendly community atmosphere, in spite of the wet weather. People seemed to enjoy the afternoon and were happy to spend time meeting friends, visiting the stalls and sideshows.

We'd like to hear from you with any ideas and feedback on how we can improve this annual occasion.

Carolyn Cranswick and Gill Jones, fete organisers

Donate a tree to St Mary's Churchyard

Many of you will have noticed that (sadly) it's been necessary to fell two of the beautiful old red oaks that line the driveway of St Mary's churchyard. You may also have seen the recent planning application for felling further diseased or dying trees.

Thanks to Colin Watt, it has been very interesting to discover (from an article in the December 1919 *Ampthill News*) that the original trees were planted at that time by the incumbent Rev H. R. Meyer. In the intervening years, some younger oak specimens have been planted – one about 50 years ago and two were kindly given in memory of loved ones about 20 years ago. So here we are almost 100 years from the original plantings, needing to fell and replace.

We've submitted our felling and planting schemes to the Diocese and the Local Authority and once the paperwork is completed we should be in a position to replant (hopefully this autumn/winter). **Would any resident (or group) be interested in donating a tree?** At the present time we'd be looking for two 'Red Oaks' and probably a sorbus (rowan).

The Parochial Church Council at St Mary's would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in making a donation. Should you have any further questions please contact me on **860108**.

Liz Henman, Churchwarden





Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire

Wildlife walks & talks

Nature Walk

Wednesday 16 July, 7pm, Old Shed, Brook Lane, Flitton Moor

Join other local enthusiasts in an evening stroll around the rich meadows and diverse habits of the moor. David Sedgley, the moor's warden, and other local experts will provide commentary and insight. *£1 per adult suggested donation.*

Family Bug Hunt

Wednesday 20th August, Cooper's Hill Reserve, Ampthill

Sessions times: 10am-11.30am; 11.30am-1pm; 1.30pm-3pm

Cooper's Hill reserve is one of the last remaining open heathlands in Bedfordshire, famed for its Green Tiger beetles. Come and see what 'bugs' there are to discover. Children must be accompanied by a guardian or parent. Please reserve places on one of the three sessions. *£1 per child suggested donation.*

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

St Mary's Church, Clophill

You are invited to an evening of

Berries and Bubbles

Friday 11th July 6pm - 9pm

at 72 High Street, Clophill

at the kind invitation of Mr and Mrs M Benson

Tickets £10 - includes drinks, canapés and berry desserts

*For tickets, contact Heather Jarvis 860548
or Christine Fellini 861912*

Let's talk about Tax Investigations

with Sally Cobban



This week I've decided to talk about tax enquiries and investigations – so I hope you're feeling cheerful as I doubt this will add to it!

HMRC has a penalty regime now that is based on tax payer behaviour. So if you discover a mistake on your tax return then the very best

course of action is to tell HMRC straight away and correct the return. You have 12 months to amend a previously submitted return. If you discover you owe more tax and it's beyond the due date then HMRC will charge interest on the outstanding amount of tax owed.

Penalties will start to kick in if HMRC makes an enquiry or investigation into you and it's upheld. It's your personal duty as a tax payer to take 'reasonable care' over preparing your tax records. If an error is discovered, HMRC will try to establish whether it was 'careless', 'deliberate' or 'deliberate and concealed'. I personally don't think there's much difference between deliberate and deliberate and concealed – as surely if it was deliberate then it was deliberately concealed. But that's tax statute for you!

There are different levels of penalty applied depending on the behaviour, with the worst penalty being a fine of up to 100% of the tax outstanding.

If the tax office does open an enquiry into a return it will first of all write to you and give you some time to respond. Often in the first instance it just wants to see some back-up evidence of your figures, so it may be quite straightforward.

TAX FACT

HMRC doesn't publish figures of how many tax returns it looks into in any one tax year. It can randomly check ones and pick ones out that look odd for one reason or another.

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

Christian Aid Week Donations

As the co-ordinator of Christian Aid Week, and on behalf of the charity, I'd like to thank the 20-strong team of volunteers who deposited and collected the red envelopes in May. It isn't always an easy task, but my goodness what a vital one!



I also want to thank everyone who gave so readily to such an important global charity. You generous people here in Clophill have donated **£1,195.59** (plus about £120 of Gift Aid) to the cause. **Thank you very much indeed.** Julie Benson

Do you enjoy singing? We do!



