

Vol 42 | No.8

FREE

# CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

OCTOBER 2020

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## A word from the Editor...

Welcome to the October issue of Spotlight

Following on from our request for a new Distribution manager, I am delighted to write that 4 people have come forward. Many thanks to **Phyllis Edwards, Paul Leckie** and my neighbours **Paul Downing** and **Karen Proctor** for volunteering.



This month, we have a new vacancy on the Delivery team, due to someone moving house. We are looking for a volunteer to deliver to the houses in Readhill and Beverly Gardens (about 57 houses in total). If you can help please contact me on the number below or the Spotlight editorial email account.

***Best wishes, Elaine***



## The magazine staff

EDITOR	Elaine Jones editorial@clophillspotlight.co.uk	07918 975823
ADVERTISING MANAGER	Emma Frost ads@clophillspotlight.co.uk	
DESIGN MANAGER	Grant Robinson	
DISTRIBUTION MANAGER	Phyllis Edwards, Paul Leckie, Paul Downing, Karen Proctor	
TREASURER	Richard Pearson	861110

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

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

# **Clophill Eco Lodges are thrilled to offer our new Self Catering Lodge**

**available now for hire**



Songbird Lodge is now available to hire and features a new kitchenette. Combined with contactless check in & out and unlimited WiFi this self-contained space is ideal for remote workers or staff as an alternative to a standard hotel.

## **A Practical Solution in a Beautiful Setting**

**The Eco Lodges are located half a mile up a private track and are beautiful, self-contained lodges all with en-suite shower rooms:**

- Private balconies for every lodge.
- Unlimited free WiFi & free parking.
- Our site is committed to a high standard of cleaning and adheres to the Covid Clean best practises.

**We are offering an introductory discount to local businesses of 10% on the hire of Songbird Lodge, simply call 07935 911207 or email [Info@ClophillEcoLodges](mailto:Info@ClophillEcoLodges) and quote SONGBIRD20 for your discount.**

# Come into the Garden

*with Kate Gardner*



**October's** crisp autumnal days bring changing colours, shorter days and the occasional frost. If you grow fruit and veg you may still be harvesting and storing this year's crops, but there's plenty more to be getting on with.

If you have a greenhouse, mini greenhouse or cold frame now is the perfect time to sow seeds undercover to give you a whole range of early flowers for next year. Crepis, hollyhocks, sweetpeas, aquilegia and oriental poppies are good choices to try. For something that can take a little longer try sowing Hellebore seeds, but be patient because germination can be a bit slow.

It's not just flowering plants that you can sow now either. 'Winter Gem' lettuce, Mizuna, Mibuna and winter salad leaves can be sown from September to January in an unheated greenhouse or cold frame. Pick the leaves as you need them to add to winter salads. Sow spring onion 'Performer' under cloches and they'll be ready to start harvesting in the spring. Herbs such as basil, dill, chives and parsley can be sown now and grown on your windowsill throughout the winter to give lots of lovely fresh herbs to add to your recipes. If you have an area of the garden where you can direct sow hardy annuals such as cornflowers, poached egg plant, annual poppies and larkspur you will have early flowers to attract bees and butterflies next year. Now is also the perfect time to be planting out daffodil bulbs, tulip bulbs and allium bulbs for a glorious spring display. Dot them through borders or naturalise them in grass.

If you have been growing perennial or biennials such as foxgloves from seed, now is also the best time to plant them out into your borders, along with spring bedding such as wallflowers, bellis, primulas and winter pansies. The garden centres have a fantastic range of plants that can be planted now to give colour and structure right through the autumn and into spring.

Ponds are a lovely addition to any garden and can provide a rich habitat for a range of wildlife. However, without care ponds can soon become an eyesore with overgrown plants, weeds and water that is unhealthy for fish and other wildlife. Occasional cleaning and regular maintenance are required and as we move into autumn it's a good time to place nets over small ponds to prevent autumn leaves falling in.

