

Vol 42 | No.10

FREE

# CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

DECEMBER 2020



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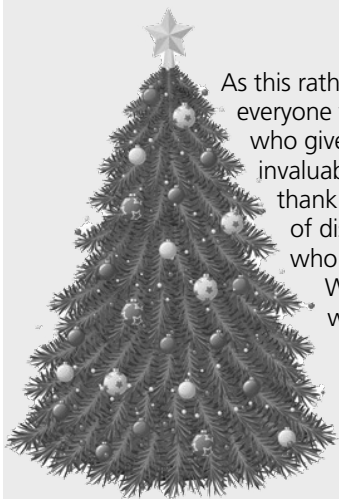
**Email: [benson.stuart@gmail.com](mailto:benson.stuart@gmail.com)**



## A word from the Editor...

Welcome to the December issue of Spotlight

*Dear Reader,*



As this rather extraordinary year draws to a close, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the magazine this year. So many who give their time each month to write interesting articles, provide invaluable updates and design fun posters. I would also like to thank the team; Grant, Emma, Richard, our new band of distribution managers and of course everyone who walks the streets of Clophill to deliver Spotlight. Without each of you Spotlight would not be the wonderful magazine it is.



**Merry Christmas and a Happy New year. Here's hoping that 2021 will be a better year for us all.**

*Best wishes, Elaine*



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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)***



## Clophill Toddler Group News

Clophill Toddler Group would like to say a hearty "Welcome back!".

We have currently been able to resume our Friday morning sessions – although with quite a few changes! Government rules permitting we will be running our 10-11.30am sessions during term time, with our new booking scheme on our Facebook page. Please search for "Clophill Toddler Group", Charlotte or Lucy will be on hand to answer any questions.



We have been so pleased with the success of the group in our first few sessions back, it did feel strange to have such limited numbers, but the noise of happy children soon filled the hall and we are working hard to ensure that anyone we can't fit in each week is offered a space in the next session.

We are open for any parent or care givers with children from birth until 3 years old, with a lovely small baby area, ride on cars, a new craft each week and lots of interesting toys to keep everyone busy.



It has been so wonderful catching up with old members and meeting new ones from Clophill and the surrounding villages and we hope to continue to do so.



We are a really friendly group so if you are feeling nervous about coming along due to Covid or being a first time parent please do get in touch so that we can reassure you and welcome you along.



# Come into the Garden

*with Kate Gardner*



I'm often asked what do gardeners do in the winter? These dormant months are the best time to work on the framework of the garden to get it in great shape ready for the spring. Winter gardening work includes shrub regeneration, bare root planting and soil preparation and general renovation and clearance – doing all the big jobs that you haven't had time to do during the summer or autumn.

For me that means tackling the overgrown mature ivy that is threatening to reclaim the garage and repositioning the greenhouse and compost bins. While I don't want to totally remove the ivy it will need some serious regeneration.

Have you ever seen a hedge that is all woody underneath with a thin layer of greenery on its domed top? Regular hedge trimming will keep a shrubs surface shape, but the woody stems will thicken and harden over time. These look ugly and may eventually result in unnecessary deterioration of the plant. Hedge regeneration involves either pruning out the old stems and/or pruning back all branches to encourage fresh shoots in spring. The extent of the pruning will depend on how it has been pruned in the past or vary with species. Roses are an example of a plant that benefits from regeneration (see previous articles on pruning roses). I will be using this same technique on the Ivy and the shrubs in the border which have got a little too big for the space.

We have lots of deciduous trees in the village and these are still dropping their leaves. It's important to keep clearing up the leaves in your garden as this helps to reduce diseases. Decomposing leaves and other debris on hard standing will supply enough nutrients for weeds to self seed in cracks, grow and then spread. They can also make paths slippery. Decomposed leaves make a great addition to your gardens soil health so bag them up and stick them somewhere out of the way to fully break down then add them onto the soil as a mulch next autumn.

