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FREE

# CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

MARCH 2014

**LOCAL NEWS  
AND VILLAGE  
EVENTS**

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## A word from the Editor...

### *Hello everyone...*

We've got another cracking issue of Spotlight for you. We catch up with a former Clophill resident (and a very good friend of mine) to talk about her **passion for baking** (her cakes are rather delicious!) and why it might just lead to her appearing on our TV screens. And we've also got **a brand-new column** from accountant Sally Cobban, who'll be telling us everything we ever wanted to know about tax (but were afraid to ask!). And on top of that, there's the usual pick 'n' mix of **village updates and must-see events**.



Now that we're into March and the daffodils are brightening up our lives, there's no better time to get involved with **Marie Curie's Daffodil Appeal**. Sign up to become a collector this month and you'll be helping to raise money so that Marie Curie nurses can care for more terminally ill people in their own homes. You'll find further details at

<http://www.mariecurie.org.uk/en-gb/fundraising-volunteering/great-daffodil-appeal>

*See you again in April – bye for now.*



## 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)**

St Marys the Virgin, Clophill

# Lent Lunches

Raffle



Bring & Buy

12th March Horseshoe Cottage, 104 High Street  
19th March Clophill Methodist Church  
26th March Ivy House, 52 High Street  
2nd April 112 High Street  
9th April Aragon House, 59 High Street

**12 noon-2pm**

*Everyone very welcome*

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

This year the donations will be in aid of **Save the Children** and **The Greenbelt Movement**



Bedfordshire  
Cambridgeshire  
Northamptonshire

## Wildlife walks & talks



### British Reptiles

**Monday 24th March, 7.45 pm, Maulden Church Hall**

A talk by Helen Muir-Howie,  
BNHS County Herpetofauna Recorder, on snakes, lizards and turtles.  
*£2 per adult suggested donation.*

### Plants and Insects

**Monday 28th April, 7.45 pm, Maulden Church Hall**

A talk by Brian Eversham, Chief Executive of the Wildlife Trust BCN, about the vital relationships between plants and insects. *£2 per adult suggested donation.*

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



# Your letters...

## *Dear Friends and Neighbours*

Stephen Foreman and family wish to thank friends and neighbours for their kind condolences on the sad passing of Joyce – dearest wife, mother and nan.

*Stephen, Sandra, Vincent and Alaois* Cainhoe Road Clophill

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## *Dear Spotlight*

I'd like to thank everyone for their support while Deepak was ill. The endless cards and flowers that we received were amazing and very much appreciated. The constant words of encouragement helped myself and my children get through this difficult time, not forgetting the offers of help that we received for helping out in the shop. It's at times like this we remember how lucky we are to be in such a caring community.

*Dakhsa Chandarana* Clophill Post Office & Stores

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## Help celebrate the lives of our fallen war heroes

This year we'll be commemorating **100 years since the start of the First World War** and Clophill resident Sue Pearson has come up with a great idea to help celebrate the men whose names appear on the memorial at St Mary's Church.

*'I thought it would be lovely to find out some information about each of the 24 men listed on the memorial as we know so little about them,' says Sue. 'I'm hoping I can discover a few details, such as their age, their family, what force they served in and where they died. It would be wonderful to get a picture each of the men, too.'*



Sue's idea was inspired by a trip to the new Visitor's Centre in Coventry's Memorial Park, which has an interesting display relating to their fallen.

If anybody has a photo of one of the men or any details about their life, Sue would like to hear from you. The hope is to put together a special display, which will be put on show in the village later this year. You can contact Sue on **861110** or at [richard.sue.pearson@gmail.com](mailto:richard.sue.pearson@gmail.com)

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# Clophill through the years

by Colin Watt

## *The early years of education in Clophill*

### **Early Schooling**

Towns, like Bedford with its Harpur Trust, have been well provided with schools but poor rural villages like Clophill struggled to finance schools. It was mainly through local voluntary effort, led by clergymen, that early education developed in the village.

Clophill was an agricultural community where the men worked mostly in the fields as agricultural labourers and their wives and children worked at straw plaiting, a common cottage industry. There

were straw plait schools for the young children where, as well as learning to plait straw, they may have received some basic education such as learning to read. Older boys would be sent to join their fathers working on farms to supplement the family income.



The National School

For those who could afford it, there were what was known as 'Dame Schools' run by women in their own home. Children were given a basic education starting with reading and writing.

Initially the clergy set up Sunday Schools. These were schools that took place on Sundays as the children were either at straw plait school or working in the fields for the rest of the week. Here they were taught to read the bible and instructed in the Liturgy and Catechism.

### **Central Government**

In 1807 Samuel Whitbread (of Southhill Park) introduced a bill in parliament to give each child two years of education but the government didn't see the benefit of educating the rural poor. It was considered too expensive to implement and it was also thought that the introduction of such a scheme would take the people away from manual work and make them dissatisfied with their social situation.

In 1818 the government started to see the benefit of the education of rural children and carried out a review asking four questions. The response for Clophill was:

1. Clophill population 721
2. A Sunday school for 60 boys, the funds of which are £6 per annum
3. Two Sunday schools for 80 girls, 30 of whom are clothed
4. The poor are desirous of education.

The Elementary Education Act of 1870 was the very first piece of legislation to deal specifically with the provision of education in Britain. The Act made provision for the elementary education of all children aged 5-13 and established school boards to oversee and complete the network of schools and to bring them all under some form of supervision. The Elementary Education Act of 1880 finally made school attendance compulsory between the ages of five and ten; in 1893 Legislation extended the age of compulsory attendance to 11, and in 1899 to 12.

