

Vol 43 | No.9

FREE

CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

NOVEMBER 2021

**LOVE YOUR
LOCAL NEWS**



A word from the Editor...

Welcome to the November issue of Spotlight

Dear Reader,

We have a packed issue this month and I have been delighted to include so many posters of events going on in and around the village.

We have a "Call my Bluff" Wine tasting, a show by the Westoning players, Christmas Coffee and Croissants, a Rotary club evening and a Flower club event!! The most going on for the last 18 months.

Unfortunately we are still looking for a new Treasurer for the magazine, see page 4 for details. This is now a very urgent post to fill so please get in contact if you can help.

I don't always answer my mobile if I don't know the number; so please do leave me a message and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

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 Gardener

It's getting colder and wetter as we draw into November, the trees are putting on their autumn displays and winter stems starting to come into their own. As autumn turns to winter, your main jobs in the garden are mostly about protecting plants and structures from the colder weather to come.



As the weather starts to get colder your garden containers need some protection. In particular make sure that they are insulated from frost and raised off the ground so that they don't become waterlogged. Both of these simple tasks are important as they help to protect the roots of your containerised plants through the winter. As you refresh your pots and containers with winter interest plants, don't throw the old spent compost away but use it as a mulch on your garden beds and borders.

Making some time to aerate your lawn now before winter sets in will pay dividends next spring. Either use a lawn aerator or simply insert a garden fork at regular intervals and lean it back slightly to let air in. Clearing fallen leaves off the grass regularly will help to keep it healthy. Wet leaves left to lie for long periods will kill off the grass leaving bare patches. The simplest way is to use a spring tyne rake to make piles of leaves before bagging them up. If you can then leave the bags somewhere out of the way to rot down you will have some amazing leaf mould to add into your soil next year.

Setting your lawn mower to a higher cut-height for winter will also ensure that the lawn looks tidy but not scalped. Finish off by edging your lawn which creates a neat and tidy appearance and makes maintenance easier throughout the year.

November is also a great time to take stock of this year's garden and make a few notes or sketches for next spring. Reflect on what grew well, what failed miserably, and what changes you will make next year. You will be surprised at how useful these notes can be when you start ordering seeds and plants for next year! Take photos of where herbaceous plants are located before they die back so you don't damage their roots during a winter dig. Alternatively, mark their positions with stakes, covering the sharp tops with bottles.

Tulips are amongst the most popular of bulbs, valued for their brilliant flower colours and shapes and they make ideal bedding plants combined with annual or biennial planting. Tulips can also be useful for containers, and some varieties can be naturalised in grass. Plant now as a late planting can help reduce problems with the disease tulip fire. When choosing bulbs use only healthy bulbs, discarding any that show signs of damage or mould and plant at least twice the bulb's width apart, and at a depth of two or three times the bulb's height.

Come into the Garden *continued*

If you have been troubled with poor fruit on your apples, pears and plums, now is the best time to apply grease bands and tree barrier glues (horticultural grease). These are a pesticide-free method for reducing the numbers of winter moth caterpillars on fruit trees in the spring. They stop the wingless females from climbing up tree trunks and laying eggs which in turn reduces the numbers of caterpillars that can feed on developing buds of fruit trees. These sticky barriers give no protection against codling or plum moths (the cause of maggoty apples & plums) as those moths have winged females that are active in midsummer. We will explore those controls next year.

Happy Gardening



**Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire**

**Wildlife walks
& talks**

A G M

Flit Vale Local Group

Monday 13th December, starting at 7.30 pm – On-line Zoom meeting

Now in our 13th year, the Flit Vale Local Group has managed a much-restricted programme of events over this and last year. We have had to balance the safety of our members and guests while providing limited events meeting our group's aims of prompting an engagement and appreciation of our local wildlife and nature.

Our annual general meeting is open to all. It will provide an overview of 2021, and a look into the group's aspirations for, hopefully, a more usual calendar in 2022.

Please register with Ann, details below, if you would like to attend. A link to the Zoom meeting will be provided to all registered attendees closer to the event.

Open to all.