Weeds will continue to grow during a mild winter so regular weeding is a good idea. Remember, when your spring flowering bulbs and border plants start to flower, the borders will be harder (more time consuming) to weed. It makes sense to keep them tidy before spring. Also, many weeds are seasonal. Weeds make more weeds, so regular weeding means less weeding.

As long as the soil is not frozen or waterlogged, it might be possible to safely dig up and move dormant plants to another part of the garden and replant before they 'wake-up' in the spring. While many bulbs are often planted in late autumn it's not too late to plant the later spring flowering ones in like tulips. Herbaceous plants can also be lifted, split and replanted to refresh both the plant and the border.

Winter is a good time to dig a new border. Leave the soil in clumps. The winter rain and frost will help to break it down naturally. This will also expose any pests to natural predators and the cold. Is your lawn bumpy? The winter is a good time to remove sections of turf, add/remove soil and relay.

Now that you can see your garden in its bare bones, what repairs are needed? Plan ahead, what plants will need supports as they grow? Add them now. Does your shed have a leaky roof, do you have a water-butt in readiness for summer, have you got a compost bin in place, is your fence in need of a repair or two, do newly planted climbers need trellis or supports? Now is the time to get all these jobs sorted so that you can enjoy your garden in the spring

**Happy Gardening**

# St Mary's School News



We were delighted to be represented at the church Remembrance Sunday service in November.

Thank you to **Mr. Wilton** for the beautiful wooden poppy that he made on behalf of the school and for Mrs. Wood for laying it on the memorial for us. We also held a virtual Remembrance service within school and sold poppies in honour of the many brave service men and women who died in the line of duty and who are still working hard to protect us today.

**Jake**, the school dog is settling in very well to school life. He has begun his training and is learning quickly. He really enjoys seeing the children and can't wait to be able to

spend time with them once he's fully trained. He has also had his first trip to the groomers and so now is looking even fluffier!

We are really pleased and proud to also be able to share our new website, the address is the same as the old one, <https://www.clophillstmarysschool.co.uk/>. Please take a look around and if you have any questions then please contact **Mrs Topliff**, our School Business Manager.

## In other news:

- Our Christmas play was a little different this year. We recorded our children performing 'Who took all the loo roll' which was made available to parents to view. All the children in the school and nursery took part and gave an outstanding performance. We are looking forward to welcoming people back to watch our performances next year.
- Making me (formerly Mind Map) ran a socially distance outdoor 'Shield of Resilience' workshop with our year 3 and 4 children, providing tools and techniques to improve their resilience.
- We raised £192 for Children In Need. The School Council arranged a number of fun activities for the children to take part in, including guess the number of spots on Pudsey's bandana and wearing something yellow/ spotty to school.
- Children also wore non-uniform to support Anti-Bullying week. During the week the children thought about the things that make us different and that no one should even be bullied for being different to somebody else.
- Work has finished on our Computing resources and we are all enjoying the much improved infrastructure and laptops/ ipads.
- The virtual tour has been produced and is available to watch for any prospective parents. Please check our website, or call Mrs Topliff in the school office, for more information.



# Acorn Nursery News

We've had a busy few weeks in Acorn Nursery focused on a variety of celebrations and festivals! We celebrated Guy Fawkes Day by watching firework displays in the dark, made our own rockets and our own firework display in a glass jar!

We also joined the whole school special Remembrance Day virtual worship where the whole class sat beautifully during the 2-minute silence. We enjoyed making our own poppies.

We have explored all about Diwali and today we've joined in all the Children in Need fun! Always a busy, fun filled day in Acorn with wonderful learning opportunities.

For the remainder of term we are focusing on our All About Me topic.

We currently do have spaces in our nursery setting, please contact Mrs Hayes, the Nursery Manager, at [nursery@clophillstmarysschool.co.uk](mailto:nursery@clophillstmarysschool.co.uk) for more information.