We are **The Parkside Singers** and we're having an **open rehearsal evening** on **Tuesday 15th July at 8.15pm** at Parkside Hall, Woburn Street, Ampthill.

Come along and see if it's your 'thing'.

Light refreshments provided.

We're a friendly bunch of people who enjoy singing songs from the musicals as well as popular music, traditional songs and formal choral pieces too. We take four-part singing seriously but have a lot of fun along the way!

www.parkside-singers.co.uk

A Health Evening

at St Nicholas Church Hall, Barton

7.30pm-9.30pm, Monday 8th September

All are cordially invited to meet our doctors and visiting health and Social Services professionals to hear about and discuss health, welfare and caring issues. It's your Health Service – come and hear what it can offer.

BARGOOSE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP
(Dr Margaret E Glaze and Partners)



SPOTLIGHT *meets...*

This month, Spotlight chats to **Clare Deverill**, who'll be running in next year's London marathon



Clare Deverill, who's lived in Clophill since 2011 and has two young children, decided to put herself forward for the marathon to help her lose weight and also raise money for a children's charity.

'I had a few stone of baby weight to lose and was finding it so frustrating having a wardrobe full of clothes that I couldn't wear,' says Clare. Like a lot of women, Clare found that her weight yo-yoed – she'd lose some then put it back on again. 'I realised I needed something that forced me to change my lifestyle so I could lose the weight and keep it off.'

It was husband, Steve, who suggested Clare ran the marathon. 'He ran it in 2009 so he thought it would be great to see if I could do it, too,' laughs Clare. 'I've never run before, but I'm hoping to get the running bug so I can eat and drink as I please but also keep my weight stable.'

Clare will be running for Get Kids Going, which helps disabled children to achieve their sporting dreams (<http://www.getkidsgoing.com/>). 'Steve raised over £3,000 for the charity when he did the marathon so I wanted to help, too. When I see my four-year-old, Olivia, running around it makes me sad to think disabled children might miss out on the chance of sporting pursuits.'

Clare has already started training, running a couple of miles twice a week and around 4 miles at the weekend. *'The marathon is 26.2 miles so I have a lot of work to do. Right now I can't imagine how I could possibly do it – but I have until April to find out!'*

If you'd like to sponsor Clare, there's a sponsorship form in the Stone Jug, or you can go online to **www.virginmoneygiving.com/claredeverill1**

Acorn Nursery News

As we come to the end of our first year, we say a fond farewell to 20 children who are moving up to Chestnut Class but look forward to seeing their progress through the school. We say 'Hello' to Maisie, Miles and Mia and hope they enjoy their short time with us before moving up to Chestnut Class.



The children have enjoyed playing with water, with our new water wheels and underwater animals in our new water troughs outside. Our tadpoles finally turned into tiny frogs and Joy has taken them home to her pond. We're looking forward to our Teddy Bears Picnic at Clophill Pre-school and are hoping for fine weather to sit outside for a picnic in the park. The staff look forward to meeting the children set to start nursery in September on Friday 11th July. If you'd like more information, please email Joy at **stmarysnursery@cbc.beds.sch.uk**



St Mary's School News

A letter from Chris Spurgeon...

“ I've been headteacher at St Mary's since January 1996, in which time I've seen many, many changes both in education and society. It has been my privilege to have taught literally hundreds of wonderful children during that time, some of whom are now returning as members of staff and some as parents themselves. It's wonderful to see so many past pupils in all sorts of different situations: at school, in church, at firework night and around the village generally.

Clophill has been a large part of my life for over 18 years and it will be a massive wrench to leave all those people who've become like a huge extended family. Many people have come and gone during those 18 years but an enormous number keep in touch and remember their time at St Mary's with great joy.

There are so many special memories of my time here that will make it more bearable for me to leave. I've been very fortunate to have worked with lots of gifted and special teachers who've been instrumental in making St Mary's the unique school that it has become.

I've been supported by many parents who have given freely of their time both on the PTA and as governors but, most importantly, I've had the opportunity to do a job I love with the most amazing children for over 18 years and I still love it. It has been a wonderful conclusion to my 32 years in teaching. I'm sure that St Mary's will continue to grow and develop under the new leadership team, led by Karen Bingley, but I also hope dearly that it will retain the special ethos based on Christian values that makes it unique.

