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FREE

CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

MAY 2016

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A word from the Editor...

Hello peeps

How are we all?

Personally, I'm a bit fed up with the weather – it's been c-c-c-cold and I can't wait for things to warm up a bit.

Still, there are plenty of great things going on in May. It's **National Walking Month** for a start, so an extra incentive to make walking part of our regular exercise. Also, the Stroke Association is using its stroke awareness month to **Make May Purple** – you can get involved by wearing, baking or planting something purple.

And, of course, as usual Clophill has lots going on so do read through this issue of Spotlight to see what you fancy.

See you in sunny (we hope) June!



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COPY DEADLINE

20th of the month

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



Clophill Open Gardens Weekend

25th and 26th June

12-6pm each day

Adults £5 Accompanied children FREE

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

FREE parking at the School and near the Village Hall

Refreshments at the Church

Children's Treasure Hunt Lunches and Teas

Plants at the Church

Proceeds to St Mary's Church, Clophill



The
Element
String Trio

Summer Serenade

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

St. Mary's Church, Clophill

Saturday 11th June at 7.30 pm

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

Tickets £12 to include refreshments

Please contact Gillian 01525 860539 or Carolyn 01462 815433

Or email carolyncranswick@hotmail.co.uk

'Hello! My name is Echo...'

"I came to live in Clophill in July 2015 with my new owner, Sophie. I'm a rescue dog and I'm ever so scared of people thanks to a bad start in life. I really like dogs, but sometimes it doesn't come across that way when I bark. I'm actually the kindest, cuddliest dog in the world when you know me! Sophie was wondering whether you may be able to help us...

If you see me out on a walk, Sophie and I would be very grateful if you could give us a little space, or a chance to find a hiding place whilst you walk by. I'm only frightened when I'm on the lead, and I'm working really hard to get better. I'm sorry if you see us out and I bark at you. I'm just unsure and barking makes me feel like I'm protecting myself.

Oh, and Sophie asked me to say that if you see us out and she appears to ignore you, or she sees you and changes direction to walk the other way, she doesn't mean to come across as rude – she's just focusing on helping me to feel safe. I get nervous when we have conversations with strangers. And I may bark a lot.

Well, that's my story, thank you for hearing me out. I'm really keen to come out of my shell, so if you'd like to help my training by meeting me and giving me a treat, it would help me more than I could ever say. Sophie's contact details are below. I look forward to meeting you."

Love, Echo.

• If you'd like to assist with Echo's rehabilitation please call or text Sophie on 07445 372980



Many, many thanks...

...to everyone who helped or supported us at our Jumble Sale last month at the village hall. On the night we raised £489.64, which included a generous donation of £50. Thanks mainly to Gillian Hill's hard work, prior to the jumble sale we also sold various items on ebay, raising an additional £178.57 – giving a **grand total of £668.21**. Also thanks to Deepak and Dakhsa at Clophill Post Office & Stores for kindly donating two raffle prizes.

The Home at Amptill is hoping to raise enough money this year to buy Eye Gaze technology so that residents can access computers by literally the blink of an eye. We have pledged £3,000 towards this purchase.

We really can't do it all without your help and this year is our Group's 40th which makes it extra special! We look forward to seeing you at our next jumble sale on 7th October. If you have any good-quality jumble to spare, we'll be happy to store it for you, and we can also take books. And do pop by to see us on our stall at the church fete on 14th May.

• If you could help at our next jumble sale or would be interested in finding out more about our group's activities, including our fortnightly shopping trips for residents, or if you'd like to visit the Home – just call 861 110.

Clophill Friends of the Leonard Cheshire Disability Home at Amptill





CLOPHILL ECO LODGES

Art Appreciation & Skills Weekend

Led by Katharina Kubrick

16 & 17 July 2016



Friday: Dinner locally and settle in with your fellow artists, if you chose to stay overnight at the Eco Lodges.

Saturday: Technique tutorials in drawings and sketching. A light lunch with an afternoon creative session in pen & ink or charcoal. Evening exhibition with Katharina Kubrick followed by dinner locally if you chose to stay overnight at the Eco Lodges.

Sunday: Start with Katharina's colour mix demonstration and oils tutorial followed by a light lunch. Complete your masterpiece with Katharina in the afternoon and join the closing discussion before heading home.

