

Vol 35 | No.9

FREE

CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

NOVEMBER 2013

INSIDE...

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A word from the Editor...

Well it's November already, and it'll soon be time for C..... no, I can't mention the 'C' word just yet. Let's just focus on this month, when it will be all about **steaming mugs of tea** and lots of chocolate – or is that just me?



But before any of that have a flick through Spotlight. We've got a great article on a local man whose hobby is **body painting**, all the **local news** plus lots of **dates for your diary**. And as always, there are plenty of ads if you're looking for a tradesman or business.

Please keep all your lovely articles, posters and bits 'n' bobs of information coming – and do get in touch if you have any new things you'd like to see in Spotlight.

I hope you enjoy this issue – see you again in December.



The magazine staff

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



Clophill through the years

by Colin Watt

Real Highwaymen at the Flying Horse

The legend of Dick Turpin may be a myth but there were highwaymen at the Flying Horse in 1751. On the day of Ampt Hill Fair, 21st April, three men came to the Flying Horse where the publican was Abraham Perrin. They pretended to be horse dealers who travelled from fair to fair. They spoke of their fear of highwaymen. They spent a total of twelve shillings on themselves, including malt liquor and hot punch, before going to bed, and stabling for their horses.



After staying the night, they rode off at six in the morning for Ampt Hill where they probably stayed for a few hours. By eleven o'clock they had reached a public house in Houghton Conquest, probably the Butcher's Arms, later the Knife and Cleaver. There they had **cold roast beef for breakfast** and enquired what they could have for dinner. The landlady told them that she had a sheep hanging up in the shop but as her husband, the butcher, was away at Ampt Hill Fair she was unable to cut it up. One of the three men said that he would take off a shoulder which he did very skilfully.

About four o'clock they left and started **robbing travellers on the Ampt Hill to Bedford road** near Houghton Conquest. One of them had a blunderbuss with which he threatened people and they robbed four people of a total of £37 14s. When the robbed people arrived at Bedford they reported the crimes and a hue and cry reached Silsoe at six o'clock the next morning.

In the meantime the robbers had ridden to the Ampt Hill–Woburn road near Millbrook and robbed two farmers of about £30 and a joiner of a few shillings and his watch. At about nine o'clock they called at an ale house in Maulden and each drank a glass of gin. Then on to the George at Silsoe where they stayed on horseback whilst they **drank three pints of wine** and ate a crust of bread.

When they had travelled about a quarter of a mile, the one who had butchered the sheep was **shot in the back with the blunderbuss**. He was then dragged through a gate and shot in the head with a pistol. A farmer from Barton who rode by reported that he had heard the gun shots but had thought that it was somebody shooting pigeons.

The Toll-Gate man says the farmer had not passed two minutes before the highwayman came. The first horse that came was the horse of the man shot, which the Toll gate man would have turned back, but the men bade him let pass, they would pay for him. They seemed in much haste, but stayed to take their change.

The horse was later found in Luton. The owner said that the man who had stolen the horse, and later died, had been a servant of his. Why the other two highway men had killed him or whether they were captured is not known.

The above is based on a transcript of a letter from Philip Birt, vicar of Flitton, to Philip Yorke, 2nd Earl of Hardwicke, husband of Jemima, Marchioness Grey, by Mary Phillips (the author of The Clophill Story) held in the Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Office, reference CRT100/27/3, as is the photo, reference Z1306/31.

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

Life in Clophill 100 years ago

A talk by Colin Watt

Thursday 14th November at 7.30pm
in St Mary's Church, Clophill

Tickets £5. Refreshments will be served at the end of the talk with an opportunity to ask questions. Tickets are available from Heather Jarvis 860548, or Christine Fellini 861912

CARL'S CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

9 Readshill, Clophill, 5pm, Sunday 1st December

For the past four years, Carl Colyer has been lighting up the outside of his house with a fantastic display of Christmas lights. Last Christmas, he raised **£209** for the East Anglian Air Ambulance – a charity close to his heart, as two close family friends have used the service in the past.

This year, Carl will again be collecting for the charity – and would love you to help him raise even more.





St Mary's School News

Our Value for November is *Peace*

We've chosen to teach this in November as we felt it was important to consider peace when learning about Remembrance Day. This may be a good place to start discussions with your child should you wish to. Perhaps you could think about why we have poppies.

You may also want to consider this:

External Peace is a state of harmony where there is a lack of conflict. This can be in relationships with others and also in the world around us. Peace evokes the presence of cultural understanding and unity. In order for people to truly be at peace, they must be open to others. What stops us being at peace? What reasons are there to be selfish, greedy, cruel etc? What teaches us to be kind and tolerant?

