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FREE

CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

NOVEMBER 2014

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VILLAGE EVENTS**

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A word from the Editor...

Hello, hello...

Well, there's no getting away from it – Christmas is coming!

To make sure you don't miss out on all the festive events in Clophill, turn to the Diary page right now. One date you definitely shouldn't miss is Carl Colyer's **annual Christmas Lights Switch-On** – it's a dazzling display, in aid of East Anglian Air Ambulance.



If you like **cute – and very clever – dogs**, read about Sky and his owner, Sophie, in Spotlight Meets... Meanwhile, **chestnut lovers** get a tasty recipe to try on our cookery page, plus there's another great article to read from Colin Watt. Honestly, I don't know how we manage to pack so much in!

See you back here in December!

PS: Want to be featured in Spotlight Meets?
Need to tell villagers about an event? You can get in touch
with me at editorial@clophillspotlight.co.uk



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COPY DEADLINE

20th of the month

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

Your letters...

Cora's Open Garden Day

I'd like to thank everyone who came along to my Open Garden Day in September and **helped raise £1,600 for Alzheimer's Research UK**. I'd also like to thank all the kind people who provided prizes, cakes and bric-a-brac, as well as those who helped out on the day. Any goods that weren't sold will be donated to other charities.

Once again, a huge thank you to everyone!

Cora Sheppard

Daffodil Planting

THANK YOU... to the small but select band of volunteers who helped plant many daffodil bulbs in Clophill shared spaces in October. There should be a sea of yellow on The Green next spring and also colour at the top of Mill Lane and Little Lane.

Jane Breed

Do you recognise any of these men?



We've received this photograph of Clophill cricket team, in about 1905-1914, from Andrew Griffiths who lives in Germany. His uncle was Frank Henry Powell, who was one of the Maulden men who survived WW1. Frank was the son of George Bilton Powell, shown in the picture sitting at the left of the middle row (tie and full beard). He lived at The Pines in Hall End.

We'd be very pleased to know if anybody can identify the others, so we can pass on any information to Andrew. Please contact Richard or Sue Pearson on 861110 or email richard.sue.pearson@gmail.com

Bob Parker-Eaton

21st November 1931 - 13th September 2014

The following extract is taken from a reading, courtesy of Audrey Brand, on the occasion of the service of thanksgiving for Bob's life, at Clophill church on 30th September 2014.

Bob was the eldest son of Leonard and Phyllis, born in Birmingham in 1931, and he grew up during the Second World War in and around Kings Norton and Solihull. His grandfather had founded and run the Bodill Parker foundry just north of Birmingham. Bob went to school at Shirley College, excelling in English, History and Geography as well as in rugby and athletics.



At the age of 18, he was called up for **National Service in the RAF** and was selected for officer training, going on to make a career in Air Movements. He worked in Gibraltar, New York, Aden and Virginia as well as in the UK, **rising to the rank of Wing Commander**. As he was about to be promoted to Group Captain he chose a new career, leaving the RAF to work for Britannia Airways, starting as Controller of Customer Services and rising to Deputy MD before retiring in 2004. He used his knowledge, experience and connections to lobby on behalf of the British airline industry in both Westminster and Brussels.

Throughout all of this Bob had the loving support of Dorothy. They were married in 1962 and went on to have three children, Stephen, Sarah and Tim. Dorothy and Bob celebrated their Golden Wedding in 2012.

For most of his life Bob **pursued his love of swimming**. He represented both the RAF and the Combined Services in swimming and water polo as well as coaching at the Barracuda Club in Virginia. Until recently Bob rose at 6.30am in order to be at Hitchin Pool for the early session.

On retiring, he pursued a passion for local issues, managing Planning and Planning applications for Clophill with thoroughness and diplomacy.

What these facts don't reflect, and what Bob didn't talk about, was that he had had a very distinguished career. In 1966, he was awarded the MBE for his part in the evacuation of civilian and military personnel from Aden. Then in 1987 **he was awarded the OBE for Services to the Aviation Industry**. In 1981, he was made a Fellow of the British Institute of Management, in 1991 a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Transport and, in 1997, a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society.

Bob also loved socializing. As well as entertaining family and friends, he threw himself into dreaming up costumes for Peter and Vaughan's annual fancy dress parties. Each year Bob and Dorothy would host a carol concert at their home, and after years of badgering, the singers performed Silent Night in German, much to Bob's delight. Bob also thoroughly enjoyed his time on the men's table at Tea and Chat at the Methodist Church.

Bob approached every endeavor with determination, honesty and passion, but above everything else was his love, commitment and belief in his family. He was a fun dad who had a passion for icecream! Although he'd been unwell for a while, death came suddenly and peacefully for Bob.



