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OPH

FREE

JULY 2015

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



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A word from the Editor...

Hello there...

So, the sunshine has really arrived – hurrah!

If you're taking a summer break you might like to know that it's National Parks Week from 27 July to 2 August. Whether you're visiting the Peak District, Lake District, Brecon Beacons or Dartmoor there are plenty of activities for all the family – cycle rides, country fairs, wildlife walks, farmer's markets and more.

Back in Clophill, there's plenty going on too – including a food fair, Morris dancing and Italian cookery demonstration. Check out the Diary page to make sure you don't miss out on anything!



Looking ahead to September, a quick reminder that it's the Scarecrow Festival on the weekend of the 12th and 13th. It's a hugely popular event and chance for you to get creative, so get your thinking caps on.

That's it for now – have a wonderful summer.

PS: The Spotlight team takes a break in August. The next issue is out 5/6 September – copy deadline is 20th August.

The magazine staff

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

Food	Fair
Sunday 1	2 th July
Clophill Village Ha Stalls selling local product – including fresh meat and products	e.e.
The best of Be	dfordshire
En	ntrance & parking FRCC
600 8	Refreshments
	Proceeds in aid of St Mary's Church
For more information contact Ch	risting Fellini 01525 861912

2

Firefighters save the (wedding) day

A couple had some unexpected guests at their wedding in Clophill last month – a team of firefighters.

Abi and Jonny Pearce were enjoying their wedding party on Saturday 13th June when fire threatened the celebrations. A generator had caught several bales of hay and some jerry cans of fuel alight and the subsequent blaze looked in danger of spreading to the teepees where the wedding reception was taking place.

Ampthill on-call Firefighters arrived and quickly put out the fire. 'I think some of the guests thought our turning up was all part of the entertainment,' said Watch Manager Mark Fensome. 'We did get offered a drink so we toasted the bride and groom with lemonade. I hope their married life is a bit calmer than their wedding day and we all wish them well.'



Photo: Chris Rouse

A tribute to Fergus Milne

I'm organising a tribute for Fergus Milne, who died earlier this year. I'd like to have an exhibition of Fergus's art in St Mary's Church in the autumn, with other invited local





artists displaying their work, too.

I knew Fergus for well over 30 years. He mainly painted in watercolour and I always admired his work, which he was very modest about. He'd ask me what bit of art I was working on next and was always keen to give his advice. He'd happily give up his time to help and guide me – he was a truly kindhearted man.

For the exhibition, I'm appealing to anyone who owns a piece of Fergus's

art – perhaps a painting or drawing – to loan it for a weekend so it can be displayed in the church. Great care will be taken of all artwork borrowed.

I feel this would be a fitting tribute to Fergus as he was a great influence on me and other budding artists. If you can help, please get in touch. Many thanks.

Alex Saunders (alexsaundersphotography@gmail.com)

Discover the secrets of Bedfordshire's medieval vineyard and this exciting community project Grand Summer Tours Friday 31st July

Adults £8 Children welcome free Entry by advanced booking only 11.30am & 2.30pm Tours & tasting last 1.5-2 hours To book, contact: info@wardenvineyard.org.uk 07981 113714 For more information: wardenvineyard.org.uk

WARDEN ABBEY

The community vineyard

edfordshire Rural Communities Charity project

Clophill Preschool News





Hi everyone and hasn't it been great to see some good weather for a change? We've been busy this summer term, including going on courses to further our knowledge so we can improve even more on the fantastic support, guidance and challenges we're able to offer your children.

We've had lots of new families starting with us and more visiting who'll be joining in September. While we've been working hard to settle our new children we've also been supporting our older children as they begin the transition to their Reception classes at different schools in the area. To get them ready for this exciting next step in their education, we've been

discussing what 'Big School' will be like and have made the children comfortable so they can tell us any worries or concerns they have while finding ways to help them to overcome these.

We've been having group times to support these children, developing gross and fine motor skills to promote mark making, and working on their mathematical development as well as continuing to develop their social skills such as sharing and considering the feelings of others. We also work on listening skills and delve a little deeper into phonics. The ability to distinguish between different sounds and recognise similarities and differences allows the children to play with words using rhyme and alliteration. This confidence to use the tools they've learnt will increase their vocabulary and develop their reading and writing skills. In fact some of those children are already reading and writing simple words with us now.

