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FREE

CLOPHILL **SPOTLIGHT**

MARCH 2019

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Welcome to *March*

News, events, articles and ads - you'll
find them all inside your local Spotlight.

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

SAVE YOUR SPOTLIGHT

**Your local village magazine has
a vacancy for two positions:-**

1) Editor

2) Ad Manager

These are voluntary, unpaid roles that require just
a little bit of time each month. *Can you help?*

For more information please contact Helen on

01525 864 836



**Going...
going...
gone?**



Spotlight relies on volunteers to keep going.
Sadly, if these key roles can't be filled then Spotlight will
have to close and there will be no more village magazine.

**If you don't want to lose your village magazine
– please think about whether you can help.**

St Mary's Church News



Our annual Coffee and Cake morning was held in January, raising a **magnificent £332.95** for the Paraguayan girl sponsored by St Mary's Church. This figure was more than we're contracted to give, so the surplus goes to Plan International, the organisation that arranges the sponsorships. Thanks are due to all who made the delicious cakes and served the refreshments, and above all to everyone who came and gave so generously.

The ever popular **Lent Lunches start on Wednesday March 13th** in St Mary's. The charity we're supporting is Shelter Box. All are welcome – you don't need to sign up, just come along and enjoy the food and the company.

News from Clophill Heritage Trust

Such an unusually mild February meant that the CHT team were able to push ahead with some site work.

Can you spot our apprentice Rorie's reptile in the picture? As part of his apprenticeship, Rorie created a large reptile and insect area to replace the one that was removed with the old churchyard wall. Its official name will be the Green Sandy Lizard – the sandy lizard is one of three lizards we get in the UK and in the south east in heathland and areas of rubble. Having a home for them and other invertebrates and insects within our pieces of leftover Greensand stone from the wall restoration project seems very fitting.



Our Duke of Edinburgh volunteers were able to get to work on our medicinal and useful plant areas, clearing away the old growth from last year in preparation for new plants to go in, existing ones to be split and moved and new growth to come through. The photo shows Olivia & Harriet Benjamin and Jess White.



We now have six students completing bronze, silver and gold Duke of Edinburgh awards. If you or someone you know is looking for somewhere to complete their volunteering, either for Duke of Edinburgh or other, please contact us.

With spring approaching we'd like to remind local drone and remote-controlled plane/helicopter pilots that flying around the old church and grounds after the end of March isn't allowed, due to the birds that will be starting to nest on the site. Unfortunately, adult birds can be scared off by the technology and abandon their nests, and as we have endangered and protected species nesting on the site we try to do everything we can to stop this happening. Thank you for your understanding.

**For info call 07935 911207 or email info@clophillecolodges.co.uk
www.Facebook.com/ClophillEcoLodges**



Easter Egg Hunt

Clophill Village Hall

and
children's
crafts

Egg hunt through the Village Hall grounds, refreshments, games, kids' craft activities plus 'just for fun' egg hunt for adults! £4 per child

SUNDAY
APRIL 14TH
2 - 4pm

Clophill Preschool

Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider

Clophill Preschool News

The first half of the Spring term has flown by with both snow and sunshine. We've been sledging, built snowmen and women, and turned ourselves into snow angels. We've investigated hibernation and the children played and hid in our bear cave outside. The children have been using painted stones with facial features on – thank you, Michelle – to create expressions and explore feelings. And there has been a lot of upcycling as we've got creative with the junk modelling – even making a **huge dancing dragon head** for Chinese New Year.



For the Chinese celebrations we also made vegetable spring rolls, with the children developing their motor skills as they learned how to roll them up. Plus we explored Chinese culture, made lanterns and mixed wool noodles and rice in our special Chinese restaurant. The children were fascinated to see the different writing in the menus.



Our nature table has held plants and goose eggs, sheep's wool and catkins as we explore Spring and notice the changes in the natural world. Our new wheelbarrows have come in very handy, moving a mountain of chip, as have the new gardening gloves and tools sets. Su has been in to see us again, and this time she brought her peg loom and helped the children to **make pillows from sheep's wool**.

Children can be so spontaneous with their learning in a way that we often can't predict. When Freya dropped a collection of rulers, instead of picking them straight up she saw how they fell and moved them slightly to create a triangle, then moved them again and called out 'rectangle', then made a square. **Learning can come in the most unexpected places** or at the most unexpected of times – it's our job to provide our children with an enabling environment and to support and facilitate their learning.