CLOPHILL METHODIST CHURCH

CHRISTMAS WEEKEND

Friday 5th December 7.30pm



Concert with the DECIBELS

(Bedford Town Band's ten-piece ensemble)

£7 including refreshments

Saturday 6th December noon-4pm

CHRISTMAS MARKET

MANY STALLS including *Woodturning, Craft Making, Face Painting, Tombola, Cakes & Sweets, Greeting Cards, Bric-a-brac and seasonal items. Christmas Hamper raffle.*



FREE ENTRY



Refreshments including hot soup, hotdogs, tea, coffee and mince pies

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FATHER CHRISTMAS
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All proceeds to Clophill Methodist Church and
Leonard Cheshire DisABILITY Home

For tickets & further information:
Contact: Diana on 01525 860610 or Nicola on 01525 862885

Clophill Preschool News



Hello everyone

So Halloween and Bonfire Night are over and Christmas is getting closer. The children are enjoying the changing seasons as we go out in rain, wind and even sunshine! As usual we continue to develop our setting to give our children the best opportunities for learning. We're very happy to see more and more children and their families joining us up at the village hall.

Children come to our Preschool as skilled learners – think of all they have achieved in their first two years. But for each child to reach their full potential we need to have a real understanding of their interests, needs and experiences. As Keyworkers, and with parents as partners, we're able to foster strong bonds with each child. Once a child feels **secure and settled in their environment** the doors to learning are unlocked. As the children engage in activities and games within the setting, underpinning this play is very careful planning tailored to the development of each individual child. We, the teachers, are the most important element of the children's learning as we watch, engage and extend their learning through this play.

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage document: the Government framework that supports children through the important milestones from birth to the end of Reception Year. As some of our children get nearer to starting their Reception Year we focus on those elements that they'll need to take that next step in education. We plan their play to be more focused; **encouraging their listening skills** to develop phonic awareness, developing their mark making into emergent writing and extending their understanding of number and counting. We aim to ensure that our children are confident and keen in their abilities so that when they take that next step up into the more structured setting of their Reception year they have the tools and the confidence to flourish.



A little more about what we've been up to since the last edition. In October we **collected food for the Harvest Festival**. Thank you again to those of our parents who contributed – we donated the food to the Church collection. We also **celebrated Diwali** (the Festival of Light), with the children making clay divas and decorating them with paint and glitter. We've visited



the allotments and washed the carrots that were freshly pulled up by the kind lady harvesting her vegetables. We've been exploring Autumn and made pictures from the fallen leaves we collected. While doing all these great activities and more, we've been settling in lots of new children and getting to know their families.

An extra huge **thank you** to everyone who supported us for our **Macmillan Coffee morning**, particularly Clophill Toddlers, and to all those of you who made cakes and ate cakes! We made a fantastic total of £104.50!

We look forward to our next article which will be full of our exciting Christmas fun activities. Don't forget, you're always welcome to pop in and see our fantastic setting and staff in action.

Chris & Imogen



Clophill through the years

by Colin Watt

Crime and Punishment

When John Howard became High Sheriff of Bedfordshire in 1773 he was shocked to discover the condition of prisoners at Bedford Gaol, which had become his responsibility. This started a life-time obsession with visiting and recording the conditions in gaols throughout the UK and continental Europe.

Before the establishment of the Bedfordshire Constabulary in 1840 **villages like Clophill had a Parish Constable** who was appointed each year by the Parish Overseers. It was an unpaid post with a wide range of responsibilities. As well as the apprehension of offenders and taking them before the magistrates, the Constable had to organise the Militia Muster, act as the Coroner's Officer, organise watches and searches, supervise beggars, vagrants and others in distress passing through the parish, and organise the survey of those liable for tax as well as collect it. It was an arduous job with penalties for failing to execute the duties properly.

With the lack of a proper constabulary, it was down to individuals to prosecute offenders. This could be expensive so, in an attempt to prosecute more criminals, **Associations for the Prosecution of Felons** were set up. Potential prosecutors banded together in order to insure individual members against the financial burdens of going to court including the costs of hiring lawyers. Silsoe and Ampthill Association for Prosecuting Felons' first meeting was at the George Inn, Silsoe, on Friday 3rd October 1823. Gentlemen residing within eight miles of Silsoe or Ampthill could become members. Twelve people from Clophill joined, including the Rector, who was obviously keen to see criminals brought to justice.

On the edge of The Green is **the Lockup and Pound**. This was built in 1851 by magistrate Captain Moore of Maulden Cottage who was a Justice of the Peace as well as a naval officer. Criminals would be held in the lockup until charged and fined or transferred to the prison in Bedford. Stray animals were put in the pound, and their



John Howard's statue, St Paul's Square, Bedford



Clophill's Lockup and pound

owners had to pay a fine to get them back. There is a record in the 1814 Quarter Sessions Rolls of a 'breach of the peace in the said parish of Clophill; for that the said James Odell did, with force and violence, break open the pound there, where his ass was impounded for trespass. Sentence: 10 Days in the gaol and fined one shilling'.

