

# CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

NOVEMBER 2018



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LOCAL NEWS**

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# Welcome to *November*

Inside Spotlight you'll find news, articles and events to keep you up to date with what's happening in and around Clophill. Plus plenty of ads from local businesses in the area.

## The magazine staff

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***Deadline for articles is 20th of the month***

You can also read Spotlight online  
**[www.clophillspotlight.co.uk](http://www.clophillspotlight.co.uk)**

Westoning Players  
Present



# TREASURE ISLAND

29TH NOVEMBER - 2ND DECEMBER 2018

WESTONING VILLAGE HALL  
CHURCH ROAD MK45 5JL

THURSDAY & FRIDAY - 7.30PM  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY - 2.30PM  
**TICKETS £10.00/£5.00**  
SUITABLE FOR AGES 8+

**BOX OFFICE**

**T: 01525 719695**

**E: [BOXOFFICE@WESTONING-PLAYERS.CO.UK](mailto:BOXOFFICE@WESTONING-PLAYERS.CO.UK)**

**[WWW.WESTONING-PLAYERS.CO.UK](http://WWW.WESTONING-PLAYERS.CO.UK)**



# News from Clophill Heritage Trust

## Events & activities

We're holding a Centenary Remembrance Event on 11th November, 12pm-4pm at The Eco Lodges, featuring a dramatic piece at 1pm and an original art installation, plus our café will be open. The newly restored wall between the ancient churchyard and cemetery will be officially opened by a representative from Historic England, and our Poetry & Peace Path will also be officially opened. All are welcome and we hope to see you there.

Don't forget to book your place on our Wreath Workshop on 1st December. And on 2nd December, from 11am-3pm, we're holding our Christmas Craft Market with unusual and unique gifts from local craftspeople. The café will be open and at 2pm we have our popular nativity, featuring live animals. [www.clophillecolodges.org.uk/events](http://www.clophillecolodges.org.uk/events)

## Eco Lodges discount

Don't forget – Clophill residents get a 20% discount when booking accommodation at the Eco Lodges. Ideal if you need extra space for friends and family to stay at Christmas.

## Volunteer needed

We're very lucky to have a group of amazing volunteers, without who we wouldn't be able to run the events and Tower Tours that we do. But we need more! If you have a spare two hours a month and would like to volunteer with us, we'd love to hear from you. We're looking for volunteers to help with gardening, church tours, admin, IT, events, marketing, painting – or anything else that you have an interest in! We're also currently in need of a volunteer with book-keeping knowledge to assist with our accounts. Please contact one of the wardens on 07935 911207, email [info@clophillecolodges.co.uk](mailto:info@clophillecolodges.co.uk) or pop up to the lodges for a chat.

For info call 07935 911207 or email [info@clophillecolodges.co.uk](mailto:info@clophillecolodges.co.uk)  
[www.Facebook.com/ClophillEcoLodges](https://www.Facebook.com/ClophillEcoLodges)



Bedfordshire  
Cambridgeshire  
Northamptonshire

## Wildlife walks & talks



### Orchards East Project

**Monday 10th December, 7.15pm/7.45pm, Maulden Church Hall**

The Orchards East Project, managed by the School of History at the University of East Anglia, is devoted to discovering and understanding the past, present and future of orchards in Eastern England. Steve Halton will talk about the project, with the emphasis on Bedfordshire orchards.

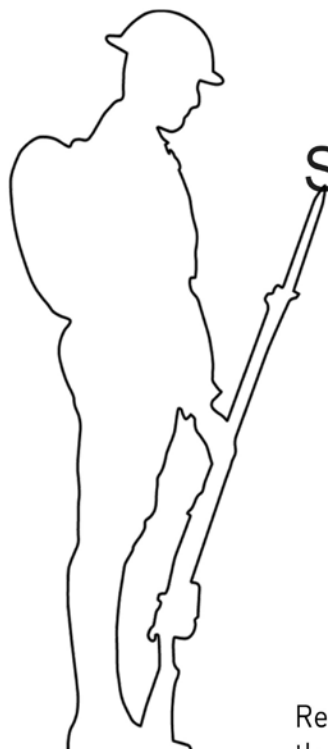
The talk is at 7.45pm, preceded by our brief AGM at 7.15pm Cost: £2 per adult