## Important information for Parents with children moving to Middle School or requiring a Reception class place for September 2021

Applications online: [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions)

**Deadline for both Middle School Place/Starting School Place: 15TH JANUARY 2021**

The school have produced a virtual tour of the school, please visit our website ([clophillstmarysschool.co.uk](http://clophillstmarysschool.co.uk)), contact Mrs Topliff on 01525 860206, or email at [generaladmin@clophillstmarysschool.co.uk](mailto:generaladmin@clophillstmarysschool.co.uk) for more information

## Our Value for December is *JUSTICE* (Equality)

The children will learn that Justice means giving all people what it is right and fair for them to have. It is about acting out of a concern for what is right and not for punishing those "who have done wrong", instead, helping them to understand the choices they should have made.

Through equality we will be teaching the children that everyone deserves equal rights regardless of the factors they might have that are different. The children will learn about some of the rights they have but also the responsibility that comes with these; helping them to understand both how they should be treated and how they should treat others.

At home we invite you to discuss this with your children also – what rights do they have at home and what responsibilities come with these rights – for example – they have the right to a clean and safe bedroom but they also have the responsibility to help to keep it tidy!

# Clophill Preschool News



Hello everyone,

Firstly, a massive thank you for all the donations to our Happy School bags collection. We filled the first van and they had to come back the following week for the rest! We collected 286 bags in total, just outstanding, and raised nearly £700. THANK YOU!

We have bought new toilets for the new outdoor toilet block, some enormous dinosaurs to promote large scale small world play and some sit on diggers for the gravel pit.

Ruby's family managed to get funding for the wheelchair accessories, so instead we have bought her a specialist chair that will allow Ruby to get out of her wheelchair and to sit unaided. This will help Ruby to be on the other children's level which is fantastic for her social development as Ruby loves being with her friends.

In other good news we have been chosen as finalists in the Nursery World Awards national competition in the category of Preschool of the year 2020! We are most delighted and a little giddy at the thought. We had to send in a photo that represents our setting. We chose



the one of Chris investigating under logs with the children; a thing we do all the time and shows the importance of the adult at preschool to teach and inspire. The results are announced in February next year.

Many opportunities for communication with our parents have now been lost because of the pandemic, which saddens us. In a bid to still gather their opinions in a socially distanced way; each month we now pose a question to them online. Our first results are

back in; response to how good our communication is now that we are having to keep our parents at arm's length and we can no longer have our doors open as we used to: when parents and visitors were welcomed, and everyone got the chance to meet and talk. We had a great response and as a result of the feedback we have put a number of new plans in place: information boards in the windows to read as parents line up, photo and information cards about each staff member have been handed out, our website has been updated and there's a new handbook on there. With fundraising money we have bought a large digital photo frame to put in the window so that parents and children can see what goes on during session and we are organising some socially distanced walk-throughs of the setting to allow parents to explore the space safely.



Meanwhile, the worries of the pandemic thankfully seem to go right over the heads of our children as they continue to play and engage, learn and develop. We focus on each child understanding the need to wash hands effectively and cover mouths when they cough or sneeze, just as we have always taught them to.

The children have really enjoyed playing with the huge new dinosaurs we bought from our fundraising, which have inspired much dinosaur talk and play. There has been lots of tower building with everything from logs to tyres. Children have been mark making; taking clipboards or note pads from the shelter to use as they play. We have been having wheelbarrow rides, working on the allotment and identifying leaves, counting leaves, threading leaves and even dancing with leaves! Nature is such a wonderful resource!



This year we have no nativity which is very sad so instead we are inviting a couple of local Christmas elves in to spread some festive cheer – our staff member Julie is bringing the magic of Imajica, her theatre company, to preschool to help us get in the Christmas spirit!

We wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and look forward to a better year for all.

Imogen, Chris and the team

[www.clophillpreschool.co.uk](http://www.clophillpreschool.co.uk) and [clophillpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:clophillpreschool@gmail.com)





## *Red Cabbage with Balsamic Vinegar & Cranberries*

### INGREDIENTS

- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 2 large onions, halved and thinly sliced
- 1 tsp whole cloves
- 1 medium red cabbage, quartered, cored and thinly sliced
- 200ml vegetable stock
- 3 tbsp balsamic vinegar
- 100g brown sugar
- 200g fresh cranberries



1. Heat the oil in a large pan. Add the onions and fry, stirring every now and then, for about 10 mins, until they start to caramelize..
2. Stir in the cloves, then add the cabbage and continue cooking, stirring more frequently this time, until the cabbage starts to soften.
3. Pour in the stock, add the vinegar and sugar, then cover and cook for 10 mins.
4. Stir in the cranberries and cook for 10 mins more. Cool and keep in the fridge for up to 4 days, or freeze for up to 3 months. Thaw in the fridge overnight. Reheat until very hot before serving..

