

CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

MAY 2014



SCONES?

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A word from the Editor...

Welcome...

This month Clophill has its annual **village fete**. It's a lovely community event with stalls, children's entertainment, a BBQ and lots more – if you've never been, it's worth a stroll along to the church to have a look. And talking of strolling, it's **National Walking Month**, which includes Walk to Work Week and Walk to School Week. You'll find all the dates and info at <http://www.livingstreets.org.uk/national-walking-month> Personally, I'm going to make it my Walk to the Pub Month (so no difference there, then!).

As usual, **Spotlight** is crammed full of local news, village events and interesting articles. Like the one from **Colin Watt**, who's written another sterling piece, this time on the history of Clophill's pubs (very few of which are left for me to walk to, sadly).



We're always happy to hear what you think about the magazine, so if there's anything you love or loathe let us know. And do get in touch if you want to be featured on our 'Spotlight Meets...' page. *Who knows, today, Spotlight – tomorrow, world fame!*

See you again in sunny June!



The magazine staff

EDITOR/ADVERTISING
MANAGER

Helen Gent
editorial@clophillspotlight.co.uk
ads@clophillspotlight.co.uk

864836

DESIGN MANAGER

Chris Abrahams
cmabrahams@yahoo.co.uk

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

Steve Smith

860216

TREASURER

Richard Pearson

861110

COPY DEADLINE

20th of the month

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

St Mary's Church, Clophill

Church Fete & Village Event 24th May 2014

12 – 4pm

in the Church grounds

FUN for ALL

Rides on
steam traction bus

Shefford
Majorettes

Safari Stu with
his exotic creatures

Lots of stalls Sideshows Barbeque Entertainment for children

Refreshments in the Church Lunches and Teas

For further information – call Gill 01525 861058

Toys and handmade items needed for Clophill fete

There will be a second-hand toy stall at Clophill's church fete, in aid of church funds. **If you're able to donate any toys**, please place them in the labelled box in the porch at school or the church from the week beginning 12 May.

We'd also like donations of **anything homemade** that we can sell in aid of the church funds. It could be edible item like cakes, biscuits, bread, pies, preserves and honey or hand-crafted items such as sewing, patchwork and knitting.

All donations to Liz Henman, 112 High Street, 01525 860108,
or Gill Jones, 12 The Slade, 01525 861058.

Your letters...

Dear Friends and Neighbours

We'd like to thank you all for your kind messages of support after the sad loss of Steve. It was most comforting to have so many of you in attendance at the funeral. We'd also like to extend special thanks to Audrey Brand for the lovely service and to Lindsay at the Dog and Badger for the warm welcome afterwards.

Linda Watson and family

News from Clophill Heritage Trust



Old Church Ruin

The stonemasons work in completing extensive repairs to the various door and window openings by cutting and dressing in new stonework is now almost complete and has been beautifully crafted. This includes restoration of the stone steps to the Church tower. The stone walls at roof level, which had fallen into a state of major disrepair, have also been carefully capped.

This month will see the completion of the spiral staircase to the viewing platforms, along with lighting and security installations and removal of the scaffolding. It's hoped that the public opening can take place in early June.

Clophill Eco-Lodges

While fitting out of the 4 lodges (8 s/c bedroom units) continues in readiness for occupation as walkers' lodges, the most visible work carried out in April related to further landscaping, improvements to the topography and strengthening of the site.

There was additional clearance of fallen and cut down trees and branches and levelling of the uneven areas of the grounds which have been filled and overlaid with good-quality topsoil ready for sowing with grass seed and wildflower mix.

Seasoned hardwood logs from the site, comprising mainly hawthorn and oak, suitable for chimineas, wood-burning stoves and open fires, are available at low cost from 49 High Street. All proceeds from sales go to the Heritage Trust.

- It's not too late to **make a donation** to the cause by going to www.mydonate.bt.com/charities/clophillheritagetrust
 - We're always looking for volunteers to help with building/maintenance work, IT/website skills, marketing, accountancy etc. If you're interested, please call Ali Bradbury (07894 710001), John Wright (07860 839845) or Barry Breed (01525 860834)
-



Clophill through the years

by Colin Watt

The many pubs of Clophill

Up until 1959 Clophill had six public houses for a population of about 1,000. They were the Flying Horse, the Green Man, the Compasses, the New Inn, the Rising Sun and the Stone Jug. It's difficult to find a reason for the large number. Clophill was always an agricultural community. There was some passing trade on the A6 but apart from that there's no obvious reason why the village supported so many licensed premises.

The Flying Horse

The earliest mention in the records of this inn is in the will of Joseph Hill, the late owner in 1731. Its position at the crossing of the north-south and east-west roads meant that it was probably a coaching inn. As late as 1927 it still had stabling for 18 horses so there was plenty of room to stable the horses of passing travellers. At the same time it's recorded that the National Omnibus & Transport Co Ltd had a 'garage for three buses' in the adjacent yard and that the pub 'Gets charabanc parties. Best pub in village.'