For additional information please email [flitvale.info@gmail.com](mailto:flitvale.info@gmail.com) or ring Ann on 075801 78889 after 6pm or at weekends. [www.flitvale.org.uk](http://www.flitvale.org.uk)



St. Mary's Church, Clophill

# Centenary of Armistice Day Service



10:15am  
Sunday 11 November  
2018

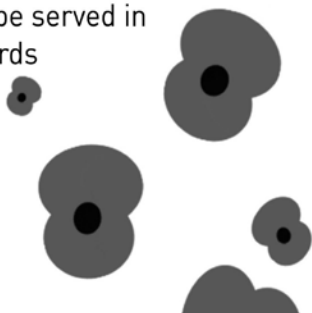
Act of Remembrance  
at the  
War Memorial

10:50am  
2 Minutes Silence at  
11:00am

Refreshments will be served in  
the Church afterwards

Join us at 4:00pm for

Ring for Peace  
*Armistice 100*



# Clophill Preschool News

Autumn is one of the times of year the children love the most. We've caught falling leaves, gone on spider web hunts and learned how to pick up prickly sweet chestnut cases safely. Katie has done her Mini Moves session outside for us and Chris the Music Man has been playing the drums with the children, getting them to follow a beat and copy patterns. We've been **seesawing, hula hooping and balancing**. We've used clay to make divas and to print



leaves, washed and weighed babies in the mud and sung ten green bottles while standing on our climbing wall.

The nature garden is taking shape and the bugs have moved into Darcie's Bug Hotel for the winter.

Our pumpkins were harvested, opened, scooped out and carved for Halloween. Our Halloween Stone Hunt went well, thank you to everyone who participated and huge thanks to Michelle Akay for all her hard work and fabulous artistic skills! We're delighted that The Hive in Shefford is kindly supporting preschool too.

This week was Diwali and we celebrated with Chris the Music Man who brought in Hindu instruments to play for us and we decorated our clay divas. We also made our own version of **Rangoli patterns using leaves, stones and sticks**.



Christmas is fast approaching and we've once again written our own Nativity...oh no we haven't...oh yes we have! In the meantime we have our **Christmas Market** on Tuesday 20th November, 7pm-9pm at the village hall. Entry is £2, which includes a raffle ticket for our prize draw. There'll be over 20 stalls selling handmade cards, organic candles, toys, books and more – oh, and the bar will be open! We also have our fund-raising **Christmas Craft Morning** on Friday 21st December when we'll have lots of craft activities for the children to do as well as fun games and the opportunity to meet Santa.

With our fundraising we hope to fund courses for our staff and new resources for the children as well as the renovation of the groundworks at the rear entrance to preschool.

Finally, a quick reminder that we have our **clothing and bedding collection on Wednesday 14 November** – if you have anything to donate just drop it into to preschool or 57a High Street, thank you.

- Contact Imogen on **07765 887868** or Chris on **07936 006381** or email [clophillpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:clophillpreschool@gmail.com). Our website is [www.clophillpreschool.co.uk](http://www.clophillpreschool.co.uk)

## Christine's quick 'n' easy recipe

# Pasta with Sweet Pepper Pesto



### INGREDIENTS Serves 4

- 400g short pasta
- 2 red and 2 orange peppers
- 2 cloves of garlic, peeled
- 2 small bunches of basil leaves off the stalk
- 60g pine nuts
- 100g freshly grated parmesan
- 4 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- salt to taste
- 400g of ricotta

1. Bring a large pan of salted water to the boil.
2. Wash the peppers and cut into thin slices, discarding the stalks and seeds.
3. Heat 2 tbsp olive oil in a large frying pan on a moderate heat then gently fry the peppers until they're soft but not browned. Set aside to cool.
4. Cook the pasta in the boiling water for about 10 minutes until 'al dente' – cooked but still firm to the bite.
5. In a liquidiser place the cloves of garlic, pine nuts, basil leaves, 75g of parmesan, ricotta, 2tbsp olive oil and the cooked peppers and liquidise until you have a smooth sauce.
6. Once the pasta is cooked mix well with the sauce and sprinkle with the



remaining freshly grated parmesan.  
7. Serve immediately.