## Churches

Despite the government view, there were many people who wanted to provide education for children. In 1811, the National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church in England and Wales was founded. Known as the National Society, it started to make grants towards setting up schools. The society believed that the National Religion should be made the foundation of National Education.

## Schools in Clophill

The first mention of formal education in the village is in a deed of Mr Richard Read dated 1630 which concerns the gift of a plot of land to build a school, but there's no evidence that it was built.

In 1799 the Rev. Nethersole, the rector of Clophill, started a school for 30 girls at what is now Taylor's Cottage in the High Street near the Old Rectory. Above where the doorway used to be is a stone lintel with the Latin inscription 'JANUA VITAE VERBUM DOMINI' which can be translated as 'the gateway to life (is) the word of the Lord'.

In 1835 the National Society made a grant towards building a school for 110 boys. This was the building later known as the Reading Room that was to the east of the church in the High Street. It was demolished to make way for a detached house.

In 1871 the National Society made a grant of £100 in aid of building schools and a teacher's residence. This school (shown opposite) stood on the land in front of the present St Mary's School and was officially opened in 1872.

The curriculum as stated in the Log Book was arithmetic, reading, writing, dictation, scripture (often taken by the Rector) and sewing for the girls. About 50 of the older pupils were 'part-timers' due to the plait, horticultural and agricultural work, and many pupils went missing during the summer terms because they were working on the harvest. Here are some examples from the school log book:-

**23 June 1893** Some children have been irregular [this week] owing to their mothers going out and gathering peas or fruit and the children kept at home to mind the house and baby.

**15 March 1822** 16 boys left school for a few weeks to go stone-picking. 5 went to Countess Cowper's to work.

**6 October 1829** Owing to the harvest being so backward this year another week's holiday was given to enable the children to go gleaming.

In 1973 St Mary's School was built and the Old National School was subsequently demolished.



Taylor's Cottage



The Reading Room

*I am indebted to Ian Gordon for permission to quote from his dissertation The History of Education in Clophill.*

If anyone has any corrections or additional information please contact  
**Colin** on **01525 860922** or **colin.watt@mooncarrot.org.uk**.  
Find out more about Clophill's History at [www.clophillhistory.org.uk](http://www.clophillhistory.org.uk)



# The Great Clophill Clean-Up

Help to spruce up the village for spring by clearing litter on

**SATURDAY MARCH 22nd**

**Meet at The Green at 10.00am**



Wear suitable footwear and gloves. Bags and litter-pickers provided.

ALSO:- to clean the white gates and bollards on the A6 please bring water, sponges, etc.



*If you are unable to come on the day but wish to help,  
please contact Adrienne Gordon on 860875.*



*St Mary's Church. Clophill*

## Clophill Heritage Trust



**A talk by**

**Ali Bradbury and Richard Hudson**

*(Trustees of the Trust)*

**Thursday 20th March at 7.30pm**

**in St Mary's Church**

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

# News on Clophill's grit bins

Central Bedfordshire's Highways department is responsible for gritting the major roads in our area during the winter months. It grits approximately half of the road network in Central Bedfordshire when road temperatures are predicted to drop below zero, focusing on roads carrying the most traffic and where there's the highest risk of accidents. In the case of Clophill, the High Street is the main priority.



Photos show Cllr Janice Catton, Cllr Roland Browne, Jim Sutton, Richard Parrish and Council Chairman Peter Clarke

In addition, Central Bedfordshire provides grit bins for public use on roads and pavements only. These bins are generally sited at bends or hills where the risk of slipping on ice is greatest. In Clophill, there's a salt bin at the junction of Mill Lane and Kiln Lane.

The Parish Council receives frequent requests for gritting on minor roads in the village. We've spoken to Central Beds Council but they don't have the resources to grit minor roads. However, they've provided one ton of salt for the Parish to spread at key locations.

We've purchased two new grit bins which are now sited at the junction of Back Street and Readshill and Kiln Lane, opposite the Village Hall. We're extremely grateful to Mr Richard Parrish of Kiln Farm who supplied his tractor, and, together with volunteers from the village, transported the salt from the Pound to the new bins. We're aware of other areas in the village that would benefit from a salt bin near Jacques Lane and Castle Hill Court. The Council hopes to be able satisfy this need in time for the 2014/15 winter.



We hope this initiative by the Parish Council will be beneficial to residents who live on our minor roads. We must point out, however, that the salt is for spreading on icy roads and pavements and is NOT for use on private drives.

*Ralph Brough*



## Have you seen a pothole in the village?

If you have, please report it to CBC using the '**Report it now**' button at <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk>

# SPOTLIGHT *meets...*

This month, editor Helen Gent talks to wannabe baking star **Lorna McLellan**

Lorna McLellan



Earlier this year, ex-Clophill resident Lorna McLellan applied for The Great British Bake Off – a televised baking competition where amateur bakers battle it out to be crowned the UK's Best Amateur Baker – and she's now through to the London audition for the show.

“ I'm really excited,' says Lorna. 'Last year, 17,000 people applied so even if I don't get picked for the show, making it this far makes me really proud. I filled out an online

application form in January, but didn't think I'd hear anything back. Then I was at work one day and I got a call saying my application had been successful. I remember I was in the middle of a training session and I said, 'Sorry, I've got to go – it's the BBC on the phone'. I talked to a researcher for about an hour, then a week later I got another call to say I was through to the London audition. I was ecstatic.

