

CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

FEBRUARY 2022



**LOVE YOUR
LOCAL NEWS**



A word from the Editor...

Welcome to the February issue of Spotlight

Dear Reader,

Welcome Back to the February issue of Spotlight !!

And a Happy New Year,

We kick-off the new Spotlight year looking for more volunteers to join the team.

We are trying to split up some roles so that the amount of work undertaken each month is easier to manage with everything else people have going on in their busy lives.

To start this, we are looking for a new slimmed down Advertising manager (the role, not the person!!), and an additional signatory to the Spotlight bank account.

See over the page for more details. If you can help, please get in contact with me to discuss.

Best wishes, Elaine



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Deadline for articles is 20th of the month

You can also read Spotlight online

www.clophillspotlight.co.uk

Come into the Garden

With Kate Gardner



I don't know about you but I always associate spring with bulbs especially daffodils, crocus and hyacinth, but there are many lovely summer bulbs too. These would usually be planted in the Autumn, but if you missed that slot then early spring provides another opportunity to add these into your gardens and pots.

Alliums makes a fabulous display of purple, pink or white lollypops and mix so well with so many garden plants. If you plant them in February Alliums will flower in late spring and early summer and once established return reliably each year.

Plant Lilies in Feb/March for a great scented display throughout the early summer. Lilies dislike heavy, wet soil, which can make them less reliable in subsequent years, but the free draining sandy soils that many of us have in our gardens can provide ideal growing conditions. For something spectacular be on the lookout for 'tree lilies' which are monster Orientals and they really are dramatic. Carrying dozens of 15-20cm flowers on stems up to 2.5m tall, they will give an amazing focal point in your flower borders. They persist well from year to year and their stems are so stout that they rarely need support.

If you have some shadier areas then look out for martagon lilies which are among the most dependable and robust. Best in a little shade, their flowers are usually nicely speckled although the pure white *Lilium martagon* is one of the most beautiful of all. *Lilium regale*, with their huge white trumpets and distinct fragrance, are the ones to plant in difficult situations as they tolerate ordinary soil and increase well as long as they have some sun.

Try growing snowdrops beneath deciduous shrubs, such as *Cornus alba* 'Sibirica', or along the front of borders where herbaceous plants can provide ground cover when the snowdrops are dormant. Snowdrops do best in a well-drained soil in light shade, similar to their native woodland habitat. They also do well at the foot of a deciduous hedge, and are often planted in grass, at the front of spring border displays, and in rock gardens. Now is the time to plant them 'in the green' which can be done by either buying flowering bulbs in pots or lifting and dividing well established clumps so that you can spread them around the garden.

February presents as a turning the corner towards spring. The garden appears dormant, but there is growth at ground level with tiny buds and shoots appearing. February is an ideal time to cut back the old top growth that you left of the plant to provide winter habitats for insects, but take care to avoid damaging the new growth coming through. If cutting back is left too late, it's harder to cut back without damaging the new growth.

The time to prune Mahonia is when it has finished flowering. If yours is looking healthy, with lots of growth and it's a good shape, then prune it by simply removing the spent flowers. If it is a little straggly, prune out the long shoots and tidy up.

However, as it matures, Mahonia has a tendency to become leggy with bare

stems at the base of the plant, which requires a hard prune. Now is a good time to cut 1/3rd of the plant back to the base which will stimulate lots of new shoots and a bushier plant.

February is a good time to start off your sweet peas which are easy to germinate and make a showy addition to the garden throughout the summer. Grow them up an obelisk or fence and you will have amazing scent all summer long and cut flowers for the house too.

Happy Gardening

Nature Notes

Late Winter/Early Spring:

Still some berries left, by the birds perhaps some holly and haws. There are some dark berries which are welcome feed. In our lanes and along the hedgerows are many hazel catkins becoming longer and full of pollen the popular Lambs Tails. Look closely for the small red flower which will become the nut ready for the greedy grey squirrels.



What to see in our verges and waste patches (and garden):

The red (mauve purple) dead petals flower profusely, early food for the bees. Look for the groundsel quite short at this season with tiny yellow flowers turning to balls of fluff. Chickweeds will fresh green leaves and very dainty white flowers also shepherds purse another short plant with seed heads like small pouches.

The bright yellow celandine low growing, with bright crisp shaped flowers blooms in the damper parts of our village. Some of these flowers are to be found in the churchyard as are speedwell (birds eyes a small bright blue flower). Also notice the violets, early respirable sweetly scented.