Inner Peace is found within – contentment with who we are and what we have. You may wish to talk to your child about whether they have a special place they can sit quietly and think. Why do we need to be quiet and peaceful sometimes? How do they feel when they are quiet and peaceful?

Music Lessons in School

We've always been a musical school but we've recently extended our provision by offering our children the opportunity to learn to play a variety of musical instruments. The children can now learn to play the piano, keyboard, violin, guitar, recorder and drums.

To celebrate our children's interest in music we hold a termly 'Afternoon Teatime Concert' complete with china cups and homemade cakes for parents attending the children's recital. In October the School Choir was also invited to complete our musical event. This has become a very popular concert for the children, their music teachers and parents – a tradition started by one of our governors, Mrs Jolin Crannis. We'd like to thank her and our music teachers who give up their own time to attend and support the children at the concert.

Harvest Festival in School

Noah would like to say *thank you* to all our families who donated so much for them – **£181.86 was raised**, and of course all the gifts of food were very much appreciated.

'Wicked Wrapping Paper' Governors Fundraiser

If you'd like to help the school raise funds for the new nursery building and at the same time create your own wrapping paper (a unique and fun activity, suitable for both adults and children), please visit wickedwrappingpaper.com/friendsandfamily. If you do go ahead, please use our unique code: stmarys1, so that the school benefits from your creative endeavours!

Information for New Parents in the Village

Our website – www.stmaryslower.info – is packed with useful information about the school. Of particular interest is the 'Parent Information' section. If you have a child approaching school age or perhaps in another school but would like to know what we do here, please don't hesitate to call us to request a visit.

St Mary's School News

Continued

Acorn Nursery Class

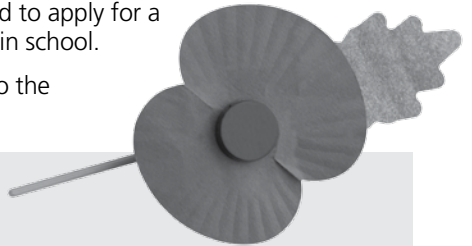
Registration is now open for children born up until 31st March 2011

The nursery staff, children and parents are all settling in very well and getting into a good routine. We have some spaces left for certain sessions so if you'd like to know more about what we have to offer or if you'd like to come and visit please call 01525 860206 or email us at stmarysclophill@cbc.beds.sch.uk

Admissions for September 2014

You can apply now for a place for your child starting school September 2014. The deadline is 15th January 2014. You can apply online at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions – just click on Starting School 2014. Any applications received after this date will be classified as late and won't be processed as part of School Admissions 'on time' allocation. Children currently in Acorn Nursery whose birthday dates determine they start Reception year September 2014 also need to apply for a place via the Council even though they are already in school.

The 'Admissions into Middle School' deadline is also the 15th January 2014.



Important dates for your diary

November

Monday 11th, 10.30am

Remembrance Day service in church

Friday 29th, 1.15pm

Advent Eucharist in Church

December

Tuesday 10th, 2pm

Choir to visit Beverley Court

Friday 13th, 1.15pm

Christmas play and tea party for older residents

Monday 16th, 2.30pm

Christmas play

Tuesday 17th, 2.30pm

Christmas play

Wednesday 18th, 10am
12pm

Arena Theatre
Christmas lunch

Thursday 19th, 1.30pm

Pantomime at Milton Keynes theatre

Friday 20th, 1.15pm

Nativity and Carol Service in Church

Term Dates 2014

Spring Term

Term starts

7 January

Term ends

4 April

Half term

17-21 February

Summer Term

Term starts

22 April

Term ends

18 July

Half term

26-30 May



Clophill Preschool News

Firstly we'd like to apologise for not having our usual article in Spotlight last month – unfortunately, there was a 'technical problem'. So a late thank you to all those who voted for the scarecrow we made together with the Toddlers Group as we won second prize!

We've had a lot going on at Preschool recently and we're making use of great connections within the village as well as making some new ones. A local lady came to do **song time** with our children. She played the ukulele which the children enjoyed listening to and joining in with. She's gone away with a list from the children of new songs to learn, and we all hope she'll be a regular visitor.



We also had our friend Natasha bring in a **collection of animals**. She talked about how to care and look after them, the kind of things they eat and showed the children how to handle them. We had a tortoise, stick insects, guinea pigs, giant African land snails and a budgie. But the favourite with all of the children was **Millie the dog**, who demonstrated how she could roll over and sit. We all took Millie for a walk around the hall and the allotments, much to the children's delight.

Not only have we been lucky enough to have all these interesting visitors but we've been very fortunate to have been given quite a few donations – from toys to tyres! – for the Preschool. So a huge thank you to all who've donated and shown their support, especially the **Village Hall Committee** (do check out our advert on their new website). We've also asked some **local businesses for their support** and we're beginning to get some great responses.