Clophill, Bedfordshire MK45 4BP



Beginner – Intermediate - Advanced

**£90 pp inc. 2 days lunch &
professional tuition.
(Equipment starter pack £15)**



www.ClophillEcoLodges.org.uk
Tel. 07935 911207
Booking enquiries: info@clophillheritage.org
[Facebook.com/Clophillecolodges](https://www.facebook.com/Clophillecolodges)
Twitter: @clophilleco

Clophill Heritage Trust

News from Clophill Heritage Trust



The Old Church and Eco Lodges

Last month around 12 employees from Lockheed Martin, Ampthill, took part in a willow weaving day whereby teams of two or three were set to make willow panels for the lower part of the lodge units. Alongside other volunteers they received instruction from Guy Lambourne

of Wasseldine, Upper Gravenhurst, who deserves our thanks. Hazel sticks were used for the uprights and with the willow we learned 'double or paired weaving', free weaving, introducing extra willow, dealing with loose butts, going 'over and under' plus other skills. There was a distinct variation in team styles.

On Saturday 9th April a band of hardy souls, together with our warden Kayleigh, set off from the lodges on a **35k circular walk** taking in Shefford and Northill. This was a shortened version of the original planned walk to complete the whole Greensand Ridge over two days.

On Thursday 21st April a group of 26 Year 3 pupils from St Mary's Lower School spent part of the school day at The Lodges learning about its specific environment. This involved the use of a map to **navigate their way around the site** to solve clues and thus obtain an Ecopassport. The photo shows the pupils and staff waving their passports.



If you're interested in becoming a volunteer please contact **Ali Bradbury** (07894 710001), **John Wright** (07860 839845) or **Barry Breed** (01525 860834)

For forthcoming courses and activities, visit us at www.ClophillEcoLodges.org.uk or make a booking at info@ClophillHeritage.org We're also now on Facebook

PSSST!

Clophill made it into the Heritage pages of the Guardian last month. If you missed the article on Cainhoe Castle you can read it here www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/apr/14/country-diary-cainhoe-castle-clophill-bedfordshire

Stay a step ahead of scammers

Sadly, it's becoming increasingly easy to become a victim of scams. This website reports on the latest scams to watch out for and what to do if you're targeted. www.actionfraud.police.uk

ActionFraud
Report Fraud & Internet Crime
actionfraud.police.uk

St Mary's Church, Clophill

Church Fete

& Village Event

Saturday 14th May

12 – 4pm in the Church grounds

FUN for ALL

Lots of stalls

Sideshowes

Barbeque

Entertainment 1.pm Maypole dancing display

2pm Shefford Majorettes

2.30pm Greensand Community Choir

Refreshments in the Church -

Lunches and Teas

For further information -

call Gill 01525 861058 or Carolyn 01462 815433

Former Clophill rector dies

The funeral of the **Revd Swindells**, Clophill's rector from 1978-2000, was held in St Mary's Church last month and was attended by more than 100 friends and family. Father Philip, as he was known to everyone, died at the age of 82 after a short illness and after a Requiem Mass was buried with his first wife, Lorna, in the burial ground by the Old Church.



Father Philip and Lorna receiving their retirement present from the church in 2000

Father Philip was the last incumbent to live in the village and to be solely responsible for this parish, albeit that he served as Priest-in-Charge at Gravenhurst and Shillington in later years. He was a familiar figure cycling around the village, often stopping to chat with people he met.

He was a strong supporter of ecumenism – the coming together of the different Christian denominations – and was also deeply spiritual, introducing

periods of silence in his services, which some found uncomfortable at first. He was quite 'high church', known for using processions, bells and the occasional sprinkling of Holy Water. Father Philip also introduced the popular Candlelit Carol Service on Christmas Eve.

A frequent visitor to the school, Father Philip worked closely with both Mrs Roberts and Mrs Spurgeon and served for many years as Chair of Governors. He described his relationship with the school as the high point of his ministry here. His work with young people led him to set up a group called the Young Adventurers, which explored the Christian Faith whilst having fun.

But there was a lot more to Philip than his public persona. He had many and varied interests, including steam trains and beekeeping, and he played several instruments including the organ and the bassoon. He was also interested in technology and was one of the first people in the village to have a computer.

