

Vol 43 | No.6

FREE

CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

JULY 2021



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A word from the Editor...

Welcome to the July issue of Spotlight

Dear Reader,

I hope you are all enjoying the summer sunshine and the welcome return of some international sporting events with the tennis, football and soon the Olympic games.

Staffing on the Spotlight team has become a major issue now and I am appealing to you all to see if you can help or know someone who might. Due to unforeseen circumstances, Grant our designer is having to step down and **this issue will be his last one**. Without a designer, Spotlight cannot continue as it is the designer who compiles all the material I receive and edit, inserts all the ads and turns it into a magazine. This requires specialist skills and access to specific software. Please see page 2 for more details.

We are also still looking for a new Treasurer and to date no-one has come forward.

Normally I would now say Spotlight takes a break for the summer and will return in September. I really hope that this will be the case and that we will be back.

It has been a privilege and a joy to be the editor of our amazing Village magazine. I really hope that I can continue to do so.

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	Toni Elston Phyllis Edwards, Paul Leckie	861813
TREASURER	Richard Pearson	861110

Deadline for articles is 20th of the month

You can also read Spotlight online
www.clophillspotlight.co.uk

SAVE YOUR SPOTLIGHT

New Design Manager wanted for your local village magazine

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Grant is reluctantly having to step down, so we are looking for someone to take over as our
Design Manager.

The role requires 4-6 hours of your time each month.
Knowledge and access to the Adobe Creative Suite is essential.

Can you help?

For more information please contact Elaine on
07918 975823 or **editorial@clophillspotlight.co.uk**



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



Spotlight relies on volunteers to keep going.
Sadly, if this key role can't be filled ***the July issue of Spotlight will be the last one*** 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.**

Come into the Garden

with Kate Gardner



There's lots of jobs to think about over the summer, as Spotlight takes a break until September, so this time I've concentrated on things that we can do to keep our gardens full of colour through what I hope will be a warm summer.

Some of my favourite plants are at their best during July. Delphiniums, Agapanthus, lavender various Clematis, Achillea, Nepeta, late flowering Peonies, Day Lily, Roses, Sweet peas and Honeysuckle are all blooming and the garden is full of beautiful scents. To keep summer plants and bedding at its best and to prolong flowering, it is essential to dead head. The purpose of dead heading is to encourage more flowers. If the flower heads are left on, then the plant switches to seed production and is then very reluctant to flower again. Dead heading, which is cutting off the spent flower head, forces the plant back into the cycle to produce flowers again. Cut the spent flower off just above a leaf node which is where your new flowers will break from.

Early flowering perennials can begin to look a bit tired by July and their foliage is becoming tatty and brown. If these plants are cut back now, many will produce fresh green growth to liven up the border and sometimes even a second flush of flowers. Good candidates for this treatment are Oriental poppies, Alchemilla, hardy geraniums, and Nepeta. Cut back close to the ground, feed and wait a couple of weeks. It can look a bit bare when you first do this but it doesn't take long for the new green shoots to appear.

Now is also a good time to prune early summer-flowering shrubs such as philadelphus, flowering current and weigela after they've blossomed, so they can put on new growth this year that will hold the flowers next summer. As well as cutting back for shape, look for any damaged or dead shoots and cut them out.

July or early August is the time to prune Wisteria for the second time in the year. Twice yearly pruning is essential to keep Wisteria flowering each year. If you grow Wisteria, prune now otherwise you may jeopardise next year's flowers. Prune back the whippy summer growth to contain the plant. Wisteria is vigorous and needs harsh treatment. Cut the whippy tendrils which have grown over summer back to about 15cm (6") long. And this month is the perfect time to plant bulbs that will bring colour in autumn; for instance, Autumn crocus, amaryllis and nerine will flower in September and October. The nerines are particularly welcome as they have all the brightness of the early summer blooms with their blasts of pink and white and can make a real difference to the garden as winter draws in.

Water evaporates during windy or hot weather, leading to the water level dropping in your ponds. The reduced surface area can be damaging for fish as there's less oxygen available, so top up the pond if necessary. Ideally use rainwater from a butt as tap water is rich in nutrients that causes algae to prosper. Floating weeds can quickly cover the surface of a pond if left unchecked, so twirl these out with a stick or use a net to scoop them out. Leave weeds and algae on the side of the pond overnight, so that larger creatures can return to the water. Check on any wildlife ramps to make sure they are still in place as they are important in ponds where the sides are steep to ensure wildlife can get safely out of the water.

Happy Gardening

St Mary's School News

The sun has finally come out to play and we've had a great June at St. Marys!



Since our last instalment, we celebrated Outdoor Classroom Day. This was a fantastic opportunity for teachers to plan activities outside using our beautiful grounds. As a special treat, Nell Lee, our Forest School Practitioner, led Outdoor Classroom Day for Birch Class as they were unable to start our eagerly anticipated Forest School provision due to Lockdown last year.