B&Q have donated some plants and compost, to help us transform our **fantastic outdoor area** into somewhere beautiful and inspiring. With the children's help we've begun to replant our huge pots with plants that offer colour, texture and scent. Do have a look at them next time you're at the village hall. We have two pots left to do, so any ideas for interesting plants to use please let us know. The children really enjoy feeling and smelling the different plants as well as digging and finding bugs and worms. This time we found a nest of woodlouse – fascinating. It also helps the children to learn what plants need to grow.

Another local business to help us is **Steve Dear Tree Services** who kindly came and shaped our unruly shrubs at the back of the Village Hall. A massive thank you also goes to **The Duke of Bedford and Woburn Abbey** as they generously donated a large cheque to us to help buy resources.

We've started doing a **Messy Play session** once a month on a Friday at the Toddler group. Our first was 'Jelly and Cream' with the help of spoons, bowls and the odd dinosaur. The hall and the children smelt of strawberries and they enjoyed mixing it, squishing it and letting it drip from their fingers. They spoon-fed the dinosaurs, and some of the younger ones even fed themselves with it. There was lots of fun had by all and we

CLOPHILL PRESCHOOL NEWS Continued

can't wait till our next messy play session. Thank you to Mindi at Toddlers for helping us organise this.

Please **follow us on Facebook** to see our weekly activities. One of our great hits on Facebook as well as with the children has been our fabulous **water wall**. This was created by Chris but neither of us really realised how many different skills it would draw out of the children; working together, problem solving, investigation and exploration, negotiation, turn taking and all the language that it drew out, not to mention delight when we decided to use pink water!



This month's **'Things to do whether you are 2 or 92...** Kick your way through a massive pile of Autumn leaves to unleash your inner child!'

Bye for now, Chris and Imogen

Christmas Event

Monday December 2nd, Lecture Theatre, Flitwick Library, 7.30pm for 7.45 pm

To get us in the mood for Christmas, a not-too-serious programme including photographic puzzles and 'What was that used for?' Mince pies and a glass of wine will be available.

£2 for members and £2.50 for visitors is payable on the door.

For further details contact: clive.makin@ntlworld.com

01582 655785, www.adalhs.org.uk

Amphthill & District Archaeological & Local History Society



**Leonard
Cheshire
Disability**

Clophill Friends of the Bedfordshire Cheshire Home

Many thanks to everyone who helped or supported us at our jumble sale on 4th October at the village hall. We are extremely pleased to have **raised £576.26** – this amount includes a donation of £50 and £98 raised by selling items on Ebay. The proceeds will directly benefit the residents of the Leonard Cheshire Home at Amphthill.

Thank you again for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you at our **next jumble sale on 25th April 2014**. If you have some good-quality jumble to spare, we will be happy to store it for you. We are 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.

If you could help at our next sale or would be interested in finding out more about our group's activities, including our shopping trips for residents, or if you'd like to visit the home – just call 861110. *Sue Pearson*



SPOTLIGHT on village events

by Aoife Mantini

The art of creativity

The creative arts are alive and kicking in Clophill. Last month, local school children put on a colourful display of **harvest-inspired art works** in St Mary's Church. Collages of orange and black landscapes sat beside a fabulous **3D vegetable dinosaur** created by brothers Sebastian and Henry Warner.

Meanwhile, this month there will be lots of creative goodies to buy at a **Christmas Fair in the village**. It's held at the home of local **silk screen artist** Janey Whitehorn, an award-winning designer whose work most recently featured in *American Vogue*. Janey and other local artist Nancy Batty, creator of **decorative textile collages**, organise the annual fair to showcase the work of local artisans. Pop along and you'll find lampshades, silk scarves, cushions, pottery, jewellery and lots more.

• **The Christmas Fair** is at Wooton House, 46 High Street, on **Wednesday 13th November** from 6.30pm. www.janeywhitehorn.com www.nancybatty.com



Nancy Batty collage



Silk screen lampshades by Janey Whitehorn

Lord Arthur Savile's Crime

By Constance Cox

a comedy based on a short story by Oscar Wilde

Thursday 28th, Friday 29th, Saturday 30th November 2013

7.30pm, Westoning Village Hall

Tickets £8 Box Office 01525 752858 www.westoning-players.co.uk

News from Clophill Heritage Trust

The restoration work being carried out by Universal Stone on St Mary's Old Church is progressing well and at a recent meeting with the architects and conservation bodies it was agreed to further improve the historic amenity by incorporating a 2nd viewing platform at the level of the belfry window, with a spiral staircase leading up to a roof-level platform. This was in large part necessitated by the narrow, irregular and poor condition of the steps at the top of the tower, which only recently became evident upon close inspection.