All this information is shared with the children's parents and we meet with the Reception Teacher of each new class to ensure the children are supported as much as possible in this exciting step. This final term it's wonderful to see how much these older children have grown in confidence as well as stature. They are, like all our children, a great endorsement for our Preschool.

We celebrated Father's Day in June by inviting positive male role models from the children's families into Preschool. We had dads and grandads joining us, so thank you to all those who came. We got them making bricks from a mixture of clay, mud and straw – wow did they get messy! – as well as reading stories, playing puzzles and helping to saw wood to make us some large wooden play bricks. We even had a rocket launch! Huge thanks to Ethan's Grandad, Michael, who brought in his water-powered rocket. He explained how the rocket worked by filling it with water and then pumping air inside it until it shot off the launch pad and flew across our outdoor area as we all stood safely on the side lines! Take a look at our Facebook page where you can see footage of the event.

We had a week of den making and one of mark making and our Sports Day was a fantastic success. We are incredibly proud of our Preschool as it goes from strength to strength. From two children to over 30 in two years is a great achievement for two village mums, though it helps that we are an experienced Early Years Teacher and Nursery Nurse! We have lots of great plans we shall be developing over the summer holiday. We find that as the children grow and develop we do too which opens up more ideas for opportunities for teaching them. As we build relationships with each child and their family by the mutual sharing of information, we find better ways to offer our children the most secure and nurturing environment we can that's full of excitement and exploration, enabling them to foster a lifelong love for learning. *Chris & Imogen*

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



We're holding another Scarecrow Festival in Clophill this year and would like as many people, neighbourhoods and organisations to be involved as possible!

Scarecrows can be quite simple to make – you just need some tights or old clothes filled with straw, a head and whatever costume you feel like dressing it up in. Your scarecrow can be on any theme and in any pose – standing, sitting, climbing or even lying!

During the weekend, scarecrows can be put in public places around the village, such as on The Green, on grass verges and entrances to cul-de-sacs. Plus there's plenty of room in the Church grounds for large exhibits or if you don't have room to accommodate your friend at home!



Programmes will be sold at various sites around the village, refreshments will be served in St Mary's Church and the public will vote for their favourite character in each category. All profits will be towards maintaining the Church for the community.

Entry forms are available in the Church Porch or at the Post Office.

For any enquiries please contact: Gill Jones: 01525 861058 Carolyn Cranswick: 01462 815433, Barry Breed: 01525 860834

SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENT & ECO LODGES

WARDEN APPOINTMENT

This eco residential and educational heritage site, in Bedfordshire, requires an energetic, eco friendly warden, who loves heritage & the countryside.

You will live in a dedicated 2 bedroom warden's eco lodge, in a fabulous setting with rural views, modern conveniences but in a completely sustainable, off-grid environment. A salary between £15,000 - £17,000, with accommodation including utilities and attractive benefits including pension and bonus opportunities Couples are welcome

Working hours 5 days/week, 8 hours/day

Closing date: 29th July 2015 Interview Dates: 6th and 11th August 2015

For further details and copy of Job Description please contact: info@ClophillHeritage.org To apply please send your CV with a covering letter to include 2 referees to the above email.

Clophill & District Flower Club





It was a beautiful summer's evening on 4th June when we welcomed one of our favourite demonstrators, Lionel Clark, with his title 'In Touch'.

His first arrangement was a stunning colour combination of dark purple Lisianthus and tangerine Gerbera with golden privet and grey-backed conifer, set in two placements.

The beautiful Fantasia Anthurium – cream but with a pink edge and pink tongue – were arranged with ferns and trailing Rubus in a light turquoise vase, and Lionel completed the design using pink Hypericum berries.