All of the children really enjoyed the different activities on offer during the day and we managed to take some fantastic pictures which are proudly displayed on our website (<https://www.clophillstmarysschool.co.uk/Curriculum/Outdoor-Classroom-Day-20-05-21/>). We also managed to finally plant our special tree to commemorate HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. Children from Acorn and Oak helped to plant the Oak tree, ably assisted by Jake the School Dog too (see the picture below!) Oak was chosen in recognition of Prince Philip's many years in the Royal Navy where the boats used to be made of this wood. We now have a beautiful new place for children to sit and reflect. After Half Term, we began by celebrating World Oceans Day, taking part in different activities such as writing poems and completing oil spill activities to help us to understand the importance of looking after our waterways.

We also thought about Healthy Eating week and took part in the 'Eat Them to Defeat Them' campaign run by our catering suppliers, HCL, to encourage children to eat more vegetables!

As we move through to the end of term, we will be looking at ways in which we can celebrate Sports Day as well as (hopefully) hold Transition Day (where children move up for the day to experience their new class and teachers for September) and also say a suitable 'good-bye' to our Year 4s leaving for Middle School. Obviously, we have to be mindful of Covid.19 restrictions when organising all of these events and I'm sure we will have to make use of technology once again in order to involve our parents/carers in some of these occasions!

Please regularly check out our **Website** - <https://www.clophillstmarysschool.co.uk/> and Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/clophillstmarysschool> for more news and information about our wonderful school.

Jake (the school dog)



Jake has continued his work around school! He has enjoyed hearing children read and popping out to visit them at lunchtime and breaktime. He is very good at listening and helping children if they become a little sad or worried too! He even found time to help us plant our special tree for HRH Prince Philip! What a fantastic asset to our school he is!



Acorn Nursery News



As always, we've been extremely busy having lots of fun in the sunshine and learning through play in Acorn Nursery! The children have really enjoyed our 'Down on the Farm' topic this term. We have fully explored, investigated and learnt about so many different aspects of how a farm in the UK works. We've looked at animals that live on the farm and their important role in the circle of life; investigated buildings and what they are used for leading to exploring maps, learnt about produce and how it gets from being a seed to our dinner plates; contrasted current farm vehicles to past vehicles and explored the impact of the weather on the working life of a farm in the UK and compared this with a farm in Asia.

Our termly topics provide a full and varied curriculum for our children as well as invaluable starting points for us to follow and build upon. The children always take us wherever their imaginations go and this can lead to anywhere - our Farm topic led to playing in Pirate ships!

Being fully integrated into the main school, we also participate in all the specially themed days and weeks. This term they have included World Ocean day, Allergy Awareness Week and Healthy Eating Week.

We currently have spaces available in September 2021 and accept 30 hours free childcare funding. If you are interested in our first class Nursery offering, please contact Mrs Hayes at nursery@clophillstmarysschool.co.uk or call 01525 860206 and press 2 for the Nursery.



Our Value for July is *Faith*

Faith is the complete trust or confidence in someone or something.

At school, we will explore the Christian faith and also the faith of people from other major religions. We will also discuss people we can put faith in and even how we should have faith in ourselves! At this time, we have lots of children moving onto new schools or new classes and we will encourage them to consider how faith can help them to use the knowledge and wisdom they have developed through learning about values at St. Mary's, to give them the confidence and courage they need to face new challenges and experiences.

At home, you can also consider who you put your faith in as a family – is it each other, other family members or friends? You can discuss the reason you can put your faith in these people too. If you are a family of religious faith, you could consider revisiting this faith together – discussing how your religious faith helps you throughout life.

Clophill Preschool News

Hi everyone,



We have initially asked our parents for help getting the allotment set up and many have kindly offered their assistance including one parent, a landscape architect, who has offered to design the layout for us. We are just starting to contact other village groups and businesses to see if they would like to support us, if you would like to lend a hand, please do get in touch, everyone is welcome.

We have had teachers visiting us at preschool from some of the 12 schools our children are going to in September, it's great to welcome them in and be able to have proper discussions about the children and allow them to see them playing first-hand. It also gives the children a chance to meet them so that when they go to their new schools, they can instantly make that connection. To assist further with the transition the children have each been given a treasure box which they have decorated, they can put anything in it, from photos to favourite pebbles, all little reminders of their time at preschool and an important way to hold those memories and carry them forward so they can revisit them in their own time.

It's been a lovely sunny June; the glade and allotment have really taken off and look fabulous as they flourish. Work has started on our Community Allotment; we have bought pallet collars to make the raised beds using money from the Happy Bags clothing collection. Thank you to those of you who donated items, though the company has halved the kg price due to Covid we still raised a respectable £143 so thank you.

We put our allotment idea to the Parish Council who were very supportive of our plans, so thank you to them, and we have put in a request for some funding for materials to set up the allotment with a council grant scheme.