The present **Bedford Prison** was officially opened on 18th June 1801. The local Records Office holds the Bedfordshire Gaol Register for the period 1801-1901 which gives the details

of the criminals, along with their crime and punishment, detained at the prison. It can be accessed online. There are 275 Clophill residents listed. Here is a selection of the records:-

- 1820 Robert Head, 68, Sheep Stealing, Death reprieved, 12 Calendar Months Hard Labour.
- 1821 James Lincoln, 14, and Joseph Clarke, 14, Destroying a fence, 3 Days and to be whipped.
- 1831 Mary Clark, 25, Lewd Woman, 1 Year Hard Labour
- 1849 Joseph Hyde, 48, Stealing a Spade, 1 Calendar Month Hard Labour
- 1853 John Mitchell, 32, Deserting his family, 7 Days Hard Labour
- 1844 Robert Appleby, 19, of Clophill, and William Peat, 19, of Maulden. Cutting and destroying fruit trees and shrubs, 14 Years and 7 Years transportation respectively.

These last pair of entries in the Gaol Register give the basic details of their crime and extreme punishment. Other sources fill in the details...

At the 1844 Easter Quarter Sessions, Robert Appleby and William Peat were charged with having maliciously cut, damaged and destroyed a quantity of trees in the grounds of Capt. Moore's house in Hall End, Maulden. Capt. Moore was away in the Royal Navy and the property was looked after by Francis Read who found the damage to a range of trees and bushes in the garden. The accused had been to the Flying Horse, and later Constable Vincent Dogget found them at the Compasses. They had knives on them and a freshly cut stick. The pattern of their shoes matched footprints found in Capt. Moore's garden. With this evidence they were found guilty. Unfortunately for Robert Appleby, he had been in trouble twice before, once when Capt. Moore was the Justice of the Peace.

Why such severe punishments were proscribed for Appleby and Peat is hard to understand. Robert Appleby was sent to Van Dieman's Land (Tasmania) on the vessel *William Jardine*. It's not known if he returned after he had served his time there. Ten months, later William Peat set sail for Van Dieman's Land on the *Marion* but died on the voyage on the 13 September 1845.

The punishments administered in the nineteenth century may seem extreme but, as there was no effective police force whose presence may have deterred criminals, it was hoped that the punishment would.

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

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Quiz Night and Supper

**Friday, November 21, Maulden Village Hall,
7.15pm for a 7.30pm start**

Join the Wildlife Trust local group and the Greensand Trust for a fun evening and help support local wildlife activities. Teams of four to six. We can match people to teams if needed.

Fish supper and a glass of wine, £10 per person.
Please request when booking if you'd like the vegetarian option.

For tickets, flitvale.info@gmail.com or ring Ann on 07890 347327 after 6pm or at weekends

News from Clophill Heritage Trust

The Old Church

On the evening of Tuesday 7th October, the Bedfordshire branch of The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) announced the winners of its annual 'Living Countryside Awards' at Moggerhanger Park. The **Clophill Heritage Trust won the highest award in its category** – 'Building Design and Restoration' – for work done to consolidate and open up the old church, including the installation of a new steel staircase and observation tower allowing visitors 360 degree views of the landscape. The photo shows our Chairman John Wright being presented with the CPRE Mark by HM Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, Helen Nellis. This has also been followed by winning an Angel award in the Andrew Lloyd Webber competition.



On a less pleasant note, the newly installed and dressed stonework to the Tower entrance was severely damaged on the night of Sunday 5th October when a group of (some eight) **vandals ripped out the steel gate** securing the entrance to the tower staircase at ground level. Why someone should want to cause damage to such beautiful new architecture is sad to say the least.

In the meantime, there's **every chance that the offenders can be identified and caught** in which case both we and English Heritage, who were the major funders of the project, fully intend to prosecute. We're grateful to our local police partnership for their support with increased and vigilant patrols.

Eco lodges

The sloping site to the front of the lodges has undergone further landscaping (with funding from the Rank Foundation), courtesy of Clophill-based ground workers **Hayden Pool** and his employees. They've also laid an attractively designed path in 'Raisby' material and four large locally sourced Greensand stones to act as markers for car parking. Their work included sowing of grass seed on the 'tilled' soil and extensive track improvements to Old Church Path. At the same time **Andy Gardener**, also Clophill based, has virtually completed installation of the timber decking surrounding the individual lodges.

If you'd like to get in touch with us, please contact Ali Bradbury (07894 710001), John Wright (07860 839845) or Barry Breed (01525 860834).



CARL'S CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

9 Readshill, Clophill, 5pm, Sunday 30th November

For the past five years, Carl Colyer has been delighting Clophill residents with his amazing display of Christmas lights – and raising money for the East Anglian Air Ambulance. **Last year he collected £205.**

Why not pop along and help him raise even more this year!

SILSOE CHRISTMAS MARKET

Silsoe Village Hall, Friday 14th November, from 7.15pm

Please join us for an evening of festive fun, with stalls for you to browse for Christmas presents plus raffle, tombola and refreshments. Confirmed stalls include Jewellery, Pampered Chef, Bags & Scarves, Usborne Books, Clothing from Moochi Mu and Phoenix Cards.