When an oriental vase and fan appeared it heralded a touch of the Orient! Using a dried palm leaf, some

allium heads along with enormous hosta and curled phormium leaves, the addition of pink Cymbidium Orchids completed the design. Lionel's final arrangement focused on a gnarled piece of dark wood with a mix of variegated and plain green foliage to give an outline to the two placements each side of the wood. Adding purple Stocks, pink Aquilegia, orange tropical Lilies, multicoloured Alstromeria and soft pink Roses produced a riot of colour. *Gillian Hill*

Tip of the month: Always make sure you've conditioned your foliage and flowers by trimming the stems and placing in water for at least two hours before arranging them in floral foam.

We don't have a meeting in August but on 3rd September we'll be welcoming Julia Knights with her title 'Hello Broadway'. Visitors are always welcome at any meeting.



Clophill Methodist Church COFFEE & CROISSANT MORNINGS

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



10am-noon, £1.50

Saturday 8th August Saturday 5th September Saturday 8th August Saturday 5th September



Christine's quick 'n' easy recipe Panzanella (Tuscan Bread Salad)



INGREDIENTS Serves 4

- 1/2 small loaf of country style bread 4 very ripe vine tomatoes
- ¹/₂ cucumber
- 1 medium red onion
- 10 pitted black olives
- 5 tbsp extra virgin olive oil salt & freshly ground
- 3 tbsp red wine vinegar
- 12 fresh basil leaves
- black pepper
- 1. Roughly chop the cucumber, red onion, olives and tomatoes and place in a large bowl.
- 2. Thickly slice the bread and cut into cubes, then add to the bowl.
- **3.** Mix well using your hands and season to taste.
- 4. Whisk the olive oil, red wine vinegar and more black pepper then add to the bowl with the roughly torn basil leaves.
- 5. Give the salad a good stir, cover and leave in the fridge for approx two hours to allow the flavours to mellow.
- **6.** Serve as a starter or with grilled meat or fish.

Italian Cookery Demonstration

11.30am, Saturday 3rd October, at Casa Fellini

I'll be featuring four recipes which you will be able to taste with a glass of wine or two, or a soft drink. Recipe sheets will be available to take home.

Tickets cost **£10 per person** and all proceeds from the day will be donated to the St Mary the Virgin restoration fund. There'll also be a raffle so do remember your wallet.

As space is limited please book early – call me on 861012

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St Mary's School News



During June we hosted an information event for the parents and carers of children who'll be starting in Reception Class or other classes in the school in September. It was a successful evening with an excellent turn out. Many of the parents who came along already had some knowledge of the school as their children attend Acorn Nursery but it was very nice to welcome some 'brand new' parents.

July has already been full of exciting events, such as our Sports Day and a visit to Butterfly World in St Albans for Year 1 and Year 2. Also, last week some of our year 3 and 4 children represented the school by playing netball in a festival at Redborne Upper School. And still to come this month is our Year 4 Leavers Assembly and Service on the 17th, which is the last day of term – an excellent opportunity for both the parents and children to celebrate their time spent at St Marys and for us to say goodbye. We'll be very sorry to see our Year 4 children leave but will be wishing them every happiness in their new schools.

The new St Mary's school term starts for the children on Monday 7th September.

Our value for July is Courage

• strength in the face of pain, danger or grief • facing situations of which one is afraid

At school we'll ask the question 'What are you really afraid of?' and then consider how to overcome fears by being with and confiding in other people, friends and family. Nothing is ever as frightening when you're not alone. We'll look at examples of people in history who've shown courage and reflect on times when we've been brave, examining how that made us feel. It's important that we stress that bravery doesn't just relate to physical feats but also to daily words and actions such as being honest and owning up to something even when you know you'll be in trouble or standing up for what you know is right even when friends are against you.

Thought for the month: **'Sometimes the biggest act of courage is a small one.'** At home you could discuss the 'Thought for the month' with your children and decide what you think it means. This month why not have a go at doing something reasonably challenging such as trying ice skating or removing stabilisers from a bike. Encourage your children to be honest about their fears and try to overcome them bravely together.

Acorn Nursery News

In the Nursery garden the potatoes are just about ready to dig up. The children will be taking some home to share with their families and making potato salad in Nursery if we have enough. We've added the theme of 'Moving Along' for the rest of the term to discuss how we travel when we come to Nursery, go on holiday or have day trips out. We've had a Hairdressers in the outside area and have a new book area (thank you to Mr Rumbelow – George's Dad – for disposing of our old sofa).