If you grow tender water plants then remove any dying foliage before you lift the plants and place them in trays of deep mud or damp sand, or even in a bucket of water. Keep them in a frost-free place such as a conservatory or greenhouse, until the risk of frost has passed.

If you didn't get around to tidy up the pond last month, then clear out any debris, weeds and excess oxygenating plants now. Remember to leave the plants on the side of the pond for 24 hours before composting them, so that any wildlife has time to escape back to the pond. Remove pumps or fountains and removable lighting systems, clean them, and store over winter in a safe place.

October is really the last chance to trim deciduous hedges to keep them looking tidy over the winter. Your climbing roses may still have some occasional flowers but now is the time to prune these to ensure a good show for next year. Shrubs normally pruned hard in the spring such as Buddleja davidii, Cornus alba, and Lavatera, should be cut back by half now, to prevent wind rock and to neaten their appearance over the winter months.

**Happy Gardening**

# St Mary's Church News



We are continuing to hold our "socially distanced" services every Sunday and held our first service of Holy Communion since February on September 13th, which was greatly appreciated. On the last Sunday in August we joined our friends in Haynes and Campton for a Benefice Service on Zoom, and on September 6th we celebrated our Patronal Festival with a parish picnic in the churchyard in lovely weather.

Just to remind you, the church is open for private reflection every Wednesday from 11am to 4.00pm.

Our annual parish meeting will be held this month, having been postponed from April.

## CHURCHYARD APPEAL

The PCC is looking to form a "Friends of St. Mary's Churchyard" group following the retirement of Adrienne Gordon after 17 years happily pottering about there.

We hope to attract people who can spare an odd hour to maintain the church grounds while continuing our environmental work. There is a small team of people currently mowing and strimming the grounds on a rota basis, but there is always a need for extra hands.

If you think you can help, we'd love to hear from you, so please speak to anyone you know from the church, or contact **Adrienne** on 860875.



### The Hearn Hotel For Dogs

Services include pet sitting, dog walking and dog hotel.

We offer our home for dog boarding care  
as an alternative to dog kennels.

**Based in Clophill**

Tel: 01525 862509  
Mobile: 07739 099318



Did you know there are free on-line training courses available at Future learn. [www.futurelearn.com](http://www.futurelearn.com) The training is free - you can stop go and pick up at a time convenient to the learner, modules are bite-size and there is a lot of choice.

# St Mary's School News



We are now back into the full swing of school life, albeit a little different.

We have enjoyed welcoming all our new children into Acorn Nursery, Reception Class and within other classes in the school; and hope their experience so far has been very positive. We are immensely proud of how all our children have settled in and adapted to this new normal!

Children remain in their class bubble during the school day, but do join together virtually, for their worship (assembly). Our families also very generously donated to the Jeans4Genes charity day.

## **Important information for Parents with children moving to Middle School or requiring a Reception class place September 2020**

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: 15th JANUARY 2021

If you have any questions or would like to find out more information about the school,

please contact **Mrs Topliff** on 01525 860206,  
or email [generaladmin@clophillstmaryscschool.co.uk](mailto:generaladmin@clophillstmaryscschool.co.uk)

## **Acorn Nursery News**

What a fantastic start to the new school year we've had in Acorn Nursery! It has been wonderful to see the children again as well as welcome new children. All the children have settled in brilliantly to our class routine and truly embraced the new procedures that we have in place currently. We've gone back to basics and spent time discussing what germs are, why we need to wash hands, catch our sneezes and coughs and why it's important to keep each other safe.

Our topic this term is All About Me and as well as investigating our own faces and how we are all different, we've started looking at the different people in our family - immediate and extended. There's also been plenty of time enjoying the sunshine in the garden, playing in the sand pit and using our water pump which has been popular in this heat. A busy start to the school year and lovely to see new friendships forming!

## **Our Value for October is *CO-OPERATION***

Co-operation is everybody's responsibility but takes courage and willpower to achieve. Co-operation requires us to recognise the unique role of every individual whilst keeping a sincere, positive attitude. Those who co-operate with others will find that others co-operate with them.