If you'd like to book a stall for just £10, please email lydiaflack1@gmail.com

The market has been organised by us – Lydia Flack, Bradley Jones and Eve Wallace – to raise money to travel to Borneo to help with community projects. The trip is a venture between Harlington Upper School and Outlook Expeditions (www.outlookexpeditions.com) and will take place next July.

We're hoping to raise as much money as possible to help towards the cost of the expedition, which is approximately £2,600 per child.



There will be a full display at the Christmas Market explaining the trip. In the meantime, any support that you can give us will be very gratefully received.

Thank you!



SILSOE @ YOUR SERVICE

We are Lydia Flack, Bradley Jones and Eve Wallace and we are working hard to raise money to help us travel to Borneo where we will be helping with community projects. We would like to offer you services that will make your lives easier. We are currently offering singular services as well as bundle deals. These include:-

**Babysitting/Leaf Sweeping
Dog Walking/Car Washing
Christmas Card Delivery/Grass Cutting**

Requests are also taken.

Prices:-

Babysitting: £20.00 for an evening (7pm-midnight)
£30.00 for past midnight (7pm-1am)
All other singular services: £5.00 an hour
All other singular services x2: £8.00 an hour
All other singular services x3: £12.00 an hour

(If you choose not to take advantage of our babysitting evening deals, the rate is £6.00 an hour)

Please contact us through our FB page or email us on lydiaflack1@gmail.com

www.outlookexpeditions.com for more information

SPOTLIGHT meets...

This month, Spotlight meets **Sky (and his owner Sophie Arter)**



When you're out and about in Clophill keep an eye out for Sophie and her adorable dog Sky – as they could be stars of the future. Last month, two-year old Sky auditioned for the part of Toto in Biggleswade Amateur Theatrical Society's production of *The Wizard of Oz*, narrowly missing out on the winning role.

'We were at a dog show in Biggleswade and they told us about the Toto auditions, which were happening the following week,' says Sophie. 'We turned up on the day and Sky had to perform a series of tricks in front of the judges. One thing he had to do was go and get a sausage off a stick, eat it then come straight back to me. Sky did it brilliantly, whereas all the other dogs were hunting around trying to find more sausages!'

Sky may not be getting his name in lights just yet, but Sophie's goal is for the two of them to appear on Britain's Got Talent, which was won two years ago by girl-and-dog act Ashleigh and Pudsey.

'We practise a lot,' says Sophie. 'We do tricks indoors most evenings and also when we walk around Clophill. Sky knows over 50 tricks now. At the moment he's learning to balance on my feet while I lie on the floor with my legs in the air.'



Sophie and Sky performing at Birmingham NEC



Sky with her 2nd place rosette at the Toto audition

Sky has already performed in front of 800 people at a dog show at Birmingham NEC. *'It was terrifying because we had to do 14 tricks in just one minute – he did things like weaving in between my legs and walking on his hind legs, and for the finale he balanced on my back.'* Sky wasn't phased by being in the spotlight, however. *'I was the one who was nervous, not him,'* admits Sophie. *'They showed us on a huge projector and when Sky saw himself on the screen he stopped to look at himself, which made the audience laugh.'*

Sophie will be going to watch *The Wizard of Oz* when it's out in January, as her best friend Megan's dog, Robbie, will be playing the part of Toto. The producers have also invited Sophie and Sky along to rehearsals in case they need an understudy. So watch this space, Simon Cowell!

- **The Wizard of Oz** is on in Biggleswade on the 23rd and 24th January 2015. For tickets, go to <http://lbats.ticketsource.co.uk>

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Bedfordshire
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Wildlife walks & talks



Flitwick Moor

Monday 8 December, 7.15pm/7.45pm, Maulden Church Hall

A talk on Flitwick Moor by Colin Carpenter, the moor's voluntary warden.

Preceded by our brief AGM.

The AGM will start at 7.15pm and the talk at 7.45pm.

£2 per adult (includes hot drink and biscuits)

Open to all. You don't need to book – just turn up!

For additional information, please email **flitvale.info@gmail.com**

or ring **Ann** on **07890 347327** after 6pm or at weekends

Let's talk about Charity Donations

with Sally Cobban



There are always some great dos going on locally to help raise money for charity, so this month I thought I'd chat about the tax consequences of giving to charity.

If you personally give money to charity and opt to do this through gift aid this is very tax efficient for the charity receiving the money. It means they can claim back the basic rate of tax from the government for the donations they receive.

If you do a tax return and you're a higher rate tax payer then you can add your charitable donations that you've

made through gift aid on your tax return. They affect your tax as they extend the basic rate band at which you pay tax – so push some of your income out of the 40% bracket back into the 20% bracket. So if you've had a high-income year and want to do something to reduce your tax then giving to charities under gift aid is a tax-efficient solution. It's also one of the only things that you can carry back to the previous year on a personal tax return to reduce tax in the prior year.

