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FREE

# CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

JUNE 2016



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## A word from the Editor...

*Hi everyone!*

So here we are in June, and as ever there's lots going on in the village. One of the big events is the **Midsummer Celebration** at the Old Church on the 19th, complete with comedy theatre, pony rides and BBQ. Then there's **Clophill Open Gardens Weekend** on the 25th and 26th – as ever I can't wait to wander around some gorgeous gardens and be inspired.



And we have a cracking mix of national events too. On the 24th you might want to pucker up for **National Kissing Day** or introduce your pooch to your colleagues for **Bring Your Dog to Work Day**. And, if the sun is shining – fingers crossed – you can break out your sunnies for **National Sunglasses Day** on the 27th.

Whatever you do in June, I hope you all have a lovely month.

**See you back here in July.**



## 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)**



# Clophill Open Gardens Weekend

25th and 26th June

12-6pm each day

Adults £5 Accompanied children FREE

**Programmes from The Green, Church, Village Hall and Methodist Church**

FREE parking at the School and near the Village Hall

**Refreshments at the Church**

*Children's Treasure Hunt Lunches and Teas*

**Plants at the Church**

Proceeds to St Mary's Church, Clophill



*The*  
**Element**  
String Trio

## Summer Serenade

A concert of Romantic music composed and arranged  
for violin, viola and 'cello

**St. Mary's Church, Clophill**

**Saturday 11th June at 7.30 pm**

Pre - Concert drinks and canapés will be served from 7pm

Tickets £12 to include refreshments

Please contact Gillian 01525 860539 or Carolyn 01462 815433

Or email [carolyncranswick@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carolyncranswick@hotmail.co.uk)



# St Mary's Church News



## A Royal Celebration

On a bright, sunny day, on the eve of the Queen's 90th birthday, over 50 Clophill residents gathered at St. Mary's Church for a celebratory lunch. There was a wonderful atmosphere as everyone arrived dressed in red, white and blue to enjoy a Royal Lunch which included Coronation Chicken, Balmoral Salmon and Bejewelled Salad. This was

followed by a mouth-watering selection of desserts including Queen of Puddings. The church was decorated with flags and bunting and there was even a replica of the Crown Jewels! Everyone was in fine voice for the National Anthem, Happy Birthday and a toast to the Queen - ***Happy Birthday Your Majesty!***

*Regular lunches are held throughout the year at St. Mary's Church and the Methodist Church – see Spotlight and village notices for details. Everyone is very welcome to join us for delicious food in a friendly atmosphere.*

## Clophill Methodist Church News

We're pleased to announce that we've raised sufficient funds to be able to **begin the first stage of repairing the church roof**, commencing Monday 27th June. We'd like to give a BIG THANK YOU to everyone who has supported us so far with this project. We'll continue to fundraise for the remainder of the repair costs as well as for a contingency for unknown factors once the repair work starts.

During these building works, **we'll need to close the church for approximately 4-6 weeks**. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

*Nicola Wood, on behalf of the Methodist Church*



## A big thank you...

...to everyone who donated to and bought from Jackie's Bric-A-Brac stall at the Clophill village fete this year – with special thanks to Cora Sheppard who helped on the day.

**We raised £151** which has been given to **Hula Animal Rescue**, Aspley Guise.

*Thank you! Jackie Tomkinson*

# CLOPHILL ECO LODGE'S Midsummer Celebration

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2016**  
**2pm - 5pm**

**Come and join our Midsummer Celebration including:**

Pony rides

Jewellery making

Willow crafting and Hat making

Face painting

Dance displays

Old Church Ale at the bar!

BBQ



**and our centrepiece ...**  
the comedy play by  
William Shakespeare,  
**A Midsummer Night's  
Dream**

**Clophill, Bedfordshire MK45 4BP**

[www.ClophillEcoLodges.org.uk](http://www.ClophillEcoLodges.org.uk)

Tel. 07935911207

Booking enquiries: [info@clophillheritage.org](mailto:info@clophillheritage.org)

[Facebook.com/Clophillecolodges](https://www.facebook.com/Clophillecolodges)

Twitter: @clophilleco

Clophill Heritage Trust



# News from Clophill Heritage Trust

## The Old Church and Eco Lodges

Following their wedding at a local registry office in May, former Clophill resident Rosie Bullock and husband Felix enjoyed a post-wedding celebratory weekend with family and friends at the Eco Lodges. They were able to use The Old Church and grounds for outdoor relaxation before returning inside to the comfort of The Nest and lodge rooms. And on **the theme of weddings** – congratulations to our volunteer Charlie and new husband Neil who popped up for some quiet photos after their wedding at St Mary's Church last month.