In school we will be thinking about the benefits of co-operating with others. At home you could think about all the times you live the value of Co-operation and how this helps to get jobs done 😊. You could also think about times when it would be good to co-operate with someone about a task or job.



# Clophill Preschool

## FUNDRAISING

Help the school to raise funds  
by bringing all your unwanted  
yet reusable clothing, paired shoes,  
handbags & accessories.  
**Happy Fundraising!**

Bring clothing on

Any weekday in November to Clophill Village Hall  
and leave on the patio between 8:30 and 1:30  
ready for the collection on the morning of  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November, please ensure  
clothing is in bags. Thank you

Or contact us – [clophillpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:clophillpreschool@gmail.com)



for any queries please  
call 0800 242 5838  
or email  
[info@happyschoolbag.co.uk](mailto:info@happyschoolbag.co.uk)



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# Clophill Preschool News

**Well** what a great start we have had to our 8th year of preschool. We have not stopped after hitting the ground running at the beginning of September. We have had new children booked in to start with us every week since then and continuing past the half term holiday. It is lovely to meet so many families and know that our setting, staff and ethos are what so many people are looking for these days.

It was also lovely to start the term with such glorious weather. Our clothing kit list has become more important than ever as we will be doing all of our play outside from now on. Even when the sun is shining it is important our children have hats and if they want to explore in the mud pit, they definitely need their wellies and waterproof trousers. As the cold weather approaches, we advise parents on the best clothing and how to layer up. We warn our parents that their children will often get muddy and dirty after a session with us, it is all part of the fun and



learning the freedom of the outdoors offers them.

We released our virtual tour on our Facebook page and our website, on our 7-year anniversary, which felt rather monumental especially in a year when our intake is up over 80% on previous years. The film allows people to see the staff and some of the setting although we have made more developments since we filmed it! The gravel pit has had big road works signs put up in it to set the theme, Spotty and Dotty have had a floor put on their house to stop the foxes getting them, and we have put a new wooden table in our outdoor shelter-come-classroom.

We still have parents wanting to send their children to us and so we are offering visits on Fridays when our Forest School group are usually outside the main setting. It has been interesting talking with parents about the education we can offer through outdoor learning as we show them around; explaining how we teach children everything from social skills and managing their own behaviour, to developing language and listening skills. The simple activity of playing together on the swing helps physical development; building coordination and balance, and it may also involve turn taking. Language is developed as children collaborate, helping each other in and out and take turns; not to mention the use of maths as they consider how hard to push, how long their turn should be, and how many can go in it at once. Every aspect of the outdoors allows children's interests to flourish and our staff to teach as they engage in what they enjoy.

We are holding another clothing collection for Happy Bags on Wednesday 11th November. They collect all usable clothing, handbags, shoes, and accessories. We hope this time to raise enough funds to pay for a wheelchair tray for Ruby who attends our preschool. We would also like to buy some new sit on diggers for the sand and gravel pits. If you have anything to donate, please get in touch or drop to 57a High Street. Thank you for your support.

**Imogen, Chris** and the team at  
[www.clophillpreschool.co.uk](http://www.clophillpreschool.co.uk) or [clophillpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:clophillpreschool@gmail.com)



# Jamie Oliver's Chocolate and Beetroot Cake

## INGREDIENTS

- Olive Oil
- Plain flour, for dusting
- 300g good-quality dark chocolate (70% cocoa solids)
- 250g raw beetroot
- 4 large eggs
- 150g golden castor sugar
- 120g ground almonds
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 tablespoon good-quality cocoa powder
- Natural yoghurt, to serve



