

CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

MARCH 2016



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A word from the Editor...

Hello readers



Well here we are at the start of March – the evenings are getting lighter, the weather’s getting warmer, spring flowers are coming. These are all things that make me feel happy (that and a big bar of chocolate!). And there’ll be even more reason to be cheerful on March 20th because it’s **International Day of Happiness**. Yes, a special day for us all to focus on creating a happier life for ourselves and people around us.

Did I mention that chocolate made me happy? I’m sure it makes lots of children happy too so a must for your diary is **the Great Clophill Easter Egg Hunt** on Friday 25th March – you’ll find details in this month’s issue.

There are lots of other events going on in and around Clophill as well, so make sure you read on to see what’s happening.

Have a happy March everyone!



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

St Marys Church, Clophill

Lent Lunches

Raffle



Bring & Buy

9th March
16th March

Clophill Methodist Church
72 High Street

12 noon-2pm

Everyone very welcome

Donations will be given to our Lent charities

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

CLOPHILL METHODIST CHURCH



SATURDAY 9th APRIL :11am to 2pm

FREE ENTRY !

TEA/COFFEE
LIGHT
LUNCHES
CAKE STALL

CRAFT
BRIC A
BRAC
PLANTS

CHILDRENS
CLOTHES
HANDMADE
CARDS

ROYAL RAFFLE

VINTAGE
JEWELLERY

PROCEEDS IN AID OF CHURCH RAISE THE ROOF FUND

'My first Lent lunch...'

For years I had seen the Clophill Lent Lunches advertised, but although my family are great supporters of this village event I'd never attended one. Like me, I bet a lot of people would overlook them – but don't!

Last month I went to my first ever Lent Lunch at Liz Henman's house and the fact that villagers more or less open up their house to the good people of Clophill in aid of the church is just amazing. You're made so welcome in the host's house. It's a very relaxed and warm atmosphere. Now a word about the food. To be honest, I'm not one for soup unless I'm ill but the homemade tomato and basil soup was delicious. Everyone was waited on hand and foot... it was like being at a top restaurant.

I really had no idea what to expect at the Lent Lunch but what a fabulous experience it was. Nobody asked me to write about my experience, I just wanted to share my experience so that next time you see an advert for one you'll consider going along. You never know who you will see there and what tasty food you'll be offered – and all for a donation to the church.

Alex Saunders

Clean Clophill for the Queen

Saturday April 2

The Parish Council are taking part in the national enterprise to clear up the litter in Britain to mark the **Queen's 90th birthday** on April 21st.

If you'd like to help please meet at 10am at The Green where you'll be given your equipment and allocated an area. *Wear gloves and strong footwear.*

If you're unable to take part on the day but wish to be involved please contact *Adrienne Gordon* on **860875**.



**CLEAN FOR
THE QUEEN**

Cora does it again!

Cora Sheppard – Clophill's fundraiser extraordinaire – **raised £390.50 for Keech Hospice Care** from her garden fete last summer, taking the total of 2015's fund-raising donations from Cora to **a whopping £2,196**. A representative of the charity recently wrote to Cora to thank her: 'Your hard work and unstinting support of Keech Hospice Care over this last year was brilliant. I know that we couldn't do what we do without the support of people like you. You are amazing.' Cora would like to thank everyone who donated items to sell at the fete, and for supporting her to raise funds for this worthy cause.





Clophill
Preschool

The Great Clophill Easter Egg Hunt and Indoor Fayre

Good Friday, 25th March 2016
10am-12pm

Chocolate
treat for every
child entering
the hunt

Also on the day, at
Clophill Village Hall...

- Colouring competition
- Refreshments

Last entry to egg hunt 11.30am

Clues for 2 age ranges, 2 to 5
and 6 to 9. £2 per child



K9 trendi
grooming
solutions



Children must be accompanied by an adult and children's
safety is the responsibility of parents/guardians.

www.clophillpreschool.co.uk
for more details

Clophill Preschool News



Hi everyone!