Limited companies can make charitable donations and they can be tax deductible if the following conditions are met. For donations to qualify, any benefits provided to your company or a 'connected' person in connection with the donation must be below the following limits:

Benefit Limits for Donations

Amount of Donation	Maximum Value of Benefits
£0-£100	25% of the donation
£101-£1,000	£25
£1,001+	5% of the donation up to a max of £2,500

Any gifts to charity that come with any conditions about repayment won't be allowable, or any gifts that come with a benefit received above the amounts above won't be allowable.

I hope you find that helpful. Remember, you can always get in touch if you want more information.

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

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Christmas at d'Parys Bedford

d'Parys presents Christmas with a difference

Whether its a sit down Christmas lunch with best friends, an end of year celebration with colleagues or a "we deserve to spoil ourselves" festive treat for the family, d'Parys will be THE place to celebrate Christmas in Bedford this year.



Our Christmas Party menu is available from the 1st December.

Packed full of festive delights such as Roast Norfolk Bronze turkey with homemade apricot stuffing; breast of duck with cracked black pepper infused dauphinoise potatoes; chocolate orange ganache and Christmas pudding with a brandy creme anglaise.

You can choose from 2 courses for £22.95 and 3 courses for £27.95 on Sundays and Mondays and 2 courses for £25.95 and 3 courses for £30.95 Tuesday to Saturday.

We will also be open Christmas Day and Boxing Day; and have a fantastic dinner & dance planned for New Years Eve.

So - what are you waiting for? Call the team on 01234 340248 to secure your booking with just £10!



Become a friend of d'Parys today at www.dparys.co.uk and enjoy a complimentary glass of wine on your first visit!

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St Mary's School News



Chestnut-Oak value for November is *Compassion* (and Forgiveness)

'Compassion' and 'sympathy' have much in common but both are stronger in meaning than simply 'feeling sorry for' someone. The words have their roots in the idea of putting yourself in someone else's shoes and experiencing what they experience. This leads to a desire to do something. It's not about 'doing good' or simply 'remembering those less fortunate than ourselves'. Compassion requires an act of imagination and humility to share in the lives of others. We'll be helping the children learn about this through imagining what it might be like in someone else's position and thinking about what we might be able to do in support of this.

Harvest songs

Since our last entry in Spotlight we've enjoyed celebrating Harvest. Not only did Choir visit Beverley Court to sing their Harvest songs but on Monday 6th October members of the choir in Oak and Rowan visited St. Alban's Abbey to sing in their Harvest Service. Then on Thursday 9th October the whole school, including Acorn Nursery, went to church to celebrate Harvest. Finally, on Sunday 12th, some children from school joined the teachers at the church's Harvest service. On all occasions the children behaved and sang beautifully. I was very proud of them.



Spiritual garden

I hope you all saw our picture in the paper recently. It's lovely to have such a super picture to remember our special Spiritual Garden service with the Bishop of Bedford.

Admissions Main School for September 2015

- **15 January 2015** National closing date for applications to be received by School Admissions.
- **16 January to 30 April 2015** Late applications received during these dates will be processed in the late allocation round.
- **30 April 2015** Parent/carers who are declining the place offered or wish to change their preferences need to submit a change of preference form by this date to be considered in the late allocation round.
- **8 June 2015** Late allocation round offer day – decision letters posted out via a 2nd class post, so will arrive a few days later.
- **June 2015** Late applications received after 30 April will be processed during this month.

To apply online: <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/onlineadmissions>

Acorn Nursery News

Our value for November and December is Caring

Our nursery value next half term is Caring. We'll be talking about caring for each other and ourselves, how we keep each other safe and how at Christmas we celebrate who we care for by the giving of a present.

The Story of Rudolf Hess

Monday 1st December Speaker: Tony Eaton

Hear the latest thinking on one of the mysteries of WWII, and the source of many myths and intrigue. A glass of wine with mince pies will follow.

Flitwick Library Lecture Theatre, 7.30pm for 7.45 pm
£2 for members and £2.50 for visitors, payable on the door

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

Amptill & District Archaeological & Local History Society



Fun Wine Tasting

**Test your knowledge of wines at this wine tasting evening
with a difference!**

**Are you drinking a warm Merlot, a crisp Pinot Grigio or a subtle
Chardonnay?**

**When you and the other guests on your table have decided, a
WINE TUTOR will then tell you more about the wines you're tasting.**

St. Mary's Church

Friday 21st November 2014

7pm to start at 7.30pm

Tickets £10

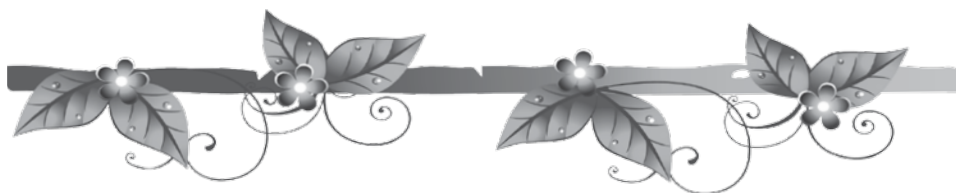
To include six wines to taste and light refreshments afterwards.