View from St Mary's Old Church tower, currently under restoration, looking S E towards Hitchin

Additional security is now in force through installation of flood lighting, passive infra red detectors, cctv plus an alarm system. The plight, arising from vandalism of St Mary's Old church plus other properties receiving funding from English Heritage, was recently featured on the BBC 1 programme Street Patrol UK, presented by Dom Littlewood.

Across the path in the Clophill Ecolodge we're pleased that new full-time residential wardens have taken up occupation following completion and furnishing of the residential unit.

Also at the end of October, some 50 youngsters from St Mary's lower school visited the site on a seed-collecting activity, learning to identify different hedgerow plants such as blackthorn, hawthorn and wild rose through collection. The seeds will be taken to the Community Tree Trust site by the A6 roundabout for planting and will later be 'harvested' as saplings for deployment elsewhere.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR HEDGEROW PLANTING

CHT were recently awarded some 450 'whips' or saplings from The Woodland Trust for planting around the boundary of the Ecolodge. We're seeking to raise a planting party of volunteers on **Friday 15th** and **Saturday 16th November** (provisional) from 10am onwards.

If you can possibly help, please contact **Ali Bradbury** (07894 710001), **John Wright** (07860 839845) or **Barry Breed** (01525 860834)

CLOPHILL TODDLER GROUP

Understanding the importance of a child's play

LOTS OF TOYS, SPACE AND FRIENDS
FOR BABIES AND TODDLERS UNDER 3

FRIDAYS 10.00 – 12.00 at the Village Hall
See 'Village Groups' for contact details



Clophill Parish Action News

Environment

Our lower school will again be invited to design a poster to help highlight the 'dog poo' problem throughout the village, so look out for the winner in a future Spotlight. In the meantime, please take your dog's poo to the nearest 'dog poo' bin or home with you.



Previous winning poster

Old Bridge Area

Since our work has been completed in the 'Old Bridge' area, which included the many improvements funded kindly by Mr Robotham as well as the re-alignment of the parking bays by the Parish Council in addition to the grassing, fencing and planting of the seating area, many people have been using the space which is very heartening.

Old Church

Work continues to be on track at the 'Old Church' site, and those of you who have walked up to the site will be encouraged to see the progress. Please be aware it's a construction site and access won't be available again until Spring 2014 when the work is due to be completed. Notices for the 'Celebration Event' is planned for early 2014 and will appear in Spotlight soon. CPA would like also to warmly welcome the wardens who have now moved into the warden's residence at the Eco Lodge.



The Community Tree Trust and Clophill Heritage Trust seed collecting with Key Stage 1 children from our Lower School in October

Seed collecting (see photos)

Highways

We still need a highways group lead to progress this area. The action leads, however, discussed the current state of the roads and suggest that villagers use the '**Report it now**' section of the CBC website to report road pot holes.

Wildlife walks & talks



Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire



QUIZ NIGHT

Friday, November 22nd, Maulden Village Hall, 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start

Join the Wildlife Trust local group and the Greensand Trust for a fun evening, a bit of a challenge and to support local wildlife activities.

Pit your wits and see who will emerge victorious. Teams of four to six. We can match people to teams if needed. Fish supper*, light pudding and a glass of wine. £10 per person. (*Vegetarian option available – please request when booking)

To book, email flitvale.info@gmail.com
or ring **Kathy** on **07890 347327** after 6pm or at weekends

Come into the kitchen

with Christine Fellini



Gathering chestnuts

Autumn has finally arrived, bringing with it an abundance of mushrooms (thanks to the wet weather we've been having) and chestnuts (freely available along the verges of the A6). So I'd like to share with you this mouth-watering hearty risotto which can be served as a starter or as a main course.



RISOTTO CON FUNGHI, CASTAGNE E PANCETTA (Risotto with mushrooms, chestnuts and pancetta)

- 300g arborio rice
- 300g mixed forest mushrooms
- 300g whole chestnuts
- 1.25 lt of vegetable stock (fresh or cube)
- 1 small shallot
- 120ml dry white wine
- 80g pancetta or streaky bacon
- knob of butter
- extra virgin olive oil
- salt & freshly ground black pepper
- 2tbsp freshly grated parmesan cheese