Our value this term is **Happiness**. We'll be looking at what makes us happy – our family, friends and activities we like to play. *Mrs K. Bingley, Headteacher*



St Mary's Church

Church Fete and Village Event – 'Thank You'

The PCC would like to thank everyone for their support at the Church Fete and Village Event. There was an excellent range of stalls and sideshows from local organisations, and the total raised was approximately **£5,500**

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. During a dry, sunny afternoon it was lovely to see everyone spending time meeting friends, visiting the stalls and sideshows and watching the entertainment. The children from St Mary's School gave another excellent Maypole dancing display and Shefford Majorettes attracted lots of people, both young and older. This year we were delighted to also have the Greensand Community Choir to entertain.

The fete will continue to be an annual event as it has become one of the social events of the Village. Thank you all again for your support.

Carolyn Cranswick and Gill Jones, fete organisers



Clophill Parish Council

Our next Clophill Parish Council doesn't occur until after Spotlight's print date this month, but in the interim we'd like to highlight an issue that we deem to be very serious.

Safety around the lakes

Around a year ago, on 24th July 2014, a teenager tragically drowned at the former Fuller's earth quarry. Nobody wants another tragedy this summer.

As we approach the school holidays and the weather gets warmer, this is the time when all of us in Clophill need to be watchful and report any occurrences of people breaking into the site for parties or swimming.

Clophill Parish Council would appreciate extra vigilance from all parishioners, but particularly from High Street residents who live opposite the footpath to Castle Hill. There's often a gathering of cars or motorbikes and loud music. We'd also appreciate vigilance from walkers using the footpath to Castle Hill, who may notice where the fence has been broken down or damaged.

If you see young people on their way to the site, or anything else that's suspicious, call the police on the non-emergency police number, '101'. We're quite sure they'll much prefer being called in to investigate the safety of the site, rather than a rescue operation from the lake.

To reiterate, please look out for:

- Gatherings of cars, motorbikes or other vehicles around the High Street area opposite the footpath to Castle Hill.
- Groups of young people playing loud music.
- Damaged or broken fences on the footpath to Castle Hill.

A huge thank you to Cal Signs (they're based in Luton but owner Calvin Smith Snr is a Clophill parishioner), who've kindly offered to donate two signs for us to use to warn people against breaking into the former Fuller's earth quarry.

We'll be doing all we can to get the message out there:

No swimming in the Clophill lake site

No repeat of the tragic death of last year

Let's keep our parishioners, and guests, safe from harm this summer.

Village Hall play area

Recently it came to the council's attention that there was some damage to the slide in the Clophill Village Hall play area. Thanks to some swift work from councilors the damage is now repaired. Thanks also to those who pointed out the problem. Local children can now play safely in that area again.

The next meeting of the parish council will be on 7 July, commencing at 7.45pm. Following that, we'll be meeting on 28 July at 7.45pm.

Parish registers for July and August

1815

Baptisms July 2	William Mann (?)
Marriages July 22	Thomas Nottingham to Maria Peck
Burials	
July 8	Ann G (?), wife of Frederick, 35
July 28	George Maddams, son of James, 5
July 30	Rebecca C (?), wife of James
August 13	Joseph Denton (?), son of Matthew and Martha
1865	

1915

Donald Henry (?)
Eileen Muriel Clark
Frederick Bruce Tuffnell [*] , 27, soldier, to Annie Ansell, 26
William Charles Durston, 20, to Alice Maria Webb
Sophia Stimson, 70
Charlotte Gaylor, 85
Samuel Richardson, 78

Baptisms

August 8

Susan Izzard

No marriages or burials recorded

August 6

Baptisms

July 2

August 20 Marriages July 3

Burials

July 7 July 16 July 17 William Summerfield, 77 Fanny Bottoms, 36 John Costin (?), 39

Samuel Stimson, 25, to

Mary Ann Thompson, 23

George Everitt

Elizabeth (?) Sophia Wilden (?) William Grummitt Wm Charles Henry Sharman

Lucy Richardson

*Frederick Tuffnell died in 1961 and Annie died in 1970 – the couple kept the Stone Jug pub and their memorial tablet was one of the first to be put in St. Mary's Garden of Rest.