At last the warmer weather is upon us and we're able to get more and more resources outside every day. With our recent grant we bought new trikes as well as some great guttering and stands to run water, gravel, sand, cars or pretty much anything down. There are new weaving numbers and sports equipment, the jungle telephone, a whole new set of fencing to go right around our outdoor area, while inside we have our new tablets with some great interactive educational games on plus rechargeable torches and remote control cars.

Our group times are working brilliantly, with the Green Group really enjoying the more structured process as we have fun getting ready for school and focusing on our phonic awareness and maths. We're learning letter sounds and identifying the

initial sounds in words, story structure, building our vocabulary, developing our questioning skills and using talk to give explanations. In Maths we're developing our mathematical language, investigating number problems and focusing on numeral recognition.

Red Group are learning lots of their number and counting primarily through **rhymes and songs** as well as working on prepositions. Their listening skills develop each session as they join in with lots of fun activities that develop their understanding across all areas of the curriculum.

All our children have been really enjoying our story sacks which they have the opportunity to take home as well as **Barry Bear and his Diary** and our Activity Boxes. These all give parents the opportunity to join their children in a fun learning activity that their child can then bring in to share with the others.

Also this month we were lucky enough to have Terry Lee (one of our parents) in to record the children's opinions about Preschool. Terry is a Radio LaB Coordinator for Bedfordshire University and the children were fascinated with his microphone. Most of the children were eager to chat to him about what they were doing and who they were playing with as well as answering his questions about the things they like best about Preschool. We hope to be able to put it on our Facebook page or website soon. So a big thank you for coming in Terry.

We hope you can all make it to our **Easter Egg Hunt and Indoor Fayre on Good Friday** (10-noon, 25th March). As a local business we're pleased to be able to offer our community the chance to meet and buy from local producers. The Egg Hunt itself is always great fun for all the family while the Fayre will have something for everyone.

- You can get in touch with Imogen on **07765 887868** or Chris on **07936 006381** – or drop us a line at **clophillpreschool@gmail.com** And check out our website at **www.clophillpreschool.co.uk**

Bedfordshire: An Unassuming County

Monday 7 March

A talk on local history and geology, how our lifestyle and future are reflected in our landscape. **Speaker: Brian Kerr**, soil scientist and author.

AGM followed by Talks from Society Members

Monday 4 April

With updates of work carried out during the year

Visitors are very welcome.

Venue: **Lecture Theatre, Flitwick Library**,
Coniston Road, MK45 1QJ
7.30pm for 7.45pm

£2 for members and £3 for visitors is payable on the door

For further details contact Clive Makin at clive.makin@ntlworld.com
or call 01582 655785, www.adalhs.org.uk

Ampthill & District Archaeological & Local History Society



Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire

Wildlife walks & talks



Dazzling Damsels and Daunting Dragons

Monday 21st March, 7.45pm, Maulden Church Hall

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

£2 per adult (includes hot drink & biscuits)

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

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

Remembering Clophill's fallen

Continuing our series on the centenary of Clophill's brave men who lost their lives in the First World War, this month we focus on John Doggett, who died on 7 March 1916.



John Doggett was born in Clophill in 1874. He grew up at 20 Jacques Lane with his parents –William, a farm labourer, and Hannah – and 15 siblings. In 1902 he married Fanny Swann in Aldercar, Derbyshire. In 1911 John lived with his wife and four (of five) surviving children in Langley Mill, Derbyshire, working as a coal miner/hewer. He'd previously worked as an agricultural labourer.

After the outbreak of WW1 John enlisted in Ilkeston, Derbyshire, and served in the 18th Battalion of the Sherwood Foresters, Notts & Derby Regiment. The 18th Battalion helped with reinforcement and training units and Home Defence, eventually attempting to keep pace with heavy losses over the four years of the War. However, towards the end of the war, the high casualty rate resulted in the amalgamation of weakened Battalions. He was 42 when he died. *Amphill News* reported his death as follows: 'Mrs Doggett of Jacques Cottages has been informed that her son, Pte Doggett' has succumbed to an operation after being severely wounded. Unfortunately this brave soldier leaves a wife and five children to mourn his loss.'



