

Vol 43 | No.8

FREE

CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

OCTOBER 2021

**LOVE YOUR
LOCAL NEWS**



A word from the Editor...

Welcome to the October issue of Spotlight

Dear Reader,

We're Back!! After our summer break and a missed September issue, Spotlight returns for the Autumn.

My sincere Thanks and appreciation go to Simon and Louise at Fidelity Design & Print for taking on the design of this issue whilst we found a new design manager from the village.

And I am delighted to welcome Colin Watt to the team. Colin has volunteered to take on the critical role of Design manager for the magazine. He is working hard this month moving everything into MS Publisher ready for the November issue. Thank you Colin.

We still have another role to fill, which is Treasurer. Please see page 2 for details. If you think you can help or know someone who might, please get in contact.

Best wishes, Elaine



The magazine staff

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Deadline for articles is 20th of the month

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

SAVE YOUR SPOTLIGHT

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 involves the paying of invoices, managing the bank account and keeping the accounts and finances in order. Typically, it takes about 4-5 hours of time each month.

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 urgently need to find someone to take over this role as soon as possible, with a face-to-face handover and a visit to the bank.

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

Come into the Garden

with Kate Gardner



September has been warm and wet and there is now a definite hint of autumn in the air. As we move into October, days have become shorter and there is a coolness in the air but, that said, our gardens can still give us a wonderful and colourful finale before winter descends. I'm writing this watching coverage of the September RHS Chelsea Flower Show and it's great to see the amazing range of trees and plants in all of their autumn glory. Dahlia, Helianthus, Salvia, Aster and Rudbeckia are the stars that have been used to create a bright, sunny palette attractive to bees and with late summer flowering interest.

Acers put on a spectacular show as their leaves turn to deep magenta, purple or golden yellow. They can either be planted into the borders or make excellent container plants, for the more shaded areas of the garden. Dahlias will continue to flower until the first frosts, particularly if you regularly deadhead and feed them. With such a stunning array of flower shapes, sizes and colours there is sure to be something that will take your fancy.

Cornus (dogwoods) put on a spectacular show before their leaves fall to reveal colourful winter stems from the deepest black, through red to the palest green and yellow. Now is also a good time to take hardwood cuttings to make new plants for free.

Chrysanthemums, like Dahlias, have seen a revival in their popularity over the last few years, with plants available in a wide range of colours and heights. Pots of dwarf plants are readily available from nurseries and garden centres and can be used to add instant colour to beds, borders and seating areas.

Ornamental grasses are at their best in autumn, and combine well with all kinds of perennials and shrubs. Miscanthus sinensis cultivars form large, dense clumps and showcase bright, feathery, narrow plumes that look superb in low autumn light. Standing tall (up to two metres) and upright through the whole of winter is an added bonus. If you prefer something smaller, try pennisetum or fountain grass, with its distinctive bottle-brush flower. These clump-forming grasses do best in full sun and look good throughout autumn, especially amongst herbaceous perennials such as Japanese anemones and sedums, which are flowering at the same time.

Now is the perfect time for planting spring bulbs, so how about trying something new and plant drifts of spring bulbs informally in your lawn, including crocuses, dwarf narcissi and snake's-head fritillaries. It's also a good time to be planting up containers with plants to add winter colour. Heathers, cyclamen, winter pansies and skimmia will provide colour and interest throughout the dark winter months.

If you have been enjoying the tropical feel from Cannas, now is the time to lift them to avoid frost damage, dry off the tubers and store in cool dark conditions until spring. It's also a good time to lift and pot up any tender perennials, such as chocolate cosmos, pelargoniums and fuschias, to protect them over the winter. If lifting and storing is not an option, then leave in the ground where they have been grown, cut back the top growth to 10cm and protect the roots and basal buds with a thick layer of well-rotted manure or bark chippings.

You still have time to transplant any deciduous shrubs that are in the wrong place, as well as plant new evergreen shrubs. The soil is still warm so that allows a good strong rootball to develop before the cold winter weather kicks in.

Happy Gardening

St Mary's School News

Welcome to the 2021-2022 Academic Year at St. Mary's!

We were incredibly busy in school over July and August, refurbishing Chestnut Reception classroom and providing a new library environment which has been named the CEDAR room: The Centre for Exploring, Discovery and Recharging. We would like to say a big 'thank you' to Friends of St. Mary's who will be supporting us by paying for the new shelving as well as soft furnishings that will be arriving to fill the space soon! Here is how the CEDAR room looked at the end of the summer break and I also attach a picture of the new and improved Chestnut classroom:



The new academic year started with a bang! We launched our brand-new P.E. curriculum – Real P.E. and the children enjoyed a showcase lesson of the new curriculum, led by a Real P.E. specialist. We are really enjoying using this curriculum with all the children and will be updating the information on our website about our P.E. for those of you who would like to find out more!

Acorn Nursery and Chestnut Reception also began their brand new, exclusive daily Worship! Instead of joining the rest of the school, they now join together with Jack (a dog puppet - not to be confused with Jake our School Dog!). Jack sings them songs and teaches them all about different Values through stories, some Bible stories and some well-known classics too. The children really enjoy these Worship, joining in with the songs especially!