As we near the end of another preschool year we have been asking our children what they like best about preschool and what they would like to add to it if they could. Answers about their likes ranged from camping, playing in the wood chip pile, the mud kitchen, climbing the big tyres, the swing and splashing in muddy puddles to playing and having fun with new friends, Friday fires and the (slightly burnt) s'mores, the chickens and 'Everything! They love animals, I love animals!'



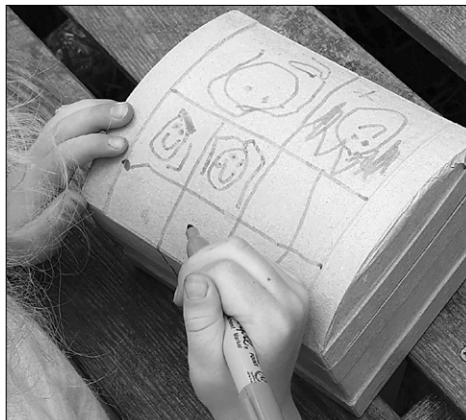
Most children said there wasn't anything else they wanted adding but we did get requests for a fire engine, some lawn mowers and a paddling pool, we hope to be able to get some of these in for the children though we may struggle with the request for a unicorn...

Much of our added value and rich resource comes from the people in our preschool community; Katie has been dancing outside with the children this term, Julie has brought in her old Singer sewing machine for the Friday bunch to help them make their own fabric creations. We also have some very thoughtful friends of preschool in our community, thank you to Stella for bringing us up a vacated birds nest she found for the children to explore. Kate has also been up to chat about ideas for the allotment and ways to engage the children further in the wonders of plants and their uses.

We really appreciate our community and while we are all frustrated by the delay in the final lifting of restrictions, we are so pleased that we are starting to get people up to preschool, to meet face to face, albeit socially distanced, to chat, network, engage. The future is definitely looking brighter.

Imogen, Chris and the team

www.clophillpreschool.co.uk clophillpreschool@gmail.com



Clophill Village Hall
Annual Report

Summary of 2020-2021

The year-ending May 2021 has followed the trend reported at the last AGM. That is the devastating impact that the Covid-19 pandemic has had on the operation of the Village Hall, and naturally it's wider impact on society at large.

The hall has remained all but 'closed for business' for the trading year under review, with the exception of the Pre School which has been permitted to continue to support the young children of the village and surrounding areas.

The Committee have put in place a range of cost saving measures in order to protect its finances, which whilst effective have proved to be insufficient in balancing the books. We are thankful that we have been able to claim a number of Government grants which have helped us ironically present a healthy set of accounts for this trading year. A couple of other grants from Tesco have enabled us to purchase a full professional signage programme to support our Covid-19 policies and furthermore we have been able to purchase four outside benches which are now sited on the patio.

Most recently we have seen the gradual return of hirers, notably Brownies and Toddlers. The bigger impact will come when we can open up to proper social hire and the freedom to stage our own fundraising social events.

We are already looking forward positively and further develop our facilities to retain our position as one of the best village halls in the county.

- Specifically, we are looking to improve our heating facilities and are currently actively considering the quote we have recently received to install a low carbon infrared heating system.
- Furthermore, we have employed the services of an architect to draw up plans for the erection of an extension to the hall which would be built on the site of the existing patio. This is likely to cost circa £100,000 so it would need a substantial fundraising effort to actually make this happen.

We will pursue the above initiatives against a theme of making us not only the most attractive venue in the county, but also the most environmentally friendly.

We are also involved in an initiative to support the mental health of village residents by teaming up with the Pre School to develop a community allotment adjacent to the hall which could provide a place where adults could actively support the creation of a fully accessible allotment and grow vegetables and flowers, or maybe simply use it as a place to sit quietly.

We look forward to better times in 2021 and a positive move to 'normal times' in the announcement from the Government in July.

Finally, I would like to thank the Management Committee for sticking with us throughout these surreal times when it would have been very easy to lose interest in the continued operation of the Village Hall.

Steve Langhorn
Chair
Clophill Village Hall Management Committee

Please enter

St Mary's Church. Clophill

Village Scarecrow Festival

18th & 19th September 2021

Saturday 10am – 4 pm

Sunday 12noon – 4pm



Lunches and teas in St Mary's Church

Programmes with voting forms and maps available from

The Green, Methodist Church and St Mary's Church £4

An event for all the Community

Entry forms available from :- outside the Church Porch

or contact Carolyn 01462 815433 or Julie 01525 860497

Explore Greensand Country



Discover Greensand Country – Part 1

Greensand Country is a very diverse and special area. This area that you live in, is an oasis of peace and tranquillity that stretches from Leighton Buzzard to Gamlingay. The rolling countryside, breath-taking views and geology really make the area unique.

As there are so many stunning aspects to Greensand Country, we felt that it would be good to explore three elements with you, to show you what makes Greensand Country so distinct.