On Sunday 15th May we had our first **Yoga Day** with inspirational trainer Sam Turner. We were blessed with sunshine, the yoga was fun and playful and the woodland walk and meditation amongst the birds and trees was blissful. It was a day full of all things good for the body, mind and soul. And that included the delicious lunch provided by Sue O'Neill from The Old Forge Kitchen – smoked salmon tart with chickpea and pesto salad followed by a fresh fruit salad.

Our forthcoming '**Midsummer Celebration**' will be at the Old Church and Eco Lodges on **Saturday 18th June from 2pm to 5pm**. The centrepiece this year is an abridged version of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', plus there'll be pony rides, face painting, dance displays, stalls, activities, music and a BBQ. Last year's event was a great success and we hope it will be repeated. We'd encourage people to walk here, but parking on the Rec will be available as well as transport assistance to the venue.

Also on 18th June, team runners on the Greensand Ridge Relay will be 'coming through' Clophill en route from Leighton Buzzard to Northill. They'll be running along the footpath from Great Lane to the top end of Old Church Path where they will turn left (northwards). We aim to provide a water station and viewing point. For more details look under 'Greensand Ridge' at [www.smoc.info/GSRR](http://www.smoc.info/GSRR)

**Are you looking for an early summer sun tan?** We're looking for a team of volunteers for outdoor work at the Lodges/Old Church, 10.30am-noon on Fridays throughout June. It comes with free tea and coffee plus hopefully sunshine and smiling faces.

Want to become a volunteer? Contact: Kayleigh Waight (**07889 980872**), Ali Bradbury (**07894 710001**), John Wright (**07860 839845**) or Barry Breed (**01525 860834**).

Visit us at [www.ClophillEcoLodges.org.uk](http://www.ClophillEcoLodges.org.uk)  
or make a booking at [info@ClophilHeritage.org](mailto:info@ClophilHeritage.org) We're also now on Facebook



# Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July

**Clophill Village Hall 12noon - 4pm**

**Stalls selling local produce**

## The best of Bedfordshire



**Entrance & parking FREE**

**Refreshments**

**Proceeds in aid  
of St Mary's Church**

**For more information contact Christine Fellini 01525 861912**

# Unique Investment in Bedfordshire's First Community Pub



The George is a 17th-century coaching inn on the High Street in Silsoe. In December 2014 it was purchased by developers who seek to change it to residential use. The community have managed to place an Asset of Community Value (ACV) on the property, which gives us six months to buy it. To do that we've created Silsoe Community Society Ltd, which is formed of people who want to buy this large freehold property at the centre of the village. Our mission is to create a multifunctional hub for Silsoe and surrounding areas, offering a pub, restaurant, café, post office, function rooms and accommodation.

Our business plan, reviewed and supported by people working in the industry, indicates that The George would be profitable from year 1 and that based on the amount of shares sold, we would have a positive cash flow across all years. All investments carry risks, but your investment will be used to buy a large freehold property. This ensures that, in case the hub fails, the investment could be recovered through selling the building or by the potential conversion of the building for residential use, with profits benefiting the local community.

**You can support our project from as little as £50 and with a maximum investment of £40,000 – 10% of the total share capital raised.**

SCS Ltd has also received Advanced Assurance for the Enterprise Investment Scheme – this is a government scheme to give investors a financial incentive to invest in smaller, higher- risk ventures. It works by giving an individual, whose shareholding qualifies for the scheme, the ability to claim tax relief at a rate of 30% (provided Shares are held for over three years).