What to observe with our trees:

They are still mainly bare - look at their shape against the pale blue wintry sky. The willows which are plentiful in our village, along the bypass are probably the first to show signs of new life.

What bird life to notice:

The Robin is still singing and is an early nester. You may have one in your garden. Listen to the song thrush it sings frequently on mild days. "He sings each song twice over" and it is easy to recognise. You may hear or see a mistle thrush, although a larger bird than the song thrush with a similar clear song. The rooks are early nesters too, see their nests in the trees near the 101 roundabout or perhaps on Wilstead hill. There are jackdaws around, they have a grey neck so are unlike the all black crows or the rook with a white patch near the beets. The jackdaws will out 'jack jack' as they fly overhead.

The star of this season:

Probably the blackthorn by the a6 roundabout full of white blossom on the bare branches. It's very prickly, so never attempt to pick it, whenever you should see it.

Clophill Parish Council

Happy New Year from the PC!

A dozen or so parishioners were at the January meeting to hear a very full agenda commencing with an **update on the Lakes from the Greensand Trust (GST)**. The land contract had not yet been finalised but permissions had been given by L & Q for GST to carry out some ecological surveys and tree planting. Local schools and interest groups will be invited to help. Initial findings include the presence of otters and badgers (which have been temporarily disturbed by the Hayfield housing development). The length of time for the land to be handed over was a concern for parishioners and councillors. Once all is signed and sealed, the Parish Council would like to be more openly involved in the GST development plans to reflect the wishes of the village.

CBC Ward Councillors Blair and Duckett spoke of the low increase in Council Tax. Following a comment about the confusion caused by the advertised plans for the **Clophill Roundabout**, it was explained that plans published were to secure funding but now they need to be updated and a consultation started. The Portfolio holder is currently pushing Highways to update the documentation to include such consultation as the premature publication was misleading.

It was noted, with sadness, that the Village Hall Committee had decided to downsize their extension plans due to the cost of the original plan being greater than envisaged.

Budget - Cllr Mantini then gave an excellent budget report covering last year and looking into 2022-2023, suggesting either nil increase or a small increase in precept income equivalent to 50p per band D house this year. A vote was taken and a majority decided in favour of the small increase.

Other Key Items for consideration:

Lakes - A representative from L & Q will be invited to the next meeting to detail their position IF the land transfer has not completed. An idea was discussed, put forward by Cllr Breed, of a Chairman's Prize to recognise the contribution of local residents volunteering in the local community was warmly received. A list of criteria is to be drawn up, the idea promoted and implemented ASAP.

Neighbourhood Plan, Hedgerow replenishment, replacement bench, Christmas lights and Hay Close are to be discussed at the next meeting. The clearing of scrub at the **Townshott allotments** was agreed.

The meeting ended with the very sad news that due to pressures of work, **Cllr Mantini would** resign after seven years on the Parish Council. Everyone on the PC and in Clophill thanks 'GP' for all of his time and concern that he has given and shown to the village over those seven years.

As such a position on the PC is available and anyone interested in becoming involved should contact Steve Rodell (Chair) or Heather Myott (Clerk)



Planning Applications

Applications requiring comment prior to meeting:

CB/21/05072/FULL & CB/21/05073/LB

Location: 12 High Street

Proposal: Conversion of the garage to ancillary habitable space. Re thatching of roof of house. **SUPPORT**

CB/21/04218/FULL

Location: 89 High Street

Proposal: Single storey rear extension and one dormer window to the rear of the property. **OBJECT**

CB/21/04562/FULL

Location: Shepherds Cottage, Kiln Lane

Proposal: Erection of stables. **SUPPORT WITH CONDITIONS**

CB/21/04518/FULL

Location: The Retreat, Kiln Lane

Proposal: Small residential extension to the rear of the property. **SUPPORT**

Considered at the meeting:

CB/21/05385/FULL

Location: 27 Tanqueray Avenue

Proposal: Single storey rear extension. **SUPPORT**

CB/21/05413/FULL

Location: Shepherds Cottage, Kiln Lane

Proposal: Detached garage and maintenance storage shed with first floor office/ gym area. **SUPPORT WITH CONDITION**

The new building will be ancillary to the main dwelling, and not sold or used as a separate location: residence building.

CB/21/05533/FULL

Location: 57 High Street

Proposal: Proposed single storey part rear extension and internal alterations. **SUPPORT**

CB/21/05391/OUT

Location: Former Readshill Quarry, Back Street

Proposal: Outline Application: Erection of up to 114 residential dwellings, community building, public open space, new vehicular and pedestrian access, car parking, ecological mitigation measures, hard and soft landscaping. All matter reserved except access. **OBJECT**

SAVE YOUR SPOTLIGHT

New Advertising Manager wanted for your village magazine

This role involves looking for new opportunities for local businesses and services to advertise in the magazine, and to raise the invoices for existing advertisers.