I was taught to bake when I was about five by my Scottish mum and nanna. I used to help them in the kitchen making things like shortbread and fairy cakes, then I progressed to baking bread. My parents were real foodies and I was always watching food programmes on TV. I find cooking very relaxing. And part of the joy is getting compliments from people saying how much they like what I've made. I'm always making birthday cakes for colleagues at work. I used to take a cake in as a surprise, but now they come to me and ask if I'll do them one!

Since my niece, Niahm, was born three years ago I've been making her birthday cakes, too. This year I did a 'Hello Kitty' one and her face was a picture when she saw it. She loved telling everyone that her auntie had made it. I spent ages practising fashioning the characters out of sugar paste before I made the final cake. Now Niamh is getting a bit older she likes to bake with me when I go to see her. We'll do things like pizza dough, scones and Hallowe'en cakes.

I'm often inspired by other people. Vaughan Wilton is someone I've always looked to for advice, as he makes all the cakes for their annual summer party. This year I was so excited when he asked me if I'd make some cakes for their black-themed party – I did Black Forest gâteau cupcakes, which seemed to go down very well.



Niahm

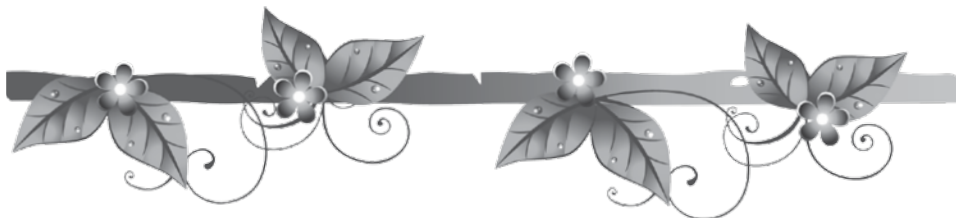
I'm now waiting to hear what date I have to go into London for my audition. I know I'll have to take in two things – one savoury, one sweet – to be sampled but I've no idea if I'll meet the judges Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood. I think I'll be really nervous, especially if I've got a TV camera filming my every move. Right now, though, it all just seems a bit surreal. It's great to have all my family, friends and work colleagues behind me, though. I think they're all hoping I get through so they can be my guinea pigs – I'll certainly need to do lots of baking!



*Spotlight will keep you posted on how Lorna gets on...*

**LORNA'S TIP:** 'Always use the best ingredients. For example, when I'm making brownies, I buy really good-quality chocolate – it makes all the difference.'





# Clophill & District Flower Club

On Thursday 6th February members and visitors to the club were entertained by one of the club's favourite demonstrators, Doug Howard. His theme for the evening was

**'As Winter Fades'** – whisking us through the seasons and taking us from fading Winter through to exotic holiday places, retirement, Easter and Spring in all its glory.



Doug's first arrangement was two symmetrical triangles in silver vases. He included lots of beautiful greenery, Italian buck thorn, pyracantha, begonia leaves, blue sea holly, white skimmia, variegated holly and silvered leatherleaf fern, to which he added white roses and lilies.

The 'Retirement' arrangement was **bright red gerbera** and aspidistra leaves.

Some leaves were wired together to add height and to follow the style of the wrought-iron stand. Other leaves curved and twisted into different shapes, enhancing the bright red gerbera. Lime green sisal was added to lighten the rich colours.

Easter's arrangement was a willow weave cradle-shaped basket with tall pussy willow, green marble arum lily leaves, begonia leaves, variegated ivy and leatherleaf fern. **Purple Dutch irises** and red tulips tipped with yellow were included, and added to this were rings of pussy willow for interest and two floppy bunnies.



For Doug's **'Summer Holiday'** we were transported to a hot tropical jungle with two beautiful pink orchid arrangements. These were arranged on a piece of bleached driftwood. Trailing foxtail fern blended with purple mahonia leaves, leucadendron, yellow fatsia leaves and leatherleaf fern completed the picture.

Lastly, **'Spring'** was a wonderful array of golden daffodils, cream tulips, pale green carnations, roses (Cuba gold) and tall orinithogalums with variegated trailing ivy, ruby begonia leaves, leatherleaf fern,

yellow spot laurel and evergreen garrya-elliptica – all staged on a high black squared frame.

*Christine Baker*



*St Mary the Virgin Church, Clophill*



# **The Art of Body Painting**

**A talk and live demonstration**

**by Alex Saunders**

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May**



**in St Mary's Church 7.30pm**

**Tickets £5 – including refreshments**

*Tickets available from Heather Jarvis 860548 & Christine Fellini 861912*

## **CARL'S FESTIVE CHEER FOR A LOCAL CHARITY**

In the November 2013 issue of Spotlight we reported that Clophill resident Carl Colyer was switching on the Christmas tree lights outside his house to raise money for the **East Anglian Air Ambulance** – something he has been doing for the past four years. Well we can now tell you that **Carl raised an excellent £203 for the charity**. So a huge thank you to Carl and everyone who donated to this worthy cause.



# Let's talk about tax

with Sally Cobban



Well as we fast approach the end of another tax year – 5th April 2014 – there are a couple of things to consider for the self-employed or for limited companies with a March year end. **Now is a good time to buy capital equipment** – ie, that new van/laptop/machine that you've been considering.

This is because if you purchase the item towards the end of the tax year you get the tax relief sooner. Basically it means that the transaction falls into the end of this year, so you get the full capital allowances in the tax year, as opposed to buying a capital item at the start of the tax year – in which case you'll have to wait until after 5th April 2015 to claim your capital allowances. **Capital items can't be expensed** (offset against profit) in your accounts, so capital allowances need to be claimed instead.