1. Pre-heat the oven to 180°C, 160° fan, gas mark 4.
2. Lightly grease the bottom and sides of a 20cm springform cake tin with olive oil. Use scissors to cut out a circle of greaseproof paper, roughly the same size as the bottom of the tin, and use it to line the base. Dust the sides of the tin lightly with flour, then tap the tin to get rid of any excess.
3. Break 200g of the chocolate into small pieces and add to a heat proof bowl.
4. Place the bowl on top of a small pan of simmering water over a medium heat, making sure the bottom of the bowl isn't touching the water, and allow to melt, stirring occasionally.
5. Once melted, use oven gloves to carefully remove from the heat and put to one side – beware of the steam when you lift up the bowl.
6. Use a Y-shaped peeler to peel the beetroot, then cut into chunks on a chopping board.
7. Push the beetroot through the coarse grater attachment on the food processor, then tip into a large mixing bowl.
8. Separate the eggs, placing the whites into a large clean mixing bowl and add the yolks to the beetroot, then wash your hands!!
9. Stir the sugar, almonds, baking powder, cocoa powder and melted chocolate into the beetroot and mix together well.
10. Use an electric hand whisk to whisk the egg whites until you have stiff peaks
11. Use a spatula to fold a quarter of the egg whites into the beetroot mixture to loosen, then once combined, fold in the rest but try not to over mix.
12. Add the mixture to the prepared cake tin and spread out evenly using a spatula.
13. Bake in the hot oven for around 50 minutes, or until risen and cooked through.
14. To check if it's done, stick a cocktail stick or skewer into the middle of the sponge, remove it after 5 seconds and if it comes out clean the cake's cooked; if it's slightly sticky it needs a bit longer.
15. Allow the cake to cool slightly, then carefully turn it out onto a wire rack to cool completely.
16. When you're ready to serve, melt the remaining chocolate (in the same way as above), then serve each slice with some yoghurt and a drizzle of the melted chocolate.

# Community Champions

Building on Community Champion schemes that have been running as pilots in other areas locally, we are aiming to establish a group of people across our area who are committed to help us to get key messages across to their own networks. Initially about the COVID-19 pandemic, but potentially about other key developments too. It's a simple concept, through which people who are willing to reach out to the people they are in touch with, are provided with public health messaging to help with the control of the pandemic.

You will be supported to do this with regular direct communications about what's happening with the pandemic locally, why particular messaging is key, and relevant materials (infographics, for example) in appropriate formats for you to pass on. It's also a two-way relationship with champions being asked to give us feedback on whether our materials are working in terms of their subject matter and presentation. Regular virtual meetings between Communications and Engagement Team colleagues and Public Health professionals will be held to support ongoing engagement with the champions.

Community leaders and representatives have already been enormously helpful in amplifying many of the public health messages that the Council has been distributing. We hope they will continue to do so and also encourage those people in their own areas who they know are active and well-respected to become champions themselves; in our collective endeavour to control the virus to save lives, support our vulnerable residents and protect livelihoods.

You can register via our website [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/community-champions](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/community-champions) or contact **Sarah Hughes**

## **Campton and Chicksands Neighbourhood Plan**

### **Formal Regulation 14 Consultation**

**Begins Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and...**

**Closes midnight on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

The draft Neighbourhood Plan for Campton and Chicksands in Central Bedfordshire, together with all supporting documentation, will be available for review and comment throughout this consultation period via the Campton and Chicksands Parish Council website.

<https://camptonandchicksands-pc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/>

All interested parties including residents, landowners, businesses and other stakeholders are invited to comment on any aspect of the draft plan, its policies or supporting documentation. Your views are important and will be welcomed by the CCNP Steering Group.

**Policies cover:** Housing, Environment and Green Infrastructure, Local Heritage, Community Infrastructure, Transport and Movement, and Business and Employment.

**If you wish to comment on any aspect of the plan**, it is requested that you use the downloadable **Response Form** if possible.

Completed forms should be sent to: **CCNP Steering Group, c/o Campton Village Hall, Gravenhurst Road, Campton, Bedfordshire SG17 5NY** or emailed to: [camptonandchicksandsnp@gmail.com](mailto:camptonandchicksandsnp@gmail.com)

**Any other questions?** please email: [camptonandchicksandsnp@gmail.com](mailto:camptonandchicksandsnp@gmail.com)

**No internet or email?** please call 07782 799561 to request paper copies or any other assistance.

Unfortunately, during the current COVID-19 emergency public NP consultation events like "drop in" sessions are suspended within Central Bedfordshire.