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Happy Bag Collection – we'll let you know how we did next month. Our next event is our **Mother's Day morning** when Flower Club will be coming in. It's fantastic to watch the older generation work with passion and sensitivity with some of the youngest generation, with each side showing respect and care for their activity and each other.

Before we go – don't forget you are most welcome to bring your little ones to our Tuesday Stay and Play session from 9am-10.30am, no need to book.

- Contact Imogen on **07765 887868** or Chris on **07936 006381** or email clophillpreschool@gmail.com. Our website is www.clophillpreschool.co.uk

Clophill Village Hall Presents

A NIGHT OF ROCK 'N' ROLL WITH

The Downtown Daddyo's



Rock 'n' Roll DJ

Large Dance Floor

Fully Serviced Bar

Ample Free Parking

**SATURDAY 27TH
APRIL 2019
7:30pm 'TIL LATE**

£10 ADV
£12 OTD

**GLOPHILL VILLAGE HALL
BEDFORDSHIRE
MK45 4DA**

For Tickets & Info Call Steve on 07831255807 or email steve.langhorn@gmail.com

Clophill & District Flower Club



For the first meeting of 2019, we welcomed Gill McGregor back to the club with her demonstration entitled **'The Romance of Spring'**.

Gill's first arrangement reminded us of our recent snowfalls. Alongside two owls she used evergreen foliage and white spray chrysanthemums in groups at the base, adding contorted hazel catkins, blue iris and a few daffodils and tulips. Next, for a **Valentine themed** two-placement design with heart-shaped wire structures, Gill included ferns, aspidistra, Fatsia leaves and lime green hypericum berries, finished with red roses and red anthuriums.

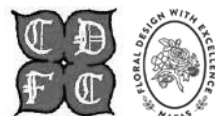
We were then shown the art of a **'mirroring design'**. Using a black raised rectangular container and working from the centre point, Gill added various large plain leaves and ferns of the same size to each side. Two small white ornamental cabbages were placed at the centre and pale pink Singapore orchids completed the design – all radiating out from the centre.

After a break for refreshments, the fourth arrangement celebrated Chinese New Year – 2019 being the Year of the Pig. Peach Avalanche roses, yellow broom and tulips along with ferns captured the feel of China and the addition of **red leucospermum represented fireworks**.

Whilst she chatted to us, Gill swiftly plaited a fern leaf and two of these were incorporated into the next arrangement, which included large orange gerbera. We were reminded of the importance of conditioning all materials before flower arranging and, in particular, how a few drops of bleach in the water before adding the gerbera will improve their lasting qualities.

An upcycled emerald green top hat became the base of the final arrangement and once the Bells of Ireland and pale green carnations were added it was clear this would be to **celebrate St Patrick's Day**. Pale coloured proteas and hard Ruscus placed in groups completed the design.

It was a very enjoyable evening and we were delighted to be entertained by such a talented NAFAS demonstrator/teacher/judge as well as an author of Floral Art Books www.gillmcgregor.com



- For information on upcoming demonstrations, go to www.clophillflowerclub.com or phone Gillian 01525 860539 or Carolyn 01462 815433



Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire

Wildlife walks & talks



Wildlife on a Bedfordshire Farm

Monday 18th March, 7.30pm, Maulden Church Hall

Dave Parsons, known to many for his wildlife volunteering, has watched, monitored and recorded the wildlife on a local Bedfordshire farm for over 20 years. His talk is illustrated with his own photographs, capturing the birds and animals throughout the seasons over two decades.

Open to all – £3 per adult

For additional information please email flitvale.info@gmail.com or ring Ann on 075801 78889 after 6pm or at weekends. www.flitvale.org.uk

St Mary the Virgin, Clophill

Lent Lunches



13th March

20th March

27th March

3rd April

10th April

St Mary's Church

Clophill Methodist Church

112 High Street

Beverley Court

St Mary's Church

12 noon-2pm

Donations will be given to our Lent charity

ShelterBox – emergency disaster relief

Everyone very welcome

Raffle Bring and Buy

For information phone Gill Jones 01525 861058

Please call if you require transport

Having a spring clean?

If you have any bric-a-brac, clothes or bedding to give away, Pete and Vaughan in the village will happily collect it and pass it onto **NOAH Enterprise Luton**, a local charity supporting those who are in homeless or in need. Your unwanted items will either be donated to Noah's client base or used to raise funds in their charity shops. For collection, call **860113**.