There's an allowance called the **Annual Investment Allowance** which is currently £250,000 (this was increased from £25,000 for 2 years from 1st Jan 2013 so it won't stay this high for long). This allowance means that businesses can claim 100% of the cost of capital plant and machinery (NOT cars!) against its profits. So buying that piece of capital equipment in March will lead to a good tax saving (it becomes the same effect as if you did expense all of it). *Here's an example I made earlier...*

- Self-employed trader who turns over £40,000 and makes a taxable profit of £20,000 in the tax year to 5th April 2014. The tax due on that, payable in Jan 2015, will be £3,228 (inc Class 4 NI).
- If the trader had bought a new van and a machine, which cost a total of £9,500, in March then still making £20,000 of profit, his tax payable in Jan 2015 would be £473 (inc class 4 NI).
- So buying this capital equipment leads to a tax saving of £2,755.

You can claim capital allowances on plant and machinery that you own – not leased or hired – even if you're buying them over a hire purchase deal. HMRC don't care about how you finance capital items but you do have to be the owner of them. If you do HP a new van then you can also claim the HP interest as a tax deductible expense through your accounts.

## Personal allowances and tax rate bands for the 2014-2015 tax year

**Personal allowance** (ie, the amount you can earn before paying tax): £10,000

**Personal allowance** > 65yrs: £10,500

**20% Basic rate band on income:** £0-£31,865

**40% Higher rate band on income:** £31,866-£150,000

**45% Additional rate band on income over £150,000:** You start to lose your personal allowance on income over £100k – £1 of personal allowance for every £2 of income over £100k – so by £120k it's gone!

You can contact Sally at [sally@sjtax.co.uk](mailto:sally@sjtax.co.uk) or **07899 808592**; [www.sjtax.co.uk](http://www.sjtax.co.uk)



# St Mary's School News

## Our Value for March is *Caring* (and Friendship & Thoughtfulness)

In school we'll be thinking about caring in the following ways: for ourselves, our belongings and our pets. We'll also be considering caring for others – our families, our friends and the less fortunate. We'll extend this into thinking about caring for the environment and our world. We'll be thinking about how our actions as well as our presence of mind affect the way in which we care.

In the Gospels, we find many stories of Jesus showing caring to those who are sick or troubled. Christians believe that their attitudes and actions must reflect the caring and compassion of Jesus, and the love of God for everyone, with that special concern for the poor and those in need. In school, this includes showing friendship and thoughtfulness to each other. It's reflected in the way individuals care for and support one another and the way in which new people are welcomed to the school.



### A Successful Tea Time Concert

On Monday 10th February, our children and their music teachers excelled themselves and provided parents with a truly lovely concert, which gave our children the opportunity to showcase what they've learnt in their music lessons in school. We had children playing piano, guitar, recorder, violin and chimes. We also enjoyed children singing solo and some singing by the school choir. Some children now have drum lessons in school so we're looking forward to hearing them play at the next half term concert. We'd also like to thank parents for their contributions towards the cost of the refreshments and their homemade cakes.

### Birch and Hazel Trip to Sno!Zone

As part of their topic, 'Fire and Ice', our year 1 and 2 children were fortunate to visit Sno!Zone in February for a morning of sledging. They were all very excited and thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience. Thank you to all the parent helpers who made the trip possible.

### Book sale

On Wednesday 12th February, a **fantastic £55 was raised** for Gardening Club. There will be more book sales but we're now short of children's books so if you have any more that your children have grown out of and no longer need please leave them in the porch.

### Sainsbury's vouchers

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

### Our school website

Don't forget that our school website [www.stmaryslower.info](http://www.stmaryslower.info) is packed with useful information about the school. If you're a new parent in the village, have a look at the 'Parent Information' section. In the same section there are also details on free school meals and our bad weather policy.



# Clophill Preschool News

Hello everyone. Wow, what a wet and windy time we've been having and the children have been enjoying some fantastic activities out in this weather. We've been out every session to explore and run and play and jump and laugh and pretty much get wet!

We made **streamers to hold up to the sky** to see which direction the wind was blowing. We listened to the noises the wind made as it blew from whistling to howling to rumbling, and we moved our bodies copying the sway of the trees. One of our children told us the story of the giant who was walking outside and it was his big footsteps that made the sound of the wind.

One of our most exciting investigation days was developed from listening to children's interests and responding to the weather – when it's very wet and windy it can be difficult to get lots of activities out so we make sure we go outside and explore the wider area. Our children **all love to dig up the molehills** so we often take buckets and spades and collect mud for the mud kitchen. On one occasion we examined a dead mole noticing that he didn't have visible eyes and we pondered

why. We concluded it was because of all his time spent in the dark underground. We also noticed his big paws that we thought looked like spades for digging. The children were fascinated to at last see what makes all their brilliant mounds of soil that we use for the diggers, as volcanoes for dinosaurs and best of all just to jump up and down on.



Also recently we've been focusing on self-care by learning how to wash our hands properly. We took photos of the children during the activity to create our bathroom display board to encourage good hygiene practice.

At the beginning of February, **Graham the Minister** came for another visit. The children are really starting to look forward to his story times and he told the story of the Two Builders and we sang 'The Wise Man Built His House Upon The Rocks' with lots of great actions. Thanks Graham, we look forward to your next visit!

More recently we told the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears and had porridge out on the Messy and Malleable table. The children loved to measure out the oats, tipping and pouring and mixing it with water then digging their hands in to feel the texture.