Brookwood Military Cemetery, nr Woking



John is commemorated at Brookwood Cemetery, near Woking. It's the largest cemetery in Britain and one of the largest in the world. The British Military Cemetery is administered by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. It is the oldest part of the military cemeteries at Brookwood and was originally set aside for the burial of soldiers, sailors and nurses who died in the London Military District.

Many thanks to Rosemary Berrington for sharing her photo of her great uncle and his family

St Mary's Church, Clophill

Church Fete & Village Event

Saturday 14th May
Noon-4pm

We're holding our annual Fete and Village Event on 14th 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 everyone to promote their organisation and to raise money for their own cause. This year we're planning to extend the attractions to entertain the children and inform the grown-ups. We hope everyone will be supporting this popular event. If you'd like to help on the day please contact us. We need help with setting up and clearing away, sideshows, refreshments and assisting with running a stall.

Gill Jones & Carolyn Cranswick
For further information phone 01525 861058

Other events this year for your diary...

20 April

A Royal Lunch – to celebrate HM the Queen's 90th Birthday

St Mary's Church, noon-2pm, £6 for 2 courses and drinks

25-26 June

Open Gardens

17 July

Food Fair at the Village Hall

17-18 September

Flower Festival

To be staged by Clophill and District Flower Club

More details of these forthcoming events will be published in Spotlight, on posters and www.stmaryschurchclophill.org

News from Clophill Heritage Trust

The Old Church and Eco Lodges

On Valentines Day our community room known as 'The 'Nest' (above) was turned into a café for four hours and was busy all afternoon with our warden and volunteers serving



tea and cakes. Our next 'café opening' for strollers will be Mothering Sunday, 6th March, 12-4pm and we will also be open on Easter Sunday.

Greensand Ridge Challenge Walk, 9-10 April

There was an excellent turnout for last year's event so we've decided to repeat the walk this year and on both days will be meeting at The Eco Lodges, where minibuses

will be available to take walkers to or from the Start/Finish. The total distance for the walk is some 47 miles, but participants are welcome to do whatever days or distances they want as there are various legs with opt-out options (including pubs for the thirsty or weak of will!). Please contact our warden on **07935911207** or **info@ClophillHeritage.org**

Police convictions following damage to the Old Church

On the night of Sunday 5 October 2014 thousands of pounds worth of damage was caused to an iron gate and masonry at the (then recently restored) old church. In January 2016, six men from the Potters Bar and Barnet areas appeared at Luton Crown Court where they were charged with, and found guilty of, aiding or watching criminal damage. They each received 12 month suspended custodial sentences, £500 fines and were ordered to do 80 hours community work. They all now also have a criminal record.

A big thank you to Kayleigh

We're pleased to report a steady stream of guests even during the grey winter months. Kayleigh, our warden, is a great host and the feedback to date has been brilliant – **well done, Kayleigh!**

Would you like to be one of our trustees?

Now that we're in operational mode we need another trustee. If you're interested in becoming a volunteer (trustee, marketing, DIY or gardening) please contact **Ali Bradbury** (07894 710001), **John Wright** (07860 839845) or **Barry Breed** (01525 860834)

Visit us at www.ClophillEcoLodges.org.uk or make a booking at info@ClophillHeritage.org We're also now on Facebook



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: caring for ourselves, our belongings and our pets. We'll also be considering caring for others: our families, our friends and the less fortunate. And 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.

Lent Appeal Day: Thursday 10 March

I'm delighted to announce that this year, with the support of Friends of St Mary's, we'll be raising money for our chosen charity by hosting our very own Lent Games. The charity is Leukaemia Research in memory of Mark Hawkins, who was the Chair of Clophill St. Mary's P.T.A. for a number of years and who sadly passed away at the end of last year.

Our charity day on 10 March will be a day of fun, with games both inside and outside the classrooms. Our outside games will be led and managed, alongside St. Mary's staff, by SSG who provide our PE teacher, Mr Bains, on a Thursday and who regularly run such activities and events for both children and adults. The children will be able to take part in many challenges including a Spiders Web rope course, a giant inflatable slide, a swamp crossing and the main attraction – The Terminator, a giant inflatable obstacle course!

We've invited the children's parents and carers into school to enjoy the event, too. Friends of St. Mary's will also be collecting funds by providing refreshments throughout the day for adults and pre-school children watching the events.