The Flying Horse

The inn was in Morris ownership until the company (then Morris & Company (Amphill) Limited) was sold to Luton brewers J W Green Limited in 1927.

J W Green merged with Flowers Breweries in 1954 and thereafter took the Flowers name until the company was purchased by Whitbread in 1962. Whitbread ceased to brew and to keep public houses in 2001 but the Flying Horse remained open as part of the company's subsidiary Beefeater. It's now owned by Mitchells and Butlers.

The Green Man

This was first mentioned in the will of John Richardson in 1758 when it was known as the Shepherd & Dog. He was recorded as being an 'alekeeper' in the record of the baptism of one of his children in 1719, so it may date from that time.

It came into the ownership of Biggleswade brewers Wells & Company in 1832. In 1899 it became Wells & Winch until it merged with Greene King in 1963. The Green King Plaque is still on the front wall.



The Green Man

1925 Rating Valuation Act noted that they 'get Luton Police & a stati fair once a year'.

What the Luton Police did there isn't recorded but the 'stati fair' was a Thurston's fun fair which was held in the field behind the pub, known as Garton's field after the land lady.

Statute Fairs were formerly held in towns and villages for the hiring of servants and farm labourers. Prospective workers would gather, often sporting some sort of badge or tool to denote their speciality. Shepherds held a crook or a tuft of wool, cowmen brought wisps of straw and housemaids held brooms or mops. Employers would look them over and, if they were thought fit, hire them for the coming year, handing over a shilling to seal the arrangement.

How the Clophill Staty came to be isn't known as there's no record of Clophill being granted a royal statute to hold a fair.

The Compasses

The first recorded mention of the Compasses is in a conveyance of 1828 when it was called the Red Cow. Two years later a gang of poachers, tried at the Quarter Sessions, is recorded as having met there before trespassing in Cainhoe Park. Like the Flying Horse, it was owned by Morris & Company (Amphill) Ltd, J W Green Ltd, Flowers Breweries and then Whitbread. The public house closed in 1992 and is now a private house at 79 High Street.



The Compasses

The New Inn

As its name suggests, the New Inn isn't as old as the Flying Horse and the Green Man. It's first recorded in a directory of 1839. Like the Flying Horse and the Compasses, it was owned by Morris & Company (Amphill) Ltd, J W Green Ltd, Flowers Breweries and then Whitbread. The New Inn closed in 1959 and is now a private house at 120 High Street.



The New Inn

The Rising Sun

George Garner is the earliest known licensee holding the licence of a beer retailer from approximately 1851-1881. Under the 1830 Beer Act any householder who paid rates could apply, with a one-off payment of two

guineas, to sell beer or cider in his home (usually the front parlour) and even to brew his own on his premises. This is probably how the Rising Sun started. It became a public house, on being granted a full licence, on 11 March 1954 but is now a private house.

Was it called the Rising Sun because it was the most easterly building in of the village?

The Stone Jug

This public house probably started as a beer house, as the census for 1861 shows that the occupier, Eliza Issit, was a Baker, Grocer and Beer Retailer. The first mention of it by name is in about 1874 in the licensing register for Amphill Petty Sessional District.

It was planned to rename the pub the Toby Jug in 1976 when new potential owners were negotiating to buy it; the parish council strongly objected to the name change but in the event the proposed sale fell through and the name remained the same.

Interestingly, it's the only stone residence in the village.

Most of the above information was sourced from the Bedford & Luton Archives & Records Office website.

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



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SUMMER CONCERT

with the

FLITWICK SINGERS

on Saturday, 5th July 2014 at 7.30 p.m.

Tickets £6 (including light Refreshments)

**All proceeds to Clophill Methodist Church
and Amphill Cheshire Homes**

For tickets & further information :

Contact: Tel: 01525 860695 or 01525 860610

Let's talk about tax-free investments

with Sally Cobban



This month I'm going to talk about tax-free investments. Generally, these are investments that are free of tax, so any income earned from them is tax free and any lump sum gained from them is tax free. Firstly, I'll deal with tax-free income...

- Rent a room allowance – you can rent out a room in your house and make £4,250 per year completely free of tax
- Gambling, Premium Bonds and lottery winnings are free of tax
- Interest received from ISA accounts
- Interest received from National Savings Certificates
- The first £10,000 of earned income



Secondly, you can invest in various tax-free or tax-efficient products to get more of your money outside the scope of tax...

- Premium Bonds (although your capital sum won't grow; max is £30k)
- ISA savings accounts – cash and stocks and shares (see limits below – they're going up)
- There are junior ISAs for your children as well
- National savings certificate accounts

As we all work hard for our money it's good tax planning to get as much of it as possible outside the scope of tax so that it never becomes taxable again!