**An additional signatory to the Spotlight bank account
is also being sought.**

This role involves the occasional countersigning of cheques.

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.

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

St. Mary's Church News



December was a very busy month at St. Mary's starting with the Christingle Service which was well attended and much enjoyed, as was the concert by the **Greensand Community Choir** the next day.

Sadly, we decided to cancel our planned Christmas Lunch because of the worsening Covid situation, but we were able to hold our Christmas Evening in the churchyard which was a great success. **£300 was raised for church funds** and a further **£296 was donated for Crisis** as the special Christmas Choir led community carols for a very appreciative gathering.

On the 21st a packed congregation said farewell to our old friend, **Ted Bowman**, and we learned what an amazingly talented man he was!

All our Christmas services were well attended in the circumstances, and everyone was delighted that we were able to hold our usual Candlelit Carol Service on Christmas Eve, with more than 60 present. There were also services of Holy Communion on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. January started with a **Family Service for Epiphany** with a drama presentation featuring the 3 gifts of the Wise Men, brilliantly portrayed by the Benjamin family. On the 16th we joined with the Methodist Church for their annual Covenant Service.

It has been decided to postpone the annual Coffee and Cake for Janina, our girl in Paraguay, until Holy Saturday, when we can hold it outdoors if necessary. But we are looking forward to resuming our Lent Lunches on 5 Wednesdays starting on March 9th, when we shall be raising money for Shelter Box. All are welcome to them and of course, any of our services.

We would like to establish a junior choir who will sing at our Family services and at other important events.

We have introduced a new style of Family service on the first Sunday of each month at 11am. We organise a singing /drama rehearsal on the Saturday tea time and are proposing a choir practice the week before.

The next **Family service is on Sunday 6th February** at 11am and the rehearsal will be on **Saturday 5th February** at 4pm. Please contact **Adrienne Gordon** (860875) or **Revd Canon Lynda Klimas** (403139) if you would like to sing in our monthly choir, take part in the drama or read a prayer.

The next Parish Council meeting is
Tuesday 11th January, 7:45pm
in the Clophill Methodist Church



St Mary's School News

We are nearly at the end of the first half of our Spring Term. It has been very eventful and continually challenging, thanks to Covid-19.

The children are all in the throws of their new topics for Spring Term and enjoyed their Super Starter days to launch their History topics. Pictures were posted of both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2's Super Starters on our Facebook page, where we also try and include a daily message! <https://www.facebook.com/clophillstmarysschool>



Our Super Starters are a great way for us to immerse the children in the topic they are about to study so they become excited about what they are about to learn!

In Years 1-4 we thought about the Values of Responsibility and Freedom during January. The children considered the responsibilities they have, both at home and at school. They also learnt about the freedoms they enjoy and how to use these wisely and kindly. Examples of the children's Values work can be seen on Facebook and on a specific page of our school website: <https://www.clophillstmarysschool.co.uk/Values-Education/>

This term, we have welcomed Miss McClelland into Oak Class and Mr. Hasnat into Hazel Class. Both are completing aspects of their teacher training with us. Miss McClelland will be working with us until the end of term and Mr. Hasnat will be with us until June. You may see them about in the village and I'm sure you will join me in welcoming them to our wonderful community.

As we rounded off the half term, the children dressed as numbers to raise money for the NSPCC Number Day and they also took part in Safer Internet Day at the beginning of February. These are incredibly important events that we try and support annually. The children already have a rigorous programme of Internet Safety education but it is always good to revisit their understanding on days like Safer Internet Day. We also regularly send information home to parents too on how to keep their children safe online: <https://www.clophillstmarysschool.co.uk/Safeguarding/Online-Safety/>

After half term, we are hoping that we can continue to join back in with many of the activities that we have missed out on due to the pandemic. We have some sporting activities with other schools we are hoping to participate in and in March we are hoping to welcome Bishop Richard to our school for a visit.

We hope everyone in the Clophill community continues to keep safe and well.

Jake the School Dog:



Jake has a new bed in the office. It looks incredibly comfortable and snuggly – allowing Jake to have another place for him to take rest between his busy schedule in school!



Jake also has lots of toys to play with in the office during his 'down time'.

One of his favourites is 'broccoli' which is NEVER allowed to go missing!