At the beginning of September the staff were taken through an intense experience by a School Improvement Partner from Central Bedfordshire Council. He explored, in great depth, our Mathematics and Writing provision at St. Mary's. This involved him speaking to head teacher, the subject co-ordinators, the teachers, observing lessons, talking to children and looking in their books—from both this year and last year! He was incredibly pleased by what he saw and we are so very proud of all the children who so politely and eloquently talked about their work and to all the staff for always working so hard, creating and delivering the most amazing curriculum for all of the children at St. Mary's.



We also took part in the village Scarecrow Festival and won First Prize in the Organisation/ Group category. We were thrilled with our certificate and chocolates and want to say a huge 'thank you' to the children and staff who put our fantastic display together. Well done to all the entries that took part too – they all looked amazing!

Jake (the school dog)

Jake has really enjoyed being back at St. Mary's after his Summer holiday. Since returning, he has been concentrating on supporting children with returning or starting school and attending Mrs. Burraway's 'Time to Talk' sessions. He has also begun to help with listening to daily and group readers in each class.

Acorn Nursery News



We are so proud of how all the children have settled into Nursery—either returning after the summer break or starting brand new from September! As Mrs. Bingley has already written, all the children are really enjoying their daily Worships with Jack as well as their time with Chestnut class on these occasions too. We are looking forward to sharing with you all of Acorn classes adventures as we move through this academic year!

Our Value for October is *Trust (& loyalty)*

Trust is a belief in the honesty, reliability and strength of another, relying on someone or something without question or evidence.

In school, we will be thinking about what it means to trust someone and how it feels to be trusted. We will learn the importance of being reliable, honest people in order for someone to trust us.

At home, you could consider who you trust as a family and also who trusts you. You might like to recall times when you've needed to trust someone else or when someone has put their trust in you. How did it feel to trust someone or for someone to put their trust in you?

September 2022!

If you or anyone you know needs a school place for September 2022, or even for this year, please see our advert below.

Everyone is welcome at St. Mary's and you do not need to be a practising Christian to attend the school. We are first and foremost a Village School.



Is your child due to start full time school in September 2022? Do you know anyone with children due to start school in September 2022?

The application process is **NOW OPEN!**

Parents can now make a Starting School 2022 application online via Central Bedfordshire Council's website:
www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

Do you want your child to go to an Outstanding, small, friendly, village school that supports and nurtures each individual child AND teaches them about life-long Values?

If so, please contact our school office on: 01525 860206 or generaladmin@clophillstmarysschool.co.uk to make an appointment for a personal tour of our wonderful school, including meeting our amazing children and staff ☺.

You can also check out our Virtual Tour on our School Website (<https://www.clophillstmarysschool.co.uk/Our-Virtual-Tour/>) or Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/clophillstmarysschool>).

We are situated in the centre of the beautiful village of Clophill overlooking the stunning Bedfordshire countryside (Clophill village is half way up the A6 between Bedford and Luton).

P.S. We also have a wonderful, dedicated Nursery too and still have some limited spaces in all classes for the Academic Year 2021-2022 ☺

Clophill Preschool News

Hi everyone,



How great to be back, in so many ways, not least in the Spotlight. Many thanks to Elaine and the team. It often takes a dedicated few with a passion to keep something alive and thriving, as we well know, so thank you for managing to get the Spotlight up and running again.

What a way to start the term off with beautiful weather and third prize in the village scarecrow festival! Thank you to all our parents who made their effigies; from the firefighter to the straw Chris, they were brilliant. It was great to get people into the Community Allotment for the first time too. A lot has happened since our last article; our parents and staff have helped create a fantastic space. We dug over the whole plot and weeded, laid membrane and added pallet collars for our raised beds. Carol and

her husband carted barrow load after barrow load of soil into them. We chipped the floor and even added in a boat as a planter. With the money we were granted by the ward councillor scheme we bought plants and compost and over a week put everything in place including a tyre bank of strawberries and raspberries.

The whole area is planted for now and it will be good to see how it all settles over the coming weeks and months. We do invite you all to pop up, have a go at weeding and perhaps water the plants. We are getting some tools; Steve from the Village Hall Committee has kindly offered to try to source some from local businesses. Our next step is to get some benches made so everyone can sit, relax and enjoy the space. If anyone would like to help create the benches, please get in touch with us. The Community Allotment is there for everyone to enjoy and spend time in, we are excited to see how it develops over the coming months, do become a part of it, everyone is welcome.

Preschool just keeps growing, we have welcomed two new staff members to our team and many new children and their families. With growth



Clophill Preschool Continued

comes change and we have further developed our space with a new outdoor toilet shed, revamped outdoor shelter, the garage has become a home corner and the mud kitchen has been improved. We bought some great new animals for creative play, these ones are nice and big, a good size for children to hold and not so easy to lose outdoors! We have new binoculars and baby buggies, wooden playdough tools and a load of new Friday equipment from a new first aid rucksack to mini grabbers for when we go out in Clophill, litter picking.