Geology

This is an important place to start as the geology defines the nature and the landscape of Greensand Country. The area is famous for its patchwork of different habitats, including woodland, heathland (heather and acidic grassland), wetland, acid grassland, farmland and rivers.

Approximately 125 million years ago, the area we now know as Greensand Country was dominated by tropical shallow seas. Sediments of sandy minerals were deposited as silt, sand and gravel, which eventually became compressed into the Greensand rocks. Because the Greensand is a more resistant rock, it was not eroded as quickly as the softer clays surrounding it, leaving a ridge as a prominent feature in the landscape. Today, the ridge forms the 'backbone' of Greensand Country – it is the area's most prominent landmark, home to diverse habitats, abundant wildlife and enjoyed year-round by walkers, cyclists and horse-riders.

You can actually study the different types of rocks across the area and find out which ones you actually live on! To find out more go to www.bedfordshiregeologygroup.org.uk or www.greensandcountry.com.

Heritage

There are numerous historical sites and heritage centres in the area. The Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre contains a collection of railway artefacts, whilst the Woburn Heritage Centre is a museum of local history. There are many parish churches, predominantly built of the local sandstone and notable buildings such as Ailesbury Mausoleum, situated in the churchyard of St Mary's Church, Maulden and believed to be the earliest mausoleum in England and St Mary's Old Church in Clophill originating from Saxon times.

Nearly all of Bedfordshire's Grade I listed manor houses are located within Greensand Country, including Woburn Abbey, Haynes Park, Moggerhanger Park, Southill Park, Wrest Park, Warden Abbey and the ruins of Houghton House. Grade II listed manor houses include Ampthill Park, Shuttleworth Mansion House, Segenhoe Manor, Flitwick Manor, Heath Manor, Crawley House, Hazells Hall and Aspley House. Many of these estates boast extensive historic parklands, which are characteristic of Greensand Country and offer space for visitors to roam amidst stunning scenery. So there is plenty to explore.

Nature and Wildlife

Greensand Country is alive with diverse and wonderful wildlife. Key species include the Adder and Common Lizard on the dry heaths at Stockgrove and Rushmere; Otter and Kingfisher on the Flit river; and Purple Emperor, White Letter Hairstreak and White Admiral butterflies in the woods at Chicksands and Kings Wood. On the heathland and acid grasslands look out for Slow Worms and Common Lizards, Sand Wasps, Digger Wasps and Green Tiger Beetles.

Explore Greensand Country Continued

In the east of Greensand Country is the RSPB The Lodge nature reserve and gardens, where you'll find an abundance of birds, amongst them star species such as Great Spotted Woodpecker, Hobby and Nuthatch. The wet meadows of the Riddy are one of the few remaining places in Bedfordshire where you can find Water Voles. Meanwhile, you can spot Buzzards and Red Kites soaring in the skies right across Greensand Country, searching for food.

Many of these species have been encouraged back into the area over the years thanks to the Greensand Country Landscape partnership. This was formed back in January 2017, as a National Lottery Heritage Funded Programme, which was established to deliver up to 90 projects that would help raise awareness of the heritage value of the landscape and reverse the gradual decline of its distinct character. 24 partners have worked together to make the projects a success. They include Central Bedfordshire Council, The Greensand Trust, Sustrans, The British Horse Society and the Bedfordshire Geology Group; to name but a few.

To find out more about this amazing area please go to www.greensandcountry.com.



**Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire**

Wildlife walks & talks

Wednesday 14th July

Flitwick Moor & Folly Wood Nature Reserve

6.45pm for a 7.00pm start (Flitwick, off Maulden Road, TL 046 354)

An invertebrate walk* with Colin Carpenter

Colin will guide us through the ever-magical Moor. The cool temperatures in spring have affected our invertebrate friends. With the warmer days, the population will hopefully have bounced back. Come and see.

***£3 per adult**

We very much look forward to seeing you!

Open to all. Events have group size limits. Please reserve.

To book places or for additional information please email
flitvale.info@gmail.com or

ring Ann on 075801 78889 between 6 and 8 pm or at weekends.

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire
Registered charity number: 1000412
www.wildlifebcn.org
Flit Vale Local Group
www.flitvale.org.uk

St Mary's Church News



There are 2 very positive items of news this month. Firstly, if you have passed the church, you may have noticed the scaffolding, which was due to go up on July 5th to replace the guttering, do some roof repairs and to fix the clock. Thanks to 2 years of fundraising and many applications for grants, we have enough to cover the cost of this work. However, we have to start all over again to raise the necessary funds for the repointing project.

Secondly, we now have confirmation that we shall soon be in a new benefice with Maulden, and the Revd. Canon Lynda Klimas will be installed as our Rector later this summer. She wants to make herself known to the village as soon as possible.

Other news – The Bishop of St. Alban's, the Right Revd. Alan Smith, will be taking our service on July 25th, and this will mark the ending of our formal association with Campton and Haynes, but not our friendship with the people we have come to know and love.