With all the development of our resources we've been able to collect a great selection of **dressing-up clothes** including hats for different occupations. To further the children's interest, the Fire Fighters also paid us a visit in their massive off-road Fire truck. We **painted egg boxes to make fire engines** or in some cases trains – Thomas, Percy and James...



As Clophill Preschool goes from strength to strength, we've just welcomed another new family to our setting. Thanks to everyone for all your support! *Bye for now, Chris and Imogen*

***Unleash your inner child whatever your age...this month try leaning back into the wind and shutting your eyes and listening.***

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



With special guest  
**Kevin Kavanagh**  
Master of the  
Euphonium



***Tickets***  
***£8.00***

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

**Parkside Hall**  
**Woburn Street, Ampthill, Beds MK45 2HX**

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

***Refreshments included during interval***

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

**Choir Website: [www.vmvc.org](http://www.vmvc.org)**



# Come into the kitchen

with Christine Fellini



## *Fast food – the healthy way*

This year I'm going to focus on **quick, easy and healthy recipes** that can be rustled up in no time at all.

### **Saltimbocca alla Romana** (*Chicken Scaloppini with Parma Ham and Sage*)

The name saltimbocca means 'jump into the mouth' – the idea being that it's so wonderfully delicious you can't help popping a piece into your mouth straightaway.

There are many variations on saltimbocca – for example you can add cheese or Marsala wine – but I've opted for the simplest recipe, just like it's cooked in Roman kitchens.

#### **INGREDIENTS** Serves 4 people

- 4 skinless chicken breasts
- 4 slices Parma ham
- 12 fresh sage leaves
- Extra virgin olive oil
- 40g butter
- plain flour for dusting
- 120cl dry white wine
- salt & freshly ground black pepper

1. Slice the chicken breasts lengthwise into 3 slices.
2. Cover the slices with plastic film and flatten using a meat pounder or rolling pin.
3. Dust the chicken slices in the seasoned flour, shaking away any excess.
4. Cut each slice of Parma ham into 3 pieces and remove the stalks from the sage leaves.
5. Place a piece of Parma ham on each slice of chicken then top with one sage leaf.  
Hold everything in place with a wooden toothpick.
6. Put the oil and the butter in a large frying pan and turn the heat to medium.  
When the butter begins foaming, place the chicken in the pan and sauté gently on both sides until light brown.
7. Add the wine, turn the heat to medium high, and let the wine evaporate.
8. Remove the chicken and place on individual plates. Cover the slices with the sauce and serve warm.

## **Cookery Demonstrations**

### **Danish Delights**

27th March, 11am, London House, 45 High Street, Clophill (01525 861524)

Sue Hughes will give a demonstration of traditional Danish dishes which you'll be able to taste together with a glass of wine or soft drink. **Tickets are £15** each and as room is strictly limited it's advisable to buy your tickets early. There will be a fabulous raffle on the day so please remember to bring your wallet. All profits from these Cookery Demonstrations will be donated to St Mary the Virgin Church, Clophill, restoration fund.

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

Please get in touch at [christine@casafellini.co.uk](mailto:christine@casafellini.co.uk) or call me on 861912

**Sponsored Charity**



**Clophill  
Eco Lodge**

*The*  
**Greensand  
& Ridge Walk**

# Challenge Walk 2014



**15/16 March 2014**

## Sponsor Ali...

Clophill Heritage Trust's Ali Bradbury – and her dog Molly – will be taking on the Greensand Ridge Walk. If you'd like to sponsor her, go to <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/alibradbury>

## Join Ali...

If you'd like to go on the walk with Ali and her group of charity funders and partners, contact her on 07894 710001. You don't have to do the full walk – you can do a mini one-day walk or try a shorter 'taster' version where you'll join Ali and co from Leighton Buzzard, with a minibus pick-up at Potsgrove (5 miles) or Woburn (9 miles).

**Are you up  
for the Challenge?**

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

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

**[www.mydonate.bt.com/charities/clophillheritagetrust](http://www.mydonate.bt.com/charities/clophillheritagetrust)**

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

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

For Full information please visit our website **[www.ClophillEcoLodges.org.uk](http://www.ClophillEcoLodges.org.uk)**. For the walks map and information about Greensand Ridge please visit **[www.greensandridgewalk.co.uk](http://www.greensandridgewalk.co.uk)** and **[www.GreensandRidgeTrails.org.uk](http://www.GreensandRidgeTrails.org.uk)**

# News from Clophill Heritage Trust



Our official launch for both the Eco Lodges and St Mary's Church will be spring 2014, but we endeavour to have some of the lodges ready earlier, allowing us to introduce a light footfall into the accommodation and facilities so that we can monitor and test all amenities.

The lodges are set in an attractive little wood and will provide **overnight**

**accommodation for walkers**, residential courses and general visitors to the area as well as being a group space for heritage, eco and craft educational activities.

There are four lodges – each one has two rentable individual rooms with a Jack-and-Jill shower room and a private balcony with stunning views. We have four double rooms and four twin rooms, and a temporary fold-up bed can be added if there's a young child or a party of three staying. One of the lodges has full disabled access and facilities.

The communal area has a **kitchen area for self-catering** or there's the option of home-cooked meals from the warden. With its large windows looking out onto the view, the communal area will provide a peaceful relaxation area, and here you will find useful information and be able to socialise with other visitors. The communal area will also be used for meetings, private hire and educational purposes when not occupied. Many activities are already in place for 2014.