Serves 4 people, or 6 as a starter

1. Put a small slit in each chestnut then boil in water until they're tender. Peel, remove the inner furry skin and then roughly chop them.
2. Clean the mushrooms with a paper towel (never wash mushrooms as they're already 80% water) then chop.
3. Finely chop the shallot and put in a saucepan with 2tbsp olive oil together with the cubed pancetta.
4. Fry for 2 minutes until the shallot is tender but not browned then add in the chopped mushrooms. Continue to fry gently for a further 2 minutes until all the flavours come together.
5. Add in the rice and continue to stir until the rice has absorbed all the flavours.
6. Deglaze the pan with the white wine and when this has been absorbed add in 2 ladles of the hot vegetable stock.
7. Continue to stir the rice until all the stock has been absorbed and then continue to add the stock one ladle at a time until the rice is cooked. It should still have a bite to it and be 'al dente'.
8. Adjust the seasoning to taste, then add in the chestnuts, knob of butter and parmesan cheese and stir until you have a creamy risotto.
9. Serve immediately – Buon Appetito!

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

We would love to have your input so please get in touch at christine@casafellini.co.uk or call me on 861912

SPOTLIGHT *meets...*

This month, our reporter Aoife Mantini has been chatting to body painter **Alex Saunders**



Alex Saunders



“ It all started many years ago when I was working in a fancy dress hire shop in Ampthill. While I was there I got trained up to do face painting, and when someone suggested I had a go at body painting, that was it.

I've worked in amateur dramatics, corporate entertainment and with living statues in Covent Garden. And recently I was involved with the movie ***Crystal of the Gods*** and the sequel ***Destiny of the Crystal***, which is currently in production. I also recreate injuries to help with training at Luton & Dunstable Hospital.

Body painting is much more recognised and established in Europe, so I helped start the British Body Painting Society to raise its profile here. I competed in the World Championships in Austria, and ranked highly in my category of brushes and sponge.

I got a really good review in the Times and Citizen for that. They wrote: *'People have often remarked that the human body is a work of art but Alex Saunders takes things one step further, turning the human form into his canvas and easel.'*

Competing is expensive though. It's not just the travel – the materials are pricey as well. I'd really need a corporate sponsor to do more. ”



Alex will be giving a demonstration of his talent in St Mary's Church in the New Year. He's also planning to compete at Paint Topia in Norwich next year.

You can contact **Alex** at alexsaundersbodypainter@gmail.com

If you'd like to be featured in Spotlight, contact the editor at editorial@clophillspotlight.co.uk



**CLOPHILL
METHODIST CHURCH**

CHRISTMAS WEEKEND

Friday 6th December

7:30 p.m. £6.00 incl. refreshments



Concert with the DECIBELS

(Bedford Town Band's ten piece ensemble)

Saturday 7th December

12:00 TO 4.00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS MARKET

**STALLS incl. Usbourne Books, Neals Yard Remedies,
Homemade Crafts, Greetings Cards, Cakes & Sweets,
Woodturning, etc.**



RAFFLE , REFRESHMENTS incl. HOT SOUP FREE ENTRY!



Sunday 8th December 10.30 a.m.

ADVENT SERVICE

All proceeds to Clophill Methodist Church and Carers in Bedfordshire

For tickets & further information : Contact:

Diana Drake tel: 01525 860610 or Nicola Wood tel: 01525 862885

Clophill United Charities

Christmas donation to Widow(er)s and Pensioners in need:

Here are the dates and venues for this year's distribution:

Friday 6th December: 2.30pm-3.30pm in the Village Hall Committee Room

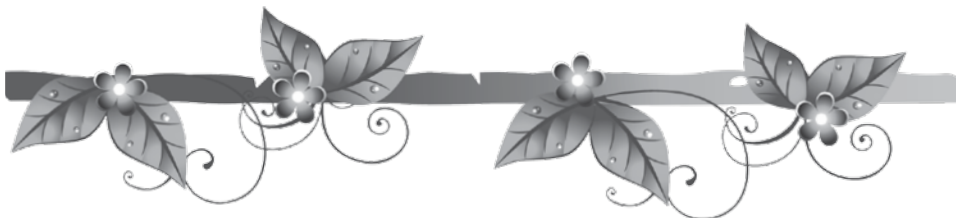
Saturday 7th December: 10am-11am in the Oakley Room, St Mary's Church

Sunday 8th December: 10.30am at Beverley Court.

No person or group is entitled to receive this benefit as of right. The mantra of the Trustees is to provide 'RELIEF IN NEED' and more widely, public benefit. The Trustees are required by the Deeds of the Charities to use their income to meet the needs of those in real hardship.

Please be aware that forthcoming Christmas donations should ONLY be claimed by those widow(er)s and pensioners who REALLY are in need of extra help at an expensive time of year and not by those who do not need it. This will enable us to provide help to others throughout the year.