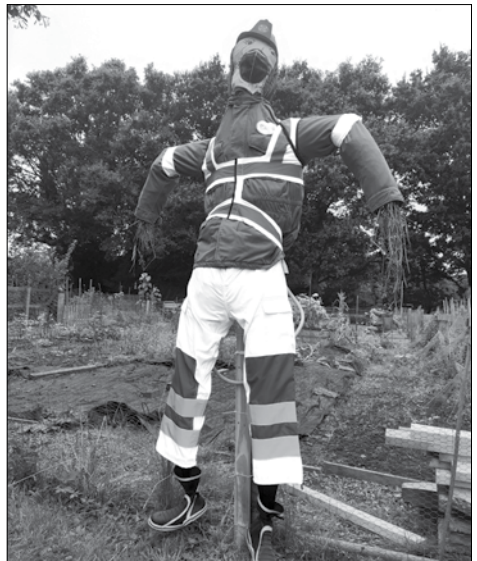


We have been delighted to have Katie from Silsoe dance join us for another year and also joining us is Rachel who does yoga each week with us. We have upped our coffee mornings and now have one every week, at our most recent we chatted about toilet training and all its trials and tribulations. It was great to have so many parents in chatting sharing advice and stories, we are finally getting back to how we used to be.

Meanwhile our children have been stuffing scarecrows, learning about guitars, painting camouflage on their faces as they explore on Adventure Fridays and picking the last of our golden raspberries. To see even more photos of what we have been up to take a look at our newly revamped website at www.clophillpreschool.co.uk.

Imogen, Chris and the team

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



Clophill Parish Council

It certainly wasn't an evening weatherwise which beckoned folk to step outside their doors, but that didn't deter some thirty stalwart Clophillians to converge on the Village Hall at 6.30pm. There, at the request of the Parish Council and prior to the regular meeting, representatives from both The Greensand Trust and Hayfield Homes, had given up their time to display maps and diagrams referring to their part in the plans of the development at 'The Lakes' and associated enabling works. They were kept very busy discussing and answering questions.

The Lakes

There was a formal presentation from The Greensand Trust (GST) who will manage the site from now and Hayfield Homes (HH) – the house builder. Key takeaways were:

- Contracts have been exchanged and all legal matters are agreed. Formal completion will follow upon receipt of a single (agreed) document from Evonik head office in Germany.
- Public access areas will be zoned – Nature Conservation, Community access, Visitor and Agricultural, with the Cainhoe Castle Scheduled Monument area currently being looked at by relevant consultants.
- Target opening to the public - Spring of 2023.
- Volunteers are sought to help GST with preparation and continuation work. Please contact GST here <https://www.greensandtrust.org/pages/category/volunteer-opportunities>
- The Greensand Trust has launched a Clophill Lakes Nature Reserve Appeal so grant providers local businesses and the public can support the project.
- HH - award winners in their field - welcome all contact from now and throughout construction will any concerned parties. Contact details are T - 0121 272 8899 / customerare@hayfieldhomes.co.uk
- There will be 18 'affordable' homes within 2,3 and 4 bedroomed dwellings.
- Apologies were given by HH for the annoyance and concern among the local homeowners, caused by the regular earthquake type shaking of their homes due to the current compaction of the soil. It is hoped this will be completed in eight weeks.
- HH is to install several road traffic safety features including a raised crossing at the school along with 'safety zone' markings and various tactile crossing points throughout the village.

'Items for Consideration' covered:

- The neighbourhood plan where Cllr Mantel was still awaiting further comment to the draft proposals
- The replenishing of the hedgerow to the bottom of Old Church Path
- A suggestion that a beacon be placed atop the Old Church tower to be lit as part of the celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee
- The potential extension to the Village Hall
- The Christmas tree on The Green, again kindly donated by Mr Jakins - and any related event to mark its illumination
- The parking of a car on the dangerous corner of Back Street
- The allocation of spare allotments at the Village Hall. This discussion involved the plea for help in clearing a load of scrub.

It was reassuring to see Heather, the new Clerk, making such a great start in the job, offering sound advice and information when only being in post for a couple of months. Well done Heather!

The next parish council meeting is 26th October, 7:45pm in the Village Hall.

Planning applications

Clophill Village Hall – proposed extension The Village Hall Committee (VHC) is exploring an extension to the Village Hall. A planning application is not required. Instead, the Localism Act 2011 introduced the Community Right to Build under which the VH can be extended using a Right to Build Order. Full details here <https://mycommunity.org.uk/understanding-community-right-to-build-orders>

The CPC SUPPORTS the VHC in their project

CB/21/03855/FULL (CB/21/03856/LB)

Location: 12 High Street

Proposal: Single storey rear extension and conversion of garage to ancillary habitable space.

SUPPORT

B/TCA/21/00455

Location: 8 Back Street

Proposal: Works to a tree within a Conservation Area: Remove Lawson cypress tree.