With warm wishes to all those who have contributed to making my time at St Mary's so very special. ”

Our Value for July is *Faith*

As a Church of England school, Faith is central to our lives. We think about our own Christian Faith and the Faith of people from other major religions and why Faith is important. We choose to look at Faith at this particular time as all the children are moving on to new challenges. We're encouraging them to think about how Faith will help them to use the knowledge and wisdom they've developed through learning about values at St Mary's, in order to give them the strength they need at this time.

Hellos and goodbyes

This is the time of year when we have lots of changes in school. Firstly, we say goodbye to our Y4 children who'll be moving on to their new schools in September. We hope they're very happy and that they leave us with some lovely memories of their time spent at St Mary's.

While sad to be losing our Y4 children, we're looking forward to welcoming into Reception class not only children who have come to us in Nursery but also some children who are new to the school. We look forward to meeting them and their parents on the Transition Day, 11th July, at 10am.

We also are saying goodbye to some members of staff. As well as bidding farewell to Chris Spurgeon, we're also saying goodbye to Wendy Grant who has been connected with us for over 10 years since Nick started school and has worked officially as a TA here for four years,

St Mary's School News

Continued

and Angela Kershaw, teacher in Y1, who's moving to another school in Dunstable. We wish them all well and hope they'll be happy in their new ventures.

Sacred Space

In order to further enhance and broaden the children's spiritual experiences and provide new opportunities for deepening their powers of reflection and spirituality, we're creating a Sacred Space outside in the school grounds. The aim of the space is to allow pupils the opportunity to explore issues around faith and belief, to reflect on the big questions about life and to consider their own responses to them and other people. All this takes place in a peaceful setting which acknowledges the importance of a multi-sensory experience to enhance children's exploration.

The children are very enthusiastic and excited by the idea. They'd like it to be 'Mrs. Spurgeon's spiritual garden' in recognition of her commitment to development of the children's spirituality over the past 18 ½ years and as the founder of Values Based Education at St Mary's. All of the children have been invited to contribute their own ideas for the design and these have been carefully considered by the landscape gardener who is now working with Mrs Burraway and Mrs Wood on incorporating these ideas into the plan.

The plan is very simple and will be developed in phases. The first phase is to define the area and provide shade for the children. The next phase is to create a spiral 'labyrinth' which will incorporate stones reflecting the Fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. The Trinity will be depicted at the centre of the labyrinth.

PTA at Clophill fete

Despite the threat of rain, the fete was a great success for the whole village and our PTA, who ran the Pimms stall, raised £280. The school would like to thank the PTA for their hard work planning this and running the stall on the day.

Acorn Nursery Registration

If you wish to register your children for nursery, please get in touch sooner rather than later, particularly if you need specific sessions, as we're filling up fast.

Remember that there's lots of useful information about the school at www.stmaryslower.info

Important dates for your diary

Mon 7- Wed 9 July	Residential trip to York for Oak children
Friday 11 July	Transition day: Y4 children will go to Bloomfield and the other children in school will go into their new classrooms and spend time with their new teacher
Thursday 17 July	Y4 Leavers Service in Church with presentation of Bibles
Friday 18 July	Y4 Celebration Service in school
Friday 18 July, 6.30pm	Thanksgiving Service in the Sacred Space to celebrate the time Mrs Spurgeon has spent as our headteacher. Do join us.

Autumn Term Dates 2014

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

Christine's quick 'n' easy recipe

Linguine with Lemon Sauce



INGREDIENTS Serves 4 as a main course, or 6 as a starter

- 500g linguine
- 2 unwaxed lemons
- 250ml double cream
- 100ml grappa or vodka
- Salt & freshly ground black pepper
- Parmesan cheese, freshly grated

1. Bring a large pan of salted water to the boil.
2. Grate the zest of one lemon, being careful not to grate the white pith which will make the sauce taste bitter. Set the zest aside.
3. Remove the white pith and cut the lemon pulp into very small pieces.
4. Squeeze the second lemon and set aside.
5. Put the cream, lemon pulp and grappa/vodka in a small saucepan and heat gently, being careful not to bring to the boil.
6. Cook the pasta following the instructions on the packet – cooked but still firm to the bite.
7. Remove the sauce from the heat and slowly add in the juice of the second lemon. Return to a low heat and cook for 1 minute, stirring all the time.
8. Add in the grated lemon zest to the sauce.
9. Drain the linguine and mix the sauce into the pasta.
10. Serve with plenty of freshly ground black pepper and Parmesan cheese.