**Please note that national or local guidance regarding the COVID-19 health emergency may result in changes to the consultation schedule**

***The NP Steering Group will follow current COVID-19 guidelines at all times***

# Clophill Parish Council



Further information on matters mentioned here are posted on the Parish Council Website – [www.clophill-pc.gov.uk](http://www.clophill-pc.gov.uk)

It was another beautiful evening on Tuesday, 15th September, when your Parish Councillors, Ward Councillors and many members of the public Zoomed in for another meeting to discuss matter pertaining to your village.

## **The Chairman made his announcements noting:**

1. That Clophill Community Care and the Clophill Covid Support group has now amalgamated, acknowledging and thanking the latter for their superb work and help during the past months. The Ward Councillors informed the meeting that there was a CBC 'Covid-19' fund which provided for both revenue and capital expenses, although it was available to individuals rather than via the Parish Council.
2. Kate Breed has volunteered to re-join the Parish Council, the Clerk stating that it would be an agenda item at the next meeting, it being too late for this one.
3. The Chairman has written to the Enforcement officer at CBC concerning the large domiciliary building which had been placed by the stabling on the Land South of Top Farm (Beadlow). The land has planning permission for stabling but not residential use.
4. After some discussion, it was decided that the replacement sign (No Unauthorized Access) on Council Land adjacent to Old Church Path would be an agenda item for the next meeting.

CBC Ward Councillors briefed the meeting on the financial state of CBC, saying that it was in a good position to provide for the potential increase in demands, due to Covid-19 difficulties, having made prudent decisions over preceding years. There was now a Housing Company set up within CBC, its purpose to provide relevant housing which other builders aren't currently providing. The Highways department is identifying maintenance work to ensure greater safety for pedestrians and cyclists where social distancing wasn't easy. This includes hedge trimming on pathways and the refreshing of road markings. ALL MEMBERS of the public can report such issues using the CBC "Report It" facility here: <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/reportit>

## **The Clerk presented his report covering:**

1. The on-going situation at the Green;
2. Replacement of the Townshott allotment sign;
3. On-going difficulties encountered with the landowner to the repair of the fence at Readshill;
4. Lighting supply where the PC has switched provider to save money;
5. The replacement of a broken swing seat at the Recreation Ground;
6. An anonymous letter from unnamed Clophill residents concerning drug taking was received, but to which no reply could be made as it was anonymous;

# Clophill Parish Council

## Continued

7. Work on updating the website and lastly;
8. A document concerning land adjacent to the Flying Horse, formalising the PCs responsibility for maintenance of the land, which needed to be approved and registered with the Land Registry.

### Subjects for 'further consideration' covered;

- a) **The Lakes Development** – Councillor Walford informed the meeting that the documentation should be completed within a few weeks and Ward Councillors are to chase CBC regarding associated reserved matters;
- b) **Land at the Causeway** – where the Chairman set out the situation which was then discussed fully by the Councillors;
- c) **Resuming physical meetings**, it was felt that, due to shielding relatives, the current mode would be continued;
- d) **A scoping application** to build a country village on part of Cainhoe Woods (Beadlow) Golf Club;
- e) A donation to **Magpas** was approved;
- f) The **Christmas tree and associated power on The Green** was discussed. The Clerk was given powers to purchase appropriate lights for the Norwegian spruce, which was being kindly donated to the village. It was suggested that sponsors could be encouraged to help with the purchases;
- g) **The cost and schedule of works** associated with the upkeep of the cemetery at the Old Church. The Clerk met with relevant people regarding this and has since obtained quotes for ongoing maintenance. It was noted that the staff and volunteers of the Eco-Lodges had done a phenomenal amount of work to date but they needed more help. They were also owed for their work and the sum is to be paid. A diary of seasonal work is to be investigated and a plan, with costs, produced - perhaps for the next meeting;
- h) **The trimming** before the winter, of the tree on the triangle of land by the Flying Horse car park. Further discussion ensued about furniture on the same piece of land. Namely, an Otter bench has been kindly offered and will be installed soon, also a new picnic bench has been purchased will replace the broken one;
- i) **The Website update** – this is nearing completion as noted in the Clerk's report.