Richard Pearson – Chairman. On behalf of the Trustees



Clophill & District Flower Club

In October we welcomed Joanne Poulter with her title **'Over the Rainbow'**. This was her first visit to the club and Joanne used her imagination and creativity to produce six very attractive designs based on the 'Wizard of Oz'.



The cyclone

Joanne quickly filled a basket with assorted foliage and blue/pink flowers which she explained would be carried by Dorothy as she started her adventure. To interpret the cyclone, Joanne coiled bear grass around a tall cylindrical glass container and proceeded to arrange white flowers and coils of bear grass into small sprigs of euonymus on a dome of oasis placed on top of the container.

A wooden trough was used to represent **the fence which fell onto the wicked witch**. This was filled with spotted laurel interspersed with golden rod and a vibrant selection of sunflowers, orange gerberas, roses and chrysanthemums. To depict Dorothy and her friends



The fence that killed the wicked witch

walking through the **enchanted forest** Joanne used an oval container into which she had added thick twigs. The oasis was then placed on top and completely covered in tree ivy and lime green conifer. Purple veronica, roses, chrysanthemums and dahlias completed the design.

To depict the red poppy fields Joanne expertly made a tied bunch using folded aspidistra leaves, rusty pink lilies, lime green chrysanthemums and red carnations. **The yellow brick road** was represented using a container that resembled an elephant's trunk! After creating an outline of kentia palm, fatsia, aspidistra and magnolia leaves, Joanne completed the design with a bunch of wired orchid flowers.

Joanne is a florist by trade and has a very relaxed and proficient style of arranging. She soon built up a good rapport with her audience and kept us entertained with her family stories and experiences. It was a most enjoyable evening.

Ann Dowding – Committee Member

On **5th December**, we have award-winning National Demonstrator John Chennell with **'In Festive Mood'**. Tickets are available from Gillian Hill on 01525 860539. Price: £6 members, £10 visitors, including mulled wine and mince pies.



COVER YOUR TRACKS

GREAT LOCAL BAND

Back by popular demand!

CLOPHILL VILLAGE HALL

FULL LICENSED BAR

SATURDAY 7th DECEMBER

7:30pm till late

TICKETS £7.50

Call Steve on 01525 861424



Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Wednesday 25th September, St Mary the Virgin Church Clophill and Clophill Methodist Church joined together to host a Coffee Morning supporting **Macmillan Cancer Care**.

A good number of people attended the event, held at Clophill Methodist Church, and **the magnificent sum of £386.75 was raised** for this worthy charity. A lot of people worked hard making cakes/biscuits, serving the refreshments, recording donations and running the raffle, and all this together with the very generous donations contributed to a successful morning.

Rosemary Ilett – on behalf of both Clophill churches

TADS THEATRE GROUP PRESENTS...



SLEEPING BEAUTY

WRITTEN BY SUE SACHON
DIRECTED BY DAVID SACHON

TADS THEATRE CONGER LANE, TODDINGTON

6th, 7th, 13th and 14th December @ 7.45pm
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Clophill Parish Council

Notes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 29th October 2013

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

Public Question Time – There were no questions.

Police Report

The council received a report from Bedfordshire Police regarding crime within the village. Once again there was a very low level of reported crime. Remember by working together we can keep crime at bay. If you see something suspicious, phone the police immediately. Keep your homes, garages and cars secure at all times. Dark and longer nights give more opportunity to thieves.

You can get free impartial advice from Bedfordshire Police on all crime prevention matters.

Vacancy for Parish Councillor

Kate Breed, as you may, recall stepped down from the parish council a couple of years ago due to other commitments. She (and two other villagers) applied for the vacancy, Kate was accepted as a new parish councillor for the village of Clophill. The parish council extends a warm welcome and looks forward to working with her again.

The Lands Committees

- Our lighting contractor has now completed remedial work to the street lights in The Causeway. The lighting appears much improved from its previous state.
- The parish council has now made a complaint to the Highways Department regarding the poor state of some of our roadways in the village. There are potholes etc that need urgent repair.
- After consultation with local residents, funds have been allocated for a further street light to be placed at the far end of The Slade.
- The agreement for the permissive path from the Old Church Path across Pine Hill has been completed. The path can't be officially opened at the moment as a tenant has been requested to repair his stock fencing, and until this is done animals may be vulnerable.
- The right of way matter concerning Hay Close is hoped to be resolved in the next few months. Solicitors on both sides are working towards a solution.
- Although the parish council formally agreed a contract for the removal of the redundant bridge at The Green, problems have arisen concerning the diverting of power cables for the village that this bridge currently carries. Until a solution can be found this work can't be completed.
- Remedial work to trees on The Green has now taken place. Steve Dear's firm has done a wonderful job of cutting back the trees while maintaining the areas 'good looks'. It was all done on a weekday without interrupting the traffic flow. Many villagers have given complimentary views about 'our centre piece' and the parish council is happy to add its thanks for the good work done.