• *Just a reminder that if you like chestnuts there are plenty to be gathered along the grass verge of the A6 in the Bedford direction. They're much better than the ones available in the supermarkets and completely free of charge!*

Christine runs Italian cookery classes at Casa Fellini in Clophill  
[www.casafellini.co.uk](http://www.casafellini.co.uk)

# St Mary's Church News



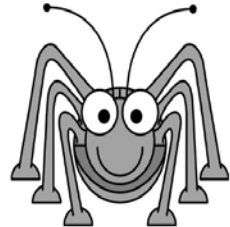
More than 70 people of all ages came to St Mary's Church on October 7th to celebrate Harvest Festival. The school led much of the service, including a presentation of '**Give peas a chance**', which is the Bishop's appeal for harvest this year. Cash donations in the collection were given to this appeal, while the gifts of dry and tinned goods went to Noah Enterprises, the charity for homeless people in Luton.

A lunch of baked potatoes with assorted fillings followed by a variety of puddings was enjoyed by about 40 people on October 17th, and **raised £171 for church funds**. The lunches held alternately at the two churches are always an enjoyable occasion and all are welcome.

The service for **Remembrance Sunday** on November 11th will start at 10.15am. All organisations in the village are invited to lay a wreath at the War Memorial, and anyone who is entitled to do so is invited to wear their service medals. The **Christingle Service** on December 2nd will begin at 3.30pm after the Nativity at the Old Church. There will be no service in the morning.



**CLOPHILL  
METHODIST  
CHURCH**



## BEETLE DRIVE

**Saturday 24th November, 6.30pm**

**Adults £5, children £2.50**

**Refreshments**

**In aid of Clophill Methodist Church**

**Tel: 01525 860695**





**Parkside Singers – Ampthill**

# *Mistletoe & Wine*

## *A Christmas Concert*



*With Audience Participation*

*24<sup>th</sup> November at 2:30pm*

*Parkside Hall, Woburn Street, Ampthill MK45 2HX*

*Tickets £5:00*

*Including Tea, Coffee, Mulled Wine & Christmas Treats*

## *Get in the Christmas Spirit Early!*

**For Tickets Contact Ken Jones 01525 753110**

**or Brian Matthews 01525 841077 or on the door**

# Come into the Garden

with *Kate Gardner*



November is a good time to review your garden, cutting back and tidying borders and making a note of any changes, additions or divisions you wish to make next spring. It's best to do this while the thought is fresh in your mind, as it's hard to remember back to how it looked once spring comes around.

Leave seed heads on flowers and shrubs and delay cutting these back until late winter, as they provide a home for overwintering insects. Tidy up leaves from around the garden and add to the compost heap, or place in separate bins or black sacks to make leaf mould. Some leaves, such as plane and sycamore, are slow to break down, and can delay you using your compost if you mix them into the general heap. Leaf mould makes an **excellent soil improver** and can also be used as a seed-sowing medium.

Digging the soil, especially bare patches, will expose pest larvae and eggs to birds and frost, as well as clearing weeds. Don't leave soil uncovered for too long, though, as it runs the risk of erosion and valuable nutrients being washed away. Add a mulch – it not only protects the soil over the winter but the action of worms pulling the mulch into the depths will help improve the vitality of our sandy soils.

**Divide perennials that flower before midsummer's day**, such as oriental poppies, peonies and lupins, as well as spring-flowering hellebores, pulmonarias and Solomon's seal. Dig up, divide and replant straight away. Now is also the best time to cut away the old leaves from your hellebores, which will allow the flowers to be seen through the winter. Perennials that flower after midsummer are best divided in the spring – that's a good general rule.

Taking root cuttings from perennials like phlox, verbascum, oriental poppy and acanthus is **a good way to make new plants for free**. Select young, vigorous roots, about the thickness of a pencil, and cut them off, close to the crown of the plant. Only remove a maximum of one-third of the roots and then replace the parent plant as soon



as possible back into the border. Discard the thin root end and remove any fibrous side roots. Cut each root into 5-10cm (2-4in) lengths making a horizontal cut at the upper end and an angled cut at the lower end. Fill pots with a free-draining compost – such as equal parts peat substitute and gritty sand or perlite. Insert the cuttings about 4cm (2in) apart so that the horizontal cut surface at the top of the root is just below the surface of the compost and then cover with a thin layer of grit. Water the compost lightly and place the pots in a sheltered space or cold frame outside. In the following spring, pot up into individual pots when the cuttings show signs of growth and are well-rooted.

**Happy gardening!**

# A NEW COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SERVICE



## **Are you over state pension age or have a disability that means you have limited mobility?**

A new transport service allows you to travel around the area to shops and health services, visit friends and relatives, or just enjoy a day out.