SUPPORT

ROAD SCHEME - One way. Reference number - A00150

Location: The Green, Clophill

CBC Proposal: To introduce a one-way traffic order around The Green, Clophill
traffic.consultation@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

CPC to submit comments as follows:

The proposed scheme was debated at the Clophill Parish council meeting on Tuesday 28th September and the council resolved to respond as follows:

1. The principle of the scheme is supported in order to alleviate the known issue of congestion for large vehicles (particularly buses) caused by poor and inadequate parking.
2. There are currently 5 marked parking spaces. The scheme proposes a reduction to 4. This is not acceptable bearing in mind the current congestion that already exists and the reason for it.
3. The loss of one space is to the proposed insertion of hatching to deter parking on or close to the bus stop. We suggest the bus stop should be moved a few metres towards the Flying Horse PH leaving enough space for 5 car parking spaces.
4. The proposed bay angle to the kerb is more acute than at present. This will make it more difficult to reverse than at present in order to follow the proposed one way direction. If the bays remain at their current angle 5 cars can still be parked.
5. The current 'disabled' parking bay outside the shop does not comply with current design standards for disabled parking bays. The bay is often occupied by non-Blue Badge holding drivers and is an obstruction to vehicles reversing out of the main parking bays when it is occupied. This should either be:
 - a. Removed entirely
 - b. Moved into the corner adjacent to the patch leading to the footbridge over the A507 (where there is current nondescript hatching
 - c. Upgraded in accordance with current standards.
6. We believe an onsite meeting with a representative from Highways to discuss and address our practical concerns detailed above would be beneficial to both parties.

CB/21/03848/NMA

Location: Land at Former Fullers Earth Quarry, Ampthill Road, Clophill

Proposal: Minor changes proposed to the Eaton house type, with respect to the rear elevation, to marginally increase the kitchen/dining/family space. The master bedroom has also been re-located to the front of the house, from the rear of the house.

No Comment required or made

CB/21/04079/FULL

Location: 1 The Old Dairy, Speeds Dairy Farm Road, Beadlow

Proposal: Proposed change of use and conversion of existing storage barn into a residential annexe.

Review history, respond via Clerk prior to submission date

Explore Greensand Country

Discover Greensand Country – Part 2



As Greensand Country is such a diverse and unusual area we wanted to share more of its qualities with you.

Hopefully this will encourage you and your family to get out and explore what is on your doorstep.

Parks - Greensand Country is lucky enough to contain all of Bedfordshire's remaining heathland, more than half of its woodland and 29 historic parklands. Greensand Country's parks and nature reserves are perfect for family visits – letting the kids play outside, walking the dog or settling down with a picnic.

From the top of the ridge, open heaths and meadows give you spectacular views across the surrounding countryside. The beautiful patchwork of heaths, parks, historic houses and woodland means that you can visit lots of different places in a single day, and find something to keep every member of the family happy. There are also plenty of places to stop for a pub lunch or a quick coffee.

Landscape - Greensand Country is a beautiful and loved landscape. It is defined by the Greensand Ridge, a band of higher ground stretching from Leighton Buzzard to Gamlingay, which rises out of the surrounding vales to create a locally unique environment.

It is a landscape rich in wildlife and cultural heritage, with its own special qualities and sense of place. A 'green oasis' of peace and quiet, rolling countryside and breath-taking views. A place where people feel able to slow down, unwind and connect with nature. Somewhere to escape urban life, breathe easy and feel uplifted. Come and discover it for yourself!

Each character area has its own distinct sense of place. You can think of them as different 'jigsaw pieces' that fit together to form the Greensand Country landscape as a whole. They can be used to help illustrate the variety offered by Greensand Country – that it comprises a patchwork (or jigsaw) of different areas, with different characteristics and experiences to enjoy.

The pieces are the Greensand Ridge, Ouzel Valley, Flit Valley, and Ivel Valley. To learn more about each one please visit www.greensandcountry.com.

Villages and Towns - Experience the varied character of towns and villages across Greensand Country. Places such as Woburn, Old Warden and Ampthill contain distinctive styles of architecture characteristic of the area's historic estates. For example: Old Warden estate houses are built in an elaborate 'English Garden' style, with thatched roofs, dormer windows, painted render walls and timber porches; whilst the Duke of Bedford estate buildings in Woburn are generally built of brick in a Georgian style. Greensand Country's idyllic villages contain various historical sites, as well as boutique shops, restaurants, cafes and pubs.

Beautiful towns in the area include: Ampthill, Clophill Village, Old Warden, Gamlingay, Flitwick, and Aspley Guise.

Views - There are many stunning views to discover in Greensand Country. The ridge itself is a prominent feature in the landscape and provides a dramatic backdrop to the views from the lower lying countryside. The ridge is accessible from many of the surrounding villages and towns.

From its elevated slopes you can experience panoramic views across the countryside including Marston Vale and the Ouse Valley. Woodlands often frame views on lower ground, whilst landmark churches and other historic buildings provide focal points in the landscape.