If anyone from the village who's not connected to the school – whether they're an adult or a child – would like to try out The Terminator they'll have the opportunity on the day between 11.20am and 1.10pm. To have a go on The Terminator we're asking for a donation of £2.50 per adult (£1 entrance fee and £1.50 to try out the activity) and £1 per pre-school child. Alternatively, if anyone from the village would like to donate towards this charity please call Sharon on **01525 860206** or pop into school with your donation.



The Terminator

St Mary's School News

Continued



Sainsbury's Vouchers We're collecting these again this year. There's a box in the school porch if you have any vouchers you'd like to donate.

FunZone As many of you are aware, the school now manages and runs FunZone Breakfast and After School Club. The club now caters for children aged between 2 years 7 months and 9 years, with the capacity to include ex-pupils from Robert Bloomfield for the first term or so when they begin Middle School.

- The contact number for **FunZone** is **07903 167493**. The number is manned Mon-Thurs, 7.45am-8.45am and 3:30pm-5:30pm; Fri, 2.30pm-5pm. In between these hours a message can be left and will be dealt with during FunZone hours. Alternatively messages can be emailed to funzone@clophillstmarysschool.co.uk. We now also have an online booking system – contact us at the FunZone email address for details.

Acorn Nursery News

We're delighted to welcome Eleanor and Thea to the Nursery and hope they enjoy their time with us.

As the weather warms up this half term we're looking at Minibeasts. We have flowers, which were planted by the children, growing already and we hope they'll start to attract the insects which we will then be able to examine in our special bug magnifiers. We're learning rhymes and songs connected to our theme and making the insects mentioned in them to decorate our theme board.

Our season board will be bursting into life with Spring arriving, too, as we learn about lifecycles of plants and animals. We'll use the all-time favourite story of the Hungry Caterpillar for the lifecycle of a butterfly and will be watching real butterflies emerging from their cocoons before releasing them in the garden. We're hoping to be able to watch tadpoles develop into frogs again in the garden this year as well.

Our topic ties in well with our value of 'caring' as we'll be looking after the minibeasts and learning what's needed for them to survive, leading to talking about what helps keep us healthy too. We'll be planting vegetables in our vegetable plot and watching them grow, plus planting sunflowers to take home and put in our flower beds.

Acorn children have the opportunity to join the school in making a special surprise for Mothering Sunday – thank you to the Friends of St.Mary's for helping the children to create their gifts. We'll also be joining the school for the Lent activities. It will be lovely to see the older children taking care of the younger children and involving them in their ideas and decision-making when tackling the obstacles as well as having lots of fun together.

At the end of the term we'll be making Easter cards incorporating our theme and will have a few Easter Egg hunts to ensure all children receive an Easter gift. The older Acorn children will be joining in the school worship to learn about the Easter Story and will share what they have learnt to the rest of the Nursery. **Mrs K Bingley**

Christine's quick 'n' easy recipe

Pork Loin with Cannellini Beans



INGREDIENTS Serves 6 people

- 1 pork loin, approx 1kg
- 1 clove of garlic
- branch of fresh rosemary
- 1 tin or jar of cannellini beans
- 1 medium red onion
- knob of butter
- extra virgin olive oil
- 1 lt vegetable stock or stock cube
- salt & freshly ground pepper
- glass of white wine

1. Peel the garlic and cut into small slivers and remove the rosemary from the stalk. Flavour the meat by inserting a small bunch of garlic and rosemary into 3-4 holes pierced into the sides of the meat.
2. Gently heat a generous glug of olive oil and the knob of butter in a large saucepan – then fry the pork loin until golden brown on all sides.
3. Add in the glass of white wine and deglaze the pan.
4. Add in the stock and season to taste (if using a stock cube don't add too much salt). Allow the pork loin to simmer for approximately 40 minutes, turning from time to time to ensure even cooking.
5. Drain and rinse the cannellini beans and add to the pan and cook for a further 15 minutes.
6. Remove the meat from the pan and set aside – covered to keep it hot.
7. Thinly slice the red onion (use a mandolin if you have one) and add to the beans.
8. Turn off the heat as the onion needs to be wilted rather than cooked.
9. Slice the meat, arrange on a platter and cover with the beans, onion and juices.