Run by Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity, the service costs an annual membership of £20 plus £2.25 or £3.75 per single journey, depending on how far you're travelling. Transport is available during the day Monday to Friday (not Bank Holidays) and can be booked a week in advance.

### **The service covers journeys to and from:-**

- Amphill \* Clophill \* Cranfield \* Biggleswade \* Flitwick
- \* Houghton Conquest \* Lidlington \* Marston Moretaine \* Maulden
- \* Shefford \* Shillington and all villages between and into Bedford

### **SPECIAL OFFER**

**Join before the New Year and enjoy free membership right up to March 2020**

**To find out more about the transport service and for a membership form please contact 01234 834933**



Connecting our Communities in Greensand Country is provided by Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity, supported by and working in partnership with Central Bedfordshire Council.



# Clophill & District Flower Club



Our meeting in October was advertised as '**A practical evening with a difference**' – which was code for a workshop/dabble evening. These crafty evenings have become a very popular, sociable and enjoyable fixture on our calendar and over 40 members attended.



Introducing the evening, our chairman Carolyn Cranswick explained that it was an opportunity to learn new creative skills. Five different practical activities had been organised by the committee, supported by two members. We had card-making, decorative bows for flower arrangements or parcels, corsages/brooch making, wrist corsages made using manipulated wire.



After demonstrations by the activity leaders, each group settled down in earnest to an evening of chat and creativity. All the resources were supplied by the club and many participants 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.

Our next meeting is on 6th December for '**The Magic of Christmas**'.

Tickets cost £6 for members and £10 for non-members, and include mulled wine and mince pies. To book, call Gillian Hill on 01525 860539.

**Ann Dowding, Committee Member**



• For information on upcoming demonstrations, go to [www.clophillflowerclub.com](http://www.clophillflowerclub.com)



# St Mary's School News

Last month our Year 4 Children attended a harvest celebration at St Alban's Abbey, where they sang beautifully and represented the school wonderfully. The school also joined with St Mary's Church for their harvest service – the children who read did really well and we were very proud of them. This year the school and church made their donation to NOAH, a local charity supporting people who have nowhere else to turn.

NOAH sent the following message to the school: 'Both the Church and the School have been very generous supporters of NOAH for some time now; indeed, only recently a small group of young people visited the Welfare Centre and our Furniture Store, where they learned a little more detail about the people they support and the work NOAH does in trying to improve the lives of those in severe disadvantage. Hopefully, they could see just how much their gifts help in our work. "Thank you" doesn't seem enough for your continued support but, on behalf of those we help – a massive thank you.'



Our children had some fantastic experiences in October, including being taught by a qualified gym coach. Some of our Year 4s represented the school at a **Tag Rugby tournament**...they played really well and had a very enjoyable time. There was also a **Fruit Workshop**, where the children sampled exotic fruits like dragon fruit and passion fruit and powered a food blender via a bike to make their own smoothies.

We also welcomed the **Bible Worship Exhibition and Workshop** into school. The

children had the opportunity to look at various Bible stories on display and the group then enacted these stories and the children were able to ask questions at the end.

At the beginning of November our older children had a wonderful trip to Milton Keynes Museum to support their topic on **Victorians**. They dressed up and were able to experience what life would've been like in the Victorian era.

Victorian schoolchildren



Finally, Friends of St Mary's (the school's PTA) were extremely busy organising an amazing Fireworks Night. A big thank you for all that they did and continue to do to help support the school.



We'll be **performing our school play for the over-65s** in the village on Monday December 3rd at 2pm. Invitations will be sent out nearer the time, but please feel welcome to call or email us beforehand to let us know if you'd like to attend. We'll also be inviting parents who have children in the play and would like to bring their pre-school children too. Contact [generaladmin@clophillstmarysschool.co.uk](mailto:generaladmin@clophillstmarysschool.co.uk) or call 01525 860206.

## Our value for November is *Compassion & Forgiveness*



Compassion, Sympathy and Forgiveness have much in common but 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.

### **Important information for parents with children moving to Middle School or requiring a Reception class place September 2019**

Applications online: [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions)  
Online applications preferred but hard copy applications are available from the school office.