**THIS WOULD COMPARE TO A 9.45% COMPOUND ANNUAL RETURN (equivalent of APR)** plus any interest paid on shares from the profit generated from the business. EIS relief is based on your personal circumstances – you'll find more information about this at [www.hmrc.gov.uk/eis](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/eis)

## Financial Benefits

- a minimum 9.45% Compound Annual Return (equivalent to APR) on investment during the first 3 years through the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) – subject to individuals' eligibility
- an annual interest payment on share capital of up to 5% – subject to satisfactory financial performance

## Other Benefits

- as well as getting a Share Certificate and window sticker – 'I'm Saving The George' – your name immortalised within the fabric of the building
- a free pint (or equivalent) at the opening
- a 10% discount on overnight accommodation during the first year
- the opportunity to become a 'Grande' (by investing over £1,000) and to receive your very own personalised drinking vessel, held behind the bar!

For more information, visit [www.TheGeorgeHotelSilsoe.co.uk](http://www.TheGeorgeHotelSilsoe.co.uk) and download our application form, or go to [www.microgenius.org.uk/project/save-the-george-silsoe-50](http://www.microgenius.org.uk/project/save-the-george-silsoe-50) and complete your application online. **ANY MORE QUESTIONS** - please read our share offer document and business plan, or call Erwin Bakker on 07817 801 424.

**Our ACV ends on 16th June so please act now!**

# **Bedfordshire Bus Services Consultation**

## **2016**

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) has issued a public consultation document about how they plan to reduce the amount of money they pay for bus services.

- 45 of the 85 bus services receive an operating subsidy.\* (£1.2m per year)
- there are 43,000 Concessionary Pass holders
- 40% of bus journeys are made using a pass and (CBC) pays the fare. (£2.4m per year)

### **Key issues from the new proposals**

- subsidies will be limited to routes with the highest demand
- subsidies limited to 8am to 6.30pm (Saturday 3pm). No subsidies on Sunday
- **Concessionary Passes only between 09:30 and 23:00**  
**And all day Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays**
- no automatic renewal of Concessionary Passes
- pass application and renewal only to be available online

## **Have your say – Deadline 12th July**

Have your say by seeing the full consultation document and completing the response form, both available from a library or online – [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) then go to 'Consultations'.

### **How does this affect your Flittabus?**

\* Flittabus Your Community Bus, run and driven by unpaid volunteers, receives no operating subsidy from CBC, but has in the past received grants towards the cost of new buses.

**Flittabus can be used by anyone** and we also accept Concessionary Passes.

Flittabus's main income is payment when Concessionary Passes are used, paid by CBC, Beds Borough & MK Councils. Without these payments Flittabus couldn't operate as it does. Eight of the eleven Flittabus services start their run before 09:30, so we're asking CBC to exempt Flittabus from the ban on passes before 09:30.

**If you want your existing Flittabus services to continue please support us by answering the consultation and saying Flittabus should be exempt from the 'no passes before 09:30 rule'.** There is a possible provision for this within the plan. Or you can email your comments to [susan.childerhouse@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:susan.childerhouse@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

\* This summary has been compiled by: John Thorp (Chairman Flittabus Community Transport Ltd)

# Neighbourhood Watch Relaunch

**Tuesday 5th July, Clophill Village Hall, 7.30pm**

As mentioned in last month's Spotlight I've taken on the role of Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator for Clophill. I'll be working alongside the parish council, but under the umbrella of Bedfordshire neighbourhood watch.

**My aim is simple** – to provide a fast, efficient and effective cascade system that gives as much information, as quickly as possible, to as many residents of Clophill as we can. I'm looking for a large team of street coordinators to ensure that once this system is put in place it covers the village as a whole. I'd also hope that by putting this system in place, we as a village can identify our most vulnerable residents and as a community support them.

The parish council is very kindly sponsoring this relaunch with a **cheese and wine evening**. **PLEASE put this date in your diary and come along** and find out more about how we can protect our village, and the residents within it, from antisocial/undesirable behaviours.

*Looking forward to seeing you all there. Helen Rodell*



St Mary's Church, Clophill

Invite you to a

## Summer Lunch

15<sup>th</sup> June 2015

12 noon – 2pm in the Church  
£6 - 2 course meal and drinks

Everyone very welcome

Please reserve a place

– phone Carolyn 01462 815433 or Gillian 01525 860539





# St Mary's School News

Our value for June is *Honesty*

- **Telling the truth** • **Being true to oneself and others** • **Having integrity and using it in everyday life**

In school we'll be encouraging children to tell the truth even when they've done something wrong and could be in trouble. Our response to children who are honest will demonstrate that they needn't be afraid of owning up to wrongdoing and that we always respect honest and thank people for being honest. We'll use stories such as 'Pinocchio' to show how important our consciences are, as well as discussing the phrase 'living a lie' and exploring the effect a 'tissue of lies' can have. Emphasis will also be placed upon the importance of saying 'sorry' and meaning it when in the wrong, which links to our value of 'Forgiveness'.