For additional information and to reserve a place please email flitvale.info@gmail.com or ring or text Ann 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

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.**

St Mary's School News



What a busy first half of the Autumn Term we have had!

The beginning of term brought some special visitors to school – Ofsted visited us in the third week of September! We are incredibly proud of our inspection report outcomes that will be posted on our school website as soon as we are able to.

We also started our charity work at the beginning of term – raising money for Jeans for Genes by wearing.....jeans (as well as our own clothes) for donations to this important charity.

September also brought us Recycling Month and, at the beginning of October, World Space Week. Both were marked in school with special activities organised by Miss Clements, our Science co-ordinator, and we shared some pictures of our activities on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/clophillstmarysschool.

The beginning of October also marked Black History Month. This year, Mrs. Arnold, our History co-ordinator, produced a presentation about different people from Black History each week. These were then shared with the children in class. Information about the people we studied can be found on our website, along with other information and activities about Black History Month: www.clophillstmarysschool.co.uk/Black-History-Month-October-2021/.

Our Harvest Festival at the beginning of October was incredibly successful. We collected lots of donations for NOAH in Luton and thought about 'God's Global Harvest' – where our food comes from around the world!

In October, we also celebrated Run Global Schools Day where all our children took part in a 15-minute activity, along with children from around the world, to promote the importance of exercise and movement for health.

At the end of half term, we launched Street Tag – another way to promote physical activity and boost mental health at home whilst gaining points for our school for potential prizes and awards!

We finished our half term with training our new Year 4 Sports Leaders. These 12 children will be involved in leading activities at lunchtime as well as supporting with sporting activities throughout the school year. We are so excited to be able to have Sports Leaders back at St. Mary's, following the last two disrupted academic years, when this hasn't been possible.

Like so many, we continue to be affected by the Covid-19 pandemic in school. As winter draws in, we hope everyone continues to stay well and stay safe.

Jake the School Dog:

As some of you will be aware from our Facebook posts, Jake was recently made a finalist in Petplan's Pet Awards! In October, he received his finalist treats – some toys, blanket, bowl and (most importantly for Jake) treats!

Jake has continued to fulfil his duties expertly in school! He has particularly enjoyed attending Guided Reading sessions and is really enjoying his daily playtime with Year 4 on the front field.

Our Values for November Are *Peace and Reflection*

In School, throughout November we will consider both external and internal Peace. External Peace is a state of harmony where there is a lack of conflict. This can be in relationships with others and also in the world around us. External Peace is also where there is cultural understanding and unity.

Internal Peace is found within – contentment with who we are and what we have.

At Home, you may like to consider the following:

- What stops us being at peace – both externally and internally?
- Do you have a special place you can sit quietly and think?
- Why do we need to be quiet and peaceful sometimes?
- How do you feel when you are quiet and peaceful?



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 😊

Acorn Nursery News

Our focus this term has been to encourage independence in our children and we have introduced a 'rolling snack' process where children wait and notice that there is a space at the snack table available during the morning, then go and wash their hands and choose their snack from a range of items (including breadsticks, crackers, fruit). They can also choose butter or soft cheese and select it and spread it on their food themselves.

We also have a new Montessori inspired area in our Nursery full of what are called 'Practical Life' activities designed to practice life skills to work towards being independent in every-day living. Some of our activities are pouring dry materials with glass jugs, transferring water from one bowl to another using a sponge or a pipette, opening and closing a padlock and unscrewing and screwing on lids. The children choose and carry the activity to the table themselves which include a control of error - meaning that children can recognise, correct and learn instantly without an adult. The children are really interested in these and we are seeing high levels of concentration as a result, which is wonderful to see!

The last few weeks have all been about Autumn fun - we've been developing our fine motor skills by making bread rolls with plenty of kneading and rolling to strengthen our fingers, exploring a pumpkin by cutting it up and pulling out all the seeds, cutting up sunflowers and harvesting the seeds as well as colour mixing orange, yellow and red with our hands for finger painting. The children enjoyed making hedgehogs out of playdough and counting how many 'pumpkin seed spikes' they added as well as exploring the artist Matisse and making our own collages.