P3 work on Readshill Acid Grassland

At the top of the Readshill footpath there's a County Wildlife Site, which is home to some rare plant species including a diminutive blue flower called 'Sheep's Bit'. For some years now the site has been managed for the village by a very small group of volunteers but nature was winning and the area was being over-run by vigorous shrubs and trees.

This year the Parish Council agreed to fund a day's activity organised by the Greensand Trust to begin restoring the acid grassland slope. Such tasks bring together a willing band of volunteers, often 15-16 strong, who can achieve a remarkable amount of work in a few hours. And so they did on this occasion. The undergrowth was brush-cut and raked, the small trees were sawn off and removed and all the resultant spoil was burned at the lower end of the slope where the ash was less likely to influence wild-flower growth – they do best on poor soils.



If you've walked that way recently the difference will have been startling. Some of us can remember children sledging on this slope. Hopefully they can do so again should we get seasonal snowfall, and in the summer we can all enjoy the flora and fauna of this special place.

- If you're interested in working with the P3 group to help care for the green spaces of the village, please contact **Jane Breed** on **01525 860834**

Police pop-up surgeries

The Police are holding Community Surgeries across the Central Bedfordshire area to increase their visibility, availability and accessibility to the public. In partnership with Central Bedfordshire Council's Community Safety Team, the focus of the surgeries will be to listen to residents' concerns and offer appropriate advice. It will also be an opportunity to survey any priorities which the public may have, and use them with the Priority Setting Meetings to focus police efforts within the community.

The following surgeries are planned for Clophill, with additional pop-up surgeries a possibility if there is a demand for them:-

| Location | Month | Date | Time |
|------------------|----------|------|-----------|
| Co-Op, The Green | May | 13th | 2pm-4pm |
| Co-Op, The Green | August | 7th | 10am-Noon |
| Co-Op, The Green | November | 8th | 2pm-4pm |
| Co-Op, The Green | February | 8th | 2pm-4pm |

*Aaron Dagley, Community Police Constable 5832,
North Rural Community Team, Bedfordshire Police*

A poster for Bedfordshire's BIGGEST afternoon tea. The background is dark grey with white bunting flags at the top and bottom. In the center, a white teapot sits on a surface next to a white cup of tea and a slice of cake on a plate. The text is white and arranged in a central, cloud-like shape.

Bedfordshire's **BIGGEST** afternoon tea

• LIVE JAZZ BAND • RAFFLE •
FREE GLASS OF PROSECCO

**Sunday 24
March 2019
2-5pm**

The Cross Keys
13 High Street
Pulloxhill
Bedfordshire
MK45 5HB

Tickets at:

www.keech.org.uk/afternoontea

or call: 01582 707940

A decorative graphic on the left side of the poster featuring stylized flowers, leaves, and several balloons of different sizes and shades of grey.

St Mary's Church, Clophill

Traditional Church Fete & Village Event

Saturday 11th May, noon-4pm

We're looking forward to our annual church fete in the grounds of St Mary's Church. Our aim, as ever, is to organise a fete for the enjoyment of all ages and to involve as many organisations and individuals as possible. We want to provide the opportunity for all to promote their organisation and to raise money for their own cause. This year we're planning to extend the attractions to entertain the children and inform the grown-ups and hope everyone will be supporting this popular event.

If you'd like to help on the day please contact us. We need help with setting up and clearing away, sideshows, refreshments and to assist with running a stall.

Gill Jones

Carolyn Cranswick

For further information phone 01525 861058

www.stmaryschurchclophill.org

Clophill Toddler Group News



We provide a safe and fun environment for toddlers to play and grow, plenty of fun toys and a specific area for smaller babies that includes bouncers and play mats so that grown-ups get a chance for a hot drink and a chat! We provide healthy snacks for the children during the session and at the end we have some singing to wind down.



Each week we prepare a different themed craft for the children to participate in. So far this term we've enjoyed making New Year's masks, Play Doh, celebrating Kids Inventor Day with some junk modelling and robot making, Australia Day themed painting and pizza making with home-made dough from one of our talented mums. We find that the cooking and

baking sessions always go down well with the toddlers and they're always so proud of what they've created!

We have Messy Play with Clophill Preschool twice a term and we always know that we're in for some amazing fun. Their staff always arrange something special for us, usually getting the children outside and



closer to nature. This half term our messy play session took place during the snow! Our children were able to enjoy the preschool's wonderful outside space to make snowmen and try out some sledding.