## Thought for the month:

*'If you tell the truth you don't have to remember anything.'* Mark Twain

**Church Fete** I think all who attended the fete would agree that, as always, the children did a delightful job in performing their traditional dance. Mrs Burraway, as we have come to expect, trained the children well and I'd like to thank her for the time she has spent running the after school Maypole club for us all to enjoy the results.

**Tea Time Concert** The Tea Time Concert in May was hugely popular and we hope all parents and grandparents with children performing enjoyed it. Mrs Topliff co-ordinated the planning of the event brilliantly and was ably assisted on the day by parent helpers who set up the hall and served refreshments during the concert.



From left to right: Ella Quirighetti; Freddie Rodell; Jack Barker; Thomas Mullan; Lizzy Mullan

**Celebrating the Pentecost** Last month the children in Birch class made crowns with a flame representing the Holy Spirit to help mark the Christian festival of Pentecost, the Christian Churches Birthday. The Bible relays the story of how, 50 days after Easter, The Holy Spirit came back to the disciples in the form of a flame touching their heads and making those present speak in many different languages, reminding them of the promise that Jesus had made that he'd come back to them. All the children wore their crowns to church for the service on 24th May.

**New Website** We've finally launched our new website which is packed with useful information for parents and potential parents. The new website address is:  
[www.clophillstmaryschool.co.uk](http://www.clophillstmaryschool.co.uk)

**June and July in School** June and July in school are always extremely busy and we have a number of events to look forward to. To celebrate the Queen's birthday the whole school are taking part in a number of activities on 13th June, culminating in a 'street party' at the end of the school day. Nursery and Reception children can't wait for their visit to Woburn Safari park, while Year 4 children will be participating in the annual Year 4 PGL trip to Caythorpe Court. And both Year 2 and Year 1 will be hosting their own class assembly for their parents to attend. Plus, the FOSM are hosting another School Disco.

We're looking forward to seeing the new playground markings, which will be in place when the children come back after half term. We expect both playgrounds to look absolutely stunning and it's with extra special thanks to FOSM, as they are funding this project through their amazing hard work and commitment. It's fantastic to have something useful and fun that St Mary's children will hugely benefit from for many years.

We're also looking forward to welcoming new children and their parents into school on 15th June when we're hosting our New Reception Parent event.

### **FUNZONE BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB PART-TIME VACANCIES**

We're currently seeking to recruit additional staff to work in our after school club.

Days per week will be flexible but candidates need to be able to get to school by 3.30pm/3.45pm Monday to Thursday and 2.30/2.45pm Friday, with a finish time of 5.30pm Monday to Thursday and 5pm on Fridays. We're looking for candidates who are reliable, conscientious and passionate about working with children. Any job offer is subject to DBS clearance and satisfactory references.

If you're interested and would like additional information, please contact Sharon on **01525 860206** or at [generaladmin@clophillstmayrsschool.co.uk](mailto:generaladmin@clophillstmayrsschool.co.uk)

## **Acorn Nursery News**

We'd like to welcome **Matteo and Andrea** and their families to the Nursery and hope they enjoy their time with us.

The children have been really enthusiastic with our theme of Monkey Puzzle, learning about the wild animals, how they move, what they are covered with, noises they make. Our new interactive SMARTBoard has been popular with animal games such as matching adults and babies and recognising sounds. We're about to start our theme of 'Splish, Splash, Splosh' and so will continue to look at animals, but this time those that live underwater. To amalgamate the two themes of this term, we have a trip booked to Woburn Safari Park on 21st June for the children starting Chestnut in September. We'll then be talking about the seaside, holidays we're looking forward to and marking on a world map where people have been or are going. We'll be looking at books such as 'Pig in the Pond' and 'Kippers Sunny Day', leading to discussions about weather, how water is different in ponds, seas and swimming pools, sun protection and water safety.