### **Deadline for both Middle School Place/Starting School Place is 15th January 2019**

We urge parents to make their applications ASAP and let the school office know if you have any questions or problems relating to your application. Contact Mrs Topliff on 01525 860206 or email [generaladmin@clophillstmarysschool.co.uk](mailto:generaladmin@clophillstmarysschool.co.uk)

## **Acorn Nursery News**

Acorn Class have been busy exploring all the natural materials that Autumn provides. They've been running through leaves and gathering conkers and acorns from the field. It's been an excellent opportunity to practise counting twigs, learning the colours of leaves and discussing the seasonal changes of trees.



# Clophill United Charities

## Christmas donation to Widow(er)s and Pensioners – December 2018

This year the distribution will take place in early December:

**Saturday 1st December** 10am-noon in the Oakley Room, St Mary's Church

**Sunday 2nd December** 10.30am at Beverley Court

No person or group is entitled to receive this benefit as of right.

Please be aware that forthcoming Christmas donations should only be claimed by those widow(er)s and pensioners who are really in need of extra help at an expensive time of year and not by those who don't need it.

This will enable us to provide help to others throughout the year.

Posters will be displayed in the village during November as a reminder of these times.

**Please remember** that all through the year, Clophill United Charities are able to help Clophill villagers of all ages in times of hardship. If you, or anyone you know who lives in the village, is experiencing financial hardship please contact our clerk, Gillian Hill, on **01525 860539** in total confidence.

*Richard Pearson, Chairman, on behalf of the Trustees*

## Failed to Return

**Monday 3rd December, 7.30pm for 7.45pm**

In this '**Air Mystery**' talk, Tony Eaton reconstructs the fatal last flights of two British wartime icons – aviatrix Amy Johnson (1941) whose RAF plane crashed into the Thames Estuary, miles away from its authorised flight plan, and film star Leslie Howard (1943), killed when the unarmed civilian airliner in which he was a passenger was shot down over the Bay of Biscay.

The bizarre circumstances of their deaths have long been the subject of speculation and conjecture. Tony now separates the facts from the fiction and addresses the persistent rumours that the complete records have been deliberately withheld from public scrutiny.

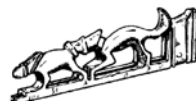
**Lecture Theatre, Flitwick Library MK45 1QJ**

£2 for members and £3 for visitors, payable on the door.

Further details: [clive.makin@ntlworld.com](mailto:clive.makin@ntlworld.com) Tel: 01582 655785

[www.adalhs.org.uk](http://www.adalhs.org.uk)

**Ampthill & District Archaeological & Local History Society**



# Remembering Clophill's Fallen

*Continuing our series of the centenary of Clophill's brave men who lost their lives in the First World war...*

**Cyril William Perkins Smith** died of pneumonia on 22nd November 1918, aged 29. Cyril was born in Clophill in 1889. In 1911 he worked as a tobacconist and lived at 'Sunnydale' (now No 2 Bedford Road) with his parents John Henry, known as Henry, a grocer, and his mother, Elizabeth. Cyril was their only son.

Cyril served with the 1st/6th Battalion, Essex Regiment, and formerly the 5th Battalion Bedfordshires. He enlisted in 1914, but was wounded soon after. He then suffered with blood poisoning. Later that year he wrote to his mother: *'You would hardly know me. I am as brown as berry, and have grown a moustache. There are plenty of amusements, and last night we had a cinema at the Y.M.C.A. I would rather be here than at Halton Park, though there is nothing but sand. I am as happy as a sand martin. We are guarding Turkish prisoners, and I would put up with this for the duration of the war. I am keeping a diary, which will be interesting for you to read. Some of the boys are of an opinion that the war will terminate before Christmas. I have seen several of the Bedford Engineers, and one of the Silsoe Lads, as well as several Signal Sections from Haynes Park. The Bedfords are only 2 miles away, but I have not had a chance as yet to chat to them.'*

By 1917 Cyril was serving near the pyramids and was then wounded again and hospitalized. Subsequently he travelled through Egypt, Macedonia and Palestine. He informed his family that *'they have not only the enemy, but the climate, disease, and often scarcity of water to contend with... the most gratifying sight after traversing miles and miles of desert and wilderness was a fertile region, where abounded in abundance groves of palms, fig orchards, beautiful melons, and hedges of lovely pears, which they were allowed to sample'*.

He continues to write home regularly – here describing the Christmas of 1917: *'It rained all day. The menu was: Breakfast, 1 rasher of bacon; dinner, bully and biscuits; tea, jam. I wonder what you were having for dinner. We had no Christmas puddings. I suppose the French boys had them!'*

Cyril is commemorated in Beirut War Cemetery, Lebanese Republic.