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

Clophill & District Flower Club



A full hall greeted Glenis Smith's return to our club last month and on this occasion her title was **'As Time Goes By'**.

The first design, accompanied by music from the 1950s, was arranged in a Fortnum & Mason basket hamper and took us back to those heady days. To a profusion of bare twigs and green garden foliage Glenis added yellow freesias, tulips in a variety of colours, mimosa and mini chrysanthemums.

Whilst arranging her second design on a black rectangular frame, Glenis explained how the 'Continental' design was made popular in Holland in the 1960s and how, mainly due to their lack of available foliage, the Dutch florists used every part of the flower. The flowers were arranged in vertical lines and, in order to cover the florist foam, Glenis used small sections of the offcut stems – just as the Dutch did.

Following this, she arranged a pedestal typical of the Sixties, with ferns, bamboo, conifer and variegated privet to which she added plum-coloured lilies, orange roses and bloom carnations. When completed, a separate linked arrangement was placed at the base.

We were shown how the Italians had influenced flower design in the 1980s when Glenis used curled phormium and aspidistra leaves as well as other garden foliage to provide the background for pink anthurium and stunning Phalaenopsis, the moth orchid – all arranged on a black urn.

Showing us an example of coloured florist foam, which has been available for some years but isn't favoured by all flower arrangers, Glenis used lime green blocks completing two small mirror-image raised designs with cream and green flowers and foliage. She included some aspidistra leaf manipulation along with



Gillian Hill

- Don't forget, you can find details of our upcoming meetings at www.clophillflowerclub.com



the green Anastasia chrysanthemums and pale green bloom carnations.

Finally, we saw the South African influence with a low horizontal design on an oval black container. Phormium, blue spruce and hard ruscus provided the base for pale pink flowering broom, purple liatrus, pink gerbera and pale pink tulips and Glenis finally added pale lilac roses aptly named Memory Lane.



ROCK 'N' ROLL EVENING

LIVE MUSIC FEATURING

“GERRY & THE ATTRICKS”

Saturday 9 April, 8pm-midnight

Haynes Village Hall

An event in aid of Keech Hospice Care

Supporting Rebecca Eastwick's sponsored
'Trek India' challenge

FISH & CHIPS SUPPER

£15 per person

BAR FACILITY ON SITE

Contact Carole Young 01582 413042

Clophill Christian Aid Co-ordinator Required

Each May, the charity Christian Aid collects money for its vital work and for the past 12 years I've been the co-ordinator in Clophill. I'm now looking for someone to take over from me and continue this very worthy task. The work involves fund-raising activities and co-ordinating the annual house-to-house collection, which this year takes place between the 14th and 21st March.

If you have some free time and would like to volunteer, I would love to hear from you. I'd be very happy to assist you in the role. Please get in touch on **860497**.

Many thanks. Julie Benson



News from CBC's Paul Downing

Last May I was elected as one of your three Central Bedfordshire, Ampthill Ward Councillors covering Clophill, Maulden and Ampthill. Councillors Mike Blair and Paul Duckett were both reelected too. The CBC duties that I undertake are separate to my role as one of the Clophill Parish Council, but I've tried to marry up my 'responsibilities'.

I report almost daily on what I'm doing using Facebook and Twitter and those of you who follow the Clophill Village, Clophill Grapevine and Clophill Parish Council Facebook pages will see what I've been up to on your behalf. This has included investigating why the village suffers such poor broadband connectivity as well as policing issues. I've also canvassed for a school crossing patrol person and managed to get the school 'crossing' paintwork refreshed to make it clearer.

As a CBC Councillor I sit on two main committees: 'Adult Social Care and Health' (with Cllr Duckett) – which includes a sub-group looking at the future of Bedford Hospital – and 'Audit' (with Chair Cllr Blair), which examines how CBC is held accountable for finances.