He enjoyed relaxing with friends, especially a good dinner with fine wine or malt whisky, and he liked a game of Mahjong. His light-hearted side is exemplified by the never-to-be-forgotten rendition of the Mikado's 'Three Little Maids from School', performed St. Trinian's style with John Langdon and Barry Inskip at a Harvest Supper in the Village Hall.

Father Philip will be sorely missed by his family and friends, and all of us in Clophill who held him in deep affection. We're pleased and privileged that he chose Clophill as his final resting place. *Adrienne Gordon*



CLOPHILL ECO LODGES

Upcoming events



Yoga day

Enjoy two days of yoga and wellbeing related activities whilst staying at the Eco Lodges for a calming and relaxing time. You can even book into a 1 to 1 session for Thai massage, yoga or pilates.

14th and 15th May

£55 per person
Including Food and
group classes.



Real Ale Weekend

Join Clophill Heritage Trust and CAMRA on a real ale trail around the heart of Greensand Country. Visit the local pubs and try the brewery tour and tasting session ...see if you can spot our Old Church Ale.

28th May

£20 per person
excluding pub lunch
(residential weekend
price available)

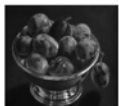


Midsummer Night's Dream

Join our Midsummer Celebration with our centrepiece...the comedy play by William Shakespeare, portraying the events surrounding the marriage of the Duke of Athens, Theseus, and Hippolyta.

18th June

£5 per ticket
£3 for early birds



Art Appreciation & Skills Weekend

Join Katharina Kubrick to hone your art skills...from initial sketches to pen & ink, and oil development. Includes 2 nights stay, food and tuition.

15th – 16th July

£55 per person per day
(residential prices available)
£15 for equipment
starter pack

And many more, including :

Wicked Wine day ...20th August
Foraging Weekend ... 7th – 9th October
Pumpkin Festival ... 29th October

Celebrating Cider Weekend ...4th – 6th November
Christmas Wreath Making ...3rd December
Christmas Craft Market ... 4th December

Clophill, Bedfordshire MK45 4BP



Come and stay at the Eco lodges and enjoy great views, tranquillity and some good food.

www.ClophillEcoLodges.org.uk

Tel.07935911207

Booking enquiries: info@clophillheritage.org

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

Twitter:@clophilleco



Clophill Heritage Trust

Clophill United Football Club



Spotlight readers may not be aware that there are actually two football clubs in Clophill, supporting over **70 local boys and girls up to the age of ten**. Through a team of volunteers, the Clophill St Mary's Lower School Football Club have over many years been providing access to football for all the year groups up to year 4 (age 9) when they leave the school. With a shortage of places in teams locally for our children to join and our passion to maintain the provision of access to football in Clophill for the children of this village and neighbouring villages, a team of volunteers established Clophill United FC in June 2015 to bridge this gap.

We currently run two teams in the Under-10 age group in the FA Affiliated Chiltern Junior Sevens League, which encompasses teams from Luton to Bedford and surrounding villages. Our home ground, 'The Recreation Ground', is a hive of activity every Saturday with teams visiting for matches. We've had fantastic sponsorship support from local companies to help us get established. We now have a Club and Committee infrastructure in place to progress the current teams through the league age groups and welcome teams from St Mary's as they leave the Lower School club.

The committee would like to thank the Parish Council for their support and the team at the Stone Jug supporting the many committee meetings it has taken to get us to this point. Come and see for yourself and cheer on your local team every Saturday morning at the Rec. **Duncan Lathwell, chairman, Clophill United Football Club**



Christian Aid Week

As you might have read in the March edition of Spotlight, Christian Aid Week this year falls between 15 and 21st May. I also mentioned that I was looking for a volunteer to take over from me as the charity's co-ordinator in Clophill. Sadly, so far nobody has come forward and this got me wondering if it's the word 'Christian' that deters so many people from both donating to the cause (although not here in Clophill, as you're always very generous) and offering to help.

If it was renamed 'World Aid', I wonder if would that make any difference?