The Bobby Scheme

This scheme is run by Bedfordshire Police and assists those who need security advice and free security hardware, such as security chains for doors etc. There have been a number of residents who've used this important service and the parish council was happy to continue its support by donating £100.

The Lakes Site

During my frequent walks through the village I've often been asked what's happening regarding the

Clophill Parish Council

Continued

Lakes Site. The parish council knows this is important to the village and we're waiting for the conditions to be met by the consortium, as previously agreed by the parish council, before any action is taken. As soon as there is news on this subject you will, of course, be informed.

Planning – October

Applications Received by Central Bedfordshire

CB/13/03381/FULL

Location: 1 Northfield Cottages, Great Lane
Proposal: Erection of two-storey front, side and rear and single -storey side extensions
Applicant: Mr C Jones

The dwelling is the second of the two cottages opposite the entrance to Northfield Farm on Great Lane. Essentially, the proposal is to add a kitchen/diner and a small hall/wc on the ground floor and two bedrooms (one en-suite) and cupboard on the upper storey, and update and enlarge this small building. **SUPPORT**

CB/13/03386/REN

CB/13/03387/REN

Location: 49B High Street
Proposal: Renewal of Planning Permissions: extensions to time limit for implementation of previously granted Planning Permissions for part-conversion of existing residential accommodation and erection of a single-storey side extension to form a two-bedroom annex
Applicant: Mrs G Wynn

The initial applications for this work were approved in 2007 and, because work hadn't begun in the required timescale, were renewed in 2010. These new applications seek to renew them again. In its support, the PC has asked that no further renewals be permitted beyond the next time limit. **SUPPORT**

Applications Approved by Central Bedfordshire

CB/13/02760/FULL

Location: 4 High Street
Proposal: Two-storey and single-storey rear extensions
Applicant: Mr D O'Neill

Proposal is to 'infill' the two rear corners of the dwelling, that to the right to replace an existing conservatory and to provide an en suite bathroom above, that to the left to provide a pet-washing facility. **PC had supported**

CB/13/03260/FULL

Location: 87 High Street
Proposal: Demolition of existing porch and erection of single- storey front and rear extensions and addition of dormer windows to existing loft conversion
Applicant: Mr & Mrs E Angus

The application is to improve and enlarge the poorly built lean-to (north) extension and to extend and improve the tiny porch as well as replacing the existing lights with dormer windows. **PC had supported**

Clophill Parish Council

Continued

CB/13/02959/FULL

Location: Coleman's Yard, Great Lane
Proposal: Demolition and removal of existing wood-frame structure and erection of timber-clad commercial storage building (Use Class B8)
Applicant: Mr J Coleman

Proposal is to remove one of the unsightly sheds on this working site and replace it with a larger, modern and more attractive building to enhance the current site usage. Building won't be visible from the road, nor from existing dwellings, and there will be no increase in traffic. Facility and commercial usage is in line with government policy. **PC had supported**

Application Withdrawn

CB/13/02891/FULL

Location: Mouse Farm, Shefford Road
Proposal: Conversion of redundant agricultural barn to form new dwelling
Applicant: Mr & Mrs M Hawkins

Proposal was to convert the existing, mainly wooden barn into a spacious three-bedroomed dwelling with a large kitchen/diner, study, play room, boot room, en-suites, dressing room and plant room. The building is outside the village settlement envelope and also required a change in status to 'garden', thus allowing future development, and the PC had objected, strongly. The village need is for more affordable housing, not 'executive-type', the need for which is well provided.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place at 7.45pm on Tuesday 26th November 2013, with a surgery for parishioners commencing at 7.30pm

Parish registers for November

1813

No registers recorded

1863

Baptisms

November 1st 3 Georges and
2 indecipherable!

Burials

November 23rd Ann Walker, 54

1913

Baptisms

November 23rd Irene Francies Cole
November 30th Christopher William Richardson
Violet Cooper

Marriages

November 29th Arthur Izzard to
Ada Sharman

Burials

November 16th William John Roberts, 2mths

1963

Marriages

November 30th Leslie Arthur Victor Bone, 18,
to Carol Charmaine Jenkins, 17

What's on in and around Clophill

NOVEMBER



Thursday 14th

Life In Clophill 100 Years Ago. Talk by Colin Watt, St Mary's Church, 7.30pm.
See this issue for ticket details



Friday 22nd

Quiz night and fish supper, Maulden Village Hall, 7.15pm. *See this issue for all details*



Thursday 28th, Friday 29th, Saturday 30th

Lord Arthur Savile's Crime by the Westoning Players, 7.30pm, Westoning Village Hall.
See poster in this issue for details