Acorn Nursery at St. Marys Lower School would like to invite you to **'Stay and Play'** on Friday 8th July 2016 9.30am-11.30am. If your child becomes 2 years 7 months before July 2017 why not come and have a look around and find out all about us.



## Christine's quick 'n' easy recipe

# *Pan-fried Cod with Fennel Puree*



### INGREDIENTS Serves 4-6 people

- 1 large fillet of cod
- 8 slices of pancetta or streaky bacon
- 3-4 fennel bulbs
- extra virgin olive oil
- bunch of fresh sage
- salt & freshly ground black pepper

1. Roughly chop 2-3 of the fennel bulbs and poach until tender.
2. Retain the dark green fennel fronds for decoration.
3. Liquidise the cooked fennel to obtain a puree – season to taste.
4. Cut the cod loin into 2inch size pieces and wrap each one with ½ slice of pancetta.
5. Pan fry these gently in a little olive oil and a few sage leaves until cooked through.
6. Thinly slice the remaining fennel into shreds (use a mandolin if you have one).
7. Put a mound of the fennel puree onto warm individual serving plates.
8. Place the cod on top of the puree and top with the raw fennel shavings.
9. Decorate with the dark green fennel fronds.



## Calling all budding actors...

Westoning Players are planning to present **Terry Pratchett's 'Going Postal'** in November and are looking for actors to join the cast. They also need people to help with the technical side of the play.

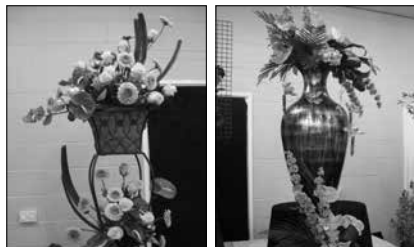
If you're interested in any of these aspects pop along to **audition on Thursday 16th June at Westoning Village Hall at 7.30pm.**

For more details, contact Jan on **01525 753776**,  
**jan.crofts1@ntlworld.com** or Paul on **07990 693186**

**www.westoning-players.co.uk**



# Clophill & District Flower Club



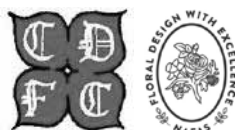
From Glasgow errand boy to property lawyer to internationally acclaimed NAFAS Demonstrator, that's quite a CV! And so we expected some interesting stories from **David Thomson**, who didn't disappoint with his title 'Celebrations' – very appropriate for our 40th Anniversary year. David's signature style

is to create monochromatic schemes using tints, tones, shades and textures of flowers in a single colour in each of his designs – and he used this style to stunning effect for his demonstration.

For a Mother's Day display, David's design included pink carnations and 'Pink Heaven' roses while green 'Bells of Ireland' and green anthuriums were used for his St Patrick's Day arrangement. Then we had blue delphiniums and white roses for a Diamond Jubilee, russet 'Terra' anthuriums, peach gerberas and 'Sleeping Beauty' roses for a Copper Anniversary purple alliums, liatris and dark magenta carnations for a 60th birthday display. David's final arrangement was to mark our club's 40th anniversary – a wonderful display of dark red roses, red carnations and mini red gerberas.

Most of David's designs had 'companion' arrangements, all included in the raffle, so there were plenty of opportunities to win something to take home. In addition to the lovely flowers, we were regaled with many amusing and interesting stories plus anecdotes about parties and celebrations that David had attended with celebrities such as Elton John and Lord Hanson (not at the same time!). He told us about the time he went to Frank Sinatra's house and gave us tips on how to survive Buckingham Palace garden parties – wear comfy shoes and make sure you eat beforehand! *Joan Tarmu*

- On 7 July we'll be having our **Members Only 40th Anniversary Dinner**. For tickets, please contact Gillian Hill **01525 860539**



Bedfordshire  
Cambridgeshire  
Northamptonshire

## Wildlife walks & talks



### Invertebrate Day

**Saturday 25th June, Flitwick Moor**

Join moor warden Colin Carpenter and experts from the Beds Natural History Society to investigate the great variety of insects, snails & other small creatures on this magical wetland.

Families especially welcome. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Morning and afternoon sessions available. Come to either or bring lunch and stay for both.