Once again, we must thank our Councillors – and the members of the public who sign in - who give of their time and are interested and want to support our village of Clophill. The Councillors are all working folk and yet find time to work on our behalf, giving up many hours of their leisure time to our benefit.

**Julie Benson**

# Parish Registers for October

**1820**

## Marriages

Oct 09 Samuel Francis to Ann Pryor  
Oct ?? George Garner to Elizabeth Webb

## Burials

Oct 04 Isaac ?

**1870**

## Baptisms

Oct 30 Elizabeth, d of John and Susan Bottoms  
Anne, d of James and Charlotte Parrish

*No marriages or burials recorded*

**1920**

## Baptisms

Oct 03 Herbert William, s of Ernest and Mabel Webb. father a platelayer

## Burials

Oct 06 Mary Ann Burr (?) 71

**1970**

## Baptisms

Oct 04 Christopher Michael Reilly  
Oct 11 Julie Anne Ayres  
Richard Mark Gibbs  
Oct 18 Jason Mervyn Griffiths  
Neil Buchanan Smith  
Simon Jonathan Holmes  
Matthew Jason Edwin Holmes  
Oct 25 JSimon John Philp

*No marriages or burials recorded*

## St. Mary's Registers for September 2020

### Burial of Ashes

Sep 09 Richard Frank Massingham, 99

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## St Mary's Church News

As previously announced the church is open for quiet prayer every Wednesday from 11.00am to 4.00pm. We are delighted that some people are availing themselves of this. Services resumed on Sundays at 10.45 under strict arrangements, including no singing! We are hoping to resume Holy Communion services this month. This will be advised on our website.



About 20 people gathered around the War Memorial to commemorate VJ Day. The flag was lowered as **Martin Dunn** played the Last Post and the 2 minutes silence was observed followed by Reveille as the flag was hoisted. Finally the Church bells rang out. It was a quiet and respectful ceremony.

# Clophill Methodist Church

## Thank You



Due to the current COVID situation, the Clophill Methodist Church was unable to host our 'normal' Harvest Festival Service; which includes the collection of food and other items at the altar for donation to those in need. In the current climate even more people are needing help to meet their most basic needs, and as such we were delighted at the response of the Clophill community to our call for donations for the Bedford Foodbank. Instead of collecting our 'Harvest' inside the church we asked for donations to be dropped outside the church on Saturday 12th September. Several of us from the Church took shifts to ensure the collection went smoothly, and many a good (socially distanced) chat was had!

**Thank you to everyone who donated. We plan to do this again before the end of the year.**

**Victoria Higgins** *(on behalf of Clophill Methodist Church)*

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## CLOPHILL UNITED CHARITIES

Christmas donation to Widow(er)s and Pensioners - December 2020

This year owing to the situation created by Covid-19, there will be a change to the distribution.

There will be NO arrangement for payment at St Mary's Church.

Anyone who received payment last year and is still eligible will receive an envelope through the letterbox in the first week of December – no action is required on your behalf as we have details.

Anyone who didn't receive payment last year and is now eligible should apply in writing stating their name and address to Clophill United Charities, c/o 8 Little Lane, Clophill. The final date for receipt of applications is 30th November, 2020.

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 do not need it. This will enable us to provide help to others throughout the year. Posters will also be displayed in the village.

Please remember too that all through 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, is experiencing financial hardship please contact me (on 01525 861110) in total confidence.

On behalf of the Trustees

**Richard Pearson** – Chairman

# Sign up for the Walk to Remember 2020

Get together with family and friends to celebrate someone special this October on the Walk to Remember 2020. It's being organised by Sue Ryder St John's Hospice, which cares for people with life-limiting conditions as well as supporting their families.