Top 10 Greensand Country Views:

1. View over the Heron Valley from Rushmere Country Park
2. Views of Stockgrove Lake
3. The View from the Greensand Ridge at Ampthill Great Park
4. Old St. Mary's Church, Clophill
5. Views from the RSPB Lodge Nature Reserve and Gardens
6. Views from Haynes Village
7. Views at Cooper's Hill
8. Looking towards Woburn Abbey
9. Views at Maulden Woods
10. Views towards the Ridge

To discover more about Greensand Country please visit www.greensandcountry.com.



**Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire**

Wildlife walks & talks

Geology walk* with Derek Turner (BNHS)

Saturday 9th October 2021

Starting from Maulden Church Meadows (10.30am)



On this guided walk, Derek will explain how the flora of this area is influenced by the underlying geology of our region. Please wear sturdy footwear as the ground will be uneven and potentially slippery if damp.

*£3 per adult

We very much look forward to seeing you!

Booking is essential, as places are limited. Please book with Ann by emailing: flitvale.info@gmail.com or 'phone: 07580178889.

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



July 3rd seems a very long time ago, but that was when we held our 2nd picnic in the church grounds. Despite the dreadful forecast, the weather was perfect and nearly 100 people enjoyed a beautiful cream tea prepared by our fund-raising team.

Together with a cake sale and raffle well over £1,000 was raised for church funds.

2 days later the scaffolding went up for the guttering repairs, but joy soon turned to dismay when 4 more defects were found with an estimated cost of £12,000. The PCC voted the funds to cover it, but it will leave us even deeper in debt to the Diocese. Progress is being slowly made.

On July 25th we welcomed Bishop Alan to lead our service and invited our friends from Campton and Haynes by way of a farewell as our benefice is broken up. It was a beautiful service, when we could sing for the first time in 16 months, albeit behind our masks.

CHANGES are in place as we start our new relationship with Maulden. The service pattern will continue as at present, with the resumption of 8 o'clock Holy Communion on the 1st Sunday of the month.

BUT PLEASE NOTE The main morning service now starts at 11.00am.

HARVEST FESTIVAL was held on September 19th and the gifts have been sent to the local foodbank.

On September 4th the annual Coffee and Cake event was held for Macmillan Cancer Care when the magnificent sum of £500 was donated. Thanks to all who came or helped in any way.

Once again we were blessed with good weather for the SCARECROW FESTIVAL. It was wonderful to see so many people wandering around the village admiring the skill and imagination of those who made the 35 scarecrows on view. With the refreshments and plant sale at the church and the toy sale in Cainhoe Rd. just over £2,000 was raised for church funds. We at St. Mary's are very grateful for the support of the village.

Finally, a warm welcome to our new Rector, the Revd. Canon Lynda Klimas and our new friends in St. Mary's, Maulden.

Parish Registers

ST. MARY'S REGISTERS FOR JULY TO SEPTEMBER

Baptism

Sept 05 Nathan Harper * TBC

Burials at the Old Church

July 08 Doreen Patricia Martin, 88

Aug 09 Elizabeth Harper Eaton, 84

Burials of Ashes

July 27 Carol Margaret Purdy, 70

July 29 Geoffrey Bryan Woods, 84 Funeral

Sept 20 Dorothy Parker-Eaton, 91

Clophill Methodist Church News

We are delighted to announce, that our church is fully re-open, and that our events have started up again.

As part of a celebration of our full reopening, we held an open-air service in our church garden, led by our minister, for the churches from our circuit. It focused on us all giving thanks for the support our non-human friends gave us during lockdown. Photographs were shared and we even had some very well-behaved pets attending as well!

Our Tea and Chat on a Wednesday Morning is open once again. Please come along and support this valuable community sociable event.

We recently held our Harvest Festival weekend which coincided with the Sponsored Bike and Hike event supporting the Historic Churches Trust which we support every year.

Our Harvest Festival held a food collection for Bedford Food Bank (including community donations as well as Church donations,) which were promptly delivered to them and gratefully received.

Coffee and Croissants mornings have begun again, with our next event to be held on Saturday 2nd October at 10am.

Thank you for all your support, especially in the last year, all are welcome to join us at our regular services on a Sunday from 10:30am, our weekly tea and chat and other events throughout the year.

Nicola Wood,

On behalf of Clophill Methodist Church.



Clophill and District Flower Club



We are delighted to report that our popular club will be meeting again at the Village Hall with some excellent demonstrations.

7th October. 'The Garden in the Sky' The demonstrator will be Arnaud Metairie, who has been highly recommended and is featured regularly on YouTube. He is French but has no accent! I hope that you will all feel confident to come back to the Club and enjoy meeting up with friends again.

4th November Fiona Harrison will be demonstrating. She has won many prizes recently in Area competitions and also at Blenheim Palace show

2nd December Lorena Dyer will be returning to entertain us for Christmas

ALL meetings will be free to all paid-up members - £5 non-members

All safety precautions will be taken

Everyone is welcome

Carolyn Chairman of Clophill and District Flower Club

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...