# Clophill Methodist Church

## Alternative Christmas Tree Festival

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Dec

12-4pm

Christmas Market

Lunches, Father Christmas,

Cakes, Raffle, Tree Viewing



Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec

1-3pm

Tree Viewing

Light Refreshments



Please come and view our  
Christmas trees of all shapes,  
sizes and materials. Christmas  
trees with a difference!



### FREE ENTRY

In lieu of an entrance fee we politely request that you **bring a contribution** of tinned or packet food for our **food bank tree**, being made over the weekend.



Clophill Methodist Church

Clophill MK454BA

Monies, Raised For Clophill Methodist Church Funds

# What's on in and around Clophill

NOVEMBER

24

**Saturday 24th**

**Christmas Concert** 2.30pm, Parkside Hall, Amphill  
*See this issue for ticket details*

29  
2

**Thursday 29th to Sunday 2nd December**

**Treasure Island** by the Westoning Players  
*See this issue for times and ticket details*

DECEMBER

1

**Saturday 1st**

**Alternative Christmas Tree Festival** 12pm-4pm, Clophill Methodist Church  
*See this issue for more info*

2

**Sunday 2nd**

**Christmas Fair** 10am-4pm, Newbury Farm, Silsoe  
*See this issue for more info*

2

**Sunday 2nd**

**Alternative Christmas Tree Festival** 1pm-3pm, Clophill Methodist Church  
*See this issue for more info*

15

**Saturday 15th**

**Christmas Concert** 7.30pm, St Mary's Church, Clophill

## On throughout the month...

**Wednesdays...**

- **Tea and Chat** 10.30 to noon, Methodist Church

**Fridays...**

- **Clophill Toddler Group** 10am-11.30am, Village Hall, See 'Village Groups' for contact details

**One Saturday a month...**

- **Messy Church** 4pm-6pm, Clophill Methodist Church. Dates: 17 Nov; 15 Dec.  
*See 'Village Groups' for contact details.*

## CHURCH SERVICES

**Regular services at St Mary's Church, Clophill**

1st Sunday	8am, Holy Communion; 10.45am, Family Praise
2nd & 4th Sundays	10.45am, Parish Communion
3rd Sunday	10.45am, Morning Prayer/Praise
5th Sunday	10am, Benefice Services

**Regular services at Clophill Methodist Church**

1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays	10.30am Morning Service
3rd Sunday	10.30am All Age Worship Service

If you have any diary dates that you would like included on this page,  
please email [clophillspotlight1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:clophillspotlight1@hotmail.co.uk)

## Parish Registers for November

**1818**

### Marriages

Nov 7 John Burrows to Sophia Millard  
? John Welch of Flitton  
to Sarah Maddams

**1868**

### Baptisms

Nov 1 Henry Carter  
Mary Elizabeth ?  
Grace Bowden, single mother

### Burials

Nov 15 Samuel Francis, 76

**1918**

### Marriages

Nov 9 William Harvey to Kate Gobey

### Burials

Nov 13 Edith Nellie Cole 31  
Nov 14 Alice N? Page, 31  
Nov 19 John Juffs, 67

**1968**

*No registers recorded*



# A huge thank you...

... to everyone who helped or supported us at our jumble sale at the Village Hall last month. Thank you also to those kind supporters who gave us jumble to sell! We're delighted to have **raised £700** – the amount includes a generous donation of £50, a 'rounding up' donation of £29.15 plus £50 book sales. The total is set to rise as items have been put aside to sell on eBay and we'll soon have another collection of books to sell as well.

We'll be holding our next jumble sale in April so do get in touch if you have any clean, good-quality items as well as any books – you can donate at any time as we have room to store everything.

If you'd like to help at our next sale, or would be interested in finding out more about our group's activities, which include fortnightly shopping trips for residents, call 861110. Sue Pearson

**Clophill Friends of the Leonard Cheshire Disability Home at Ampthill**

## **Christmas Concert with the Greensand Community Choir**

**Saturday 15th December, 7.30pm  
St. Mary's Church, Clophill**

Come and hear your local community choir and also join in with some festive carols and songs



Refreshments  
provided



**Retiring collection in aid of  
St. Mary's Church and Keech Hospice Care**

*These notes are a resume only. Official minutes are available on the internet and notice boards. All official correspondence should be sent to the parish clerk and not individual councillors.*

## **Grant Aid**

After discussing some of the applications we've received for Grant Aid, we've decided to fund Clophill Pre-School £2,000 towards the development of their outdoor area. This includes paving, ground works, fencing and a new metal gate. We considered the fact that much of what they want to do is to improve the aesthetics of the area that will also impact positively on the village hall (built on Clophill Parish Council land) as well as improve safety and security. They are a successful not-for-profit organisation and we feel our support only improves the service offered. We noted Pre-school is also tirelessly fundraising towards these improvements.