Sometimes he also asks the staff to play with him and broccoli which makes a nice quick distraction from the computer!

Our Value for December is: **Creation (Quality)**

In school, we will be considering how, in order to create something of quality you must do something to the best of your ability, using the best materials or best thoughts you have. We will also be teaching the children that quality thoughts lead to quality words and quality words lead to quality actions! Through our discussions, we will also be spending time appreciating the quality of things created around us – including our wonderful world!

At home, you could consider things you have created together as a family – maybe a tasty dinner or yummy cake! You could consider the importance of adding the correct, quality ingredients into your meals to make them delicious and healthy! If you're having any work done on your home, you could also discuss the importance of the work and materials used being of quality! A good message to reinforce with your children is also the importance of them completing any homework with quality – doing it to the best of their ability.

Acorn Nursery news:

.We've kicked off the New Year and new term with a new topic - Special People! This half term we're investigating 'People Who Help Us' and we've started by exploring the role of a Dentist. We have investigated and counted our teeth, looked at how to keep them clean and healthy by brushing regularly and practiced doing this on plastic teeth with real toothpaste! We also made our own teeth out of playdough, inspecting them with our special dental mirrors. We've tasted a variety of savoury and sweet foods and drinks whilst discussing which are good for our teeth. We've sorted foods into healthy/unhealthy and enjoyed being a dentist or a patient within our role play area.

Acorn Nursery news cont

We have been delighted to welcome a number of new children this term who have all settled in wonderfully and they are making new friends already. All of the children have been showing the value of friendship by welcoming and helping them which is lovely to see.

During the first half term, the children also enjoyed a taster kids yoga session by Yoga Zing. We all went on a journey to the farm on a tractor whilst singing and practicing animal yoga poses, finishing off with a joyous version of sun salutations. The children were attentive and enthusiastic during the session and we all felt calm and relaxed afterwards!

Take out an annual ad in Clophill SPOTLIGHT

Black & White per year

One-sixth	£58	H 31 x W126 mm
One-quarter	£75	H 92 x W 61 mm
One-third	£88	H 61 x W 126 mm
Half-page	£123	H 92 x W 126 mm

Please email our Advertising Manager

ads@clophillspotlight.co.uk

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...

Bertie Rainbow was born in Meppershall in 1889 but by 1911 he was living in Beadlow Cottages, Clophill with his parents Edwin and Louisa and he worked as a farm labourer. Bertie was brother to Ralph – see below. He enlisted with the Beds Yeomanry in 1915. He married Lizzie Millard in 1919 and by 1939 was a smallholder living in Biggleswade. Bertie died in Shefford in 1950.

Continued —>

Ralph Rainbow was born in Meppershall in 1894. In the 1911 Census he is living with his parents, 3 brothers and 1 sister in Beadlow. In 1911 he was a Farm Labourer and was a Private in the 2/5th Manchester Regiment. He was taken Prisoner of War in May 1918 near Armentieres and was later moved to Germany. He wrote home stating - "I am in the best of health and have nothing whatever to grumble about. It really seems to me like peace time. I am sincerely anxious to receive a letter from you. When you can, kindly send me a good big parcel containing soap, tobacco, and some cake. I am seriously in need of the first mentioned article. Now, mother, be sure and not to worry about me as I am quite all right. My mates, who were taken prisoner with me on that memorable spring morning, wish to be remembered to you. We are having lovely weather here, but I still wish this war was over; but we must keep on smiling. I have sent you two postcards since I have been a prisoner, but have heard nothing from you – Your ever-loving son, Ralph." He was able to return home by early December of that year.

Ralph married Ethel Bland in 1923 and they lived later at addresses in Hitchin Road, Clifton. He worked as a general labourer and passed away in September 1963.

Noel Rawnsley was a Lieutenant in the British Red Cross Society as part of the Royal Engineers. He joined the signal corps as a dispatch rider. Noel lived on the High Street according to the Absent Voters List/Electoral Rolls in 1918 & 1919. He was born in Lancashire in 1881. There seems to be no family connection with the village, however his father Rev. Canon Hardwicke Drummond Rawnsley was a writer, social reformer and a founder of the National Trust.

Noel died on the Isle of Capri in 1952.

For more details see -

-http://genealogy.antipole.co.uk/database_public/ps13/ps13_032.html

Chief Officer Rich lived in Glebe cottage, now Taylors Cottage, in the High Street. He was the son of John and Julia, but records have not yet revealed which of their sons he was.

He was married and served on HMS Swiftsure – the lead ship of the pre-dreadnaught battleships.