**Are you interested in issues that affect where you live?
Do you want to influence decisions made on Clophill related matters?
Want to comment on planning applications / proposed developments?
Maybe you want to change something or want to see things done differently?**

The best thing to do is get involved to influence decisions you may not otherwise like

Clophill Parish Council represents the needs and concerns of all age groups in the community and is the first tier of local government. It is responsible for a range of local matters that directly affect Clophill residents. At present there are 7 councillors and Clophill should have 10.

Full details of what Councillors do can be found [here https://clophill-pc.gov.uk/our-parish-council/what-we-do/](https://clophill-pc.gov.uk/our-parish-council/what-we-do/). Broadly the council is a statutory consultee on planning, highways, rights of way, transport & traffic, community safety, housing and administers parish land and allotments, street lighting, the war memorial, seats and shelters etc.

No experience is necessary and fully paid training is available. You will require internet access and your own transport to meetings. You need to be a Clophill resident of own land or a business in Clophill to be eligible.

The best way to find out what it's like to be a parish councillor is to talk to someone who's doing it now. **Steve Rodell** the current Chair would welcome an informal chat. Or come along to a Parish Council meeting to see what happens.

Contact in confidence: Steve Rodell, Chairman, Clophill Parish Council
steve.rodell@clophill-pc.gov.uk, or call on **07738 182407**.



Locally Based Part Time Job – Flexible Hours

Parish Clerk (and Responsible Financial Officer)

Clophill Parish Council seeks a highly motivated and enthusiastic person to be Clerk to the Council and Responsible Finance Officer. The successful candidate will be paid for approx 12 hours per week but this may vary depending on meetings and workload.

The role of Clerk is to ensure that the Council conducts its business properly and to provide independent, objective and professional advice and support. They are the key point of contact with all contractors, suppliers, residents of the village and have a vital role in Council meetings.

The successful candidate will need to possess great communication skills and the ability to prioritise their own work with minimal input day to day from the Parish Council. It is expected that the Clerk will maintain accurate records for the Parish Council, attend meetings as determined by the Council to give appropriate guidance to councillors where required.

Salary is based around a national pay scale based itself on experience and qualification. (Further details on request).

Duties include:

- Acting as advisor to the Council, preparation of meeting agendas and meeting minutes
- Compilation and distribution of correspondence using relevant systems
- Attending meetings
- Responsibility for filing, preparation of budget estimates
- Production of annual accounts of the Parish Council
- Completion of statutory returns as required
- Manage the website content using CMS.

Experience and Skills Required

- Applicant to hold or consider working towards a Certificate in Local Administration (CiLCA)
- Working knowledge of local government is preferred but can be gained
- Experience of Attending Parish Council meetings would be beneficial
- Use of Microsoft Office applications including Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Publisher
- Possess a high degree of literacy and numeracy coupled with excellent organisational skills
- CMS and HTML knowledge.

This is a home-based role with meetings at various locations and you will require internet access and your own transport to meetings. It is preferable that you are based in or near Clophill.

Please send a CV with a short covering note and your full contact details in confidence to:

Steve Rodell, Chairman, Clophill Parish Council. steve.rodell@clophill-pc.gov.uk.

If you wish to discuss the role at all, please call **Steve on 07738 182407**.

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...

Sidney Matthews lived on the High Street and was a Private in the Army Pay Corps. He was born in Clophill in 1891 and in 1911 lived at "Cross Tree" (now No. 87) High Street, Clophill with his parents, Thomas & Emily and his 4 siblings. He worked from home as an agent for the Refuge Assurance company. His father was a thatcher. He married May Martin in 1912.

Francis Eden Meade was a Captain in the Royal Engineers (Signals) and lived on Back Street in 1918. He had been born in Richmond in 1886, married Muriel Lines in 1909 when he worked as an Electrical Engineer. He died in 1969, his connection to the village appears to have been brief.

Arthur Middleton lived on Back Street and was a Private in the 4th Bedfordshires. Arthur was the son of Martha and Joseph (a Coal Merchant,) born in Clophill in 1896. In 1911 his parents had moved to Ampthill and Arthur was living with and assisting in his Grandfather – Isaac Woodcraft's business of Market Gardner in Back Street. Arthur married Mabel Emerton and had 2 children. He died in Canada in 1951.

Ernest Trevor Mitchell – born in 1879, lived on the High Street and served as Engine Room Artificer in the Royal Navy on H.M.S. Boadicea, a scout cruiser converted to a minelayer in 1917. In 1921 Ernest was stationed at Chatham Barracks. He married Bertha Fennemore locally in 1920. By 1924 they had moved to Pulloxhill. He worked as a butcher's salesman in 1939 and then lived with his wife and son in Lambeth. He died in Middlesex in 1962.