Ernest James Osborn was born in Clophill in 1881. He was the son of James and Charlotte Osborn and lived most of his life in what was known as Hope Cottages now 11-13 Little Lane. In 1895 he bore witness at the trial of W Gaylor who stole 5 bushels of potatoes! It seems that by 1911 he was orphaned and lived with his sister Clara and brother William in what was then No. 11. Ernest was an agricultural labourer, but his army particulars state that he was a qualified cook and that he had served 10 years previously with the Bedfordshire regiment.

He enlisted in 1916 with the Bedfordshire Regiment and then later transferred to the 8th Leicestershire Regiment and was posted to France almost immediately. In 1917 he suffered with shellshock and later trench fever. Later in the year while serving at Etaples he suffered with myalgia. In 1918 he was transferred to the Agricultural Corps. He was demobbed in 1919. Ernest married Edith Dorothy Cobb in 1938, in Biggleswade. Perhaps shaped by the events of 1895 he became a Special Constable by 1939 when he worked as a market gardener's labourer. He died in 1955. Both Edith and Ernest are buried at the Old Church.

Samuel Page – It is believed that Samuel was born in Clophill in 1884, the son of Samuel and Hannah. The family lived in 6 Bedford Cottages, Jacques Lane. Samuel was a farm labourer. He married Mary Line in 1906. They lived in East End, Flitwick by 1911. He served with the 3/5th and/or 8th Bedfordshire Regiment and was seriously wounded in France in 1916, hospitalised in Oxford; returning to France in the autumn of that year. In 1917 Samuel was wounded again and went to hospital in Blackpool. Samuel had 5 children, however his son, Sidney Lewis died in Thailand in World War 2. By 1939 the family were living in Flitton and Samuel was working as a Horseman. Samuel died locally in 1968.



Frederick James Palmer

Frederick was born in Clophill in 1881 and lived at no 33, High Street and was a Private, Motor Transport, A.S.C. He served at The Somme in 1916.

In 1911 he lived with his parents Charles and Mary and was a butcher, as was his father working at the shop at no 33 High Street. He was one of 8 children. He later married Lilian Shotbolt.

By 1939 he lived at Northfield Farm and worked as a Farmer. Frederick moved to Stotfold in later life. He died in Bedfordshire at the age of 91.

Clophill's Serving Survivors of WW1

Continued

Henry William (Harry) Parkinson was born in Clophill in 1898. By 1911 he was living with his parents, William and Martha, on the High Street. He was one of 7 children and at the age of 13 was working as a farm labourer. Harry left for France with the Bedfordshire Regiment in February 1916. He was wounded in the shoulder and head at the Somme in 1917 and was hospitalised in France. He took part in the Trones Wood struggle and was fighting when Thiepval was captured. He was discharged as unfit on medical grounds, the fourth from our village to be so afflicted. However, by 1939 his occupation is still a labourer when he was still living with his parents in no 82, High Street. It is thought that he died in Biggleswade Hospital in 1984.

What's on in and around Clophill

OCT



Saturday 16th

Harvest Lunch, St Mary's Church or church grounds, 12noon-2pm. *See poster in this issue*

DEC



Saturday and Sunday 11th and 12th

Alternative Christmas Tree Festival, Methodist Church, time TBC.

DEC



Sunday 19th

Christmas Carol Service, Methodist Church, time TBC.

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 8am, Holy Communion

11am, Family Praise

2nd & 4th Sundays 11am, Parish Communion

3rd Sunday 11am, Morning Praise

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.

Our church is also open for private prayer on Wednesdays from 11am until 3pm – please contact the churchwarden and he will arrange for you to have a reserved time slot.

If you have any diary dates that you would like included on this page, please email clophillspotlight1@hotmail.co.uk

Clophill Heritage Trust



Who's ready for Pumpkins! While we are not running our full Pumpkin Festival this year (we'll be back in 2022), we can't let Halloween pass without some pumpkin-related activity! So, from 11am to 3pm on Sunday 31st October we will be opening the Eco Lodge café for hot and cold drinks (including a mulled apple) and homemade cakes, and we also have our pre-empted pumpkins available to carve. Please do reserve your pumpkin online so we know how many our lucky staff and volunteers need to hollow out.

www.clophillecolodges.co.uk/events

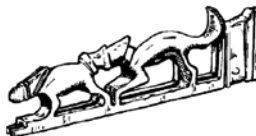
For any students starting their Duke of Edinburgh this year, keep in mind that we always need volunteers and offer a different and varied volunteer experience. Give Izzy or Emily a call on 07935 911207 or email Info@ClophillEcoLodges.co.uk

Our Wreath Workshops are running again this year and spaces are filling up quickly, book an enjoyable morning or afternoon session and make a beautiful, unique wreath for your door – plus we'll be getting in the Christmas spirit with some mulled wine!

Remember that our new Hive Studio is available for hire, it's ideal for classes, meetings, birthdays and celebrations. It has its own kitchenette, toilet and large decked area as well as being next to the fire pit. New for this term we have children and adult Yoga classes available to book with Yoga Zing – contact aimiedagger@gmail.com to book.

Tower Tours of old St Mary's church are available again to book, please call or email us to arrange.