I also sit on the Bedfordshire Police & Crime Panel and the Fire Authority. Last month, on behalf of Clophill Parish I attended the Bedfordshire Police HQ for a briefing on Operation Salcoat. This is the name that the police have assigned to the actions and tasks required to develop the strategy for community policing in Bedfordshire's rural communities. The vision is to have seven operational teams spread across the county (our local one will be in Flitwick), which will be made up of full-time police, PCSOs and about 10 Specials.

To further engage the public, the Police and Maulden Parish Council hosted an open event in Maulden Village Hall on 20th February. These operational community policing teams will be mobile but working out of Flitwick and will concentrate on any area nearby where a police presence at any one time is most needed, and obviously that should include uniform patrols in Clophill. The event was held in Maulden because it's central in the Ampthill Ward but what was talked about was pertinent to the policing needs of Clophill. The Parish Council had the opportunity to attend and consider the opportunities presented.

To that end I'm also keen to re-launch Neighbourhood Watch in Clophill and will be working with Bedfordshire Police and our current NHW Street Coordinators in order to help us all feel even safer in what is already a pretty safe place. I will host a **Coordinators meeting** in the next few weeks and have booked the Methodist Hall for **Wednesday 6 April (7pm-9pm)** to seek out new 'recruits' – so all villagers are most welcome. Nearer the date I will update the Parish Noticeboard and Parish Council Website.

Paul Downing

Fancy an ad in Spotlight?

You can advertise for as little as £50 a year!

Email ads@clohillspotlight.co.uk

Clophill Parish Council

Notes from the Parish Council meeting held on 23rd February

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).

Clophill's Neighbourhood Plan

A 'Neighbourhood Plan' is defined by the Royal Town Planning Institute as a way 'communities can shape development in their area' – which would then 'become part of the Local Plan, with the policies contained within the neighbourhood plan used in the determination of planning applications'.

The creation of Clophill's neighbourhood plan (NP) started when Clophill Parish Council decided to try to give our village more say in its future – to preserve what we love about the village for the next generation. Much work has happened since then, but we've been conscious that since the village consultation the visibility of the NP working group's activity has been low – largely due to the time-heavy exercises of data-entry, analysis and interpretation. So we decided to set up a public event on January 19th 2016 to communicate to parishioners some highlights from the findings.

We were fortunate to have an expert volunteer in Eleanor Thornton-Firkin, who works for Ipsos-Mori, to present the data highlights. Eleanor took us on an entertaining journey through some of the key themes that had emerged from interpretation of the survey data. GP Mantini – the Cllr who is leading the NP working group – and Steve Rodell, who's been co-opted on to the parish council with a main focus on the NP, also contributed to the meeting to cover the principles of neighbourhood planning and its context within the 'National Planning Policy Framework'. You can see a digital copy of the presentation at <https://sites.google.com/site/clophillneighbourhoodplan>

We then held an event on the 16th February in the Methodist Church, looking at the NP in the context of the recent planning applications that have been submitted by developers in 'the Lakes' and 'Readshill' sites. The responses we've seen to the questionnaire we created, and the conversations we had at the event, have left us with no doubt that we're blessed with villagers who are passionate about the future of Clophill.

Despite the great initial response our data is heavily skewed so we've decided to extend the consultation with the hope that we may get more input from under-18s and over-65s (although we hope everyone responds). Please find a short consultation questionnaire in this copy of Spotlight. Your contribution will assist with our analysis being representative and meaningful.

It's been interesting how some of the data from last year's questionnaires has already been acted upon by the parish council. For example, we've been looking at increasing the council's online presence and are also looking at improved play equipment for local children as a direct response to an initial look at the survey responses. But with a formal neighbourhood plan, the council will have guidance as to how to spend 'Community Infrastructure Levy' monies for the optimal benefit of the village. The reason the questionnaire was so in-depth and wide-ranging was to allow us to collect views on a range of issues to also feed into in the parish plan.

- To keep in touch with the latest information about Clophill's neighbourhood plan, keep an eye on our noticeboards (near the post office and where High Street becomes Shefford Road), follow us on Facebook ([facebook.com/clophillparishcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/clophillparishcouncil)) and check the 'googlesite' mentioned earlier in this article. Please email clophillneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com if you have any questions. We'll also endeavour to publicise future meetings using word of mouth.