TAX FACT ISA Limits for the 2014/2015 tax year

Limits to 30/06/2014

Cash ISA	£5,940
Cash and Shares ISA	£11,880
Junior ISA and Child Trust Fund (CTF)	£3,840

Limits from 01/07/2014

New ISA	£15,000
Junior ISA and CTF	£4,000

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



Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire

Wildlife walks & talks



Wild Flower Walk

Wednesday 11th June, 7.15pm, Pegsdon Hills

A wild flower walk with Graham Bellamy, former Bedfordshire Reserves Manager for The Wildlife Trust. Places are limited, please book. *£1 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



Clophill Open Gardens Weekend

21st & 22nd June

12 – 6pm each day Adults £5 accompanied children free

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

Refreshments at the Church

Children's Treasure Hunt

Plants at the Church

Proceeds to St Mary's Church, Clophill



Volunteers needed

Could you spend a couple of hours sitting in a garden checking tickets? If you can offer some time over the weekend please contact **Sue Hughes** on **861524**.

Plants wanted

If you have any plants or seedlings that you can donate to the plant stall that we will have in the churchyard, please take them to **Julie Huckle** at **15 The Causeway**.
You can leave them outside the garage if there's no one home.

Many thanks...

**Leonard
Cheshire
Disability**

...to everyone who helped or supported us at our Jumble Sale on 25 April at the village hall. We're pleased to have **raised £553.21** – this amount includes donations totalling £150 and £60 raised by selling items on Ebay. The proceeds will directly benefit the residents of the Leonard Cheshire Home at Ampthill.

We're planning another jumble sale in October – if you have any **good-quality jumble to spare**, we'll be glad to store it for you. And we're always **happy to take books**, as we have a separate outlet for them which raises more money than if we sell them at the Jumble Sale. For this, or to find out more about our group's activities, contact Sue on 861110.

News from Clophill FC

My name is **Gavin Roberts**, and six years ago I established a village football team with a group of ten under-10 boys fresh out of St Mary's. The boys have stayed together, and a few others have since been added. They've now just finished their sixth season as representatives of Clophill FC.



The U11 team photograph, left to right;
Back Row: David Fussell, Cameron Andrews, Haydan Stringer, Zac Standaloft, Liam Collins, Mason Watson, Aidan Tompkins
Front Row: Kieran McCaffrey, Finlay Ratcliffe, Max Baker, Connor Andrews, Kade Alford, Calum Hughes Forde

This year **both teams** have finished as their respective **League winners**. The under-11s won the U11 D2 Chiltern Junior Sevens League, while the under-16s won the Bedfordshire Youth Saturday League Division two. In addition, the older of the two teams have won their **cup twice in the past four seasons**.

What a great achievement for a little village like Clophill!

It would be great for the boys of both teams to see their pictures and achievements celebrated in Spotlight.

Sadly, next season will be the last for the older group of players as, despite the fact that we have the best playing surface in the south of England (ie, it isn't affected by rain!) and a truly fantastic group of boys who'd love to continue representing their village, without access to changing and toilet facilities the FA won't allow us to continue past under-17 age.

The under-16's have been run by myself, supported by **Mark Lewis**; the under-11s run by **Vincent McCaffrey**, supported by **Graeme Tompkins**.

We've been ably supported by the Parish council who have to date kindly purchased two sets of goals, as the boys have progressed to different dimensions. Without the council's help it's unlikely we would have got past the under-13 age group.

The 'Club' expanded two years ago when a new group of under-10s joined us and we're growing again next season as another group of under-10s are also joining. As such, we will have under-10s, under-12s and under-17 teams representing the village.



The U16 team photograph, left to right;
Back row: Gavin Roberts, Ryan White, Josh Roberts (captain), Tom Stanley, Luke Adams, Jack Bhattacharjee, Jordan Allen, Tom Hawkins, Mark Lewis
Front row: Charlie Clarke, Alex O'Dell, Bradley Speake, Robson Carter Brown, Ryan Camp, Luci Franco, Harry Lewis



There's no such thing as the Dog Poo Fairy

Authorised by
Clapham Parish Council



Bag that poo –
any rubbish bin will do

KEEP
BRITAIN
TIDY

Love
where
you
Live

The Great Clophill Clean-up

During the last week of March, a small band of volunteers picked up litter in Clophill. Rubbish of all descriptions was collected, sorted and either recycled or binned.

Generally the amount was less than in previous years, but certain areas are still a problem. These include the Green, notably the bus shelter and under the footbridge, Beverley Court path and Readshill, the footpaths from Town Shott to Church Path and towards Cainhoe Castle, and particularly the Playing Field, which was cleared by year 4 from St. Mary's School. This is especially disappointing, as the litter is often hazardous for the children.

Most litter is related to people eating and drinking in the street and smoking, so we appeal to those people to dispose of their litter responsibly.

The other problem is the **disposal of dog waste**. Sadly, there are a few villagers who still believe the Dog Poo Fairy will clean up after them! Three examples especially come to mind: the bagged mess carefully placed behind the lamp post with the Poo Fairy poster on; three bags hung on a tree where the Town Shott path meets Church Path; and, worst of all, the huge amount of dog waste on the path to the lakes.