Clophill Toddler Group welcomes all babies and toddlers from 0-3 years old on a Friday morning from 10am-11.30am. New members are always welcome, and the first session is free. Charlotte Messer, chairperson

- Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Clophilltoddlergroup and get in touch at chaz_messer@hotmail.com

To Spotlight...

Dear Friends

Betty, Chris and Ian Hampson would like to thank everyone who sent messages and cards of sympathy and donations following the death of Maurice (Joe) Hampson, who passed away recently. We were truly overwhelmed by the kindness shown to us and the appreciation of Joe. Betty is now out of hospital, back home and is slowly learning to walk again.

Thank you all from the family,
Chris Hampson

SPOTLIGHT on...

Clophill is full of interesting and talented people – and one of them is Nigel Lesmoir-Gordon, a writer, author, documentary and film-maker who's lived in the village for 20 years. Helen Gent met him...



Nigel & Jenny outside their home

Originally from Cambridge, Nigel grew up with Syd Barrett, David Gilmour and Roger Waters – later to become members of the band Pink Floyd – and John Dunbar, who went on to marry Marianne Faithfull, was a good friend. In the Sixties, when Nigel moved to London as a film student, his flat became a regular hang-out for famous faces like Mick Jagger and Paul McCartney – not that he was star-struck. 'We were all equal,' he says. 'We were all artists of one type or another so nobody was impressed by anyone else.'



Nigel directing Donovan in Greece

The first documentary Nigel made was with the singer Donovan. 'We'd been working together on a project for Mick Jagger – he gave me £500, which was a lot of money at the time, to write a screenplay – but then the Rolling Stones went off on a world tour and it got shelved. So Donovan said, "Look here, Nigel, I'm famous, let's make a film about me." That's how we ended up sailing around the Aegean Sea in his yacht while I filmed him.'

It was the first of many celebrity shoots. In the Seventies, Nigel produced pop videos for 10cc, Squeeze, Rainbow, Joe Cocker, Big Country, Wings and Leo Sayer before spending the next decade making commercial and corporate videos. 'I remember making a recruitment film for the Royal Navy and I got to play with the big toys. I had two ships and a helicopter buzzing around in the sky and I was in charge of directing it all. I absolutely loved it. And it made up for some of the very boring banking commercials I directed in those days.'



Nigel photographed in the Sixties

In the Nineties, Nigel's career took another turn when he made the award-winning television documentary *The Colours of Infinity* with Sir Arthur C. Clarke. The documentary brought the subject of fractals and mathematician Benoît Mandelbrot to the attention of the general public for the first time. It's a subject that Nigel is fascinated with, though admits it's not easy to explain. 'With fractals, it's like when you get a cauliflower and tear off a piece – the smaller piece is identical to the large piece. You can break off smaller and smaller pieces and you'll see the same pattern repeating.'

To date, Nigel has made several documentaries and films about fractals and has also published an illustrated biography of Mandelbrot. 'I'm particularly proud of that book because my son, Gabriel, who used to be a cameraman and is now a probation officer in Poole, took the photographs.' Nigel also has a daughter, who lives in London, and six grandchildren.

Now 75, he's added novelist to his list of achievements – and is currently on his eighth book. 'Ideas for books just seem to pop into my head,' says Nigel. 'I came up with Karma Lawyer: Courage and Love, which is due out this spring, while I was gardening. And I'm calling the sequel Karma Lawyer: When The Knitting Had To Stop. I like an intriguing title that will pull people in.' He says he never discusses his book projects with wife Jenny, who he's been married to for 53 years. 'She's not particularly interested,' admits Nigel. 'Although when my first novel, Nothing and Everywhere, came out in paperback she read it and said she really enjoyed it.'



While other villagers his age may be slowing down, Nigel has just had his biography, Behind Open Doors, published and is working on a documentary about quantum mechanics. 'I've had cancer and I'm due for a second knee replacement this month but I'm still bursting with enthusiasm for life. Why wouldn't I be? I love what I do and I love living in Clophill. I don't need to travel the world because I can look outside my window and see trees and fields every day. It's perfect.'

Clophill Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Clophill Parish Council has re-launched the Clophill Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

The aim of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is 'to bring neighbours together to create strong, active communities where crime and anti-social behaviour are less likely to happen...making sure that fewer people feel afraid, vulnerable or isolated in the place where they live'.