Clophill Heritage Trust consists of eight volunteers and is supported by over 100 volunteers across the area. The eco and heritage projects are totally grant-funded and the Trust will need all the revenue from the Eco Lodges to maintain the scheduled ancient monument, pay for the warden and to run all the educational activities. We're therefore **always looking for volunteers and funders** to come and help with the project.

Currently **we need an additional £90,000** to complete the eco installation, disabled access and offerings and the community room fit-out.

**Phase 1: the consolidation of the ancient monument, costing £550,000, is fully funded.**

Work is currently going on to restore and repair the ruin. This phase has been funded by English Heritage, WREN, Wixamtree Trust, Architectural Heritage Fund, Village SOS and the Aurelius Charitable Trust. Phase 1 also included the construction of the shells of the Eco Lodges with funding from the Rural Development Programme for Eastern England and Central Bedfordshire Council.

**Phase 2: the completion of the Eco Lodges**

To fit out the community and educational area and accommodation eco lodges (including disabled access), installation of green technology (geothermal heat pump, borehole water processing and off-grid electricity) and landscaping. This final phase will cost £90,000.

- [www.ClophillEcoLodges.org.uk](http://www.ClophillEcoLodges.org.uk)
- To go onto our mailing list to receive newsletters and updates please email your details to [info@ClophillHeritage.org](mailto:info@ClophillHeritage.org)



# Neighbourhood Watch & Ringmaster

## Neighbourhood Watch

A Neighbourhood Watch scheme (or Homewatch as it was previously known) has been operating in Clophill for several years. A number of residents have kindly volunteered to act as street co-ordinators during this time, but coverage in the village is very sparse. We'd therefore welcome more residents who'd be interested in joining the scheme, either to cover a part of a street, or just a few houses in their locality

Briefly, the main role of a street co-ordinator is to:-

- Maintain contact with residents to exchange information.
- Inform residents about local crime.
- Encourage the reporting of any suspicious incidents.
- Liaise with the Area Co-ordinator.



## Ringmaster

Ringmaster is a computerised crime messaging system run by Bedfordshire Police. It offers local residents, Neighbourhood Watch members, businesses, farms, and Bedfordshire Police partners, throughout Bedfordshire, details about crime and events in their local area.

- The service is free to everyone.
- You don't need to be involved in Neighbourhood Watch to join Ringmaster.
- You can receive information via email, review your messages online or receive messages via phone at a time to suit you.



To join, go to [www.safer-beds.org](http://www.safer-beds.org)

If you'd like more information on either **Clophill Neighbourhood Watch** or **Ringmaster** please contact **Mick Everitt** (Neighbourhood Watch Area Co-ordinator) on **01525 861049**.

## Oliver Street Surgery Patient Participation Group

The Oliver Street Surgery, Ampthill, is looking for young people aged 16+ who are registered with the surgery – especially those planning to attend college or university – to join its 'Patient Participation Group'. Participation is acknowledged by prospective employers and on a personal statement when applying for further education.

The Patient Participation Group is made up of volunteer patients, the practice manager and one or more of the GPs from the practice. It meets on a regular basis, four times a year for approximately one and a half hours, to discuss the services on offer and how improvements can be made for the benefit of patients and the practice.

For further information please contact practise manager  
Caroline Cook on **01525 631395**.



# Clophill Parish Council

## Notes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 25th February 2014

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*(Readers are reminded that these notes are a resume only, official minutes are available both on the internet and notice boards. All official correspondence should be sent to the parish clerk and not individual councillors.)*

### **Public Question Time**

There were no questions from the public.

### **Council Appointments**

Mr Paul Downing was welcomed as our new Councillor to his first meeting. Additionally, Mr Peter Liddle, who the Council co-opted to the Planning Committee, was welcomed to his first meeting. The Parish Council is now at full strength.

### **Boxing Club**

The Council was pleased to see the Boxing Club held its first meeting on 25th February and is planning to meet two nights a week. We wish it every success.

### **Police Report**

In the month 28th January to 24 February 2014 there was only one recorded incident of burglary and one report of antisocial behaviour. This was 50% lower than the same period last year.

### **The Land Committees**

Talks are ongoing with Central Bedfordshire Council, Amey and UK Power Networks regarding the removal of the old bridge at the Post Office. It's hoped to get a resolution to the costs involved in the next few weeks, and then we'll be able to determine when work can commence.

The Council have agreed to a new lease for the Archery Club to run for 14 years to commence from the expiry of the present agreement.

Following a meeting with Highways all the pot holes and places where the road is breaking up have been recorded with CBC – however, the majority aren't considered severe enough to warrant repair at this time. For information, how bad the pot hole has to be for it to be repaired can be seen on the notice boards where leaflets are displayed with full details.

### **Central Beds Councillors**

The Councillors reported that Central Beds Council has agreed that the new leisure centre at Flitwick can now proceed. They also advised that shortly there will commence a new consultation regarding the future of Bedford Hospital and how it might relate to Milton Keynes. We all need to read this and respond with our views as it could contain some contentious proposals.

It was also stated that BT will be extending fibre optic cable to the Silsoe exchange this year, the arrival of which should increase broadband speeds up to 20mbps, depending on how far you are from the exchange.

# Clophill Parish Council

## Continued

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### Neighbourhood Plans

A progress report was given to the Council which, at this stage, involves determining all the stakeholders that we need to involve in the future discussions. The next stage will be to determine the most appropriate methods of engaging with these agreed stakeholders. The stakeholders will include, among others, all residents of Clophill plus businesses, land owners, clubs and other organisations in the village.