Clophill Parish Council

Continued

Planning

CB/16/00163/FULL

Location: 1 & 2 Northfield Cottages, Great Lane
Proposal: Single-storey side extension and sub-division of cottages to provide a total of four separate dwellings.
The location is some 1.5 miles outside the village settlement area. The dwellings, although part of a farm, aren't for agricultural use. The proposal seeks to extend a village settlement area remote from the actual village of Clophill and will, if agreed, set a precedent. It's noted under paragraph 2.7 (of the Design and Access Statement) that it quotes a similar proposal agreed in Moggerhanger in April of 2014. After conferring with the parish council of Moggerhanger, the parish council reject this claim. We're informed that this particular application was within the village settlement area and not outside the village settlement area as in this case.

OBJECT

CB/16/00495/FULL

Location: 83 High Street, Clophill
Proposal: First-floor extension to create a two-storey dwelling from a bungalow. The existing bungalow does nothing for the street scene in the conservation area. The new design has paid attention to similar near property and has ample off road parking.

SUPPORT

CB/16/00422/FULL

Location: 1a High Street, Clophill
Proposal: Demolition of business premises and erection of one-bedroom house. The business premises aren't used at the moment. The current premises don't have a harmonious presence to the street scene and the village green area. It's thought the proposed dwelling would blend in, have good access and off road parking.

SUPPORT

CB/16/00076/FULL

Location: 15 The Green, Clophill
Proposal: Demolition of barns and erection of single-storey one-bedroom house. The proposal for this building will be on the footprint of the existing barns. The height is such that it won't alter this important area of the village as seen from The Green. To the rear of the proposed building has been agreed the development of the Green Man car park for two buildings. In the circumstances, subject to comment from The Highways Department, the Parish Council supports this application.

SUPPORT

CB/TCA/16/00026

Location: 1 Mill Lane, Clophill
Proposal: Reduce the crown of a Yew Tree by 25%.

SUPPORT

Clophill Parish Council

Continued

CB/16/00241/OUT

Location: The former Fullers Earth Quarry, known as 'The Lakes Site'
Proposal: Outline planning for 90 houses on a site east of the Old Water Works, Shefford Road. As most will know this site has a long history. The total site comprises of approximately 300 acres of land and lakes. Gallaghers recently purchased the site, engaged the village with a presentation at the Methodist Church and has now applied for planning permission.
Gallaghers promised the Parish Council that if they backed the proposal they would: build only 90 houses on a 30-acre site; gift all of the land to become a nature reserve/country park; help restore lakes site for use by the public (these are some – not all – of the conditions). In the application submitted Gallaghers has mentioned placing land into trust but the actual application fails to demonstrate when, to whom and how the bulk of this land is going to be treated. In these circumstances, although the Parish Council has tried to get guarantees, the application in its present state fails to deliver on some of the most important aspects that were promised. In these circumstances the Parish Council has objected to the application in its current format. **OBJECT**

The next Parish Council meeting will take place in the village hall at 7.45pm on Tuesday 29th March with a surgery at 7.30pm

Parish Registers for March

1816

Baptisms

March 10 Susannah (?) Tingey
March 17 Samuel Wittamore
(parents Joseph & Sarah)
March 18 Anne Wittamore
(parents John & Sarah)

Burials

March 1 William Butcher
March 27 Sarah Wilshire,
wife of Thomas
Anne Wittamore, daughter
of John and Sarah

1866

Baptisms

March 4 Letitia Roberts
From here to May 20 the entries are
too faded to read

1866 Continued

Burials

March 2 Mary Roberts 83
March 14 Sarah Ann B?, 20
March 21 George Millard (London), 23
March 24 Selena Roberts, daughter
of David, 19