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

Cookery Demonstrations

La Dolce Vita 19 July at 11am

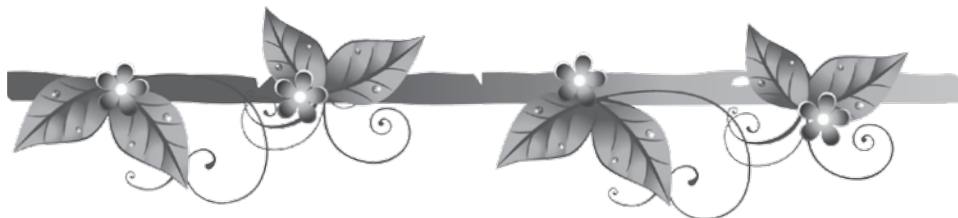
Christine Fellini will give a demonstration of easy traditional Italian dishes ideally suited to the lazy, hazy days of summer – served with a glass or two!

Slovakian Specialities 13 September at 11am

Henrieta Nemetova will give a demonstration of delicious and traditional Slovakian dishes.

Demonstrations will be held at **3 Beverley Gardens, Clophill.**

Tickets cost £15 each and as room is strictly limited it's advisable to buy your tickets early by calling **Christine** on **01525 861912**. There will be a fabulous raffle at each event so please remember to bring your wallet. All profits will be donated to St Mary the Virgin Church, Clophill, restoration fund.



Clophill & District Flower Club

On Thursday 5th June, Julia Knights came all the way from Yarmouth to demonstrate **'Let's dance the night away'**. Her floral interpretations of different dances were large, colourful and accompanied by witty repartee, which had the audience fully entertained from start to finish.

Julia's first design, **the Tango**, was depicted using a giant fan she'd made with thin straight branches all woven together – a work of art in itself – supported by a base container of oasis. Into this, she'd inserted 20 long-stemmed blood red roses, all following the outline of the fan with appropriate foliage covering the mechanics.

Her next design, using curly Bells of Ireland (molucella) along with a selection of long formium leaves, which she twisted and turned and pinned at different angles, created the funky moves of **Street Dancing**. To close the first half of her 'show' we had a real blast from the past – **Rock & Roll**. Wearing a black Elvis wig, shades and a pink drape jacket complete with velvet collar, Julia produced an exotic arrangement in a container she'd again created herself using old 78 records.

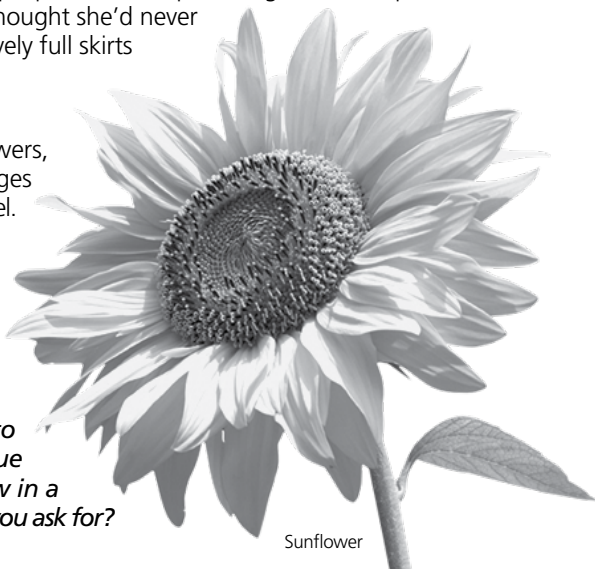
After our tea break we had a change of tempo with the **Viennese Waltz**. Using a container holding a huge cloud of gypsophila, Julia kept adding masses of pink roses, carnations and gorgeous lilies – we thought she'd never stop. The design truly conjured up lovely full skirts whirling around the dance floor.

The finale was the **Barn Dance** – an enormous arrangement using sunflowers, wheat and a variety of colourful foliage all displayed against a wooden cartwheel.

Heaven only knows how Julia got everything into her car – someone did ask if she came in a van! Definitely a night we won't forget in a hurry.

Joan Palmer

If you want entertainment come to Clophill Flower Club. It's great value for only a fiver and we even throw in a cuppa and biccies. What more could you ask for?