### Planning – February 2014

#### Consultation Response

The PC has responded to CBC's consultation into its 'Allocations Scheme Proposals'. CBC is required to consult over its proposals to update its Allocations Rules for council/ association housing following changes to housing law in the Localism Act and has consulted on its proposed re-write (advised in December Spotlight). The PC considers that CBC's proposals are well made and are supportive of them. The PC response expresses two concerns – the needs to encourage more such affordable housing, and easing 'trading-down' to smaller dwellings where this is appropriate for the occupant – and one suggestion requiring CBC to insist on developers providing at least the legally required number of affordable houses (presently, developers are able to buy-off this requirement with a payment to CBC which doesn't necessarily benefit Clophill – and hasn't in the past).

#### New CBC Consultation: Gypsy/Traveller Sites

CBC has launched a new consultation on the Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan 2014 and residents are invited to respond. This amended Plan takes account of responses to the 2013 original draft. CBC has a legal duty to consider the accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers up to 2031 and the document proposes sites to meet the task. No new sites are proposed for Clophill. However, in view of what has already happened in Clophill and what might develop in the future, the opportunism of 'windfall' sites might arise. It's important that residents' views are expressed to CBC – **the deadline for responses is 31 March.**

- The CBC draft (40 pages) may be found at [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/gypsyttravellerplan](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/gypsyttravellerplan) and residents will be able to read the whole document and respond on line. Paper copies may be requested from [ldf@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ldf@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) or by calling 0300 300 8307. Alternatively, copies may be picked up from the Council offices at Chicksands or from the libraries at Ampthill, Barton or Flitwick.

#### Applications Received by Central Bedfordshire Council

##### CB/14/00141/FULL

Location: 89 High Street  
Proposal: Garage conversion, replacing the single-glazed garage doors with a window matching those at the front of the house  
Applicant: Ms C Brunsden-Parsons

Plan is to replace the existing garage doors with a brick (lower) in-fill and a suitable



# Clophill Parish Council

## Continued

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window (matching the front of the house) in order to incorporate the facility into and as part of the house as a playroom. The PC has supported but has asked for two minor changes (to better match the whole house).

**SUPPORT**

### **CB/14/00290/FULL**

Location: 2 Northfield Cottages, Great Lane  
Proposal: Erection of two-storey extension to rear and single-storey extension to side of dwelling  
Applicant: Mr C Jones

This is the northern (right-hand) semi-detached cottage opposite the entrance to Northfield Farm in Great Lane. Plans to extend and improve the southern cottage were approved in November 2013 and this extension has been built. This new proposal seeks, similarly, to modernise and extend the second cottage.

**SUPPORT**

### **CB/14/00480/FULL**

Location: 7 Goodwood Close  
Proposal: Erection of single-storey rear extension and conversion of loft with new dormer window  
Applicant: Mr & Mrs K Garwood

Proposal is to enlarge the living room by adding a new garden room to it at the rear of the house and to convert the loft area into a new master bedroom with en-suite bathroom and dressing room. The existing raising of the dwelling to overcome all flood risks will include the proposed extension and the loft conversion is contained within the dwelling thus there is minimal impact on neighbours.

**SUPPORT**

## **Applications Approved by Central Bedfordshire Council**

### **CB/13/04072/FULL**

#### **CB/13/04073/LB**

Location: Speeds Dairy Farm, Beadlow  
Proposal: Erection of a rear sunroom  
Applicant: Mr Hind

The application was for a well-designed sunroom projecting out from the centre of the rear of this listed building. The PC had objected over concerns over its narrow projection into the garden, rather than a more normal 'wrap-around' room.

### **CB/13/04281/FULL**

Location: Mouse Farm, Shefford Road  
Proposal: Retention of extensions to agricultural barn  
Applicant: Mr & Mrs M Hawkins

Application was to regularise current situation, including previously approved extension, repair damage following break-ins and fire, and agricultural-required strengthening. PC had supported.

# Clophill Parish Council

## Continued

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### **CB/13/04452/LB**

Location: 6 & 8 The Green  
Proposal: Listed building consent for insertion of internal door through to adjoining property  
Applicant: Mrs A De Montfort

Proposal was to link the two small listed thatched cottages on the ground floor. The PC had supported.

### **Application Withdrawn**

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

Applicant has withdrawn this application following consultations with CBC whose initial opinion was that planned dwelling was too large for and unsuitably positioned for this site. PC had objected on similar grounds.

### **Notice of Tree Works in the Conservation Area (Info)**

#### **CB/TCA/14/00033**

Location: 114 High Street  
Proposal: Prune back yew, holly and hazel trees and remove conifer in rear garden  
Applicant: Mr D Frost

All the trees are in the rear garden and aren't visible from the road. The trees to be pruned are along the side (east) fence and the conifer against the rear (south) fence.

**The next Parish Council meeting will take place at 7.45pm on Tuesday 25th March, with a surgery for parishioners commencing at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend.**

## St Mary's Church Clophill



### **Traditional Church Fete and Village Event**

Saturday 24th May, 12pm-4pm

We're holding another Fete and Village Event on 18th May in the grounds of St Mary's Church. Our aim is to organise a fete for the enjoyment of all ages and to involve as many organisations and individuals as possible. We want to provide the opportunity for all to promote their organisation and to raise money for their own cause. We're planning to extend the attractions to entertain the children and inform the grown-ups. Safari Stu will be returning with his exotic animals and creatures. We hope everyone will be supporting this popular event.