We also awarded Keech Hospice £240 towards their Music Therapy service – which equates to the cost of five lessons. We felt this was a great charity and noted residents of Clophill have benefitted in the past.

## **Teen shelter**

In last month's Spotlight we reported that the long awaited teen-shelter 'should now be open in our rec ground'. Eagle-eyed residents will have noticed that wasn't the case. There were last-minute delays due to issues with the specification of the shelter – we apologise for this and hope the issues will be resolved soon. We'll keep you posted on the future date for the shelter's installation.

## **Improvements to footpath**

Last month we referred to spending some public funds on improvements to the footpath on the High Street from the alleyway near the old Post Office through to Number 77, to help improve the issues surrounding the gradient of the present pathway. Your responses have been very positive – thank you. Before we commit to spending the money, we wanted to explain that a 'standard blacktop footway' would cost £19,422.27, and we'd share those costs 50/50 with Central Bedfordshire Council.

However, if we wanted to have a 'golden gravel finish', the costs would be an additional £9K to the Parish Council. We believe the gravel finish would be the best option, but we're keen to hear from villagers on this use of your parish funds. If anyone in the village feels strongly for or against this, please let us know – you can email [terry.lee@clophill-pc.gov.uk](mailto:terry.lee@clophill-pc.gov.uk) or respond to our post about this on our Facebook page: [facebook.com/clophillparishcouncil](https://facebook.com/clophillparishcouncil).

## **May 2019 local elections**

On May 2nd there will be local elections in our area, including an election for the positions in the Parish Council. If anybody wants to put themselves forward, we'll share information regarding how to nominate yourself.

## **Parish Council Vacancy**

We have a vacancy at Clophill Parish Council. For more information on the role, please contact our clerk, James Stirling, at [clerk@clophill-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@clophill-pc.gov.uk) or write to him at 31 Plum Tree Road, Lower Stondon, SG16 6NE. You can also view details at [www.clophill-pc.gov.uk](http://www.clophill-pc.gov.uk)

- Full minutes from meetings can be found at [clophill-pc.gov.uk](http://clophill-pc.gov.uk)

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**Sunday  
9th December  
11.00 to 4.00**



# Clophill Parish Council

Continued

## Planning

### **CB/18/03830/FULL**

Location: 18 High Street  
Proposal: First floor rear extension

**SUPPORT**

### **CB/18/03639/FULL**

Location: 1 Paradise Farm, The Causeway  
Proposal: Permission is sought for change of use of land to a residential caravan site for two Romany families. The two pitches to contain two static caravans, two touring caravans, parking for four cars with associated infrastructure.

Objections include: all previous planning conditions have been ignored; outside the village envelope; no detail on how foul water is disposed of; sufficient windfall sites in Central Bedfordshire suitable for the Gypsy and Traveller community.

**OBJECT**

### **CB/18/03243/OUT**

Location: 12 Back Street  
Proposal: Detached four-bedroomed dwelling and garage

We have no comments to make on this application. However, the Parish Council notes the concerns raised by neighbours and would request that CBC address these utilising the expertise that their officers hold.

### **CB/18/03224/FULL**

Location: 24 Back Street  
Proposal: Erection of one detached dwelling.

**SUPPORT**

### **CB/18/00433/FULL**

Location: The Green Man, The Green  
Proposal: Erection of a new dwelling and conversion of existing listed building into two residential apartments.

Objections include: the new building will look out of context with its surroundings; the distance between the proposed flats and the house is small and will be overbearing on the developments; we feel that this is overdevelopment of a small site.

**OBJECT**

### **CB/18/03135/FULL**

Location: Land to the rear of Green Man, The Green  
Proposal: Erection of two double garages for Plot 1 and Plot 2  
Objections include: there has been no detail provided on location of bin collection points or cycle stores; the number of parking spaces proposed (4) are insufficient for the number of rooms (8) proposed for residents and visitors as street parking is limited and would have an impact on Highway safety; we feel that this is overdevelopment of a small site.