Christian Aid is a member of '**actalliance**', '*a coalition of 139 churches and faith-based organisations working together in over 100 countries to create positive and sustainable change in the lives of poor and marginalised people regardless of their religion, politics, gender, sexual orientation, race or nationality... every day, ACT Alliance is on the frontlines: addressing systemic poverty; supporting survivors of disasters, wars and conflicts; training rural communities in sustainable agricultural techniques; helping people adapt to sustainable change; and influencing governments and other key decision makers to safeguard citizens' human rights.*' (ACT Alliance)

I've decided to continue with the collection this year and am looking for folk who could 'do' Tanqueray Avenue, Great Lane, Little Lane, Shefford Road, Hawthorn Close and Castle Hill Court. **If you can spare a bit of time to help, please contact me on 860497.** Thank you. **Julie Benson**



St Mary's School News

The children came back into school after the Easter holidays refreshed and prepared to work hard for what will be a very busy Summer term. Last month, FOSM hosted another 'Movie Night' which, as always, was very popular with our children so thank you to FOSM as we know it's very hard work. Also in April, Rowan Class had the opportunity to visit the Clophill Eco Lodges. This month Hazel and Birch class have a trip up to the old Church to look at and climb the renovated steeple, which is part of their topic this term. Meanwhile, the whole school will attend St Mary's Church for school Eucharist Pentecost on the 24th May; parents are very welcome to join us for 9.15am in church.

£2,397.50 raised for Cancer Research We held a Lent Appeal Day in March, with lots of fun had with our very own Lent Games. The day raised £2,397.50, which includes money donated by Jane Hawkins whose husband Mark died of leukaemia last year. Mark was the Chair of the PTA for a number of years and volunteered his time in the village for other organisations, which is why we decided to raise money this year for Cancer Research. I'm thrilled that we raised so much money and that the children and staff had such a great day. Thank you to FOSM for supporting the event with catering and all the parents who came to watch and cheer on their children.

Our value for May is *Appreciation (Thoughtfulness & Simplicity)*

- awareness and recognition of qualities and values • expression of gratitude
- a favourable judgement or opinion

At school we'll be start by learning to appreciate ourselves and the qualities we possess. We'll then 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. The children will be reminded that 'Thank you' isn't difficult to say but it means a lot to whoever is giving. 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. The importance of appreciating our environment, and showing that appreciation by looking after our surroundings, will feature this month as will showing appreciation for those around us, our families, friends and people in school. A word of appreciation every now and then never goes amiss.

Thought for the month: 'Life is God's gift to you. The way you live your life is your gift to God. Make it a fantastic one!'

A special poem The following poem was composed by our school spirituality group, reflecting on the value of JOY which was the value for April...**Being Joyful**

*Joy is a heart flooded by love,
Oceans of emotions from the base of your heart.
Your time with happiness may be short but joy takes over your spirit and soul.
Feelings come and go but joy is everlasting.
Use joy wisely and value its magnificence.
Living the Love of God helps you appreciate the miracle that is JOY.*

St Mary's School News

Continued

Sport Relief £110.00 was raised through the sale of the Sports Relief wrist bands, smoothies and fruit kebabs so again a really generous effort on behalf of all our children and parents.



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'd like to welcome Bobby, Chloe and Lucy to the Nursery and we hope they enjoy their time with us. We'd also like to say thank you to the Oldroyd family for their donation of a play house.



We've started our theme of 'Monkey Puzzle' and looked at this story and its animals as well as 'Noah's Ark', 'Smile Crocodile Smile' and 'Never Tickle a Tiger'. This has led to lots of talking about animals who went into the Ark, hygiene and keeping our teeth clean and healthy – as well as appropriate behaviour in different situations... e.g. it's not appropriate to tickle a tiger!

We've begun our transition sessions for the children entering Chestnut Class in September and the children seem to be enjoying their time in what will be their new class, joining in with PE, craft and phonic sessions. We've found that the children settle really well in September when they've had the extra time to get used to the environment, Mrs Paine and the different resources that will be available to them. We ensure there are some similarities between the two classes, familiar resources and we share the same theme too, both on the transition and in September. We'll be holding a short meeting in due course, talking about school readiness, and Mrs Bingley and Mrs Paine will also meet with the parents to answer any questions they may have.

Outside, the children all enjoyed seeing and holding some butterflies before setting them free and chasing them across the garden. The sunflower seeds the children planted are growing well and are nearly ready to plant out to grow up the fence. We'll be checking which is the tallest as they grow. Will one grow to be as tall as a giraffe?