Please, dog-walkers, for the sake of your neighbours, clean up after your dogs and dispose of the waste in either the dedicated bins or the regular litter bins.

In addition to litter clearing, volunteers cleaned the white gates and bollards on the A6, the bollards at the entry to the Green and the Clophill sign board.

A huge 'thank you' is owed to all the volunteers!

The Pollution and Recycling group of Clophill Parish Action



CLOPHILL COMMUNITY CARE (C3)
07791 773 705

Second-hand books

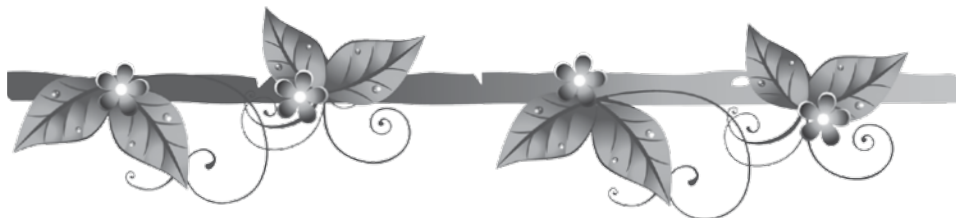
Clophill Community Care will again be running a **second-hand book stall** at the annual village fete. We're happy to pick up any books you may have for us.

Please call **David Myers** on **860704**



Hospital Travel Costs

A little-known fact is that if you've been referred by your doctor to a hospital you may be able to recover the cost of travel. This is particularly helpful if it's to a specialist hospital such as Papworth or Addenbrookes. A claim form can be obtained from the hospital and which should be submitted with a receipt for a taxi or from a C3 volunteer driver where we've provided the transport. The claim is means-tested via the form.



Clophill & District Flower Club

Our meeting on 3rd April saw the welcome return of Rayna Shiach, whose title was **'On the Level'**. The evening was attended by a large number of members and visitors.

Rayna used her designs to take us through her flower arranging training, starting from further education classes which she demonstrated with a simple triangular arrangement of roses. Her next display was a traditional Hogarth Curve with a modern twist – used to show her Level 1 City & Guilds. Level 2 was a Victorian-influenced urn design of roses, aspidistra leaves and palms, while Level 3 was an abstract design using a tall black container, white anthuriums and gold-sprayed artichokes.

The final display illustrated Rayna's completion of the Level 4 Module of NAFAS Course – the finale being a contemporary design incorporating aluminium wire, wool, wood, beads and pink and cerise gerbera.

Not only did Rayna demonstrate her life in flowers, but she also showed us how much flower arranging has changed over the years.

Tip of the month: Rayna advises to cut rose stems on the slant and then cut up the stem slightly so they can take up plenty of water.



Cerise Gerbera

Our next meetings are on June 5th and July 3rd, 7.30pm at Clophill Village Hall

Christian Aid Week

It's **Christian Aid week between 11 and 17 May** and, as ever, a small but willing team of volunteers in the village will be giving up their time to deliver envelopes and then collect them, hopefully with some money inside.

In conversation with many folk, it's been suggested that Christian Aid Week would 'do' better if the 'Christian' bit was dropped and it was just called 'Aid Week', or 'World Aid Week'. And so it might – who knows? But whatever it's called, **the proceeds go to global hot spots of poverty, trauma and conflict** regardless of the belief or non-belief of the recipients. Basically, the money raised enables the Christian Aid Organisation, through its sister organisations, to **transform lives throughout the world**.



So do look out for the red envelope coming through your letterbox and, if you can afford to, please put some money in it.

Thank you!

Julie Benson, coordinator

St Mary's School News



Our Values for May are *Appreciation* and *Simplicity*

With '**Appreciation**', we'll start by learning to appreciate ourselves and the qualities we possess. We'll move on to raising awareness of the world around us and all the things for which we should be actively showing our appreciation, especially the simple things we tend to take for granted. We'll stress that appreciation shouldn't just be shown when receiving material gifts but also for friendship, care and support given freely when needed. **At home:** you may like to encourage your children to make a thank you card for someone who they appreciate.

With '**Simplicity**', we'll consider the joys and beauties of nature which link with our Harvest Festival when we give thanks for these wonderful gifts. We'll ask 'What really makes you happy?' It's often the most simple of actions such as a hug from Mum or a smile from a friend. We'll examine simple playground games like hopscotch and chase to show that it isn't always necessary to have expensive equipment to enjoy yourself. **At home:** why not go out on a family nature walk and talk about what you see. Encourage your child to use their senses by standing quietly and listening to the rustle of wind in the branches. The children might like to collect conkers, acorns and sweet chestnuts to bring into school.

Lent Concert: 'A Spring Thing'

As mentioned last month we supported The Duke Edwards Anglican School in Guyana this year and raised money by staging a Lent Concert, entitled 'A Spring Thing' We'd like to thank the children for putting on such a fantastic performance and for all the support from parents which enabled us to raise £777.