The Clophill scheme is registered on www.ourwatch.org.uk and all residents are encouraged to join:-

- membership is free
- members will receive a pack containing a useful booklet and a door sticker warning uninformed traders that they are committing a criminal offence if they call at your door
- there's no commitment involved other than to be neighbourly and share information.

Over the coming months, the Parish Council is also hoping to introduce '**Street Watch**' and '**Speed Watch**' schemes in Clophill.

If you require any assistance, need a paper form to enrol or are interested in becoming a Neighbourhood Watch representative or to help in any way with Neighbourhood Watch, Street Watch or Speed Watch, please contact James Stirling, clerk to the Parish Council, on **01462 887 226** or email nw@clophill-pc.gov.uk Further details about the schemes are on the Parish Council website.

- Please note that if you signed up to receive Beds Alert messages or you joined Neighbourhood Watch before January 2019, you need to register to join the re-launched Clophill NW Scheme via the account you previously set up.



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Locations: Bedford & Luton
Scheme weeks: 22nd July - 9th August 2019
Training Day: Saturday 1st June (compulsory)
What we offer: DBS check
Uniform
Training
References

"A fantastic experience"

Please visit our website
www.autismbedfordshire.net
to download further information
or call 01234 214871.



Hourly rates for paid staff: £8.27 - £8.77 per hour (including holiday pay).

All vacancies are subject to safer recruitment processes including an enhanced DBS check.

Tel: 01234 214871 **email:** recruitment@autismbeds.org

Registered Office: Autism Bedfordshire, 1 Hammond Road, Elm Farm Industrial Estate, Bedford, MK41 0UD.

Autism Bedfordshire is a Company Limited by Guarantee.

Registered in England No: 4632497—Registered Charity No: 1100722.

St Mary's School News



At the end of January last year we were lucky to be visited by a dance teacher who taught Chestnut through to Oak Class a variety of dances including Bollywood and Street Dance. The children had a wonderful time and learnt some fantastic routines. Our teachers also received some training to continue the excellent lesson the children had received.

Just before half term children came into school in non-uniform and raised £110 to give to the **Mad About Harry charity**. You may already know Harry's story from Facebook or the media. He's a local boy who has Stage 4 Neuroblastoma, a very rare and aggressive children's cancer. His family set up the charity to raise money for ground-breaking treatment that is 'the only lifeline available'. We were due to hold a Non-Uniform Day on behalf of CHUMS' Shine Bright, Wear Bright campaign and whilst this is an incredibly worthwhile charity, we've decided to postpone our fundraising for it until the Summer Term.



In February, some of our children **represented the school at a Gymnastics Festival** – they had great fun participating and put a lot of practice into their routines. We also had Safer Internet Day, reminding the children, in an age appropriate way, how to ensure they remained safe when accessing the internet. And we held a worship about 'Staying Safe in School', where we introduced the children to the new badge lanyard system we're following in school.

We have lots planned for this half-term, including our popular **Lent Appeal Day** which will once again include outside and inside games. This year we're supporting 'The Mind Map', a local charity whose aim is to promote and encourage improved mental health and emotional wellbeing for children. The charity will begin working with our school directly this academic year and into the next.

Our value for March is *Friendship (Caring & Thoughtfulness)*

In school we'll be thinking about caring for ourselves, our belongings and our pets. We'll also be considering caring for others – our families, our friends and the less fortunate – and caring for the environment and our world. We'll be thinking about how our actions as well as our presence of mind affect the way in which we care.

Acorn Nursery News



During February the children celebrated Chinese New Year. They tasted noodles, practised using chopsticks, tried on Chinese outfits, made Chinese lanterns and had a go at Chinese writing in paint. This was a great way of using all their senses to learn about a different culture's customs and traditions and understanding that it's important to treat them with respect. Acorn have also been busy bringing their theme, Bear Hunt, to a close with a Teddy Bears picnic together with Reception. All the children had a great time bringing in their special bears for a homemade feast of sandwiches and fruit kebabs whilst listening to the Teddy Bears' Picnic song.

Stand for what you believe in

The next elections for Parish and Town councils are on 2nd May 2019

Become a Parish or Town Councillor

The best way to find out what it's like to be a Parish or Town councillor is to talk to someone who's doing it now. Your Parish or Town council will have a website where you will be able to get the names and contact details of the current clerk and councillors, and the dates of their meetings. Council meetings are open to the public and you can go along to a Parish or Town council meeting, speak to one of the councillors and find out what they think of the job they do.