# Clophill Heritage Trust Update

Our Wardens had a few busy days last month making Christmas Wreaths to sell locally.

Following the cancellation of our usual Wreath Making Workshops in November we were able to make our own creations from locally grown greenery. Thank you to anyone who purchased one.

We still have rooms set up as 'Work from Home' office space, these are available for half or full days and start at £25. Our larger rooms (The Nest & The Hive) are also available to hire for small meetings or groups of 6 or less. Please contact us on 07935 911207 or [info@ClophillEcoLodges.co.uk](mailto:info@ClophillEcoLodges.co.uk)



We have some special offers on room rates for December and January, so if you need extra space for family visiting over Christmas give us a call. All of our lodges are cleaned to best-practise standards, we have contactless check in & out processes and all rooms have their own entrances allowing for complete social distancing.

As a very strange year draws to an end, we would like to say a huge thank you to all our volunteers, trustees and those of you that have supported us in any way; buying jams & honey, hiring work space or using us as a meeting room for a day. It really has made a big difference to this little charity and we hope to be able to say a proper thank you by holding a community BBQ next year.

We hope you all have an enjoyable Christmas and hope for a more normal 2021!

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## St Mary's Church News

We started November with a service for All Saints and All Souls Days, when white roses were put on the altar to remember loved ones we have lost. The following Sunday we held a Remembrance ceremony in the churchyard attended by about 50 people well distanced and masked! All the usual elements were included, finishing with the National Anthem. It was a very moving occasion. About 20 people gathered on Armistice Day for 2 minutes silence and the Last Post and Reveille played by Martyn Dunn.



Sadly our usual Christmas services will be curtailed. We hope to have Parish Communion on Christmas morning, but probably with much reduced capacity. Nothing can yet be decided, but we will make sure you are informed via posters, our website and Grapevine and even by word of mouth!

We at St. Mary's Church wish everyone a happy Christmas and a much better New Year.



Clophill Village Hall

presents

# Santa's Sleigh

20<sup>th</sup> December 2020 - From 16:30PM

**SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN!**

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, and Santa is getting ready to visit his favourite village to spread some festive joy to the residents of Clophill!

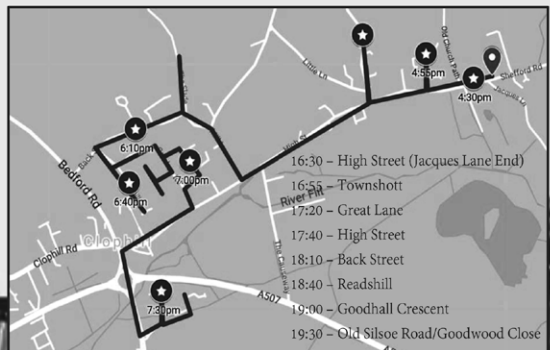
To keep everybody safe, some of our elves are taking a year off!

We'll still be collecting donations on the night which go towards the upkeep and maintenance of our fabulous Village Hall.

If you prefer, you can donate via our JustGiving page at [justgiving.com/campaign/clophillsanta](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/clophillsanta) or scan the QR code below and make sure to be ready and waiting for Santa as he follows the route below!