Year 4 'Litter Pick' Around the Village

As always, Year 4 did a sterling job helping to clear our village before the Easter holidays. In two hours, they collected 18.6 kg of general litter, mostly recycling; 6.8kg of glass; 1kg of cans; 2 tyres, a 4m length of guttering and a plastic milk crate. We'd once again like to thank Ali Bradbury for organising this event.

Acorn Nursery Registration

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

Don't forget... there's lots of information about our school available at www.stmaryslower.info

Term Dates 2014

Summer Term

Term starts 22 April
Term ends 18 July
Half Term 26-30 May

Autumn Term

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

The Vintage/Retro Fair

Why not come & join the fun at:
Clophill Village Hall

Sunday June 29th 2014

10am till 4pm inc: Clothes / Jewellery / Homeware
Furniture / Plants / Vintage Tea Room / Music
Dancing / RocknRoll / Rockabilly Music & more...

We Can Do It!

Tickets
£3 Adults
Kids FREE



ALL PROCEEDS
IN AID OF

FREEMAN
BOXING CLUB
ACADEMY

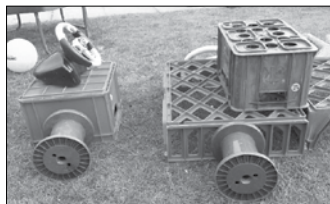
Contact Loraine: 07714 014484

Anyone interested in having a stall? This will become a regular event!

Clophill Preschool News



We start this month's article with huge thanks to everyone who came and supported us at our very first **Great Easter Egg Hunt**. Whether it was baking cakes for us to sell, helping out on a stall or joining in with the fun, you all helped to make it fantastically successful. We hope to make it an annual event – and we'll be requesting the lovely weather we had for next year's Egg Hunt too! The winner of the Jar of chocolate Eggs correctly guessed 178 eggs. The winners of the colouring competition are **Sam Tsang** for the under-5s and **Lauren Somerfield** for the 5-9s. Well done everyone, you can collect your prizes from the Café on the Green.



As the sun begins to really show its face we get the opportunity to use our outdoor space to the maximum. Last term we made a car using plastic crates, a steering wheel from an old computer game, old push bike tyres and large plastic spools as well as a big pirate ship from an old cardboard box. The children had great adventures and they inspired lots of language, role play and team work.

For this term we hope to have more imaginative outdoor play to develop the children's practical and collaborative skills; we've made a hazel den support structure where the children can build dens from wood, cloth or reeds. We've collected lots of natural resources for our mud kitchen to use as plates, cups and food – everything from pine cones and corks to pebbles and hay, with tree trunk slices for the plates. We even have a cable drum we've repurposed into a table for serving **pine cone and leaf salad with a cup of cold chocolate mud**. Mmmm, tasty!



We continue to develop our outdoor space with purchases from our CBC grant money. The waterfall tray has gone down a storm; the children transfer water from the bottom tray to the top by syphoning it, before using the taps to move it back down again. The new favourite with the children are the large hollow bricks and planks. They're used in different ways by different children, from an assault course to practising our balancing skills to a racing car for roaring around the track.

As usual we're always making sure we, as the staff, support and encourage the children in their play as they are able to develop over the 7 areas of the Early Years Outcomes with the very simplest of resources with the right guidance. Here is a little quote we think is very important to remember.

*'I am learning more than you can see, enjoying play is good for me,
So please don't fret if any day I have nothing to display,
Play gives me a chance to share, learn social skills and how to care,
So when I come home please don't say, Haven't you done much today?
Empty handed I might be but play has taught me lots you see.'*

This is why we have our Let's Share books, so that we can write a little of what each child does during session to inform the parents as they're not always likely to just come home with a picture.

If you think Clophill Preschool is the kind of place you'd like to see your child flourish in then email us at clophillpreschool@gmail.com, give us a call on **07732872685** or just pop in. We take children from the age of 2, and they can start as soon as they've had their second birthday.

Christine's quick 'n' easy recipe

Penne with Spinach Sauce



INGREDIENTS Serves 4 people

- 450g penne
- 3 cloves of garlic
- 50g goat's cheese
- 25g reduced fat cream cheese
- 175g fresh baby spinach
- Salt & freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tbsp freshly grated Parmesan cheese

1. Bring a large pot of salted water to boil. Add the penne pasta and cook until it's tender but still firm to the bite, stirring occasionally – about 12 minutes.
2. Mince the garlic in a food processor. Add in the goat's cheese, cream cheese, $\frac{3}{4}$ tsp of salt, $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp of pepper and half of the spinach leaves. Blend until the mixture is smooth and creamy.
3. Shred the remaining spinach leaves and place in a large serving bowl. Drain the pasta, reserving 1 cup of the cooking water. Spoon the pasta on top of the spinach leaves in the bowl – the heat of the pasta will wilt the spinach.
4. Scrape the cheese and spinach mixture over the pasta mixture and toss to coat completely, adding enough reserved cooking liquid to moisten. Sprinkle the Parmesan over and serve.