Sunday 1st

Carl's Christmas Lights Switch-On. 5pm at 9 Readshill, Clophill



Monday 2nd

Christmas Event, Flitwick Library Lecture Theatre, 7.30pm.
See poster in this issue for details



Thursday 5th

'In Festive Mood' flower demonstration, Clophill Village Hall, 6.45pm for a 7.30pm start.
See Clophill & District Flower Club article for details



Friday 6th

Decibels concert, Clophill Methodist Church, 7.30pm. *See poster in this issue for details*



Friday 6th - Saturday 7th

Sleeping Beauty by TADS Theatre, Toddington, 7.45pm. *See poster in this issue for details*



Saturday 7th

Christmas Market, Clophill Methodist Church, noon-4pm
Local band 'Cover Your Tracks', Clophill Village Hall, 7.30pm til late.
See this issue for ticket details



Sunday 8th

Advent Service, Clophill Methodist Church, 10.30am
Sleeping Beauty by TADS Theatre, Toddington, 2.30pm. *See poster in this issue for details*



Friday 13th - Saturday 14th

Sleeping Beauty by TADS Theatre, Toddington, 7.45pm. Also Saturday matinee at 2.30pm.
See poster in this issue for details

JAN



Thursday 23rd 2014

Warden Abbey Vineyard Talk and Wine Tasting, St Mary's Church, 7.30pm.
Ticket details to be announced next issue

Every Wednesday

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

Every Friday

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

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

Useful numbers

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|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 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 | (Bedford) 01234 269686 | (Flitwick) 01582 27612 |
| Buses 01234 262151 | (Link A Ride) 01525 840511 | (Flittabus) 01582 406561 |
| Luton Airport | | 01582 405100 |
| Swimming | (Flitwick) 01525 717744 | (Robinson Pool) 01234 212479 |

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| | | |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 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

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Ampt Hill | (Houghton Close) 0844 8151055 | (Oliver Street) | 01525 631395 |
| | | (Greensands) | 01525 631390 |
| Shefford | Enquiries 01462 818620 | Appointments | 01462 810034 |
| Barton 01582 528700 | | Flitwick | 0844 4996928 |

POLICE

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------------|--------------|
| County Police HQ | | Non Emergency | 101 |
| Ampt Hill 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

| | | |
|---|--|--------------|
| St Mary's School , Clophill | | 01525 860206 |
| Harlington Upper School , Harlington | | 01525 755100 |
| Redborne Upper School , Ampt Hill | | 01525 404462 |
| Robert Bloomfield Middle School , Shefford | | 01462 628800 |

Village groups

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------|
| Beverley Court | Sharon Soper | 860920 |
| Brownies | https://enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk | |
| Christians Together in Clophill | Fergus Milne | 860894 |
| Clophill Community Care | Duty Contact | 07791 773705 |
| Clophill Parish Action | Ali Bradbury | 07894 710001 |
| Clophill Toddler Group | Louisa Sherry | 861039 |
| 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 | Rosemary Ilett | 860274 |
| Indoor Carpet Bowls | Tony Meredith | 860754 |
| Neighbourhood Watch | Mick Everitt | 861049 |
| Pre-school | clophillpreschool@gmail.com | 07732 872685 |
| St Mary's PTA | Charlotte Benjamin | 861185 |
| Scouts and Cubs | Ralph Rayner | 403956 |
| Tuesday Club | Betty Hampson | 860750 |
| Village Hall Booking Secretary | Marilyn Browning | 07821 643936 |

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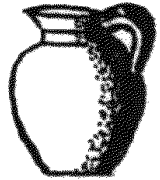
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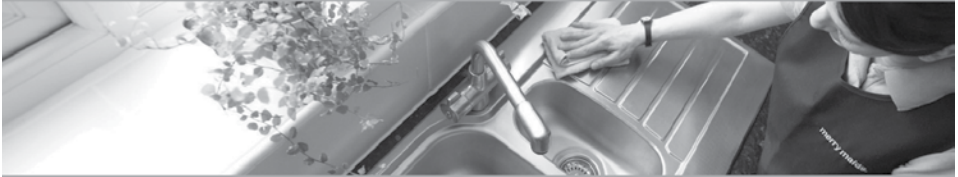
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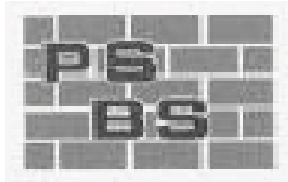
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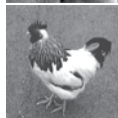
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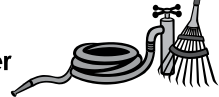
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