Christine's quick 'n' easy recipe

Penne Rigate with fresh Tuna & Aubergines



INGREDIENTS Serves 4 people

- 400g penne rigate pasta
- 2 thick slices of fresh tuna (approx 300g)
- 1 medium aubergine
- 1 large clove of garlic, finely chopped
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 1 tin crushed tomatoes
- small glass of dry white wine
- extra virgin olive oil
- salt & freshly ground black pepper
- vegetable oil for frying



1. Put a large pan of salted water on to boil.
2. Heat the vegetable oil in a frying pan over a moderate heat.
3. Top and tail the aubergine and cut into cubes.
4. Fry the aubergine cubes until they're soft and golden. Drain on a piece of kitchen paper and set aside.
5. Heat a glug of extra virgin olive oil in a large-bottom saucepan or frying pan and gently fry the finely chopped onion and garlic until they're tender but not browned.
6. Cut the tuna into cubes and add to the onion and garlic, frying quickly until each side has been sealed.
7. Deglaze the pan with the white wine, then add in the tin of tomatoes.
8. Season to taste and cook for a further 15 minutes.
9. Whilst the tuna dish is cooking boil the pasta for 9-10 minutes, or to your liking.
10. Add the cooked aubergines into the sauce to warm through.
11. Once the pasta is cooked drain well and add into the sauce
12. Serve immediately.

Clophill & District Flower Club



Last month we had the pleasure of being visited by Clare Allen, a master florist and winner of many prestigious awards, including a Gold and a Silver gilt at Chelsea. Clare entitled her demonstration, 'Anniversary Jewels', to mark our club's year-long 40th anniversary celebrations.

The six designs were fabulous representations of major anniversaries – silver, sapphire, gold, emerald, diamond and, of course, ruby. Each design was displayed using very large and impressive containers, such as a silver bath-shaped wine cooler and a tall, wide-necked ruby glass vase complete with sparkly ruby-coloured droplets.

The flowers used were like jewels, too: lavish delphiniums, antirrhinums, stocks, baby roses, mini gerberas, calendulas and giant white hydrangeas. For her tribute to our 40th year, Clare created a ruby display that was ablaze with flame-red gladioli, large red anthuriums, exquisite dark red roses, sparkling rose-coloured butterflies and large red silk camellia heads that Clare had made herself. It was simply stunning.

Joan Palmer

- Come and join us on 2nd June when florist Kate Thomas will be demonstrating 'Celebrations'. For details on membership and meetings, go to www.clophillflowerclub.com



Clophill & District Flower Club

Flower Arranging for Beginners

Classes with experienced tutors for those who'd like to learn the art of flower arranging – or to improve their skills.

Classes start on 12th May, 7.30pm-9.30pm

at Clophill Methodist Church

£27 for 6 sessions

If you're interested, please contact Carolyn on 01462 815433



The Silsoe Stride



(Come and get into your Stride!)

Sunday 26 June from 9.30am

This year with a **10k race for the first time** – as well as

the original **5k race** and **Children's Fun Runs**

Running off-road from Wrest Park through beautiful private farmland

For full details and to enter go to

www.silsoestride.co.uk

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

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



I-Show Theatre School

All net proceeds to Silsoe village charities and good causes

Clophill Preschool News



Hi everyone! Another huge thank you to everyone who came to our most successful Easter Egg Hunt ever in March. It was a beautiful day and the hall and recreation ground were overflowing with families having a great time together. We hope you all saw the Wuzzle answers on our Facebook page – for those of you who got stuck on the answers!

We've noticed huge changes in many of our children since they've come back from the Easter holidays. It's amazing how quickly they can develop and mature over a short space of time. This term we've started with our more focused group times and we can already see great progression from all our children. All **our teaching is done through play**. Even when we impart information to the children and show them how something works or tell them what something is we reinforce it with songs, rhymes, games, craft activities, outdoor play – in fact anything we think they'll have fun with and that also consolidates what we're teaching them.

In Green group we were focusing on number recognition and counting. The children were given a random card from 1-10 and asked if they knew the number. If they were unsure they could turn it over and count the objects on the other side to check, and they could also ask friends to help them. The children then got into a circle and swapped places with each other to put the numbers in order. To help consolidate our learning the children really enjoyed **singing number songs**. As we sang and said each number, I tried to choose the correct number card but sometimes I got it wrong – silly me – and the children were very good at noticing and telling me which one I should have had. By the end, we were all exhausted and laughing our socks off...and just a little bit better at numbers.