**To reserve your tickets, please contact: Christine Fellini 861912,
Heather Jarvis 860548 or Julie Benson 860497**

Clophill Friends of the Bedfordshire Cheshire Home

We'd like to thank everyone who helped or supported us at our Jumble Sale at the village hall last month. We raised £431.50, which includes donations totalling £80. Since the Jumble Sale we've sold books, raising a further £70 – so **our grand total will exceed £501**. The proceeds will directly benefit the residents of the Leonard Cheshire Home at Ampthill, which is again trying to raise the funds to replace a tiring minibus. If you'd like to help us raise more money, pop along to our stall at the Methodist Church Christmas Bazaar.

Thank you again for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you at our **next Jumble Sale on 25th April 2015**. If you have any good-quality jumble to spare, we'll gladly store it for you, and we're also happy to take books. 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**.



Clophill & District Flower Club



On Thursday, October 2nd, members and visitors enjoyed a **workshop/dabble evening**. Our chairman introduced the evening and explained that it was an opportunity to learn new skills. Five different practical activities had been organised by the committee, supported by two members. The evening consisted of **floral cupcakes**, card making, water colour painting, manipulating leaves and wire manipulation to make corsages.

After demonstrations by the activity leaders, each group settled down in earnest to an evening of **chat and creativity**. All the resources were provided by the club and many ladies managed to complete two, if not three, of the activities. The results were very impressive and many were surprised to find that they had hidden talents.
Ann Dowding, Committee member



Why not come to Anna Steven's 'Magic of Christmas' on December 4. Visitors, £10, including mulled wine and mince pies. For tickets call Gillian Hill on 01525 860539

Christine's quick 'n' easy recipe

Pot Roast Pork with Chestnuts



INGREDIENTS Serves 4 as a main course

- 1kg rolled pork loin
- 1 large clove of garlic
- a splash of extra virgin olive oil
- 1 medium onion
- 25ml or shot glassful of dark rum
- 2 fresh bay leaves
- salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 150ml or small glass of dry white wine
- 150ml of milk
- knob of butter
- 25 chestnuts, peeled and cooked
- 2 ladles of hot water

1. Peel and slice the onion and garlic very thinly.
2. Heat the extra virgin olive oil and knob of butter over a medium heat.
3. Braise the loin of pork, onions and garlic until the pork is nice and brown on all sides.
4. Add in the rum and then the white wine and cook until they've evaporated.
5. Add the bay leaves, water and milk, and season to taste.
6. Cover and cook over a medium heat for 30 minutes.
7. Roughly chop the cooked chestnuts (there should be good large pieces) then add these to the pork and simmer for a further 30 minutes.
8. Remove the pork from the pan and thinly slice.
9. Meanwhile reduce the juices to obtain a thick sauce.

Serve the meat covered with the sauce, accompanied by new potatoes or a hearty mash.

- If you didn't get around to foraging for chestnuts, don't worry – they're now available in the shops. And the good news is you can freeze cooked chestnuts, so you can enjoy this recipe again!

Christmas Choir Concert

Greensand Community Choir and Chicksands and Henlow Military Wives Choir

Saturday 13th December, 7.30pm, St Mary's Church, Clophill

We'll be making a collection during the evening, as well as selling cakes and soft drinks, in aid of charity. All proceeds shared between CLIC Sargent (for children with cancer), Military Wives Foundation and St Mary's Church



News from Clophill Methodist Church

Clophill Methodist Church has had a very busy Autumn hosting our Harvest Lunch and Harvest Festival. We also had our **Annual Barn Dance** on 27th September. The fantastic music from the Ivel Valley band helped raise much-needed funds for the church, as well as £126 from the raffle for the Leonard Cheshire Disability Home. A big thank you to all who helped organise these events and to those who supported them.

Our next event will be our annual **Christmas Weekend** on 5th and 6th December – with a concert with the Decibels on the Friday and our Christmas Market on the Saturday. This issue of Spotlight has all the details.

As always we have our regular tea and chat on a Wednesday, and our monthly Messy Church, where it's lovely to see all generations joining together in worship and creativity. Everyone is welcome. *Nicola Wood*

Neighbourhood Watch: Winter Security

With the dark winter nights arriving, now's the time to check your home and personal security. The Police have issued the following simple, but effective, advice to help residents keep their homes, vehicles and property safe:

- Double lock UPVC doors by lifting the handle before you turn the key.
- Make sure alarms are fitted and serviced and **security lighting** is in good working order.
- Bolt side entrances, check boundary fences are secure and make sure your gates are kept locked.
- If you must leave a downstairs fanlight open, fit **window limiters**.
- If you're out in your garden make sure your doors and windows remain locked.
- If you're going out at night – or are going out during the day and won't be home until after dark – leave a light on and a **radio tuned in to a talk radio station**.
- Security mark your property with products like Smartwater.
- Find out about Neighbourhood Watch and what it can do for you.
- **NEVER leave money in your home** – always put in the bank. Also consider keeping your most precious jewellery in the bank.
- Never leave your vehicle unlocked. Always remove any items from your vehicle when you leave it – and if your vehicle is fitted with an alarm, please use it.