Reflections – Clophill in January 1977

Continuing our series looking back at previous issues of Spotlight and Clophill Village life..... *By Julie Benson*

I should have checked – I know I should have checked, but you don't do you? When there is a shelf, stuffed with copies of past magazines, in chronological



order, or seemingly so, you take it for granted that they are. Not on this bookshelf! In fact, the whole of **Outlook 1976** is missing - apart from the **Christmas issue!** Where they are I have no idea – unless it was the year that Mike went to America and we joined him for a short while, not for a year and I am sure that we had paid for the magazines to be delivered! It's a mystery.

In spite of this, I can give a feel of **what it was like at the end of 1976** and note what developments there were during that year in the village. The first piece in the magazine was from

Barry Inskip, the Editor, who had the good news that 'there will be no price increase due to various fundraising projects held throughout the year', before wishing everyone a Happy Christmas. So, a positive start to the issue – and 1977. **The diary** advertises Christmas concerts, a **Beverley Court** Christmas lunch (so it was up and running then); a New Year's Buffet Dance on New Year's Eve – tickets £2.50, as well as a New Year's Eve Party in Beverley Court (for residents and invited guests) – it certainly was a lively place then wasn't it! The **WI** members were to enjoy 'Holiday slides by David Fowler' in January.

Back in November, at the meeting of the **Village Hall Committee**, "Mr K. Fossey was elected Vice-Chairman. Grass seed has been sown on the west side of the hall and a thorn hedge is to be planted to make an attractive area for holding garden parties, etc. A retaining wall has been built at the rear of the hall at a cost of £350. ... heating at the hall has been giving a problem. Extra storage heaters have been installed". A Hallowe'en Dance was also held. Then a 'Bumper Autumn Bazaar' was enjoyed at the **Methodist Church** with a great total of £245 being raised. A 'very special word of thank to the stallholders'... including mesdames Brown, Richardson, Chapman, Pitts, Croot, Naylor, O'Connor, Cole, Davis, Lammas. Sharp; Monsieurs Sharp, Matthews and Errick with extra help from Lyn Pressland, Ann Cooper, Susanne Telford, Felicity Stevens, Eileen Street, Alison Stevens and Jessie Swales. A **sponsored Knit-in** by amongst others mesdames Cooper, Davis, Duthie, Flanagan, Herne, Kirby, Naylor, Matthews, Pressland and misses Eddy, Street and Swales made £161.43 for church heating funds. (What did they knit I wonder – squares for a blanket, or their own patterns?) Whatever, well done all of the fundraisers! So many names from Clophill past – and still present.

Interestingly – well, I think so – the **Parish Councillors** were in discussion with Eastern Electricity about installing "solar electronic controls for their 34 existing street lighting columns." Seemingly, that didn't happen! Fittingly, there was to be a

Continued —>

meeting on 20th Jan “to form ideas for (the Queen’s) local **Jubilee celebrations**”, so that’s 45 years ago. (There is current discussion concerning her Platinum Jubilee.)

Clophill was a far **busier village** with clubs and societies half a century ago – and there was a newly formed ‘Outlook Travel Group’ whose members enjoyed recent visits to both Watford and St. Albans. While **church fundraising** was in aid of the Tower Restoration Fund – and “Ann Jeffery, Fred Kirby and their band of helpers” organised a ball (with well over 100 raffle prizes - fancy drawing that) and raised £120. Some things never change!

Clophill and District Flower Club

The past two years have been very difficult for everyone and all the members have missed coming to see their friends and watch the demonstrations. At last, we hope that things will become more normal and members will feel confident to come to the meetings this year.

We began again last September with a social meeting, followed by an excellent demonstration by Arnaud Metairie in October. In November we organised an ‘in house’ evening of Festive Wreaths and designs. This was very popular as four members demonstrated and others brought their designs that were displayed all around the hall. We hope we inspired everyone to decorate their front doors for Christmas. We held a very successful Wreath workshop in the Church, with ladies producing some beautiful designs.

The highlight of the year was our Christmas demonstration by Lorene Dyer from Coventry. Her arrangements and personality made the evening sparkle. It put us in the festive spirit and gave everyone positive thoughts and hopes for more normality in 2022.

We were very sad to hear in November that Barbara Hudson, who was our founder Chairman in 1976 had died after a long illness and dementia. She had kept in touch and came to our Ruby celebrations. Barbara lived in Cainhoe Road and was a demonstrator and keen flower arranger, before moving to Hampshire. She helped to start the Club in 1976 that was held in the old school building before moving to the Old Village Hall.