I'm sure everyone would agree that we all learn much better if we're enjoying ourselves and we find one of the things that makes the children have fun and join in more is if we, the adults, are prepared to get down to their level, join in and ultimately not be afraid to make fools of ourselves. This is why when we choose our staff it's not just about their capability as Preschool Practitioners but also about their ability to get down and play with the children and build a rapport. Equally important is the relationship our staff have with our children's families and indeed with each other. We have a very strong team and we think that's one of the things that makes our setting so fantastic.



If you have a child under-5, whether at our Preschool or not, why not pop along to one of our **monthly coffee mornings**. We have one on 10th May, Tuesday 14th June and Monday 4th July starting at 9.15am. It's a great opportunity to meet people and chat.

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

fun day

Sunday 15th May 2016, 10am - 4pm

Workout Class Tasters

Gym Challenge

Personal Training Tasters

Bouncy Castle & Soft Play

Table Tennis & Short Tennis

Disability Awareness Football

Costa coffee & BBQ

Netball

Badminton

12.00pm – official opening ceremony

Voluntary donations to Keech Cottage

**free
activities**

lifestyles
at silsoe

01525 860 357

Silsoe Community Sports Centre, Chestnut Avenue, Silsoe, Beds, MK45 4GP

SLL.co.uk

What's on in and around Clophill

MAY



Saturday 14th

Clophill Fete Noon-4pm, grounds of St Mary's Church.
See this issue for full details.



Sunday 15th

Silsoe Fun Day 10am-4pm, Silsoe Community Sports Centre.
See this issue for full details.

JUNE



Saturday 11th

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



Sunday 12th

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



Saturday 25th - Sunday 26th

Clophill Open Gardens 12-6pm. *See this issue for full details.*



Sunday 26th

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

SEP



Sunday 11th

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

On throughout the month...

Wednesdays...

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

Fridays...

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

One Saturday a month...

- **Messy Church** 4pm-6pm, Clophill Methodist Church, 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



Flittabus needs YOU!

Volunteer drivers wanted

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Clophill Parish Council

Notes from the Parish Council meeting held on 26th April

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).

On Tuesday 26th April Clophill Parish Council (CPC) hosted its Annual Parish Meeting in the village hall. There were around 25 people present to offer their views and share their successes and stories, in what was a thoroughly pleasant gathering.

Following a welcome address from our Chairman, Cllr Peter Clarke, Cllr Roland Browne reported on CPC finances. He informed those present that the balance capital fund at the end of March 2016 was £31,132, and spoke of the **plans to invest in street lighting**, the play area in the rec, and the Methodist Church roof in this present financial year. Roland also confirmed that the council wasn't changing its precept value this year.

Cllr Ralph Brough reported on his work in the last year on both Highways and street lights. Ralph spoke about some of the council's hopes for improvements for pedestrians around The Green, and expressed his disappointment about some of the inconsiderate **car parking near the Post Office**, which has caused local buses problems in the last year.

Cllr Paul Downing reported on local policing. He also revealed that Helen Rodell has been chosen as the **new Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator** for Clophill following a meeting last month.

Cllr Terry Lee reported on recent improvements to communications from CPC, highlighting the launch of a **CPC Facebook page** as a particular strong point.

We also had a recreation report from Cllr Louise Hodge, who has recently been focusing on looking into **new play equipment** for the children of the village. Louise kindly created a display at the back of the room for villagers to view.

Cllr Giles Warner updated the meeting with his allotment report, letting us know about the variety of different tenants he has worked with. Giles also commented on how much he had enjoyed his role at CPC since being voted on in May 2015.

We then heard a **Neighbourhood Plan (NP)** report from GP Mantini. GP mentioned that the steering group is always looking for more villagers to help with aspects of the plan, and that anyone interested should email clophillneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com

During the meeting there were questions and points raised about a number of topics, from traffic-calming measures to the age of councillors! We appreciated hearing from everyone present, and we hope the answers we gave showed how transparent we are as a council.

There were also updates from several Clophill organisations, including Clophill United Charities, St Mary's Church, Clophill Utd FC and Clophill Toddler Group. Hearing about the work undertaken by these organisations in the last 12 months helped not just councillors but also the villagers present to understand what activities are taking place in our parish. We're delighted they took the evening out to speak with us.

Full minutes from the meeting will be made available in due course.