**JustGiving**

Scan this QR code with  
your phone's camera





## THREE KINGS CHRISTMAS TREES

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*Christmas is more than a day in December  
It's all of those things that we love to remember  
Its carolers singing familiar refrains  
Bright coloured stockings and shiny toy trains  
Streamers of tinsel and glass satin balls  
Laughter that rings through the house and its halls  
Christmas is more than a day in December  
Its the magic and the love  
That we'll always remember*



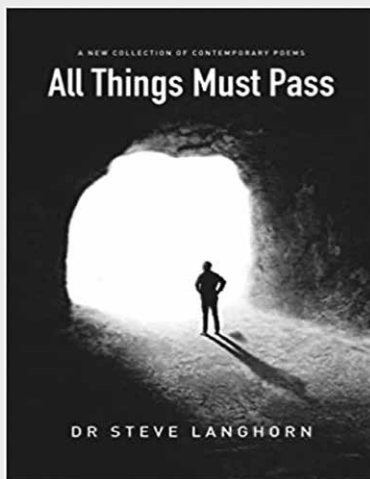
# *All Things Must Pass*

*Like most of us, I have found this year, which has been dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic both frustrating and worrying. This has inspired me to take up a new pastime of writing contemporary poetry, not only as a way of expressing my feelings, but also as a way of raising funds for some very important causes.*

*In June 2020 I published my first book of poetry, Extraordinary Times, Extraordinary Rhymes which raised funds for Mind BLMK in Amptill where I am a volunteer. This was essentially a poetic narrative of living through the early stages of the Covid-19 pandemic written in the style of a diary, as events, thoughts and feelings unfolded day by day, not only covering the pandemic, but observations, both humorous and personal, about life in general.*

*My new book All Things Must Pass, continues in the same style, the title carrying a message of hope that we will get through the current difficulties. The content is not just about the pandemic but also the very nature of life as children grow and we all age, hopefully written in a style with a mix of humour, emotion and at times just a little opinionated, much like the author himself.*

*You can buy the book on Amazon for just £4.99, an ideal stocking filler, with all profits going to the Alzheimer's Society. Just type in the title and my name, you will find me listed just beneath that other bloke who had a rather good album which carried the same name!*



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.



# Ampthill Community Safety Group

On Monday 23rd November a young man lost his life following a collision on the A507 between the golf club and the bends. The road was subsequently shut for several hours and traffic necessarily diverted through the village. Notwithstanding this loss of life, villagers will be all too aware that there are not infrequent incidents on the A507 that cause it's closure and associated disruption. Ampthill Community Safety Group have liaised with Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service who have primary responsibility for Road Accident prevention in the county and a short film was created in early November highlighting the hazards and dangers. That video was shared with Central Bedfordshire Council. It can be seen on YouTube - YouTubeA507. It was produced for Road Safety week.

On Thursday 26th November, myself as Chair of Ampthill Community Safety Group, and the Deputy Chief Fire Officer for Bedfordshire spoke on BBC 3-Counties Radio morning show - [https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/live:bbc\\_three\\_counties\\_radio](https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/live:bbc_three_counties_radio) @7.50am, highlighting the issues and the fact that 10% of the accidents that Beds Fire deal with are on the A507. The three Ward Councillors Mark Smith, Paul Duckett & Mike Blair have put a paper together highlighting this issue and the Parish Council Chair Steve Rodell is writing to CBC too, requesting urgent attention; recognising that it would be impossible to change the shape of the road.

Ampthill Community Safety Group will ensure that this matter is not kicked into the long grass and will keep the village updated with progress.

Paul Downing

Chair - Ampthill Community Safety Group - Tel: 860350

## CLOPHILL COMMUNITY CARE

Clophill Community Care plans to hold its **Annual General Meeting** on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December, starting at 10am. Because of the Covid-19 restrictions, the AGM will be held on-line using Zoom.

The AGM is open to all Clophill Parish residents; if you would like to attend the virtual meeting, please register your place by emailing [clophillcommunitycare@gmail.com](mailto:clophillcommunitycare@gmail.com)

You will then receive further details of how to join the meeting.

Also, a reminder that Clophill Community Care is continuing to operate during the Covid-19 pandemic; we have supplies of PPE and so are able to operate safely, including providing transport to medical appointments.