Our AGM in January was held on Zoom due to the risk of Covid. This went well and we were able to conduct all the business with financial reports, Chairman’s report and discussion for the programme for 2022. We are hoping that all our members will come back in February and continue each month without further problems. In June we will be celebrating our Sapphire Anniversary that was postponed from last year.

We welcome all visitors to our meetings that are held on the first Thursday of each month. Please check our website for details www.clophillflowerclub.com.

Carolyn Cranswick

Chairman of Clophill and District Flower Club

Clophill Preschool News

Happy New Year everyone,

We hope everyone enjoyed the festive break. Our families and children reported that they really enjoyed our Magical Woodland walk on the last day of term. Children and parents walked through the back lanes of the village to the woods which were decked with fairy lights on the foggy winter afternoon. Families were met by some Clophill Preschool elves who guided them round the woodland to find magical Christmas treats: from a bell from Santa's sleigh to a carrot to leave out for the reindeer. Everyone then made their way back to the hall for hot refreshments and a visit to Santa in his enchanting Christmas grotto. It was lovely to see our children and their families enjoy all that is great about that time of year, spending time together and finding the magic.



With the money raised from our Christmas event we have bought new sit on diggers for the gravel pit, some new bird, bug and plant spotter cards for the investigation shed and a new set of hollow blocks are on their way for the construction area. A huge thank you to Gary Martin for making lots of brilliant wooden reindeer to sell to parents, we raised £120 which we are donating to Autism Beds, a charity close to our hearts.

We have also had some of the children's artwork framed and have distributed them to some of the local businesses and organisations as a sign of our collaboration with them. Have a look when you visit Natalie at the Green Man, our thanks to her for offering us a warm space to have our lunch on our walk back from the Christmas Tree farm in December, take a look when you pop into the Eco-Lodges: another hospitable stopping place on our adventures. We really enjoy making these local connections to organisations and the people around us and so we also sent Christmas cards to people in the village who we have met along our preschool journey.

Since we have started back the weather has gone from very wet to very cold and dry, the children have been out in all of it, exploring muddy puddles and playing in the mud kitchen as well as using magnifiers to look at the ice on leaves and watch their breath crystallize in the cold air. They have seen the wonder of frozen spider webs and helped to clear the wet leaves from the ground. Rachel has been doing yoga with the children and Katie has been helping keep everyone warm getting them all dancing and moving to music.

Continued —>

The Adventure Friday gang have been using different types of swings in the woods, great for helping develop strong arms and hands to help with mark making and writing. They love the freedom the woodland offers them and as the children show us, 'less' is most definitely 'more' allowing imaginations and creativity to grow; increasing intellectual development and giving children opportunities to practise decision-making and social skills.



We have new children settling in well and new staff fitting straight in, with more of both soon to join us. Once again, we have been thanking our families for all their support as we continue moving forward in what can sometimes still be strange times but we carry on always having a positive outlook and impressing this upon others offering support and an open door.

www.clophillpreschool.co.uk

Coffee and Croissants

Clophill Methodist Church

10am to 12 noon



Saturday 12th February
Saturday 12th March
All Welcome

Parish Registers for January and February

1821

Baptisms

- Jan 14 James Wilshere son of
Thomas and Mary
- Feb 11 William Ashby, s of Joseph
and Lucy
- Edward Billington, s of John
and Elizabeth
- Sarah Billington (no date of
birth, possibly twins)

Marriages

- Jan 25 James Hammell (?) of Flitton
to Catherine Brazier
- Feb 24 John Han (?) to Elizabeth
Burrows

Burials

- Jan 8 George?
- Jan 29 Edward Lammas

1822

Baptisms

- Feb? Richard Leonard Crouch s of
James (farmer) and Alice
- Feb 10 Sophia Smith d of John and
Mary, Travellers

Marriages

- Jan 8 William Musgrove to Mary
Askew
- Jan 12 William Thompson to Sarah
Franks
- Feb 8 Thomas Richardson to
Hannah Roberts
- Feb 18 David Field to Elizabeth Clark
- Feb 19 William Bowler to Ann Brazier

Burials

- Jan 18 John Burrows
(Unfortunately, Rev. Nethersole's
writing is often indecipherable!)