10am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-4pm, Folly Wood car park, Flitwick Moor

For additional information please email **flitvale.info@gmail.com**  
or ring **Ann** on **07890 347327** between 6pm and 8pm or at weekends

# The Silsoe Stride



*(Come and get into your Stride!)*

**Sunday 26 June 2016 from 9.30 am**

This year with a **10k race for the first time** – as well as  
the original **5k race** and the **Children's Fun Runs**

Running off-road from Wrest Park through beautiful private farmland with  
thanks to The Burton family at Home Farm

For full details & to enter please go to  
[www.silsoestride.co.uk](http://www.silsoestride.co.uk)

Cash prizes for first & second places plus medals and a free one-day Family  
Pass to Wrest Park House & Gardens for all finishers (adult races)

**BBQ/Refreshments/Raffle – a real family day out!**



i-show theatre school

All net proceeds to Silsoe village charities and good causes

# Clophill Preschool News



**Hi everyone!** Our children have been having a fantastic time outdoors in the lovely weather. We do end up with a lot of soggy socks but the water play allows them to learn so much and is a great way to cool down in the heat.

We've poured water into trays for them to paddle in, we've used running water to float boats down

guttering and we've discussed water animals like sting rays and frogs. The children have also **had a lot of fun making 'potions'** with tinted water, washing windows and using roller and paintbrushes to mark-make on the patio.

And the children have been learning about life cycles: frogs and butterflies have been acted out, coloured in and constructed. We've also made a board for our human life cycles using photos of the children and their families.

We had a lovely time at the Church Fete. Lots of people visited our stall, where we had free play dough for the children to use and **a lucky dip treasure chest**. Chris filled her car with balloons – a lot more difficult than it sounds! – and people guessed how many we managed to get into it. Well done to Ralph Neuff for winning with a guess of 200 – pretty close to our 187!

The children love writing letters and cards and 'posting' them. It's a great way to develop mark making and writing skills and brings up lots of discussion about holidays and birthdays, so we've bought a post box to enhance our role play area.

By combining the money raised from the Egg Hunt and the recent Church Fete we've bought a pop-up gazebo, a small pop-up tent, orchard puzzles and games, some cylinders of different sizes for water play and a set of specialised child-friendly knives for when the children prepare snacks with Janine. With the money raised from our Egg Hunt **we were able to donate £50 to Keech Cottage Children's Hospice**, plus we raised £41 for Sport Relief when we did our sponsored running round the field every day for a week. We've also signed up with 'Save the Children' to help them raise funds by having a Den Day, when we'll be creating dens inside and out.

Thank you to all the dads, granddads, and other male role models for joining us at Preschool for **Father's Week** and helping us to build our new mud patch. An extra big thank you to James's granddad who spent a lot of time with us making sense of our digging patch idea and measured, sawed, drilled and produced the surround and top for what we hope will be a fantastic muddy exploratory experience for all our children.

• *Do you have a Preschool aged child (we take them from their second birthday until they start Reception)? If you'd like to know more about what we offer do get in touch with Imogen on 07765 887868 or Chris on 07936 006381 or visit [www.clophillpreschool.co.uk](http://www.clophillpreschool.co.uk)*



# **Wine, Women & Song**

**Caritas Harmony are delighted to be  
singing again at The Hitchin Festival on  
Saturday 23 July 2016 at 7.30pm.**

**Compered by Martha Ross.**

**St Mary's Church, Churchyard, Hitchin SG5 1HP**

**Tickets £8 (under 12s free)**

**Tickets are available from Hitchin Festival Box Office  
27 Churchyard, Hitchin. Tel: 01462 453335  
or from**

**Jackie Howe : 01582 599520**

**Or go online at:**

**'GET TICKETS' [www.caritasharmony.co.uk](http://www.caritasharmony.co.uk).**

**In Aid of Macmillan Cancer Support**





# What's on in and around Clophill

JUNE

**Saturday 11th**  
**Summer Serenade** Concert at St Mary's Church, Clophill. 7pm.  
*See this issue for ticket details.*

**Sunday 12th**  
**Free entry to Ailesbury Mausoleum & Crypt** 3-5pm. Refreshments available in St Mary's Church, Church Road, Maulden.