Clophill Parish Council

Continued

Unrelated to the meeting, a huge thank you to Adrienne and the team behind Clophill's 'Clean For The Queen' litter picking campaign, which took place on Saturday 2nd April. Unfortunately the turnout wasn't fantastic but we're sure everyone agrees that the streets of our village look much better as a result.

Finally, an update on the school crossing patrol post that has been advertised recently. We've heard that Central Bedfordshire Council is now interviewing for the role. We're hopeful someone will be in post by the start of the next school year.

Planning

CCB/15/04602/OUT

Location: Proposed residential development at Readshill Quarry

Proposal: We've had notice that the developer has amended the plans

The number of houses proposed has been decreased from 70 to 51. There are also some results to the surveys that were outstanding that we commented on. The access and proposed alterations to the area and the entrance, though, are still the same. We haven't been asked to make further representation. In light of the fact that not all our concerns are being met, we leave our submission unaltered.

OBJECT

CCB/16/01416/FULL

Location: Land adjacent to 15 The Green

Proposal: Erection of one-bedroom dwelling after demolition of barns etc.

This is a resubmission; we supported provided that highways were in agreement with access. The new submission takes into account a consultation response from the Highways Officer.

SUPPORT

CCB/16/01571/FULL

Location: 5C Back Street

Proposal: Garage conversion and single-storey side extension

This is already a large detached house. It is, however, set well back from the road. The proposal won't alter the street scene.

SUPPORT

The next Parish Council meeting will take place in the village hall at 7.45pm on Tuesday 31st May with a surgery at 7.30pm



Job opportunity

Cleaner needed for a few hours at St Mary's Church.

Hours and pay by arrangement.

Please contact Liz Henman on 01525 860108



Parish Registers for May

1816	1916
Baptisms	Marriages
May 2 Elizabeth Brook (?) ? Webb	May 22 Lewis Carroll Tiffin, corporal, 25, to Flora Whittamore, 25
Burials	Burials
May 4 ? Palmer, son of John and Charlotte	May 4 John Willison, 11
May 24 Elizabeth Simms, wife of William	
May 25 ? Ortol (?)	
May 25 Sarah Lindford, daughter of Thomas	
1866	1966
Baptisms	Baptisms
May 31 ? Roberts	May 29 Richard Lawrence Thomas, Amphthill
	Burials
	May 7 Frederick Charles Willison, 71

ST MARY'S CHURCH REGISTERS FOR APRIL 2016

Marriage
April 16 Benjamin Mathew Jones to Lauren Compton

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
Flower Club	Gillian Hill 860539
Friends of the Cheshire Home	Sue Pearson 861110
Funzone After School Club	07903 167493
Greensands Community Choir	Luke Howard 07975 520085
Indoor Carpet Bowls	Tony Meredith 860754
Messy Church	Victoria Higgins 07920 568861
	victoriajhiggins@hotmail.co.uk
St Mary's PTA	Lindsey Jones 07879 430956
Scouts and Cubs	Ralph Rayner 403956
Tea and Chat	Anita Errick 860695
Tuesday Club	Betty Hampson 860750
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Marilyn Browning 07821 643936

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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

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	Barton	01582 881101	Flitwick	01525 715268

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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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

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		Appointments	01234 359012
Luton & Dunstable			0845 1270127

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Shefford	Enquiries 01462 818620	Appointments	01462 810034
Barton 01582 528700		Flitwick	01525 715300

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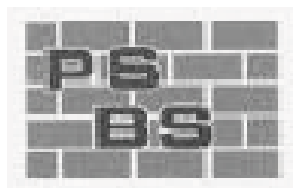
County Police HQ	Non Emergency	101
Ampthill Station		01234 841212
Clophill Local Policing Team		101
		01234 842613

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
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Preschool clophillpreschool@gmail.com (Chris) 07936 006381 or (Imogen)		07765 887868
Redborne Upper School , Ampthill		01525 404462
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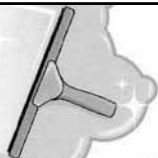
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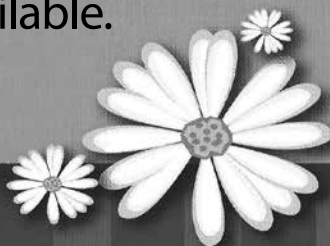
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