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

Cookery Demonstrations

Just Desserts 5 June at 11am

Helen Archer, Head Chef at The Crown in Flitwick, will demonstrate a medley of traditional English puddings which you'll be able to taste together with a glass of wine or soft drink.

La Dolce Vita 19 July at 11am

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

Slovakian Specialities 13 September

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

All the demonstrations will be held at **3 Beverley Gardens, Clophill.**

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

SPOTLIGHT *meets...*

This month, Spotlight chats to **Luke Howard**, founder of the Greensand Community Choir



Last month saw the launch of an exciting new choir based in Clophill. After a notice appeared in Spotlight, around 25 people turned up to the inaugural meeting – and the newly-formed Greensand Community Choir are now hoping to perform at this year's village fete.

The choir is directed by experienced choir conductor, Luke Howard, who trained at the Royal College of Music as a cellist and pianist. He has since worked in many varied styles, also as a singer and conductor. And for many years he's worked with school choirs, from accompanying them on Radio 3 to conducting them recently in front of the Pope in Rome.

“ The Greensand Community Choir is for people of all ages and we sing music in many styles from classic pop, world music, musicals and folksongs to sacred and secular classical,” says Luke. ‘The aim is to draw people from the local villages that stretch along the central section of the Greensand Ridge Walk which passes through Haynes, Clophill, Maulden and Ampthill but to also welcome anyone from anywhere who loves to sing.’ ”

If you fancy giving it a go, you can try a taster choir session for £5 – if you decide to join up as a member, the money will be deducted from the remaining term fee. You can contact **Luke** on **01525 838199** or **greensandcommunitychoir@gmail.com**

Celebrating our Fallen Heroes

As reported in last month's Spotlight, resident Sue Pearson is organising a memorial at St Mary's Church, on the weekend of 21 and 22 June, to celebrate the 24 men listed on the memorial there.

Several people have come forward with photos and information, including: **John Doggett**, who's donating a photograph; brothers **Henry** and **Ernest**



Diggins, who are providing lots of memorabilia such as photos and pictures of their campaign medals; **Joseph Lomas**, who has copies of postcards that he sent to his mother and the service record of his brother, Jack, who survived.

Sue would like to extend her thanks to everyone who's been in touch – and asks if that anyone has photos or information about any of the 24 men whose names appear on the memorial then they **get in touch as soon as possible** on 861110 or richard.sue.pearson@gmail.com

Clophill Parish Council

Notes from the Parish Council and the Annual Parish Meetings held on 23rd April 2014

Readers are reminded that this is a resume only of the meeting. The parish council minutes are published and can be found on the internet after they are authorised (approximately five weeks after the relevant meeting).

Parish Council

This was a short meeting of the parish council prior to the annual parish meeting. Our PCSO Elaine gave an overview of the policing situation within the village. The last month had been relatively calm within the village with very few offences taking place. There was also a discussion concerning planning within the village (which is addressed in a separate section to this) and necessary finance matters.

The Annual Parish Meeting

This meeting was attended by two villagers who came to address the parish council and village with the reports for Clophill United Charities and the CPA. No other villager attended despite this meeting being advertised in Spotlight and on our village notice boards. The parish council was also joined by our three district councillors.

The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked those present for attending. He highlighted some key elements that had taken place in the village and, in addition, spoke about the parish council's support of several projects – for example, the assisted funding to the village hall for solar panels, to St Mary's Church for work to the dangerous trees, assistance to the Old Church Heritage Fund and assisting with initial **funding for the boxing academy**. He went on to say that this had been achieved while once again maintaining and increasing services while holding again the parish precept.

He pointed out that during the next year there were some formidable hurdles to overcome, not least of all with **the proposed sale of The Lakes Site** by Evonik. He concluded by thanking the parish councillors, the parish clerk and the district councillors all working together for the benefit of our community.

The **chairman of the planning sub committee** then addressed the meeting. He outlined the processes through which his committee operates, dealing with new building applications and reviewing each one objectively before making recommendations to the planning authority. During the past 12 months, 40 applications were considered. The planning sub committee, on behalf of the parish council, has also submitted its reply to CBC's consultation document concerning traveller and gipsy sites, expressing concern over how the planners at CBC deal with 'windfall sites'.

The **chairman of the finance sub committee** gave an overview of the parish finances. He explained that the village 'purse' was in generally good shape through careful handling of expenditure but mentioned that the council had committed itself to some expenses that have yet to be billed. He also confirmed that the precept was increased by mistake with the council tax department of CBC in the last financial year. This year, as promised, to correct that mistake **the parish precept was decreased by 16%**.