**OBJECT**

The next Parish Council meeting will take place at the Methodist Church  
at 7.45pm on Tuesday 27 November

# Useful numbers

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

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

<b>Central Beds Offices</b> (Chicksands)		0300 300 8000
<b>Mid-Beds MP</b>	Nadine Dorries	01462 811992
<b>Central Bedfordshire Councillors</b>	Michael Blair	01525 404513
	Paul Duckett	07988 184061
<b>Clophill Parish Council</b>	Paul Downing	01525 860350
	(Clerk) James Stirling	01462 887226

## HOSPITALS

<b>Bedford</b> (North & South)	01234 355122	Admissions	01234 261150
		Appointments	01234 359012
<b>Luton &amp; Dunstable</b>			0845 1270127

## DOCTOR'S CLINICS

<b>Amphill</b>	(Houghton Close) 01525 300898	(Oliver Street)	01525 631395
		(Greensands)	01525 631390
<b>Shefford</b>	Enquiries 01462 818620	Appointments	01462 810034
<b>Barton</b> 01582 528700		<b>Flitwick</b>	01525 715300

## POLICE

<b>County Police HQ</b>	Non Emergency	101
<b>Amphill Station</b>		01234 841212
		101

## CHURCHES

<b>St Mary's Parish Church</b>	Revd Dean Henley	01234 381235
<b>St Francis RC Church, Shefford</b>	Ian Gordon	01525 860875
<b>Clophill Methodist Church</b>	Jim Davies	01525 860829
<b>Baptist Churches</b> (Amphill) Doreen Gibbs 01525 862424	(Maulden) Ian Crawford	01525 634325
	(Shefford) Hazel Arnold	01462 812564

## SCHOOLS

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



# Village groups

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

St Mary's PTA  
Scouts and Cubs  
Tea and Chat  
Village Hall Booking Secretary

860920  
<https://enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk>  
Duty Contact 07791 773705  
Ali Bradbury 07894 710001  
Sharon Kempson 860206  
Hannah Compton 07535 705711  
Gillian Hill 860539  
Brian Adams 862297  
Gillian Hill 860539  
Sue Pearson 861110  
07903 167493  
Luke Howard 07975 520085  
Tony Meredith 860754  
Victoria Higgins 07920 568861  
[victoriajhiggins@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:victoriajhiggins@hotmail.co.uk)  
Julia Skelton 07774 993973  
[www.scouts.org.uk/get-involved](http://www.scouts.org.uk/get-involved)  
Anita Errick 860695  
Marilyn Browning 07821 643936

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2nd DECEMBER**

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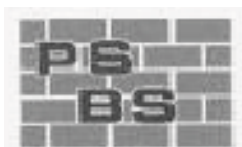
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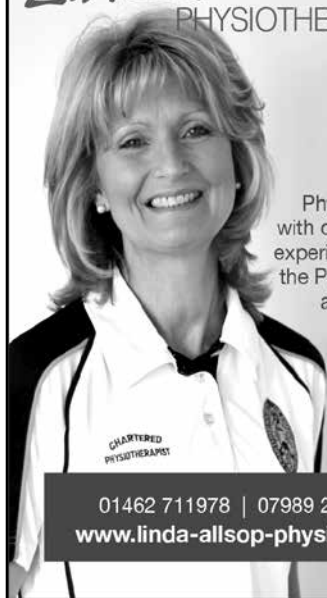
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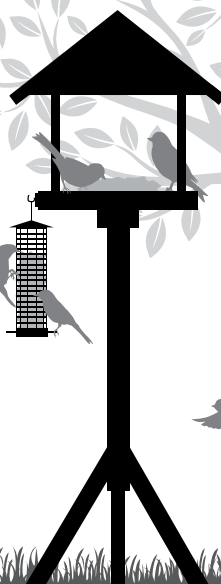
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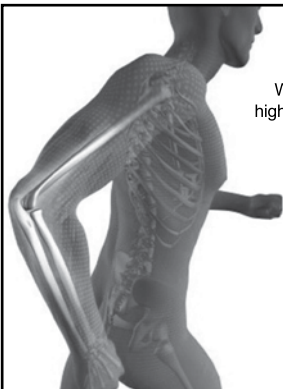
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