Sunflower

At our September meeting on the 4th, Barbara Collins will be demonstrating 'Shades of Autumn'



Clophill Preschool News

Clophill Preschool is coming up to its **first year anniversary** – and what a fantastic year it's been. We thought it worth sharing our progress with you, and thank the many people who've given some amazing support throughout our first year.

We started the Preschool in September 2013 with two children but our reputation soon grew and we now have 20 children, with the number rising all the time. We're known for providing a vast selection of exploratory and investigative play,

capturing children's imaginations and building upon their interests. Because of this our families don't just come from Clophill but travel from villages as far afield as Harlington and Marston Moretaine – a clear indicator of the value our families place on their children's first experience as independent learners.



We've developed our setting inside and out, with Ofsted recently reporting that 'children are inquisitive and explore how things work because staff support their interests with challenging activities. As a result, children investigate features of their environment, make observations and explain how, and why, things work'.

In the past year we've packed in a huge amount. We've performed the **Monkey Puzzle story** to parents for Mother's Day, added numbers to our wooden stepping stones, written our names in sand and shaving foam, **made mud pies**, tasted foods from around the world and pretended we were pirates in our cardboard ship...the list goes on.

What we've definitely all done is had fun and learnt a lot on the way, not just about letters and numbers but about the world around us, our friends and ourselves.

Clophill Preschool News

Continued

We've had lots of visitors to help us on our journey, some of whom we would like to thank here: Graham, our fantastic **story-telling Methodist Minister**; Michelle the Police officer with her array of hats; the firefighters from Ampthill with their humongous fire truck; the tractor driver who was cutting the surrounding hedges and kindly parked up to show off his hedge cutter; **Joan the Ukulele Lady**; Michael for helping the children tend the Village Hall shrubbery; Sharon for letting us watch the farrier shoe Chester the horse; the lovely ladies at the Café on the Green for showing their unwavering support and, of course, our own families.

This final term of the year has been packed full of activities from Sports Day to Dad's week and we have even more exciting events planned for the start of our second year in September. As Ofsted put it: 'Although only recently registered, the provision has established good reflective practice to drive continuous improvement in the setting.' With every new child that we form a bond with and every new parent we get to know, **new ideas spring up leading to better and more exciting learning**. This is what we think life should be about.



About Clophill Preschool

Who we are: We're two mums – one a qualified Early Years Teacher with over 10 years experience and the other a highly skilled Nursery Nurse – who thought it important to carry on the vital role of two other Clophill mums who, over 40 years ago, started the village's first Preschool.

Where we are: We're at Clophill Village Hall, a spacious building with large rural surroundings set back from the main road.

What we do: We combine adult-led and child-initiated play, both indoors and outdoors in all weathers, encompassing a large range of stimulating and exciting activities. We feed children's imaginations and thirst for knowledge, focusing on the introduction of information and ideas linked to the individuals' interests and curiosities.

If you think your child would benefit from all that our Preschool has to offer then please get in contact with **Imogen** and **Chris** on **07732 872685** or email us at clophillpreschool@gmail.com

The Vintage/Retro Fair

Why not come & join the fun at:
Clophill Village Hall
Sunday July 13th 2014

10am till 4pm inc: Clothes / Jewellery / Homeware
Furniture / Plants / Vintage Tea Room / Music
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Anyone interested in having a stall? This will become a regular event!

Clophill Parish Council

Notes from the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 24th June 2014

Readers are reminded that 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).

Public Question Time

No members of the public attended.

Police Report

Overall crime is still low but there have been offences of criminal damage at The Green and the Old Church. A number of juveniles have been identified with this damage and the police are investigating. It's such a shame when so much effort is being expended by this village that a small minority can cause hundreds of pounds worth of damage.

Turning to safety matters, there have been a number of concerned residents who've asked the parish council if anything can be done regarding youngsters using scooters and bicycles rushing down Kiln Lane from the recreation ground and village hall towards Back Street. The scooters, it would seem, don't have braking systems. I understand that although a car had come to a stand, one of the children collided with the vehicle. We've asked the police to help; they will advise about road safety through our schools and talk to the children using the recreation ground over the coming days. You can do your bit, too, by speaking to members of your family if they have a bike or scooter and are using the area. If we work together we can ensure they play safely in the village and the risk of a tragic accident can be avoided.