By becoming a Parish or Town councillor you become someone your community will look to for help, guidance and support as a community leader with the power to influence decisions for the benefit of the people you serve.

Getting Elected

To stand for election to a Parish or Town council, you must:

- be a UK or Commonwealth citizen; or be a citizen of the Republic of Ireland; or be a citizen of another Member state of the European Union
- be at least 18 years old.

To be eligible to stand for election for a particular Parish or Town you don't have to be connected to a political party but you must:

- be an elector of the Parish or Town or in the past 12 months have occupied land or other premises in the Parish or Town (as owner or tenant) or work in the Parish or Town (as your principal or only place of work) or live within three miles of the Parish or Town boundary.



What do Parish or Town councils do?

A Parish or Town or Town council is a local authority that makes decisions on behalf of the people in the Parish or Town. It's the level of local government closest to the community, with the district authority and the county authority or a principal authority further up the hierarchy.

Parish or Town councils make all kinds of decisions on issues that affect the local community. Probably the most common topics that Parish or Town councils get involved with are planning matters (they are statutory consultees), crime prevention and roads & highways.

Parish or Town councils have a number of powers they can use and have the ability to negotiate with other decision-making organisations such as the district, county or unitary councils, health authorities, police etc. In this respect Parish or Town councils are extremely powerful. These organisations know that a Parish or Town council gives the best reflection of how a community feels about something and its views should be taken seriously.



How much time does it take up?

Councils usually meet once a month for the council meeting to which members of the public are also invited. Meetings may last two or three hours, depending on what's on the list of items to discuss. Some councils may also have committees to deal with specific subjects, such as planning matters.

How long do I serve for as a Parish or Town Councillor?

Once elected, Parish or Town councillors sit on the council for four years. If they then want to stay in the post they can stand for re-election. This doesn't mean that you have to stay for four years. If you find it's not for you, or you can no longer meet the commitment, you can stand down.

Come into the Garden

with Kate Gardner



As I sit here writing this, the sunshine is out and the birds are singing. March is the first month of spring and the garden is coming alive. The winter aconites and snowdrops have graced us with their fleeting beauty, to be followed by hellebores and primroses. March is all about the colour of spring bulbs and in flower are you'll see crocus, daffodils, scented narcissus, *Fritillaria meleagris* (common name 'Snakes Head Fritillary') and the delicate *Erythronium* (Dog's tooth violet).

The warm weather and longer days are a trigger for many of the herbaceous plants to start into growth and **with those juicy young shoots and leaves come the slugs**. These voracious feeders can make a meal of a wide range of vegetables and ornamental plants, but are particularly fond of seedlings and other soft growth. Hostas, delphiniums, dahlias, sweet peas and tulips are regularly attacked by slugs, which can make them difficult to grow if you have a big slug problem.

I've always had a love-hate relationship with slugs but as many larger slugs primarily feed on decomposing organic matter such as dead leaves (and even dead slugs) they can be a valuable part of the composting process. Whatever your view on slugs, you won't be able to eradicate them, so targeting your control measures to protect particularly vulnerable plants will give the best result.



In the past I've had limited success with sharp gravel, eggshells and coffee grinds (they can be good for a small areas), and life is too short to spend hours in the dark with a headtorch picking slugs off everything. This year, with a new puppy in the household, I'm going to try a biological control – Nemaslug – which is a nematode that's specific to molluscs and has no adverse effect on other types of animal. As a warm moist soil (temperatures of 5-20°C) is required, control is most effective during spring to early autumn, with best results achieved by applying in the evening. It's available from refrigerated cabinets in some garden centres or by mail order from suppliers of biological controls.

For all you **rose lovers**, March is the time to prune Bush and Shrub varieties – and it's easier than it seems. Look at the plant and cut out any branches that are spindly, showing signs

of disease, dead or frost damaged. To maintain a good shape, look on each major branch for an outwards-facing bud (away from the plant) and make an angled cut just above it. Cut the plant down to around 40cm (1ft-1.5ft), around knee high. You're aiming for a goblet shape that will allow you to really appreciate the flowers later in the year. Late March/April is the best time to feed your roses to encourage healthy foliage and flowers – sprinkle rose fertiliser around the base of the plant before you mulch to keep down the weeds and reduce moisture loss later in the year.



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.