Henry Victor Negus



Henry (also known as Harry) was born in 1897 in Flitton. In the 1911 census he was shown as living in Back Street, Clophill as a scholar with his aunt, Charlotte Mary Willmore, a widow and also her son Ernest John, an agricultural labourer. He joined the Royal Artillery on 26.10.15 and gave his age as 19 years and 3 months (he was 1 year younger). He was 5' 4" tall. By that time, he was living with his now married mother in Clitheroe and joined up in Preston. Harry was a driver and gunner serving in France. He was hospitalised while in the army with tonsillitis and de-mobbed in 1920. He married Ada Chambers in 1924, both worked in the Cotton Mills. Harry died in Lancashire 4th April 1993 aged 95.

Clophill's Serving Survivors of WW1

Continued

Edward Norris was a Private in the Army Service Corps and lived on the High Street from at least 1918 to 1923. He was born in 1877 in Marylebone. However, he was an unmarried shop porter, living in Paddington when he enlisted in 1915 (and only 4' 11"). He was demobbed in 1919. His mother was called Louisa Amelia and his father James.

Percy James Northwood was born in Clophill in 1896 and was the son of James and Eliza. In 1911 their address was given as The Strand and Percy worked, at the age of 15 as a Farm Labourer. He was a Private in the 3rd Bedfordshire Regiment and the Hertfordshire Regiment. He joined in March 1916 and in the following December was drafted to France. He took part in the Battles of Attas, Ypres III, Passchendaele and Cambrai. He was wounded in the Retreat of 1918. He was later gassed and returned to England, being demobilised in August 1919. His service record isn't without blemish, he was admonished and fined 3 days pay for breaking out of camp and going AWOL for over 8 days. He married Emily Fossey locally in 1923. His address continued to be given as The Strand until 1929 when it became 29 Mill Lane, an address he lived at until his death in 1953.

What's on in and around Clophill

SEP



Sunday 12th

Harvest Festival, Methodist Church, 10:30am..

SEP



Saturday and Sunday 18/19th

Scarecrow Festival, St Mary's Church See poster and letter in this issue.

On throughout the month...

Tuesdays... in term time

• Clophill Preschool, Stay and Play sessions on Tuesdays 9:30-10:30am and Thursdays 1-2pm, at the Village Hall. See 'Village Groups' for contact details.

Fridays...

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

Regular services at Clophill Methodist Church

Weekly Worship at the Church has returned, at 10:30am.

CHURCH SERVICES

Regular services at St Mary's Church, Clophill

1st Sunday 10.45am, Family Praise

2nd & 4th Sundays 10.45am, Parish Communion

3rd Sunday 10.45am, Morning Praise

Sunday morning services are now resumed at St Mary's Church and everyone is welcome to attend.

Please contact our churchwarden Steve Grylls on 01525 860076/07733 321 390 or by email stevegrylls24@gmail.com to let him know you will be coming along and we can make sure that enough socially distanced seating is available.

If you have any diary dates that you would like included on this page, please email clohillspotlight1@hotmail.co.uk

Clophill Heritage Trust

After what has felt like a very long closure, we are thrilled to have our Hive Studio open for hire again. This lovely space is ideal for classes (yoga, Pilates, meditation), meetings, club get-togethers, children's parties or team days. It has its own decked area, kitchenette and access to a toilet – we can also provide refreshments, catered lunches and team building activities such as bush skills or tower tours of old St Mary's church. For availability or to arrange a tour please call 07935 911207 or info@ClophillEcoLodges.co.uk.



We have received calls from a few parents of students taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award who are looking for volunteer placements – we have spaces available on a Saturday morning for outdoor volunteers. It's an interesting mixture of work that involves gardening & plant maintenance, site maintenance, marketing, ice cream sales and lots more! If you, or someone you know, is interested in joining our team of volunteers please call on 07935 911207 or email info@ClophillEcoLodges.co.uk.

A reminder if you have family coming to stay, or would like a break with some friends, that we do have some mid-week availability left for the summer holidays. Full site hire can sleep up to 18 people across 4 accommodation lodges plus exclusive use of the Nest Lounge / Dining area and kitchen – call or email us for availability or check our website www.clophillecolodges.co.uk.

Countryside Projects

Dear Fellow Residents,

I have been involved with caring for our green spaces for some years now, e.g. The Green, Readshill county wildlife site, the playing fields, Pine Hill/The Clump and also Clophill public footpaths.

I am looking for volunteers in the near future to assist with others. The first is to provide additional plots for allotments alongside those currently in use behind Townshott. This involves clearance and removal of scrub and is best done in the autumn to avoid wildlife breeding seasons. I am aware that many residents would like to volunteer but are unable to do so during the working week so I propose working on one or two Saturdays in October. If you are interested in helping, please get in touch and I can give you more details.