1871

Baptisms

- Jan 29 Thomas Fennimore, s of
Thomas (painter) and Mary
Anne
- Feb 26 Grace Elizabeth Sheppard, d
of David (shoemaker) and
Lucy
- Bertha Helena Ashley, d of
Henry (painter) and Mary
- Sarah Evans, d of George and
Sarah
- Clara Jane Dunham, d of
James (shoemaker) and
Sophia of Silsoe

Burials

- Feb 2 George Gudgin, 61

1872

Baptisms

- Jan 14 George Hare, s of Mary
Rosa Helena L?, d of
Thomas and Rose
- Feb? Edward George Appleby, s
of George (blacksmith) and
Emma

Burials

- Jan 10 Sarah Elizabeth White, I
nfant
- Jan? George Isitt Sindry (?)
infant
- Feb 6 Leonard Hall, infant

1921

Baptisms

- Jan 30 Florence Maud Major
Jones, father a motor mechanic

Continued —>

1922

Baptisms

Jan 29 Richard Charles Sheppard,
f. market gardener and
innkeeper

Feb 5 Kathleen Joan Stevens

Marriages

Jan 25 Hugh Charles Harris, 21 to
Alice Peck, 19

Feb 16 James Stringer, 54 to
Caroline Marjorie Gudgin,
33

Burials

Jan 7 Emily Sheppard, 30

Jan 26 Louisa Garner, 79

Jan 30 Eliza Susan Anderson, 84

Feb 4 Sophia Garner, 60

1971

Baptisms

Feb 7 Emma Lorraine Thoullass

Feb 28 Sarah Jayne Lloyd

1972

Burials

Jan 24 Frank Heathfield, 65

Jan 25 Owen Alexander Diggins?

Jan 26 Edith Beatrice Wootton, 87

St. Mary's Church Registers for December 2021 and January 2022

Burial of Ashes

Dec 20 Valerie May Thomas (formerly Alford), 81

Dec 21 George Edward (Ted) Bowman, 91 following Memorial Service
in the church

Jan 15 John Richard Langdon, 86

Amphill & District Archaeological & Local History Society



Programme 2022

The Society will continue with Zoom for the rest of the programme.

Monday, February 7th

Flitwick Manor Park and Grounds:

A 19th Century Visitor Attraction and Botanic Treasure House

Speaker – Stephen Coleman

Monday, March 7th

The Pyghtle Works, Baillie Scott & Sir Albert Richardson

Speaker - David Fowler

Monday, April 4th & AGM

Tudor Houses; Architecture and Ways of Life

Speaker - Adam Smith

For further details: clive.makin@ntlworld.com Tel: 01582 655785

www.adalhs.org.uk



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Northamptonshire**

Wildlife walks & talks

February and March

Monday 21st February, start at 7.30 pm – On-line Zoom talk

Beneficial Insects* with Brian Eversham

Brian, the Wildlife Trust BCN's CEO, will enthral with fascinating stories of the diverse benefits that insects and other invertebrate residents and visitors bring to our gardens, pollination, seed dispersal, 'pest' control and more.

Monday 14 March, start at 7.30pm – On-line Zoom talk

The Mystery of Scientific Names* with Judith Knight and Bob Hook

Join us for a light-hearted talk and find out there are good reasons for the names, and how many names can be unravelled without too much research!

There are some funnies, too, (did you know that there is a slime mould beetle named after George W Bush?) and some bits of mythology. Judith will also look at a mixture of plants, insects, mammals, and birds. She will spend a couple of minutes talking about Linnaeus.

*free, but donations at another event always welcome.

Links to the Zoom meetings will be provided to all registered attendees closer to the events.

Open to all.

To reserve a place or for further information please email Ann at flitvale.info@gmail.com or ring or text on 07580 178889.

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, and Northamptonshire

Registered charity number: 1000412

www.wildlifebcn.org

Flit Vale Local Group

www.flitvale.org.uk



Clophill Open Gardens Weekend

25th and 26th June 12
noon – 5pm each day

We are planning to hold an Open Gardens Weekend in Clophill and would like to have a wide variety of gardens for people to enjoy. If you are willing to open YOUR garden or would like more details please contact Jenny on 07917648987

Proceeds in aid of St Mary's Church, Clophill

St Mary the Virgin. Clophill

Please come to our
Lent Lunches

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 9 th March | St. Mary's Church |
| 16 th March | St. Mary's Church |
| 23 rd March | Clophill Methodist Church |
| 30 th March | St Mary's Church |
| 6th April | St. Mary's Church |



12 noon -2pm

Donations will be given to Shelter Box

Everyone very welcome

Raffle—Bring and Buy

For information phone Carolyn 01462 815433 or Gill Jones 01525 861058

Please call if you require transport

What's on in and around Clophill

FEBRUARY

Saturday 12th

Coffee and Croissants, Methodist Church, 10am – 12noon.