*Gill Jones & Carolyn Cranswick* For further information phone 01525 861058

# Parish registers for March

## 1814

### Baptisms

March 7th William Wilstead,  
father, miller

### Burials

March 7th James Bottoms  
March 9th William Parker

## 1864

No marriages or baptisms

### Burials

March 11th Joseph Sherwin (?)  
March 30th George Games (?)

## ST. MARY'S CHURCH REGISTERS FOR JAN/FEB 2014

### Funeral

January 21st Gloria (Jean) Doggett, 83

## 1914

### Marriages

March 7th Sidney Ernest Odell to  
Kate Elizabeth Gudgin\*

### Burials

March 14th Mary Elizabeth Horn, 68  
March 16th John Tingey, 80  
March 25th Alice Maud Bushby, 4 mths  
March 26th Doris Rust, 80

## 1964

### Baptisms

March 22nd Jayne Patricia Vickers

### Burials

March 10th Grace Jessica Doggett, 73

\* The names Odell and Gudgin are strong Clophill names. There's probably nobody left with the Gudgin surname, but there may be descendants still living here. In Campton, there's a retired Anglican priest, whose wife was an Odell born in Clophill.

**If you have any stories or information about the people named in the records, which you would like to share with us, please get in touch.**

# Village groups

Beverley Court  
Brownies  
Christians Together in Clophill  
Clophill Community Care  
Clophill Heritage Trust  
Clophill Parish Action  
Clophill Toddler Group  
Clophill United Charities  
Conservation Group  
Flower Club  
Friends of the Cheshire Home  
Funzone After School Club  
Indoor Carpet Bowls  
Neighbourhood Watch  
Pre-school  
St Mary's PTA  
Scouts and Cubs  
Tuesday Club  
Village Hall Booking Secretary

Sharon Soper 860920  
<https://enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk>  
Fergus Milne 860894  
Duty Contact 07791 773705  
Ali Bradbury 07894 710001  
Ali Bradbury 07894 710001  
Louisa Sherry 861039  
Gillian Hill 860539  
Brian Adams 862297  
Gillian Hill 860539  
Sue Pearson 861110  
Rosemary Ilett 860274  
Tony Meredith 860754  
Mick Everitt 861049  
clophillpreschool@gmail.com 07732 872685  
Charlotte Benjamin 861185  
Ralph Rayner 403956  
Betty Hampson 860750  
Marilyn Browning 07821 643936

# What's on in and around Clophill

MARCH



**Thursday 20th**

**A talk about the Clophill Heritage Trust** by Ali Bradbury and Richard Hudson.  
St Mary the Virgin Church, Clophill, 7.30am. *See this issue for details and ticket price*



**Monday 24th**

**Presentation Night at The Stone Jug** Join Vikki for a few drinks and nibbles to celebrate the pub winning North Beds Pub Of The Year. 7.30pm



**Thursday 27th**

**Danish Delights** cookery demonstration. 11am at 45 High Street, Clophill.  
*See this issue for details and ticket price*



**Saturday 29th**

**Vauxhall Male Voice Choir**, Parkside Hall, Woburn Street, Ampthill, 2.30pm.  
Tickets £8, on the door

MAY



**Thursday 8th**

**The Art of Body Painting** A talk and live demonstration by Alex Saunders, 7.30pm,  
St Mary the Virgin Church, Clophill. *See this issue for details and ticket price*



**Saturday 24th**

**Clophill Fete**, 12pm-4pm, St Mary's Church, Clophill

## Every Wednesday

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

## Every Friday

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

If you have any diary dates that you would like included on this page, please email [editorial@clophillspotlight.co.uk](mailto:editorial@clophillspotlight.co.uk)

## CLOPHILL TODDLER GROUP

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LOTS OF TOYS, SPACE AND FRIENDS  
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Elizabeth Warfield (member of BABTAC) Telephone: 07816 789071 or email: [lizziewarfield@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lizziewarfield@hotmail.co.uk)

# 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>	(Bedford) 01234 269686	(Flitwick)	01582 27612
<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	Mark Smith	01525 402560
<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) 0844 8151055	(Oliver Street)	01525 631395
		(Greensands)	01525 631390
<b>Shefford</b>	Enquiries 01462 818620	Appointments	01462 810034
<b>Barton</b> 01582 528700		<b>Flitwick</b>	0844 4996928

## POLICE

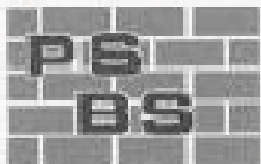
<b>County Police HQ</b>		Non Emergency	101
<b>Ampthill Station</b>			01234 841212
<b>Clophill Local Policing Team</b>			101
			01234 842613

## CHURCHES

<b>St Mary's Parish Church</b>	(Gill Jones) 01525 861058	or (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>St Mary's School</b> , Clophill			01525 860206
<b>Harlington Upper School</b> , Harlington			01525 755100
<b>Redborne Upper School</b> , Ampthill			01525 404462
<b>Robert Bloomfield Middle School</b> , Shefford			01462 628800



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Still quality home-cooked lunches.

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**"A VISIT TO THE JUG IS BETTER THAN GOING TO A PUB"**  
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Maximum of 10 dogs per class

**1-2-1 training also available and behavioural consultations**

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For more information visit **[www.forpaws.info](http://www.forpaws.info)**



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**07732 872685**



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IFC = Inside Front Cover IBC = Inside Back Cover BC = Back Cover

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- Threading



2 Steppingley Road, Flitwick, Bedfordshire MK45 1AJ  
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## Opening Times

Monday - Tuesday	09.00 - 19.00
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