There may also be a second project in which you can get involved. The Greensand Trust has secured funding to plant many thousands of trees at The Lakes. Trees are normally planted in winter when they are dormant so it is to be hoped that the final legalities for the transfer of the site to the G.S.T. will have been completed by then. Again, if you are interested in volunteering, let me know and I will pass on details when I have them.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Contact details are: Jane Breed 01525 860834

janebreed@hotmail.com

Please enter

St Mary's Church. Clophill

Village Scarecrow



Festival

18th & 19th September 2021

We are sure you are aware that we are holding another Scarecrow Festival in Clophill again this year. We would like many people, neighbourhoods and organisations to be involved. We would love everyone to consider making and exhibiting a Scarecrow for the fun and enjoyment of all the visitors. **The theme this year is HEROS.** He, she or they can be in any pose – standing, sitting, climbing or even lying!

Scarecrows can be quite simple to make. Some tights or old clothes filled with straw, a head and then dressed in appropriate clothes.

Scarecrows need to be placed where they can be viewed by the public. They can be put in public places around the Village eg. on The Green, on grass verges and entrances to cul-de-sacs. There is plenty of room in the Church grounds for large exhibits or if you don't have room to accommodate your friend at home!

This will be a fun event and so we hope that we can have your support. The arrangements will be similar to the previous very successful Festivals. Programmes will be sold at various sites around the Village including a list of entries and a location map. Refreshments will be served in St Mary's Church and the public will vote for their favourite character in each category. Prizes will be awarded and presented at 4pm on Sunday 24th in the Church. All profits will be towards maintaining the Church for the community.

Entry forms available from: Outside the Church Porch

or contact Carolyn 01462 815433 or Julie 01525 860497

Reflections - Clophill in July 1975

A series looking back at previous issues of Spotlight and Clophill Village life

By Julie Benson

Mike and I moved into the village in November 1974 - doesn't time just fly when you are in a good place! In those days, 'Spotlight' was called 'Outlook'. The articles were typed up onto 'skins' (those of a certain age will know what these were) by willing volunteers. These 'skins' were then put on the inked roller of a Roneo machine – and by turning a handle on the side of the machine - and, depending on how many times you turned the handle - the same number of copies would be made. It's the manual predecessor of the photocopier I suppose.



Anyway, the magazine, 'Clophill's Own Independent Publication', was edited by Barry Inskip, and was the operator of said Roneo machine, which, at the time was housed in the church. Along with volunteers he collated the pages (usually 18 sides, plus cover), stapled them together and the resulting copies of the magazine were distributed around the village to those who paid their 5p for one.

I know that there must be earlier copies, but the first one we have is from July 1975 and I thought that it might be of interest to see what was going on in the village forty-six years ago. Its cover is that of Mill House, now long gone. (N.B. there are unnecessary brown marks on it – they look like watermarks to me, could be coffee – but I don't know how they got there.)

However, when this cover is lifted, there is a wonderful wealth of history to read inside. The Parish Councillors, all sadly no longer with us, debated, among other matters, the A6 roundabout, (yet to be constructed); names for the Warden Housing Scheme – (now Beverley Court); the water supply to the playing field – (no longer there due to vandalism) and plans to do with the Old Church (still there, safe and much beautified). I wonder if those Councillors would ever have thought of Eco Lodges?

Then there is a wonderful report of the Village Fete, held on Saturday 21st June when the R.A.F. band from Henlow lead the procession down the High Street to the playing field where there was an age group related fancy dress competition. It seems that Justine Hudson, Ian Boustead and Nicole Fox were under 5 at the time and Katie Boustead, Carol Jeffcoate, James Lawrence and Juliet Gordon were between 5 and 9. I admit that I recall those as being names on the register at St. Mary's School! There was a baby show where Jonathan Bird, Italia Vosper, Stuart Armitage, Paul Lucock, Rachel Herbert, Matthew Porter, Sarah Carr, Ivan Armstrong and Karl Richards won prizes in their age groups. I recall most of those names too! The dog show was well attended in which a Cocker Spaniel, a Sheltie and a Labrador won prizes for having the 'Waggiest Tail'! There were umpteen prize-winners in other competitions- golf, darts, netball shooting – Olga Page won that - she was a classroom assistant at the school for years - and Amanda Telford won a prize for playing marbles! It sounds as if it was a really great village and around event.

Reflections - Clophill in July 1975

Continued

Back in 1975, there was a thriving Women's Institute and at the 17th June meeting the ladies heard that £40 for W.I. funds had been raised at a coffee evening and china stall. "Mrs Tuffnell reported on the Cheshire Home visit by a group of members who had intended to do personal sewing for the patients, but found themselves confronted by an enormous pile of sheets to mend! The matron was very grateful for their hard work." The ladies also enjoyed a demonstration on rush work given by Mrs Staughton.

At that time a drama group was run by the 'Wednesday group' which also had afternoon talks and in June, two airline hostesses "from a well-known airline company" gave a talk to the fifteen attendees.

The PTA "decided to set up a working group to repaint the outside of the swimming pool changing facilities. Although these were now the responsibility of the local Education Authority, no money is available this year. Therefore the P.T.A. felt that their members could complete the work quicker themselves." Some things never change!