**Wednesday 15th**  
**Summer Lunch** St Mary's Church, noon-2pm. *See this issue for ticket details.*


**Saturday 18th**  
**Midsummer Celebration** Music, BBQ, pony rides and 'A Midsummer's Night Dream', 2pm-5pm, Clophill Old Church.  
*See Clophill Heritage Trust News for full details.*

**Saturday 25th - Sunday 26th**  
**Clophill Open Gardens** 12-6pm. *See this issue for full details.*


**Sunday 26th**  
**Silsoe Stride** 5k and 10k races, plus children's fun runs.  
*See this issue for full details.*

JULY

**Sunday 17th**  
**Food and Wine Fair** Clophill Village Hall, noon-4pm. Free entrance.

**Saturday 23rd**  
**Caritas Harmony Concert** St Mary's Church, Hitchin. 7.30pm.  
*See this issue for full details and booking info.*

SEP

**Sunday 11th**  
**Free entry to Ailesbury Mausoleum & Crypt** 3-5pm. Refreshments available in St Mary's Church, Church Road, Maulden.

## On throughout the month...

### Wednesdays...

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

### Fridays...

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

### One Saturday a month...

- **Messy Church** 4pm-6pm, Clophill Methodist Church, 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.  
*Please note: the July 16th session has been cancelled due to the closure of the church during roof repairs.*

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)

# Clophill Parish Council

## Notes from the Parish Council meeting held on 31st May

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*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).*

At this time of year our village is at its most beautiful. These longer days with the sun shining – everyone just seems to be happier, too. The one major negative is that this time of year attracts swimmers to our ‘lakes’ site – a site in which a teenager tragically drowned last July. Nobody in our village would want to see a similar incident happen again.

Last month, Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service launched a new county-wide campaign, called ‘It’s Colder Than It Looks’, to **warn people of the dangers of open-water swimming**. So we feel it’s time to reiterate our own message. Over the next couple of months, Clophill Parish Council would appreciate extra vigilance from all parishioners, particularly from High Street residents who live opposite the footpath to Castle Hill. 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 people on their way to the site, or anything else that’s suspicious, call the police on 101 – the non-emergency police number. We’re quite sure they will much prefer being called in to investigate the safety of the site, rather than a rescue operation from the lake.

### ***So 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 in the footpath to Castle Hill.

**Clophill’s Neighbourhood Plan** (NP) now exists in document form, although it’s in the very early stages of drafting. It has highlighted a number of areas which we, as a community, need to undertake additional work on. CPC’s NP team are eager to involve more people in collaborating on this very important project which will help steer the direction of the village development for the next 25 years. Please get involved – email [clophillneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com](mailto:clophillneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com)

Central Bedfordshire Council has included a proposal we made for **improvements to parking and pedestrian safety** at the Village Green in their own plans. This includes the provision of a pedestrian crossing from a point on the South side of the High Street to the North side outside the Green Man restaurant. The plan also includes a review of the village green parking arrangements. Funding for this work will be shared between CBC and the Parish Council. More information on this development as we receive it.

Thank you to David Davies of Davies Stephenson Partnership based in Gravenhurst for **surveying our recreation ground** free of charge. This has been extremely helpful as we look to develop our plans to update the area and the play equipment.

# Clophill Parish Council

Continued

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## Planning

To commence, most will already be aware that the application for housing development on the Old Quarry Site, Readhill, has been refused.

### **CB/16/ 02133/FULL**

Location: 8 The Causeway

Proposal: First-floor front extension, two-storey rear and side extension. This is one of many circa 1970s-built houses in The Causeway that lend themselves to modernisation.

**SUPPORT**

### **CB/TCA/16/00154**

Location: 12 High Street

Proposal: To fell an ash tree in the rear garden that's destroying the boundary fencing. This can't be seen from the road and in light of the problems the recommendation is to support this application.

**SUPPORT**

### **CB/16/01900/FULL**

Location: Glen Farm, Great Lane

Proposal: Demolition of existing conservatory, erection of two-storey extension on the same footprint together with a single-storey side extension. This is already a large house but it's thought that the alterations will enhance the site.