Please **check on your older or vulnerable neighbours**. Remember they can get a free security check and home improvements from the Bobby Van team which is supported by the Bedfordshire Police Partnership Trust and Bedfordshire Police. Help is also available through Clophill Community Care who can help with the supply of door chains and door peep holes that they would fit, on request. **Ring their helpline on 07791773705**



Be vigilant, if you see any suspicious activity, persons, or vehicles you can contact the Police on their non-emergency number 101. Or in the case of emergency call 999.

Mick Everitt, Neighbourhood Watch 01525 861049

Clophill Parish Council

Notes from the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 28th October 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).

Public Question Time

There was one public question regarding the emergency public access defibrillator at The Post Office on The Green. It concerned possible training for villagers and perhaps setting up a list of people within the village as an emergency response. This was discussed and the parish council will try to arrange a training session for those who are interested. After this has been completed, an emergency response 'team' of people will be assembled to be contacted in the event of this equipment having to be used.

Police Report

Bedfordshire Police submitted a report showing that crime in general is low for the past month. With the darker nights, though, don't forget to keep your home doors locked, and to put your vehicles on your drive or in the garage (if you have one). Remember, Bedfordshire Police can help with crime prevention information should you require it.

The Lands Committees

A tour of the village has been completed and a report has been made both to our contractor and to Bedfordshire Highways concerning a number of **faulty lights**. Hopefully they will be repaired shortly. In addition, poor surfaces to some of our pavements and pot holes in our roads have also been reported. As a parish council we're keeping up the pressure on CBC to have remedial work done.

At last UK Power Networks will commence the work of diverting the power cables on **the old footbridge** at The Green. Once this has been completed the bridge can be removed.

Our thanks go to Jane Breed and her team who have planted a huge amount of **daffodil bulbs** at The Green. We're also indebted to Michael Robotham for the purchase of the plants. Next spring should be a real delight on entering the village when these bulbs come into flower.

The parish council has been informed that the whole of **the lakes site**, to the south of the village, has been sold by Evonik to Gallagher's (a national builder) who at the moment are one of the principal contractors for Wixam's. The parish council will make contact with the senior management to discuss the future of this site.

Mr Trevor Barker has been contracted to clear **the village burial ground** of brambles and weeds. He'll also cut back the high laurel hedging.

The deed of easement for **Hay Close** (tenanted parish land) has now been agreed and signed, and we're waiting for completion by solicitors.

Clophill Parish Council

Continued

Clophill United Charities

The parish council has been asked to approve the re-appointment of Julie Benson and Richard Pearson as Trustees of Clophill United Charities when they conclude their current four-year term of office in January 2015. The council unanimously agreed. This charity works behind the scenes in the village to provide financial help to those who need it. It doesn't publicise what it does for obvious and good reasons. The parish council would here like to publicly thank the charity and the trustees for the good work they do in our community.

Planning

No planning applications were received during the previous month.

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



I've been writing these notes in Spotlight for the past few years, even though the official minutes of our meetings are published on the internet. They are, of course, just a resume.

Those of us who live in Clophill and the near surrounding area take pride in our village, its tranquillity, beauty and safety. The parish council's role is as the first tier of local government and is here to protect, develop and ensure the many things we take for granted continue – for example, that the street lights work, our open spaces are pleasant, the grass and hedges are maintained and the infrastructure reaches a certain standard. The parish council is also the liaison between our unitary council and indeed central government. It has an input regarding planning and protecting the conservation village and our historic sites. During the past few years it has also submitted evidence in writing and verbally to four public enquiries.

The parish council meets on ten occasions during the year. It levies a precept and uses that money and money from rents and grants to provide the services needed. Through good housekeeping, over the last nearly six years the precept has been held without increase but services have been maintained and expanded.

Next year marks the elections for the parish council. All of the ten seats available will be subject to be applied for and applicants elected by parishioners. I'm already in receipt of information that some of our councillors will not seek re-election next year. The village needs and must have a keen parish council. There are several major issues that need to be carefully monitored, including what will happen to the Lakes Site now that a major national developer has bought the whole site.

I'd like to invite anyone who's interested to contact me, the parish clerk or indeed any parish councillor to discuss becoming a parish councillor (phone numbers are on the 'Useful Numbers' page). Alternatively, if you're not sure about the role,

Clophill Parish Council

Continued

in the first instance you might want to become a co-opted member and help until you have a better understanding. In this way we can try to put into place a succession plan to ensure continuity of business next year.