A Health Evening

at St Nicholas Church Hall, Church Road, Barton

Wednesday 9 September, 7.30pm-9.30pm

All are cordially invited to meet our doctors and visiting health and Social Services professionals to hear about and discuss GP services, health, welfare and caring issues.

> It's your Health Service. Come and hear what it can offer in a changing world.

BARGOOSE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (Dr Simon P Hughes and Partners)

What's on in and around Clophill



Sunday 12th

Gourmet Food Fair Noon-5pm, Clophill Village Hall. Free entrance

Thursday 16th Morris Dancing 8pm, The Stone Jug

Friday 31st

Warden Abbey Vineyard Summer Tours 11.30am and 2.30pm, Warden Abbey Vineyard. See poster in this issue for further details.



Sunday 13th

Free entry to the Ailesbury Mausoleum & Crypt Maulden, from 3-5pm. Refreshments available in St Mary's Church, Church Road, Maulden.



Thursday 3rd

Italian Cooking Demonstration 11.30am, Clophill. See Christine's cookery page for details.

On throughout the month...

Wednesdays...

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

Fridays...

 Clophill Toddler Group Clophill Village Hall, 10am-11.30am See 'Village Groups' for contact details

One Saturday a month...

• Messy Church 4pm-6pm, Clophill Methodist Church, 18 July; 12 September; 10 October; 14 November; 12 December. All-age craft activities, worship and a meal for all the family. No fixed charge, donations welcome, 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) Electricity (Emergency) Emergency Fire/Police/Ambular Water/Sewage (Anglian Water) Telephone Highways Department (Central B Benefits Agency (Bedford office) Registrar's Office (Births/deaths/m Rail (Enquiries)	(Custon) Bedfordshire (ner Services) 150 Council)	(Faults)	0800 111999 0800 7838838 999 0845 7145145 151 0300 3008049 01234 361500 0300 3008089 0845 7484950
Buses 01234 262151	(Link A Ride) 01525 840511	(Flittabus)	01582 406561
Luton Airport	(=!:. : I			01582 405100
Swimming	(Flitwick) 01525 717744	(Robinson Pool)	01234 212479
LIBRARIES	Bedford Barton	01234 350931 01582 881101	Ampthill Flitwick	01525 402278 01525 715268
LOCAL GOVERNMENT Central Beds Offices (Chicksands Mid-Beds MP Central Bedfordshire Councillors Clophill Parish Council	5	t 07988 184061 (Clerk)	Nadine Dorries Michael Blair Mark Smith Peter Clarke Mrs Lyn Lyman	0300 300 8000 01462 811992 01525 404513 01525 402560 01525 861179 01908 584159
HOSPITALS Bedford (North & South) Luton & Dunstable		01234 355122	Admissions Appointments	01234 261150 01234 359012 0845 1270127
DOCTOR'S CLINICS Ampthill (Hor Shefford Barton 01582 528700	5) 0844 8151055 s 01462 818620	(Oliver Street) (Greensands) Appointments Flitwick	01525 631395 01525 631390 01462 810034 01525 715300
POLICE County Police HQ Ampthill Station Clophill Local Policing Team			Non Emergency	101 01234 841212 101 01234 842613
CHURCHES St Mary's Parish Church St Francis of Assisi Shefford Clophill Methodist Church	(Gill Jones) 01525 861058	or (Liz Henman) (Mr Jim Davies)	01525 860108 01462 813436 01525 860829
SCHOOLS Clophill St Mary's C of E Lower Harlington Upper School, Harling Redborne Upper School, Ampthi Robert Bloomfield Middle School	gton ill	rsery (Headteach	er Mrs K Bingley)	01525 860206 01525 755100 01525 404462 01462 628800