1916

No Baptisms or Marriages

Burials

March 1 George Izzard, 54
March 10 Mary Rust. 78

1966


Marriages

March 26 Edward William Thompson,
20, to Christine Ann
Dean, 17

What's on in and around Clophill

MARCH		Monday 7th A talk on Bedfordshire's local history and geology 7.30pm, Flitwick Library. <i>See this issue for full details.</i>
		Wednesday 9th Lent Lunch Noon-2pm, Clophill Methodist Church. <i>See more details in this issue.</i>
		Wednesday 16th Lent Lunch Noon-2pm, Clophill Methodist Church. <i>See more details in this issue.</i>
		Monday 21st Dazzling Damsels and Daunting Dragons A talk on Odonata, the order of carnivorous insects, 7.45pm, Maulden Church Hall. <i>See more details in 'Wildlife Walks & Talks'.</i>
		Friday 25th The Great Clophill Easter Egg Hunt and Fayre 10am-noon. <i>See poster in this issue.</i>

APRIL		Saturday 2nd Clean Clophill for the Queen 10am, The Green. <i>See this issue for full details.</i>
		Saturday 9th Rock 'n' roll evening 8pm-midnight, Haynes Village Hall. <i>See poster in this issue.</i>
		Saturday 9th Spring Fair 11am-2pm, Clophill Methodist Church. <i>See this issue for full details.</i>
		Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th Greensand Ridge Challenge Walk <i>See Clophill Heritage Trust News for full details.</i>
		Wednesday 20th A Royal Lunch Noon-2pm, St Mary's Church. <i>See this issue for details and prices.</i>

MAY		Saturday 14th Clophill Fete Noon-4pm, grounds of St Mary's Church.
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On throughout the month...

Wednesdays...

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

Thursdays...

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

Fridays...

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

One Saturday a month...

- **Messy Church** 4pm-6pm, Clophill Methodist Church, 12 March; 16 April; 7 May; 11 June; 16 July; 17 September; 15 October; 19 November; 17 December. All-age craft activities, worship and a meal for all the family. No fixed charge, donations welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult. See 'Village Groups' for contact details.

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

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Highways Department (Central Bedfordshire Council)		0300 3008049
Benefits Agency (Bedford office)		01234 361500
Registrar's Office (Births/deaths/marriages)		0300 3008089
Rail (Enquiries)		0845 7484950
Buses 01234 262151	(Link A Ride) 01525 840511 (Flittabus)	01582 406561
Luton Airport		01582 405100
Swimming	(Flitwick) 01525 717744 (Robinson Pool)	01234 212479

LIBRARIES

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

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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

HOSPITALS

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

DOCTOR'S CLINICS

Ampthill	(Houghton Close) 01525 300898	(Oliver Street)	01525 631395
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Shefford	Enquiries 01462 818620	Appointments	01462 810034
Barton 01582 528700		Flitwick	01525 715300

POLICE

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

CHURCHES

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

SCHOOLS

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

Village groups

Beverley Court		860920
Brownies	https://enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk	
Clophill Community Care	Duty Contact	07791 773705
Clophill Heritage Trust	Ali Bradbury	07894 710001
Clophill Parish Action	Ali Bradbury	07894 710001
Clophill St Mary's C of E Lower School & Nursery	Sharon Kempson	860206
Clophill Toddler Group	Emma Topliff	07921 810424
Clophill United Charities	Gillian Hill	860539
Conservation Group	Brian Adams	862297
Crafty Pastimes	Anita Errick	860695
Flower Club	Gillian Hill	860539
Friends of the Cheshire Home	Sue Pearson	861110
Funzone After School Club		07903 167493
Indoor Carpet Bowls	Tony Meredith	860754
Messy Church	Victoria Higgins	07920 568861
	victoriajhiggins@hotmail.co.uk	
St Mary's PTA	Lindsey Jones	07879 430956
Scouts and Cubs	Ralph Rayner	403956
Tuesday Club	Betty Hampson	860750
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Marilyn Browning	07821 643936



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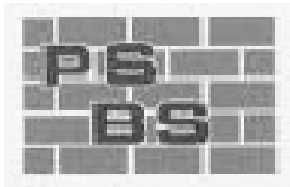
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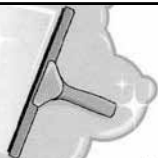
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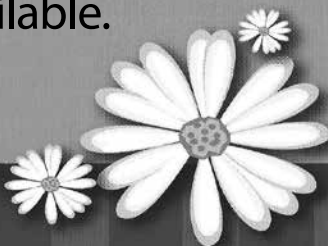
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