MARCH

Wednesday 9th

Lent Lunch, St Mary's Church, 12noon – 2pm.

Saturday 12th

Coffee and Croissants, Methodist Church, 10am – 12noon.

Wednesday 16th

Lent Lunch, St Mary's Church, 12noon – 2pm.

Wednesday 23rd

Lent Lunch, Methodist Church, 12noon – 2pm.

Wednesday 30th

Lent Lunch, St Mary's Church, 12noon – 2pm.

APRIL

Wednesday 6th

Lent Lunch, St Mary's Church, 12noon – 2pm.

Plus...

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.

Thursdays...

Thursday Leisure Club – TLC – St Mary's Church, 2pm.

Fridays...

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

CHURCH SERVICES

Regular services at St Mary's Church, Clophill...

1st Sunday 8am, Holy Communion

 11am, Family Praise

2nd and 4th Sundays 11am, Parish Communion

3rd Sunday 11am, Morning Praise

Regular services at Clophill Methodist Church...

Weekly Worship at the Church, Sundays at 10:30am.

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

Useful numbers

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Emergency Fire/Police/Ambulance		999
Water/Sewage (Anglian Water)		0845 7145145
Telephone	(Customer Services) 150	(Faults) 151
Highways Department (Central Bedfordshire Council)		0300 3008049
Benefits Agency (Bedford office)		01234 361500
Registrar's Office (Births/deaths/marriages)		0300 3008089
Rail (Enquiries)		0845 7484950
Buses 01234 262151	(Link A Ride) 01525 840511	(Flittabus) 01582 406561
Luton Airport		01582 405100
Swimming	(Flitwick) 01525 717744	(Robinson Pool) 01234 212479

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Central Beds Offices (Chicksands)		0300 300 8000
Mid-Bed; MP	Nadine Dorries	01462 811992
Central Bedfordshire Councillors	Michael Blair	01525 404513
	Paul Duckett	07988 184061
Clophill Parish Council	(Clerk) Heather Myott clerk@clophill-pc.gov.uk	07888 685 886

HOSPITALS

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

DOCTOR'S CLINICS

Amphill	(Houghton Close) 01525 300898	(Oliver Street)	01525 631395
		(Greensands)	01525 631390
Shefford	Enquiries 01462 818620	Appointments	01462 810034
Barton	01582 528700	Flitwick	01525 715300

POLICE

		Non Emergency	101
County Police HQ			01234 841212
Amphill Station			101

CHURCHES

St Mary's Parish Church

Revd Cannon Lynda Klimas rev.l.klimas@btinternet.com	01525 403139
(Church Warden) Mrs Rosemary Ilett mandrilett@gmail.com	01525 860274
Mr Steve Grylls stevegrylls24@gmail.com	01525 860076

St Francis RC Church, Shefford

Clophill Methodist Church	Jim Davies	01525 860829
Baptist Churches	(Maulden) Ian Crawford	01525 634325
	(Shefford) Hazel Arnold	01462 812564

SCHOOLS -

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	01525 404462
Redborne Upper School , Amphill	01525 404462
Robert Bloomfield Middle School , Shefford	01462 628800

Village groups

Beverley Court		860920
Brownies	enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk	
Clophill Community Care	Duty Contact	07791 773705
Clophill Heritage Trust	Ali Bradbury	07894 710001
Clophill Preschool	Imogen	07765 887868
	Chris	07936 006381
Clophill St Mary's C of E Lower School & Nursery	Emma Topliff	860206
	Charlotte Messer	07538 150058
Clophill Toddler Group	Val Martin	860900
Clophill United Charities	Brian Adams	862297
Conservation Group	Gillian Hill	860539
Flower Club	Sue Pearson	861110
Friends of the Cheshire Home		
Funzone After School Club		07903 167493
Indoor Carpet Bowls	Tony Meredith	860754
Messy Church	Victoria Higgins	07920 568861
	victoriajhiggins@hotmail.co.uk	
Friends of St Mary's (FOSM)	Mary Milne and Jenny Garnham	
	fosmclophill@gmail.com	
Scouts and Cubs		www.scouts.org.uk/get-involved
Tea and Chat	Anita Errick	860695
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Marilyn Browning	07821 643936

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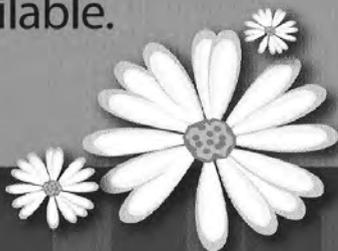
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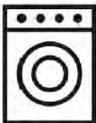
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