**SUPPORT**

### **CB/16/01951/FULL**

Location: 2 The Gables, Great Lane

Proposal: This site is one of two bungalows about one mile north of the village. The application is for a two-storey replacement dwelling. The site itself can't be seen from the roadway.

**SUPPORT**

The next Parish Council meeting will take place in the village hall at 7.45pm on Tuesday 28th June with a surgery at 7.30pm



## Clophill Open Gardens

25th & 26th June

## Request for plants

We're looking for donations of plants for the Open Gardens plant stall at the Church.

Please let us know if you have anything you'd like to donate

Many thanks, John and Jenny Wright: 01525 861340

# Parish Registers for June

1816	1916
<b>Marriages</b> June 16 Richard Clare to Elizabeth Gaylor	<b>Burials</b> June 3 Mary Ann Hammell, 82 June 7 Charles Izzard, 75
1866	1966
<b>Baptisms</b> June 3 Charles Grummitt	No registers recorded
<b>Marriages</b> June 17 Isaac Woodcraft, 23, to Mary Collins, 20 June 20 Savinder(?) Haylock, 25, Drapery Asst, Ampthill, to Susanna Swannick (?), 22	
<b>METHODIST CHURCH REGISTERS</b> <b>Baptism</b> May 8 Martha Grace Higgins	<b>ST MARY'S CHURCH REGISTERS</b> <b>Wedding</b> May 21 Charlotte Elizabeth (Charlie) Gardner to Neil Henry Abrahamson  <b>Funerals</b> April 27 Joan Margaret Dawson, 98 April 28 (Alfred) George Jeffrey, 81

## 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
Flower Club	Gillian Hill 860539
Friends of the Cheshire Home	Sue Pearson 861110
Funzone After School Club	07903 167493
Greensands Community Choir	Luke Howard 07975 520085
Indoor Carpet Bowls	Tony Meredith 860754
Messy Church	Victoria Higgins 07920 568861
St Mary's PTA	<a href="mailto:victoriajhiggins@hotmail.co.uk">victoriajhiggins@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Scouts and Cubs	Julia Skelton 07774 993973
Tea and Chat	Ralph Rayner 403956
Tuesday Club	Anita Errick 860695
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Betty Hampson 860750
	Marilyn Browning 07821 643936

# Useful numbers

<b>Gas</b> (Emergency)		0800 111999
<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
<b>Luton Airport</b>		01582 405100
<b>Swimming</b>	(Flitwick) 01525 717744	(Robinson Pool) 01234 212479

## LIBRARIES

	<b>Bedford</b>	01234 350931	<b>Ampthill</b>	01525 402278
	<b>Barton</b>	01582 881101	<b>Flitwick</b>	01525 715268

## 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	Paul Downing 0300 300 8541
<b>Clophill Parish Council</b>		Peter Clarke 01525 861179
	(Clerk)	Mrs Lyn Lyman 01908 584159

## HOSPITALS

<b>Bedford</b> (North & South)	01234 355122	Admissions	01234 261150
		Appointments	01234 359012
<b>Luton &amp; Dunstable</b>			0845 1270127

## DOCTOR'S CLINICS

<b>Ampthill</b>	(Houghton Close) 01525 300898	(Oliver Street)	01525 631395
		(Greensands)	01525 631390
<b>Shefford</b>	Enquiries 01462 818620	Appointments	01462 810034
<b>Barton</b> 01582 528700		<b>Flitwick</b>	01525 715300

## POLICE

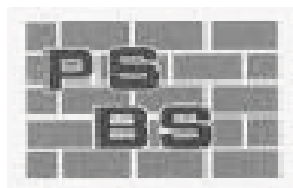
<b>County Police HQ</b>	Non Emergency	101
<b>Ampthill Station</b>		01234 841212
<b>Clophill Local Policing Team</b>		101
		01234 842613

## 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> , Ampthill		01525 404462
<b>Robert Bloomfield Middle School</b> , Shefford		01462 628800



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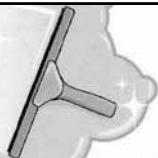
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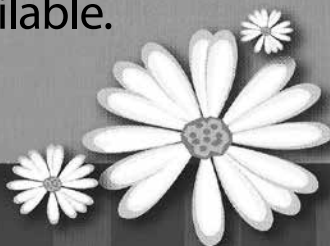
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