Ellie Burke, Community Fundraiser at Sue Ryder St John's Hospice, said: "Due to uncertainties in the current situation, we have sadly postponed our Starlight Hike this year, but are excited to announce our new event, Walk to Remember 2020."

You can walk any day throughout October or join hundreds of others across the country for our official walk day on Saturday 17th October.

Choose your distance of 5K or 10K, your start and finish line and a route that means something to you, to raise crucial funds or make a donation and help us continue to be there when it matters. Sign up for free at: [www.sueryder.org/walktoremember](http://www.sueryder.org/walktoremember)

Contact the hospice's fundraising team on 01767 642 412 or [stjohnsfundraising@sueryder.org](mailto:stjohnsfundraising@sueryder.org)



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## Village groups

Beverley Court	860920
Brownies	<a href="https://enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk">https://enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk</a>
Clophill Community Care	Duty Contact 07791 773705
Clophill Heritage Trust	Ali Bradbury 07894 710001
Clophill Preschool	Imogen 07765 887868
	Chris 07936 006381
Clophill St Mary's C of E Lower School & Nursery	Emma Topliff 860206
Clophill Toddler Group	Hannah Compton 07535 705711
Clophill United Charities	Richard Pearson 861110
Conservation Group	Brian Adams 862297
Flower Club	Gillian Hill 860539
Friends of the Cheshire Home	Sue Pearson 861110
Funzone After School Club	07903 167493
Greensands Community Choir	Luke Howard 07975 520085
Indoor Carpet Bowls	Tony Meredith 860754
Messy Church	Victoria Higgins 07920 568861
	<a href="mailto:victoriajhiggins@hotmail.co.uk">victoriajhiggins@hotmail.co.uk</a>
St Mary's PTA	Julia Skelton 07774 993973
Scouts and Cubs	<a href="http://www.scouts.org.uk/get-involved">www.scouts.org.uk/get-involved</a>
Tea and Chat	Anita Errick 860695
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Marilyn Browning 07821 643936



# Useful numbers

<b>Gas</b> (Emergency)			0800 111999
<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>	(Clerk) James Stirling	clerk@clophill-pc.gov.uk	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>Ampthill</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>Ampthill Station</b>			01234 841212
			101

## CHURCHES

<b>St Mary's Parish Church</b>		RECTORS POST VACANT	
	(Church Warden) Rosemary Ilett	mandrilett@onetel.com	01525 860274
<b>St Francis RC Church, Shefford</b>		Ian Gordon	01525 860875
<b>Clophill Methodist Church</b>		Jim Davies	01525 860829
<b>Baptist Churches</b> (Ampthill) 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> , Ampthill			01525 404462
<b>Robert Bloomfield Middle School</b> , Shefford			01462 628800



# Fundraising Team of St Mary's Church

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## *Auction of Promises*

During September we have received a wide variety of promises for the auction, as listed below.

<b>Promise</b>	<b>Reserve or suggested cost</b>
1 Reading	
2 Dog walking	
3 Prescription collecting	
4 Gardening	
5 2 hour Zoom based training – intro to Excel, Word or PowerPoint or	£100
6 Guidance in CV writing and job interviews	£100
7 8" square Christmas cake	£15
8 10" Victoria Sponge	
9 Christmas door wreath – in fresh foliage and natural decorations	£20
10 Christmas table decoration - to suit bidder	£10 plus flowers
11 Christmas face masks - in cotton fabric with a filter	£4 each
12 Hand knitted child's Aran jumper or jacket	£20 including wool
13 Curtain alteration - shortening or adapting	£10 per hour
14 Festive Shortbread	£5
15 4 x weekend cake and pudding	£10
16 4 x casseroles	£10
17 Festive door ring or table arrangement	£20
18 Christmas door ring	£20
19 Walking companion	
20 Shopping	
21 Prescription collection	
22 Car washing	
23 Decorating - painting and wallpapering	

Items

- 24 George carpet cleaner
- 25 Antiquarian prints – Southill Park and Luton Church (hand coloured)

**We are happy to receive more promises and will extend the Auction of Promises until December**

If you are interested in making a bid for one of these please contact

**[juliebenson@talktalk.net](mailto:juliebenson@talktalk.net) or 01525 860497**

Julie will then put the two parties in touch with one another to discuss details and timing.