The Heritage Trust

A small working group has been set up to explore the possibility of the parish council financially assisting the Heritage Trust. It's hoped that they will report at the July meeting.

The Lands Committees

As most know, the good news is that part of the High Street has undergone a much-needed major repair. The pressure is being kept up to try to get other remedial work undertaken.

Agreement has now been reached for the removal of the old bridge at The Green. We're waiting a start date to be given.

A request has been received from St Mary's Church for help with the felling of dangerous trees. The church and its grounds are not only used for religious purposes but as a focal point for other important occasions such as the village fete and the memorial services. The parish council in such circumstances want to ensure the safe use for all and have agreed to assist with the cost of this project

Clophill Parish Council

Continued

Planning – June 2014

Applications Received by Central Bedfordshire

CB/14/01689/PAAD

Location: Mouse Farm, Shefford Road
Proposal: Prior notification of change of use from agricultural building to dwelling
Applicant: Mr & Mrs M Hawkins

The notification seeks to obtain permission to convert the agricultural building of Mouse Farm into a dwelling. The PC is most concerned that the application, if approved, will convert the surrounding land of Mouse Farm from 'agricultural' to 'domestic'. In addition to extending the village beyond the settlement envelope into a 'linear village' along Shefford Road, this will not only allow further housing development at Mouse Farm but will also be a precedent for further housing development along Shefford Road to the east. Also, Mouse Farm is currently a bunch of sheds, quite unsuitable for conversion into a dwelling.

OBJECT

CB/14/02140/FULL

Location: 32 High Street
Proposal: Demolition of rear extension, with single-storey rear extension, part garage conversion with new pitched roof
Applicant: Mr & Mrs G Toms

Although within the Conservation Area, this row of 1960s houses does nothing for that Area. This proposal improves the house interior and, in a small way, is a visible improvement without impacting neighbours.

SUPPORT

CB/14/02377/LDCE

Location: Land adjacent to 14 The Slade
Proposal: Lawful Development Certificate existing for the implementation of planning permission MB/08/0768/FULL for erection of one four-bed dwelling
Applicant: Mrs R Oliphant

Application, effectively, is to sustain already approved application into the future given that foundation work (digging of foundations and re-covering) had already been undertaken, which is a legal precedent for an LDCE.

SUPPORT

Applications Approved by Central Bedfordshire

CB/14/01094/FULL

Location: Sandfield, The Slade
Proposal: Minor modifications to already approved dwelling
Applicant: Mr & Mrs G Rice

Clophill Parish Council

Continued

The proposed minor amendments were jointly worked-up by the applicant and CBC Planners. When built, entrance will be to the rear (west) courtyard through the arch joining the main building to the annexe. Viewed from The Slade, the large, long building will appear to be several, joined houses. PC had supported this application.

CB/14/01271/FULL

Location: 126A High Street
Proposal: Demolition of bungalow, erection of four-bedroom dwelling
Applicant: Mr D Ward-Clarke

This application was strongly opposed by the PC and local residents as being far too large for this very narrow plot and would overpower next door house. Despite, at PC request, being 'called-in' and fiercely opposed by the PC, a resident and with strong, well-argued, support from our Ward Councillors, Paul Duckett and Mike Blair, the application was approved.

CB/14/01302/FULL

Location: Land adjacent to the Green Man, The Green
Proposal: Erection of two detached dwellings on land adjacent to Green Man with associated alterations to car park area
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Morelli

Proposal is to construct two detached dwellings, side by side, on the western car park area with separate garages, and parking for staff also on this side, and creation of new car park for customers in garden to north of Green Man. PC had objected on over-development. Approval contains conditions including ensuring privacy for dwellings on either side (north and south).

CBC Temporary Stop Notice

Location: Paradise Farm, The Causeway
Notice: Stop required to apparent breach of planning consent
Served on: Mr R Marks

The stop notice concerns the alleged siting of a mobile home outside the village settlement envelope which is harmful to the open character of the countryside and detrimental to the visual interest without planning permission. It's also partly in Flood Zone 2 and in close proximity to flood zone 3. The notice requires cessation of the land for the siting of the mobile home for residential purposes and the removal of bricks, hardcore and other material from the land.