Village groups

Beverlev Court Boxing Club **Brownies Clophill Community Care Clophill Heritage Trust Clophill Parish Action** Clophill St Mary's C of E Lower School & Nursery Clophill Toddler Group **Clophill United Charities** Conservation Group Crafty Pastimes Flower Club Friends of the Cheshire Home Funzone After School Club Indoor Carpet Bowls Messy Church

Pre-school St Mary's PTA Scouts and Cubs Tuesday Club Village Hall Booking Secretary

Sharon Soper Loraine Freeman https://enquiryym.girlguiding.org	860920 07714 014484 g.uk
Duty Contact	07791 773705
Ali Bradbury	07894 710001
Ali Bradbury	07894 710001
Sharon Kempson	860206
Emma Topliff	07921 810424
Gillian Hill	860539
Brian Adams	862297
Anita Errick	860695
Gillian Hill	860539
Sue Pearson	861110
Rosemary llett	860274
Tony Meredith	860754
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victoriajhiggins@hotmail.co.uk	
clophillpreschool@gmail.com	07732 872685
Lindsey Jones	07879 430956
Ralph Rayner	403956
Betty Hampson	860750
Marilyn Browning	07821 643936
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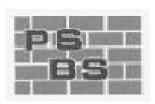
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FOR BABIES AND TODDLERS UNDER 3

FRIDAYS 10am – 11.30am at the Village Hall See 'Village Groups' for contact details





The Stone Jug

A Free House BACK STREET, CLOPHILL

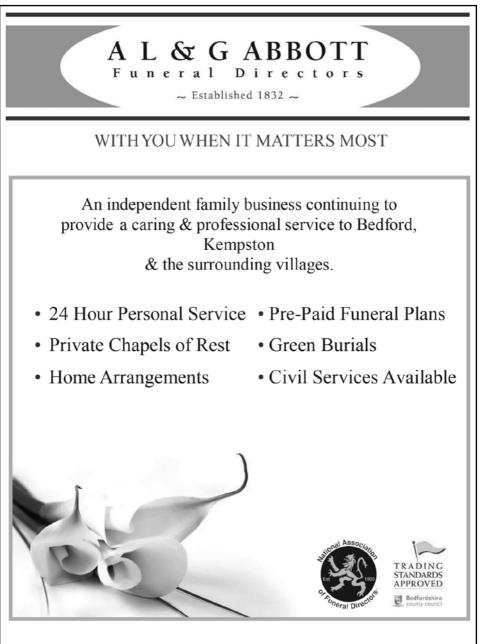
We're now about as technical as Vikki can cope with – chip & pin and our very own website and Facebook page. You can expect more cheerful bar staff in 2015 due to Bionic Bob's new hip! Other than that, we're still a quality 'boozer', as my late dad would've said.

- 5 real ales, including 2 guest pumps that change frequently (see our Facebook page for details)
- selection of wines and Prosecco by the glass or even better, by the bottle
- home-cooked lunches Tues-Sat, 12pm-2pm

REMEMBER OUR MOTTO "A VISIT TO THE JUG IS BETTER THAN GOING TO A PUB" CHEERS JOYCE & VIKKI

www.stonejug.co.uk

www.facebook.com/thestonejugclophill



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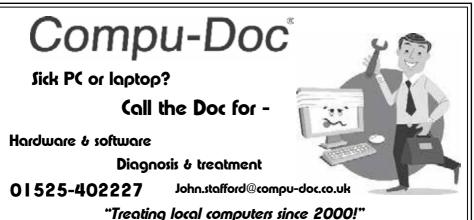
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Come along to your local community choir, for men and women of all singing abilities! Mondays, 8.00-9.30 pm at St. Mary's Church, Clophill.

- Come and sing with an exciting new local choir led by a professional musical director
- Uplifting music in a variety of styles: musicals, classic pop, folksongs, sacred and world music
- Welcoming singers of all abilities no audition, no need to read music!

sing with an exciting local choir

New members - come along any time for a free taster

Greensand Community Choir

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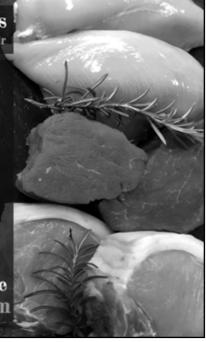
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