The **chairman of the lands and recreation committee** gave a resume of the work and incorporated the work of the infrastructure committee (due to the chairman of that committee being unable to attend through illness). He stated that, after some difficulty finding a supplier, new salt bins had been put in place in the village. Some **minor work to roads** had been accomplished but some surfaces were still in a terrible state and negotiations are still ongoing to resolve these matters. **The old concrete bridge at The Green** hasn't been removed yet despite the contract from Amey being accepted. This is due to problems with the diversion of the main electricity supply to the village running through that structure. We're awaiting estimates for that work to be agreed.

Clophill Parish Council

Continued

He briefly mentioned the managing of our land, owned by the parish. All of the allotments are now let and under rent. The **Archery Club** to the rear of the village hall has also renewed the lease for the next few years, bringing in enhanced revenue. Money has been spent on supplying new goalposts for the Clophill football teams; it's an important function to **encourage the use of the recreation ground for the youth of our village**. He thanked the villagers, the CPA and others for their help during the course of the year.

Cathy Harris of **Clophill Parish Action Group** gave a resume of the work undertaken throughout the year. This action group is sub divided into the following: home-watch team; nature team; Old Bridge (at The Green) team; the Old Church team; conservation group; footpath team; school access team. There's no doubt that this group makes a huge and lasting contribution to our village, but of course relies on volunteers.

The chairman of **Clophill United Charities** presented his report to the parish council and at the conclusion he was thanked for the work of the trustees and the charitable contributions made to our community.

There then followed a question and answer session.

Planning – April 2014

Applications Received by Central Bedfordshire

CB/14/00995/FULL

Location: 10 Great Lane
Proposal: Erection of two-storey rear extension including new staircase, replacement of existing roof with new attic truss roof to provide 2nd-floor master bedroom and en-suite, associated internal alterations, replacement doors and windows, associated landscaping including formation of three new car-parking bays and refuse bin area and new pedestrian steps
Applicant: Mr J Gill

This dwelling stands up a steep slope overlooking Great Lane and the proposal is, effectively, to create a much larger and taller house, digging in to the roadside bank to create new car parking spaces. The location is immediately outside the Conservation Area, but visible from it. The PC believes, as planned, it's overbearing and too dominant. The car parking issue has been referred to Highways. **OBJECT**

CB/14/01094/FULL

Location: Sandfield, The Slade
Proposal: Minor modifications to previously approved application CB/11/03680/FULL for proposed new replacement four-bedroom dwelling with linked two bedroom annexe and garages with addition of a small projection to the north elevation
Applicant: Mr & Mrs G Rice

This is a very minor amendment to two already approved applications to construct a large dwelling with attached annexe on the site of the original dwelling which was demolished in preparation. The approved application was about to expire, thus this may be intended solely to keep the plan 'alive'.

Clophill Parish Council

Continued

Because the site is an eyesore, the PC support is given in the hope that no further extensions will be required. However, the PC has learned that work is in hand preparatory to beginning construction, and this news is welcome.

SUPPORT

CB/14/01107/FULL

Location: Land to the east of Castle Hill Court, Shefford Road
Proposal: Erection of nine dwellings including access from Shefford Road (six dwellings) and an access through Castle Hill Court (three dwellings)
Applicant: Greene King via Mr B Sherry

Application is almost exactly similar to that detailed last month and supported by the PC as it followed a government-approved development and an earlier approval for a different layout. The PC had supported. A new application was necessary due to wrong certificates/notices in relation to ownership being served on the first application.

SUPPORT

CB/14/01271/FULL

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

This new application from a developer replaces the earlier, withdrawn application (CB/13/04358/FULL) and, following applicant discussions with CBC, proposes a slightly smaller, slightly repositioned dwelling seeking to satisfy objections to the larger, overbearing and dominant earlier proposal. However, the PC believes that the proposed dwelling is over development and far too dominant and large for this narrow site, presently occupied by a small two-bed bungalow. Also, it seriously invades the privacy of the neighbours. The PC has requested our ward councillors to 'call-in' this application should officers intend to approve it.

OBJECT

CB/14/01302/FULL

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

Application proposes to build two detached, four-bedroom three-storey dwellings on site presently used as car park and for glass salvage. Separately, one two-car garage is planned between the houses and the footpath to Beverley Court. A car park (12 cars) for customers is proposed on the present site of the garden behind (north) of the restaurant with domestic and staff cars parked in front of the proposed dwellings. The right-of-way from the Green to Beverley Court will be retained. The houses are outside the Conservation Area. Some PC members consider that the proposal is 'over development' and all are concerned that the proposed provision of customer car parking might be inadequate.