In the period between our last two meetings we welcomed the opening of the new **Co-op Food store and Post Office** – a fantastic addition to the village, offering convenience and quality produce on our doorstep. However, there have already been many complaints about the parking situation around The Green. Not only are some people parking inconsiderately, such as on double-yellow lines or in the disabled spaces without a valid permit, but some have parked in areas that has prevented buses from being able to access the bus stop. Should this continue, it's likely that the bus companies will cease from using The Green as part of bus routes. CPC is meeting with Central Bedfordshire Council and representatives from Co-op to discuss a range of potential remedies for the parking problems. In the meantime we ask that you all park considerately when using the Co-op.

As part of our review of **Grant Aid**, we agreed to award Clophill Heritage Trust (CHT) £3,504 towards a storage provision at the Clophill Eco Lodges. This will enable the charity to widen its offerings to the community as well as to ensure that their basic business provision can be run effectively. We're delighted to support CHT with their work in and around the site, and it's always fantastic to hear about the excellent work they are doing there with young people, those with special needs and locals.

We hope Clophill residents have noticed changes in our **street lighting** in recent weeks. We've replaced 31 old-style bulbs with LED lights. Not only will the lights improve, but we are saving energy and associated costs, and the streetlights should require less maintenance, too. We're delighted with how things are looking presently, but please do contact us if you notice any lighting issues in the village.

We're in the process of arranging an April date for Clophill's contribution to the **Great British Spring Clean**. Last year we had a fantastic response, particularly from younger villagers and their parents. We'll be publicising dates and plans imminently, but if you're interested in taking part in our litter-picking this year please email terry.lee@clophill-pc.gov.uk.

The Parish Council have recently been advised that the Police will be holding a number of **Community Surgeries** across the Central Bedfordshire area during 2019/2020 to increase their visibility, availability and accessibility to the public. There are a number of events planned at Co-op, The Green – the full list is available at www.clophill-pc.gov.uk. The first event is on May 13th, 2pm-4pm.

There will be an **election in May** for all the positions in the Parish Council. If you're interested in making decisions that affect village life, please consider applying. Nomination forms will be available from the beginning of March and we'll disseminate information about how to apply nearer the time.

- Full minutes from meetings can be found at clophill-pc.gov.uk

Planning

CB/19/00094/FULL

Location: Land to the north of Shefford Road
Proposal: Demolition of existing stables and erection of a single detached 1.5-storey dwelling (Use Class C3) and associated private amenity space and landscaping. Objections include: site is located outside the defined

Clophill Parish Council

Continued

settlement boundary; site is situated within the Greensands Ridge Nature Improvement Area; this residential development removes an important green break to the village.

OBJECT

CB/18/04801/FULL

Location: Land adjacent to 11-13 Little Lane

Proposal: The erection of 3 x 4-bedroom bungalows and diversion of footpath. Objections include: outside the development envelope; part of the land is within the Clophill Conservation Area; re-routing of a public footpath; no detail on foul sewage management.

OBJECT

CB/19/00091/RM

Location: 126 High Street, Clophill

Proposal: Reserved Matters: following approval of CB/17/06011/RM for 4 dwellings, approval for a revised arrangement for the dwellings on Plots 1-3 – approval being sought for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale.

We have concerns that change will make the properties even bigger with the additional space added to the units.

CB/18/02732/PAAD

Planning appeal for Church View Stables, Great Lane.

We believe the applicant applied for permitted development (CB/18/02732/PAAD) as a deliberate attempt to avoid a full planning application for a dwelling in open countryside.

OBJECT

CB/16/05438/OUT

Planning appeal for Land at Former Readshill Quarry, Back Street

We support the original inspector's findings.

OBJECT

The next Parish Council meeting will take place at the Village Hall
at 7.45pm on Tuesday 26 March

Art Exhibition

Saturday 30th March, 10am-4pm
Wesley Hall, Toddington Methodist Church

Support local artists – art to view and purchase

Free entry. Refreshments. Tombola.

All proceeds (including 10% of art sold) go to Joseph's Goal –
Toddington Methodist Church's charity for the year



Parish Registers for January & February

1819

Baptisms

Jan 3 Isaac, son of William & Maria Hare
 Jan 3 William, son of William and Sarah Redman
 Jan 10 Elisha, son of William and Sarah Field (?)
 Feb 21 Henry, son of John and Esther Tingay

Marriages

Feb 1 James Grummitt to Ann Saunders
 Feb ? Isaac Garner to Mary Coburn

Burials

Jan 15 Elizabeth Mann
 Jan 30 Christopher ?