**The next Parish Council meeting will take place at 7.45pm on 29 July,
in the village hall with a surgery at 7.30pm**

What's on in and around Clophill

JULY		Friday 11th Berries and Bubbles 6-9pm, 72 High Street. Drinks, canapés and berry desserts, in aid of St Mary's Church, Clophill. <i>See this issue for ticket details</i>
		Sunday 13th Vintage Fair 10am-4pm, Clophill Village Hall. Adults, £3; children free. <i>See this issue for details</i>
		Tuesday 15th Parkside Singers open rehearsal 8.15pm, Parkside Hall, Woburn Street, Ampthill <i>See this issue for details</i>
		Wednesday 16th Nature Walk 7pm at Flitton Moor. <i>See this issue for full details</i>
		Friday 18th Live Music from Out of the Hat at the Stone Jug, from 9pm
		Saturday 19th Italian cookery demonstration 11am, 3 Beverley Gardens, Clophill <i>See this issue for ticket details</i>
		Thursday 24th Bedford Morris Men perform at the Stone Jug, 8pm
AUG		Wednesday 20th Family Bug Hunt Cooper's Hill Reserve, Ampthill. <i>See this issue for full details</i>
		Thursday 11th The Busy Buzzy Life of Bees A talk by Kate and Andrew Gardener. 7.30pm, St Mary's Church, Clophill. <i>See this issue for ticket details</i>
SEPTEMBER		Saturday 13th Slovakian cookery demonstration 11am, 3 Beverley Gardens, Clophill <i>See this issue for ticket details</i>

On every month...

Tuesdays and Fridays

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

Every Wednesday

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

Every Friday

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

One Saturday a month

- **Messy Church** Clophill Methodist Church, July 12th; September 20th; October 11th; November 15th; December 13th
All-age craft activities, worship and a meal for all the family. No fixed charge, donations welcome to cover costs, children must be accompanied by an adult. See 'Village Groups' for contact details.

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

Useful numbers

Gas (Emergency)			0800 111999
Electricity (Emergency)			0800 7838838
Emergency Fire/Police/Ambulance			999
Water/Sewage (Anglian Water)			0845 7145145
Telephone	(Customer Services) 150	(Faults)	151
Highways Department (Central Bedfordshire Council)			0300 3008049
Benefits Agency (Bedford office)			01234 361500
Registrar's Office (Births/deaths/marriages)			0300 3008089
Rail (Enquiries)			0845 7484950
Buses 01234 262151	(Link A Ride) 01525 840511	(Flittabus)	01582 406561
Luton Airport			01582 405100
Swimming	(Flitwick) 01525 717744	(Robinson Pool)	01234 212479

LIBRARIES

	Bedford	01234 350931	Ampthill	01525 402278
	Barton	01582 881101	Flitwick	01525 715268

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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

HOSPITALS

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

DOCTOR'S CLINICS

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

POLICE

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

CHURCHES

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

SCHOOLS

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

Village groups

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

Parish registers for July and August

1814		1864 (Continued)	
Baptisms		Marriages	
July 10	Betsey (?) Bottoms	July 6	Frederick Crouch, 27, of Tring, to Emma Horn
July 24	Lucy Bottoms	August 5	Allen Odell, 28, blacksmith, to Susan Gobey (?) 27
July 29	James Matthews	August 25	Thomas (?) 20, painter, from Flitton, to Mary Ann Langley, 20, bonnet sewer
August 7	Mary Summerfield		
August 14	Mary (?) of Cranfield	Burials	None recorded
August 23	Frederick Crouch (father Husbandman)	1914	None recorded
	Jacob Clerk	1964	
	William Payne	Burials	
	John Barritt	July 2	Ivy Elizabeth Eaton, 53
	Thomas Webb		
1864		RECENT CHURCH REGISTERS	
Baptisms		Funeral	at the Methodist Church
July 3	John William (?)	May 28	Anthony Edward Forrester (Tony) 78
July 17	Maud Chapman (?)	Burial of Ashes	
August 7	Arthur William Quenby	June 7	Stephen Paul Watson (Steve) 58
	Alfred James Whittamore (?)		
	Albert Daniel Adams (?)	Correction from last month	Ken Harris, 85
	Mary Richardson		
	Ada Jane Kory (?)		

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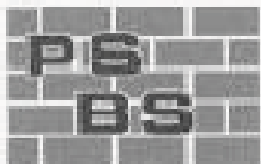
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