This village has a great future that must be protected but it won't reach its full potential without the assistance and intervention of those who live here. The worst case scenario is that not enough councillors will be elected in 2015; if this happens the village could become directly controlled by Central Bedfordshire Council with no local voice in decisions being made. **Apathy is our biggest enemy.** ”

Peter Clarke

The next Parish Council meeting will take place at 7.45pm on 25th November, in the village hall with a surgery at 7.30pm

Clophill United Charities

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

This year the distribution will take place in early December at the usual venues:-

Friday 5th December: 2.30pm-3.30pm in the Village Hall Committee Room

Saturday 6th December: 10am-11am in the Oakley Room, St Mary's Church

Sunday 7th December: 10.30am at Beverley Court

Posters will be displayed during November as a reminder of these times

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.

Don't forget that throughout the year, Clophill United Charities are pleased to be able to help Clophill villagers of all ages in times of hardship. If you, or anyone you know who lives in the village, are experiencing financial hardship please contact our Clerk, Gillian Hill, on **01525 860539**.

Richard Pearson, Chairman. On behalf of the Trustees

Village groups

Beverley Court	Sharon Soper	860920
Boxing Club	Loraine Freeman	07714 014484
Brownies	https://enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk	
Christians Together in Clophill	Fergus Milne	860894
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	Rosemary Ilett	860274
Indoor Carpet Bowls	Tony Meredith	860754
Messy Church	Victoria Higgins	07920 568861
	victoriajhiggins@hotmail.co.uk	
Neighbourhood Watch	Mick Everitt	861049
Pre-school	clophillpreschool@gmail.com	07732 872685
St Mary's PTA	Lindsey Jones	07879 430956
Scouts and Cubs	Ralph Rayner	403956
Tuesday Club	Betty Hampson	860750
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Marilyn Browning	07821 643936

Parish registers for November

1814	1914
Baptisms	Baptisms
November 20 Eliza Dudley	November 1 John Charles Walker
Burials	Marriages
November 7 John Burrows	November 14 Horace Peck to Lilian Annette Mary Peck
	Arthur Bruce Cole
	to Annie Wilden
1864	November 19
Baptisms	Burials
November 6 Mary Summerfield (?)	November 13 Sophia Peddar, 38
James ?	
November 19 Alice Wells (?)	
Marriages	
November 20 Joseph Dudley, 42, widower, to Mary Joyce, 27	
Burials	
November 6 Joseph ? and A.N.Other	
November 10 William (?) Chapman	
November 13 Elizabeth ?	
November 30 George Willison	
Ann Grummitt	
An extremely busy month for the Rector!	
	1964
	No registers recorded
	ST. MARY'S CHURCH REGISTERS: SEPT '14
	Baptism
	September 28 Ava Grace James
	Marriage
	September 27 David Antony George to Charlotte Grigg
	Funeral
	September 30 Robert George (Bob) Parker-Eaton, 83

What's on in and around Clophill

NOVEMBER



Friday 14th

Silsoe Christmas Market 7.15pm at Silsoe Village Hall. *See this issue for details*



Friday 21st

Quiz Night and Supper 7.15pm at Maulden Village Hall. *See this issue for ticket details*



Friday 21st

Wine Tasting Evening 7.30pm, St Mary's Church, Clophill. *See this issue for ticket details*



Thursday 27th-Saturday 29th

Theatre Production by Westoning Players, 7.30pm, Westoning Village Hall.

See this issue for full details



Saturday 30th

Christmas Lights Switch-On in aid of East Anglian Air Ambulance. 5pm, Readshill, Clophill

DECEMBER



Monday 1st

The Story of Rudolf Hess A talk on the German politician at the Ampthill & District Archaeological & Local History Society. *See this issue for details*



Friday 5th

Concert with The Decibels 7.30pm at Clophill Methodist Church. *See this issue for details*



Saturday 6th

Christmas Market Noon-4pm at Clophill Methodist Church. *See this issue for details*



Friday 12th-Sunday 14th; Friday 19th-Saturday 20th

Calamity John by TADS Theatre Group, Toddington.

See this issue for matinee and evening performance times, plus ticket details



Saturday 13th

Christmas Choir 7.30pm, St Mary's Church, Clophill. *See this issue for details*

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
- **Zumba Toning** 8pm-9pm, Clophill Village Hall
- **Boot Camp Training** at Clophill Recreation Ground, 8pm-9pm

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, 4pm-6pm, 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 K Bingley)		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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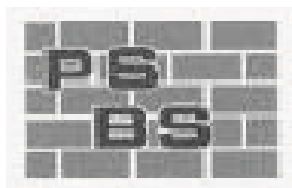
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St. Mary's is a Values Based school which provides children with a framework for living, tightly woven into the positive Christian ethos of the school.

Our vision at St Mary's is to provide a secure, inclusive and stimulating child centred environment, where all children are inspired to achieve their full potential. Our aim is that every child will develop as a caring, respectful member of the community and society as a whole. We will achieve this through a creative curriculum based on our values, reflecting the Christian ethos of our school.

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Tel: 01525 860206 stmarysclophill@cbc.beds.sch.uk www.stmaryslower.info

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