The phone number to contact if you need help of any kind is our dedicated Clophill Community Care line:

**07791 773705**

# Parish Registers for December

**1820**

## Baptisms

Dec 03 Joseph, s of Joseph and Maria Hare  
Total for year 20

## Marriages

Dec 24 George Wil? to Hannah Groom

No burials recorded. Total for year, 15.

**1870**

## Marriages

Dec 02 Daniel Rust, 42 to Charlotte  
Balls, 21

## Burials

Dec 15 Thomas Walker, 37, consumption

Total for year 31, 17 male, 14 female

**1920**

## Baptisms

Dec 05 Eva Joan, d of Harold and Eva  
Gibson. Father a painter

## Marriages

Dec 01 Ernest Trevor Michael Mitchell  
30, sailor RN to Bertha Matilda  
Neal Fennemore, 34

**1920**

## Baptisms

Dec 13 Hayley Diane Stringer, Flitwick  
Keith Martin Thompson

## Burials

Dec 19 Anthony Tuffnell, 53

## St. Mary's Registers for October 2020

### Burial of Ashes

Oct 24 Peter Soper, 78. Died Nov 2019  
Formerly of The Causeway

# Village groups

Beverley Court

Brownies

Clophill Community Care

Clophill Heritage Trust

Clophill Preschool

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

Indoor Carpet Bowls

Messy Church

Friends of St Mary's (FOSM)

Scouts and Cubs

Tea and Chat

Village Hall Booking Secretary

860920

<https://enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk>

Duty Contact 07791 773705

Ali Bradbury 07894 710001

Imogen 07765 887868

Chris 07936 006381

Emma Topliff 860206

Hannah Compton 07535 705711

Richard Pearson 861110

Brian Adams 862297

Gillian Hill 860539

Sue Pearson 861110

07903 167493

Tony Meredith 860754

Victoria Higgins 07920 568861

[victoriajhiggins@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:victoriajhiggins@hotmail.co.uk)

Mary Milne and Jenny Garnham

[fosmclophill@gmail.com](mailto:fosmclophill@gmail.com)

Anita Errick [www.scouts.org.uk/get-involved](http://www.scouts.org.uk/get-involved)

Marilyn Browning 860695

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>           |                                |                         | 01462 813436 |
| <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

|   |                             |                                  |              |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
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# 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...*

**Samuel Hall** – was Corporal 58555 in the Royal Engineers Home Port Security Depot. He lived on the High Street, served in France and was awarded the Star. No further information is available for this person.

**Herbert Harris** was a Private in the 1st Bedfordshire Regiment. He volunteered in December 1914 and served with his unit in England until August 1916, when he was sent to France. He took part in severe fighting at Ypres, the Somme and Vimy Ridge, where he was taken prisoner. On his release he returned home and was demobilised in May 1919. He lived in Jacques Lane, Clophill. In 1911, aged 27, he was living in Jacques Lane with his wife, Sarah Anne and 4 children. Herbert, a Market Gardener Labourer, and his 2 eldest children had been born in Flitton, while his wife and 2 youngest children had been born in Clophill.

Article from Luton News January 1917, reporting that Herbert's brother was seeking to be exempted from serving as he had to tend Herbert's land in addition to his own and support his invalid father.

## ONE-MAN BUSINESS.

Ernest Harris, 38, married, market gardener, of Clophill, passed for general service, stated that in addition to his own three acres of land he cultivated a little for his brother, serving in France. He had four children and his father, a helpless invalid, dependent upon him.

Three months' exemption.

WILL APPEAL.

**Thomas Harris** was a Lance Corporal in the Royal Defence Corps and he joined in 1916. He was engaged in guarding munition works. He was demobilised in March 1919. He lived on the High Street, Clophill. In 1911 Thomas, a Bricklayer's Labourer, lived with his wife Emily and 4 children, on the High Street. Thomas and the children had all been born in Clophill whereas Emily had been born in Canada.

**Roland George Herbert** was a Private in the 4th Bedfordshires. He volunteered in 1915 and was drafted to France in July 1916. He took part in the severe fighting in the Somme and other engagements. He was wounded at Gavrelle in April 1917 and invalided home. He was discharged in October 1917 owing to his injuries. He lived at 11 The Strand, Mill Lane, Clophill.