The fee paid will be donated to St Mary's Church.

It should comply with Covid 19 restrictions, reach the wider village community and provide a service; as well as raising much needed funds for St Mary's Church.

# Clophill's Serving Survivors of WW1

By Sue Pearson

Continuing our series in celebration of Clophill's brave men who fought in and survived the First World war...

## William Gillett



Born in Walton-le-Dale, Lancashire in 1886. He joined the Navy in 1904. He married assistant teacher, Edith Appleby in Clophill in 1912. After their marriage they lived at Glebe Cottage - now Taylor's Cottage -106 High Street. They had two daughters. In 1914 William was called to serve in the First World War as a Gunner Warrant Officer, re-joining his ship, HMS Mermaid at Dover. During WW1 he also served on HMS Afridi and HMS Forester. He served in the Navy for 44 years, also serving in WWII, gaining the DSO and the rank of Commander. His medals and many of his records are to be seen at the Imperial War Museum in London.



**HMS Forester**- an Acheron class destroyer of which William was second in command in 1918.

In 1923 the family had the "The Moorings" built (also in the High Street) as their family home. He died in 1955.

**George Gobey** was a Private in the Machine Gun Corps (having also served initially with the 4th Beds.). He volunteered in November 1915 and was drafted to France the following year. He served at Albert, the Somme and Ypres. In March 1917 he had a gunshot wound to the shoulder whilst at Bapaume and was admitted to hospital in France. He convalesced in Lytham. He was severely wounded at Cambrai in November 1917 and was sent back to England for treatment. He subsequently returned to the Western Front and he was seriously wounded and gassed in March 1918. He was demobilised the following year and he received the General Service and Victory Medals. He lived in High Street, Clophill.

He was born in Clophill on 29th August 1896 and in 1911, George was a 14 year old Labourer to a Market Gardener. He was living in the 118 High Street with his father, Joel, a Labourer/Woodman, his mother Sarah and 6 siblings. An elder sister was no longer living at home. The family were called Gobby on the 1901 census. George died in December 1978, aged 82.

**Harry Gobey** was a Private in the Bedfordshire, then East Lancashire and then the 2/1st Suffolk Yeomanry and in 1911 lived in the Slade with his parents John and Mary and 4 of his siblings. His parents had 9 children. His father was a farm labourer as was Harry. He was born in 1896 in Clophill. In July 1916, Ampthill News reported that Harry had been wounded in the head and was now recovering in a hospital in Scotland. It said it was the second time he had been wounded. In September 1916 the paper reported that he had returned to France and had been on the Frontline since the start of the war and was "an expert bomber." He was awarded the Star. Harry continued to live with his parents in the Slade until at least 1928.

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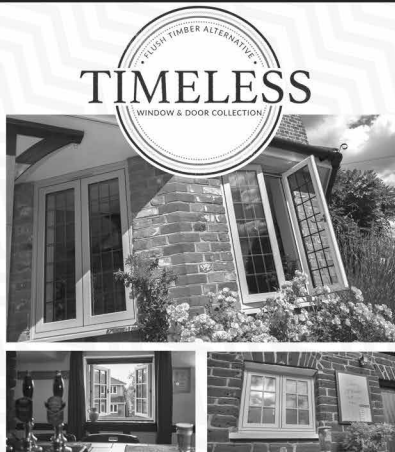
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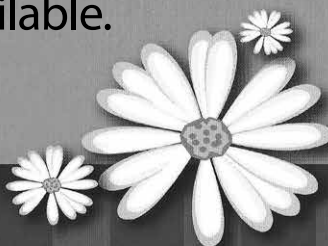
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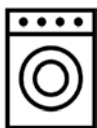


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