Amphill & District Archaeological & Local History Society



Programme 2021 - 2022

Despite the Covid pandemic, the Amphill and District Archaeological and Local History Society ran a full monthly meeting programme during its 2020-21 season after switching to Zoom meetings. The Society will continue with Zoom during October, November and December and review the situation with the members in time for the start of meetings in 2022.

Our 2021 – 2022 programme follows below

Monday, November 1st 2021 (Zoom)

Forewarned is Forearmed – The Royal Observer Corps in Peace and War

Speaker - David Skillen

Monday, December 6th 2021 (Zoom)

Aristocrats on Tour - The Development of the Gardens at Wrest Park

Speaker – Jo Bishop

Monday, February 7th 2022

Flitwick Manor Park and Grounds: A 19th Century Visitor Attraction and Botanic Treasure House

Speaker – Stephen Coleman

Monday, March 7th 2022

The Pyghtle Works, Baillie Scott & Sir Albert Richardson

Speaker - David Fowler

Monday, April 4th 2022 & AGM

Tudor Houses; Architecture and Ways of Life

Speaker - Adam Smith

New members would be very welcome and guests too once we return to hall meetings. If you would like to join us then please follow the link on the meetings tab on our website, or alternatively contact the secretary. For non Zoom meetings, a hall meeting fee of £2.00 for members & £3.00 for visitors is payable on the door.

For further details: clive.makin@ntlworld.com Tel: 01582 655785
www.adalhs.org.uk

Reflections - Clophill in Aug/Sept 1975

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

By Julie Benson

One of the lovely things that 'Outlook' did 'back then', was to welcome new folk to the village and the 1975 August / September issue did that very thing. Interestingly, two couples were publicans – Jean and Alf Kerridge, who took over The Compasses and Avril and Richard Coward, the Rising Sun. Di and Anne took over the butchers' shop from Mr L. Hemmings. All three enterprises were wished success – but forty-seven years on, all three establishments are now private dwellings.



The fete, which you read about in July, was a resounding success, raising £866 for the proposed Recreation Centre and changing facilities. Keith Fossey, Chairman of the Fete Committee thanked everyone, who had helped to make it so good. Fete week was completed with "a very successful Supper Dance at the Village Hall on Saturday 28th June. Dancing was to 'Copperfield' who proved to be without doubt the most original and entertaining group ever to appear at the hall. Everyone had a very enjoyable evening and the dance was excellent value for the £1.60 price of the tickets."

On 10th July, the Village Hall Management Committee invited Mr Morris, Secretary of the County Playing Fields Association to a well-supported public meeting, where he explained the system of grants for recreational facilities.

This resulted in the formation of the Clophill Recreational Association. It was hoped that the new Association could obtain grants to establish netball and tennis courts, (it seems they were unsuccessful).

The WI was busy again at the July meeting when Mrs Sylvia Lammas introduced Mrs Valerie Wilding for the National Dairy Council to thirty members, who heard about the history and manufacture of English Country Cheeses - and tasted nine varieties afterwards. Now, those of you who haven't attended a WI meeting, traditionally, there was always a competition and a raffle, the latter at this meeting, being won by Mrs Steele – (was that Betty now of Beverley Court I wonder?). The competition was 'The most shades in a bunch of sweet peas'. The August meeting was a bit of a wash-out by the read of it – few attendees and the speaker couldn't make it! But the ladies rallied and four showed and 'spoke entertainingly of' their holiday slides of Norway, Austria, the Isle of Wight and camping in Wales.

Fourteen members of the Wednesday Group had a talk by a Mr R. Norris from the Little Rep. Theatre, Dunstable, who told them about the busy company – they put on six plays a year apparently and had also taken 'Charley's Aunt' to their twin town in Germany. There was going to be a Clothes Party in the village hall in August. These were always good fun; we don't have them any more do we, shame....

Reflections - Clophill in Aug/Sept 1975

Continued

Reading on, the football teams - Senior and Colts - advertised their forthcoming games while the Netball Club told of the recent results of the Red and Blue teams. Luton Town also got both a fixture and a 'Guest Spot', written by Alan West, the captain. Here, he tells that they have a "very talented, well blended squad. After last season's disappointment of relegation well behind us, we want to prove to everyone that we are good enough to be with the elite in soccer and get back to Division One as soon as possible; I believe we can do it this season. Our coaches Roy McCrohan, David Pleat and Danny Begara have worked tremendously hard with us making sure we are all 100% fit."

Before the cinema guide there is a recipe for raspberry ice cream – (so simple, 8oz raspberries, ¼pt double cream, 3 level tablespoons icing sugar. Sieve /blitz raspberries, add sugar, whip cream; mix & freeze) – and a First Aid help with blisters and headache. After the screen guide, (including Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid / The Godfather part II) there are five British Rail Bargains from Luton and Bedford, including Blackpool Illuminations for £3.00. (Barry certainly went out of his way to get relevant information to his readers didn't he – or perhaps he had his scouts who fed it in).