Several future events both sporting and social, were being advertised too. Sir Douglas Howard KCMG., MC gave an invitation to a Garden Party at Clophill House on

12th July when the guest of honour was Mr Steven Hastings MP and on Sunday 13th July, the Methodist Church Sunday School invited "all parents and friends to join them in a Family Service The guest speaker will be Mrs Marion Roberts of Shefford" she being the then headmistress of the school. There were announcements of three forthcoming marriages, one of which was between Anne Peachey and Trevor Barker; a list of forthcoming films in Bedford and Luton; an article on what to do if you get cramp; a recipe for Australian Crunchie (coconut & cornflakes, not honeycomb); a plea from the editor for promptness in submitting articles (nothing changed here); an advert from the "Bedford Rowing Club who were presenting 'The Kenny Kaye Roadshow' at Clophill Village Hall on Saturday 5th July." Tickets available from the Flying Horse and the Green Man – at a cost of 60p each!

Just as it is interesting, also perhaps sad, that some groups are no longer in existence in the village, it's good to know though that the PTA BBQ and firework evening was being advertised early through the typed pages of 'Outlook' Vol 9 no.6!



SAVE YOUR SPOTLIGHT

New Treasurer wanted for your local village magazine

After many years, Richard is stepping down from his role as Treasurer for Spotlight, so we are looking for someone to take over.

This mainly involves the paying of invoices, and keeping the accounts and finances in order.

Can you help?

For more information please contact Elaine on
07918 975823 or **editorial@clophillspotlight.co.uk**



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



Spotlight relies on volunteers to keep going.
We are looking to fill this role with a face to face handover and
visit to the bank once things are opened up more,
so probably a July / August timeframe.

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

Dear Spotlight Reader,

I am writing to introduce myself in the hope that you will be kind enough to sponsor my current fundraising project, which is in aid of Keech Hospice Care (Charity no; DN 10974).

All the money raised will go towards the support of children with life-limiting conditions with the aim of giving them the best quality of life possible.

None of my work would be possible without your help, so if you are able to support me with a donation (cheques made payable to Keech Hospice Care) or cash, that would be wonderful. Please either pop your envelope through my door at the above address, or you can send it through the post.

Thank you for your understanding and support

Cora Sheppard

P.S. I am holding a fundraising garage sale on Saturday, 24th July if you would like to pop along

Clophill Methodist Church News

The church is now holding weekly services fully compliant with Covid regulations each Sunday at 10:30 am. It is wonderful to be worshipping together again.

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Central Bedfordshire Councillors	Michael Blair	01525 404513
	Paul Duckett	07988 184061
Clophill Parish Council	(Clerk) James Stirling clerk@clophill-pc.gov.uk	01462 887226

HOSPITALS

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		Appointments	01234 359012
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CHURCHES

St Mary's Parish Church	RECTORS POST VACANT
(Church Warden) Mrs Rosemary Ilett	mandrilett@gmail.com 01525 860274
Mr Steve Grylls	stevegrylls24@gmail.com 01525 860076
St Francis RC Church, Shefford	01462 813436
Clophill Methodist Church	Jim Davies 01525 860829
Baptist Churches	(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 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

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Richard Pearson 861110
Brian Adams 862297
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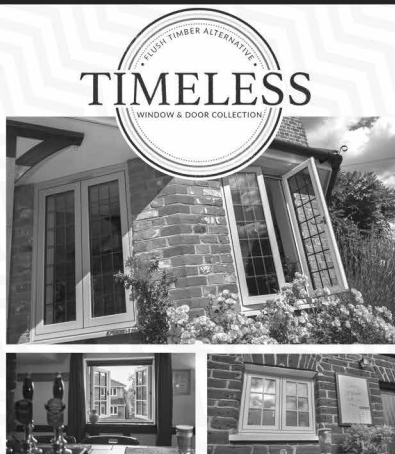


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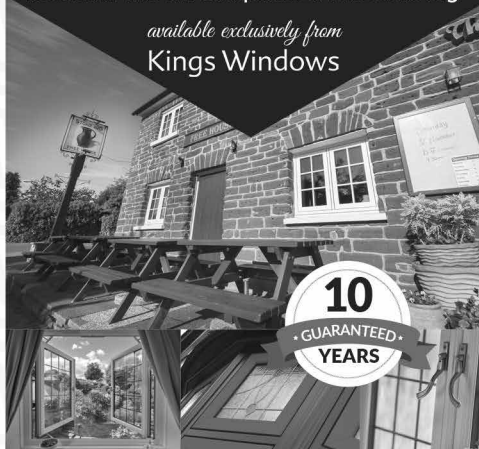


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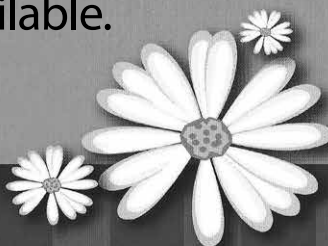
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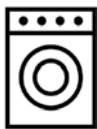
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