1869

Baptisms

Jan 21 Ernest James Quenby,
 father a baker
 Jan 25 Robert William Low
 father a farmer
 Feb 7 Charles Evans (?)

Marriages

Jan 24 John Goodhall to Laura Bass

1869 continued

Burials

Jan 31 Joseph Hare, 79
 Feb 11 John Kedge, 68
 Feb 17 Sarah Mandlin (?), 68

1919

Baptisms

Jan 26 Henry Prince
 Feb 2 Edith Dorothy Wigans (?),
 father a soldier

Burials

Feb 3 Mary Langley, 82
 Feb 10 Henry Odell, 81
 Feb 17 William Pringle Milligan, 70
 Feb 18 George Wilden, 28
 Feb 27 Mary Irene Rose (?), 69

1969

Baptisms (in Silsoe)

Jan 5 Christopher Luke Bailey
 Philip Nathan Cranes (?)
 Feb 13 Michael Sidney Pakes

No marriages or burials

Bassett-Lowke: A Modelling Legend

Monday 1st April, 7.30pm for 7.45pm

Speaker – Allan Boldero

A talk on the life of W J Bassett Lowke, the man behind 78 Derngate in Northampton, the company he founded, and how offshore production, mail order and upward mobility are nothing new. Model trains weren't the only things that Bassett Lowke sold – although there may be a few examples around on the night! The talk is preceded by a short AGM.

Visitors are very welcome.

Lecture Theatre, Flitwick Library MK45 1QJ

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

Further details: clive.makin@ntlworld.com Tel: 01582 655785

www.adalhs.org.uk

Ampthill & District Archaeological & Local History Society



What's on in and around Clophill

MARCH



Sunday 24th

Macmillan Afternoon Tea The Cross Keys, Pulloxhill, 2pm-5pm
See this issue for information and ticket details



Sunday 30th

Art Exhibition Wesley Hall, Toddington Methodist Church, 10am-4pm

APRIL



Sunday 14th

Easter egg hunt & children's crafts Clophill Village Hall, 2-4pm



Saturday 27th

The Downtown Daddy's Rock 'n' roll night, Clophill Village Hall, 7.30pm-late
See this issue for ticket details

MAY



Saturday 11th

Clophill Village Fete St Mary's Church, noon- 4pm

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: Mar 16; May 18; Jul 20; Sep 14; Nov 16; Dec 14.
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

Amphill & District Choral Society

'Bring & Sing' HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Saturday March 23rd

Amphill Methodist Church

Fee £10

For more info contact Adrienne on **860875** or to register contact i.p.stimson@gmail.com
stating whether you're singing soprano, alto, tenor or bass

Useful numbers

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

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 |
| Clophill Parish Council | Paul Downing | 01525 860350 |
| | (Clerk) James Stirling | 01462 887226 |

HOSPITALS

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

DOCTOR'S CLINICS

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Amphill | (Houghton Close) 01525 300898 | (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 |
| Amphill Station | | 01234 841212 |
| | | 101 |

CHURCHES

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

SCHOOLS

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Clophill St Mary's C of E Lower School & Nursery (Headteacher Mrs K Bingley) | 01525 860206 |
| Harlington Upper School , Harlington | 01525 755100 |
| Preschool clophillpreschool@gmail.com (Chris) 07936 006381 or (Imogen) | 07765 887868 |
| Redborne Upper School , Amphill | 01525 404462 |
| Robert Bloomfield Middle School , 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
Emma Topliff 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
Julia Skelton 07774 993973
www.scouts.org.uk/get-involved
Anita Errick 860695
Marilyn Browning 07821 643936

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greensandcommunitychoir@gmail.com
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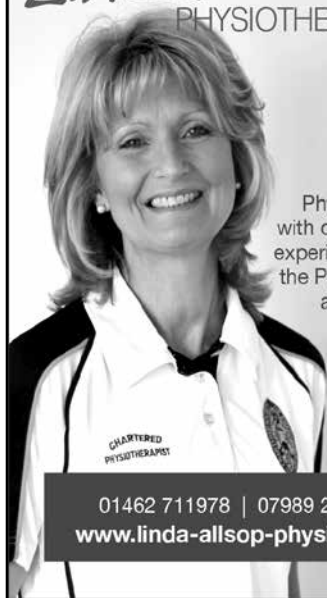
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Saturday 23 March 2019

10.00 to 15.00

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