The Diary ends this publication – with the Colts Disco (6th Sept) – tickets 60p as are those for the Disco '73 Social Club (13th Sept), Discos were popular weren't they. The Cheshire Home invites everyone to their Grand Fete at Hunting Engineering Sports Field, Amptill; the Wednesday Group's next speaker will be Miss C. Geary whose talk is entitled 'Broadcasting in Indonesia'; the Methodist Church has their Harvest Festival Service on Sept 14th and the Harvest Supper on 16th (these were always brilliant – and we would take a wheelbarrow to bring home many home-grown vegetables from the following Harvest sale). The WI would be having a Bumper Sale with cakes, nearly new, hoop-la and a lucky dip; the tickets for the PTA BBQ and Firework display would be available soon and the Fete Committee were to have a Grand Hallowe'en Buffet Dance – with 'Copperfield' providing the music! So, Vol 9 No.7 begins and ends with a great evening, thanks to the Fete Committee - and Charles Dickens?



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I must thank you all for your kind donations which raised £1,847.26 at my recent garage sale. Thank you too for your kindness and generosity that made the fundraising event such a huge success.

Your support in helping Keech Hospice Care, which does such great work to ensure that their patients and families are able to make the most of every day, is invaluable.

Thank you all so much,

Cora Sheppard

St Mary's Church. Clophill Village Scarecrow Festival

On the weekend of 18th and 19th September we, at last, were able to hold Scarecrow Festival and a community event to raise funds for the Church in Clophill. We were delighted with the response from residents around the village as there were 35 exhibits spaced from The Green to Back Street, the High Street and Jacques Lane, all on a theme of Heroes.

We attracted many visitors, as well as villagers, who enjoyed walking around our lovely village following the map and choosing their favourite scarecrow in each category. Everyone had a smile on their faces and many visited the St Mary's Church for lunch or some of our delicious homemade cakes.

The voting was very close as the standard of the scarecrows was so high and there was so much variety and heroes. Many were 'lockdown heroes', including members of the care and emergency services, whilst others were notable celebrities. The prizes were presented by Ralph Brough in the Church at the culmination of a very successful and happy weekend.



Scarecrow Festival 2021 results

Category 1 Adult

1st No. 23 Rebecca Bullough	Her Majesty the Queen
2nd No. 9 Scott Spendelow-Hill	Sir Tom Straw (aka Moore)
3rd No 33 Jackie Tomkinson	Dan Dan the Delivery Man

Category 2 Family

1st No. 10 Vaughan and Peter	"Bee" a natural superhero
2nd No. 29 The Walsh Family	999 To the Rescue
3rd No. 16 The Tights	Captain Underpants
3rd No. 30 The Lee Family	Our Hero Hermione

Category 3 Organisation

1st No. 22 St Mary's School	Surrounded by Superheroes
1st No. 15 The Strand	Fireman Sam and Postman Pat
3rd No. 14 Clophill Pre-school	Not all heroes wear capes

Thank you to all who took part or helped with the organization and refreshments. There was an excellent response from the whole Community. £2,200 was raised for St Mary's Church. Thank you all.

Carolyn Cranswick,
The PCC and the Fundraising Team of St Mary's Church



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Mid-Beds MP	Nadine Dorries	01462 811992
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

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

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		(Greensands)	01525 631390
Shefford	Enquiries 01462 818620	Appointments	01462 810034
Barton 01582 528700		Flitwick	01525 715300

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	Non Emergency	101
County Police HQ		01234 841212
Ampthill Station		101

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 , Ampthill		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

Friends of St Mary's (FOSM)

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Duty Contact 07791 773705

Ali Bradbury 07894 710001

Imogen 07765 887868

Chris 07936 006381

Emma Topliff 860206

Charlotte Messer 07538 150058

Val Martin 860900

Brian Adams 862297

Gillian Hill 860539

Sue Pearson 861110

07903 167493

Tony Meredith 860754

Victoria Higgins 07920 568861

victoriajhiggins@hotmail.co.uk

Mary Milne and Jenny Garnham

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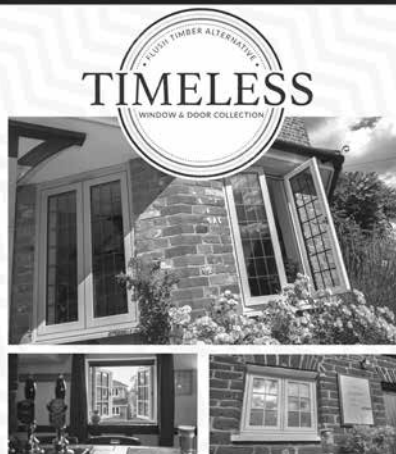
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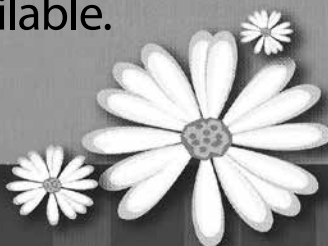
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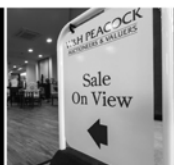
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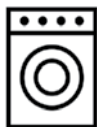
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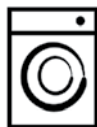
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