OBJECT

Clophill Parish Council

Continued

Applications Approved by Central Bedfordshire

CB/14/00156/LDC

Location: 7 Goodwood Close
Proposal: Siting of a mobile home
Applicant: Mr K Garwood

As an application, this item was reported in the March issue of Spotlight as a Legal Development Certificate. CBC had not informed the PC of this application, it only came to notice via an affected resident. When CBC were challenged as to why the PC wasn't informed, CBC stated that the decision would be based solely on legal reasons and they would ignore any comments or reasoning submitted by the PC: this despite government policies of more 'localism'. The PC has now made a formal complaint to the Chief Executive of CBC regarding this decision not to accept comments based on local knowledge and from the first tier of local government, which not only concerns this application but also any future LDC's within the village. Although the PC had opposed the application, due to limited space, from the explanation given it may be inferred that the applicant had evaded planning rules. This is not the case and, hopefully, this note clarifies this. As explained here, the expressed anger and frustration sits directly with CBC whose response to the complaint is awaited.

CB/14/00480/FULL

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

Proposal is to extend ground floor to create a new garden room and to extend the loft to create a fifth bedroom, en-suite and dressing room. The PC had supported this proposal.

CB/14/00693/VOC

Location: 9 Old Silsoe Road
Proposal: Variation of condition 9 of existing planning permission (MB/08/1453/FULL) to allow for conversion and use of garage as utility room/office
Applicant: Mr R Ebdon

The modification, supported by medical papers, was to permit the garage to be used for work at home. PC had supported.

CB/14/04467/FULL

Location: 5C Back Street
Proposal: Erection of new front porch following removal of existing
Applicant: Mr C Deverill

Proposal is to replace existing porch with one similar, but larger. PC had supported.

**The next Parish Council meeting will take place at 7.45pm on 27 May,
in the village hall with a surgery at 7.30pm**

Village groups

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

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

Sharon Soper 860920
Loraine Freeman 07714 014484
<https://enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk>
Fergus Milne 860894
Duty Contact 07791 773705
Ali Bradbury 07894 710001
Ali Bradbury 07894 710001
Sharon Kempson 860206
Louisa Sherry 861039
Gillian Hill 860539
Brian Adams 862297
Gillian Hill 860539
Sue Pearson 861110
Rosemary Ilett 860274
Tony Meredith 860754
Victoria Higgins 07920 568861
victoriajhiggins@hotmail.co.uk
Mick Everitt 861049
clophillpreschool@gmail.com 07732 872685
Charlotte Benjamin 861185
Ralph Rayner 403956
Betty Hampson 860750
Marilyn Browning 07821 643936

Parish registers for May

1814

Baptisms

May 8th Joseph Burrows
May 13t Samuel?

Burials

May Joseph Burrows (is this the same one as the baptism?)
May Mary Izzard

1864

Baptisms

May? Charlotte Kedge
? Webb
Frederick (?) Chapman
May 15 Charles?
George?
A.N. Other

Marriages

May 20th Isaac Coburn, 23, to
Elizabeth Martin (?) 22

Burials

May 7 ? Chapman
May 8 Emma Peat
May 15 Thomas Doggett
May 26 Christopher ?

1914

No Registers recorded

1964

Baptisms

May 10th Sarah Jane Ray

ST. MARY'S CHURCH REGISTERS FOR APRIL 2014




Funeral and burial

April 9th Philip John Hoare, 75

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.

What's on in and around Clophill

MAY

Sunday 11th
Free entry to the Ailesbury Mausoleum & Crypt
 From 3-5pm, Maulden. Plus tea and cakes in St Mary's Church, Church Road, Maulden

Sunday 11th
Vintage Fair 10am-4pm, Clophill Village Hall. *See this issue for details*

Saturday 24th
Clophill Fete 12pm-4pm, St Mary's Church, Clophill

JUNE






Sunday 8th
Free entry to the Ailesbury Mausoleum & Crypt
 From 3-5pm, Maulden. Plus tea and cakes in St Mary's Church, Church Road, Maulden

Saturday 21st/Sunday 22nd
Clophill Open Gardens *See this issue for details*

Sunday 29th
St Mary's School Football Festival Clophill Recreation Ground, 9.15am-1.30pm

Sunday 29th
Vintage/Retro Fair 10am-4pm, Clophill Village Hall. Adults, £3; children, free

JULY



Saturday 5th
Summer concert 7.30pm, Clophill Methodist Church. Featuring the Flitwick Singers. *See this issue for ticket details*



Ailesbury Mausoleum & Crypt, Maulden

On every month...

Tuesdays and Fridays

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

Every Wednesday

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

Every Friday

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

One Saturday a month

- **Messy Church** Clophill Methodist Church, 4-6pm. May 17th; June 21st; July 12th; September 20th; October 11th; November 15th; December 13th

All-age craft activities, worship and a meal for all the family. No fixed charge, donations welcome to cover costs, children must be accompanied by an adult. See 'Village Groups' for contact details.

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

Useful numbers

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

LIBRARIES

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

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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

HOSPITALS

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

DOCTOR'S CLINICS

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

POLICE

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

CHURCHES

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

SCHOOLS

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

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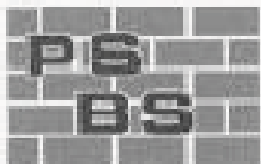
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