In 1911 Roland lived at home with his parents George, a Woodman, and Elizabeth and 4 siblings. Roland's occupation was given as Farm Kitchen Boy. There were 2 other people in the house, George Braybrooks, who was Elizabeth's father, and Sarah Elizabeth Roofs, who was described as a Cook Domestic. They were all born in Clophill. Roland was born in 1897 and died in 1982. His brother Ernest is commemorated on the Clophill Memorial.

# Clophill's Serving Survivors of WW1

Continued

**Frank John Hinton** - born in Clophill in 1891.



Frank lived on the High Street and in 1911 was a Market Gardener. He married Ethel Bottoms in 1917- whilst on leave. Ampthill News reported "The wedding presents were choice and valuable. After the honeymoon the bridegroom re-joined his regiment for foreign service." The couple had three children. His youngest child, Denis died during WW2 in a motor accident. Frank was a Corporal in the Royal Garrison Artillery. He served at Ypres in 1918 and Ampthill News reported that he had been awarded the Military Medal for coolness and devotion to duty

whilst under heavy shellfire later that year.

He returned home and resumed his working life as a farmer, initially in Clophill and at Kiln farm and later in Hitchin. His last home was in Meppershall. He died in 1978.

**Arthur Huckle** - born in 1884 and lived in Great Lane, moving to Haynes by 1911 by which time he was married to Ellen, had 4 children and worked as a cowman. He later moved to Biscot. He became a sergeant in the 8th Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment and was killed in action in the Somme on 15/9/1916. He is remembered on the memorial in Legrave.

**Bruce William Huckle** - born in 1896 and lived in Hall End. He became a gardener and later served as a Corporal with the 12th Lancers, and later the Machine Gun Corps. In 1918 his charger fell on and injured his leg. He was demobbed in 1919. In 1920 he married Bertha Bone. He died in 1984.



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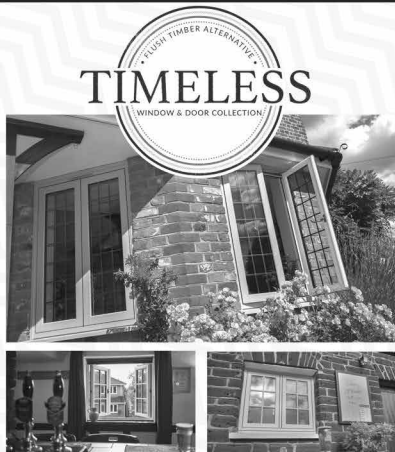
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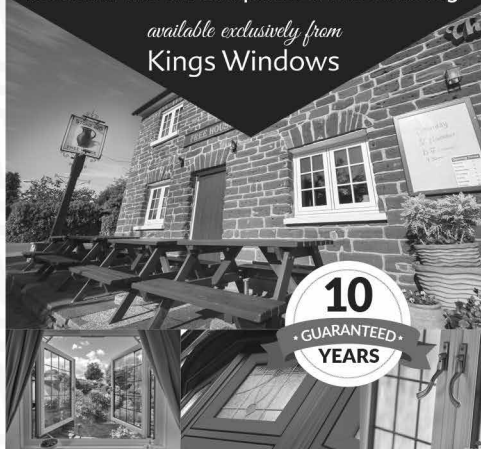


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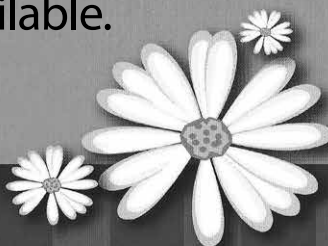
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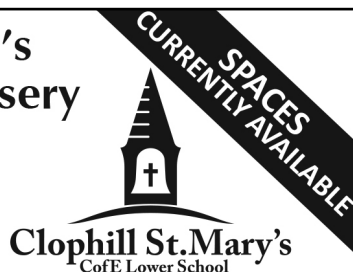
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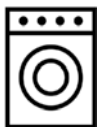


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