We currently have spaces available in our amazing Nursery Class and, as a reminder, **we now take children from 2 years old**. We accept 2-year-old and 30 hours funding which can also be used for FunZone (before and after school club).

There is no minimum session requirement, we offer mornings, afternoons and lunchtimes or any mixture of these. If you or anyone you know are interested in our Nursery offering, please email:- nursery@clophillstmarysschool.co.uk.

Take out an annual ad

in Clophill **SPOTLIGHT**

Black & White per year

One-sixth	£58	H 31 x W 126 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 Preschool News

Hello,

We hope this finds you all well as we head deeper into autumn. Being outside throughout the year can be quite magical and we really see this in the autumn; the leaves on the trees are dropping like confetti, the children are enthralled by this as well as the sounds and movement of the trees in the wind. It is wonderful to be outdoors observing the children and seeing their different reactions to the wonders of nature.



We have been doing lots of painting, the children are encouraged to observe carefully and paint what they see around them, we have had some fantastic artwork of trees and plants. The children have really taken to yoga with Rachel. The sessions are all outside and the group that joins in has grown week on week. Katie has been dancing outside with us too and bringing in her fabulous props which are a great way to

include the more reluctant child, the one that may be too shy to join in or who is still settling in and feeling unsure. Offering them a prop of pom poms or a wiggly spider can be like an olive branch and allows the child to feel included, even if they want to stay on the periphery and watch while holding their prop, it is a gentle way to open the door to joining in.



Clophill Preschool Continued

Our weekly coffee mornings continue to go well, with more parents than ever joining us, the pastries are definitely a hit! Every month we have a parent survey and we asked recently what activities they would like to experience or share. We had suggestions from showing cake decorating skills, to requests to learn to sew and were asked to hold sessions about night terrors and starting school. Our 'starting school' coffee morning and evening sessions will allow parents to share thoughts on settings they



have visited and to chat about their expectations and the transition process, we will be on hand to offer our thoughts and have invited some parents who have already experienced this to join the discussion. Our evening get-togethers were hugely successful in the summer term especially for those who can sometimes feel out of the loop because they are unable to join us in the daytime due to work, these evening sessions have turned out to be a bit of a lifeline.



Our Adventure Fridays have really been developing since we started to use Tracy's woods. Thankyou Tracy for allowing us such a great space to explore and learn in. Our children walk so beautifully down the road, they are mindful of each other and the traffic and polite to everyone they pass. The children have been rope swinging and using tools to make tree cookies, feather wands and bows and arrows. They have also been learning to cook their snack on the firepit everything from toffee apples to s'mores. We also had Carrie in to do first aid training with the children learning how to deal with potential outdoor injuries.

The Community Allotment is developing well as the plants settle in and the children help to tend it. Do come up and have a look, sit a while if you like and take a mindful moment, we all need one from time to time and out in nature is the best place to do it.

www.clophillpreschool.co.uk

Clophill Parish Council

The meeting was well attended and had good lively debate on several of the issues below with parishioners.



The meeting started with the Chairman's Announcements, where Councillor Walford gave an update on the Lakes:

Hayfield Homes (HH) and Greensand Trust (GST) have informed CPC that Evonik have now signed the outstanding legal agreement, and LQ can arrange the transfer to GST to develop the nature park. HH can now complete the land purchase.

Items discussed:

Fishing at The Lakes Nature Reserve. Why can this not be accommodated? Cllr Walford agreed to open a conversation with GST and see if this can be revisited.

CPC Grant Applications – The Clophill Heritage Trust was granted £1k to support the replacement of CCTV at the old church with the balance raised via a Ward Cllr grant from CBC and Clophill United Charities.

Grass Cutting – Standards of verge and other (non-recreation ground) is not acceptable and a tender process is underway to replace the current contractor.

Beacon for Queens Platinum Jubilee – Clophill Heritage Trust will be taking this forward for a beacon at the old church.

Replacement bench at the Green was agreed and a further bench, site to be suggested by parishioners.

Hay Close discussion – flailing of the west and northern boundaries was agreed with hedgerow replenishment.

Village Hall Extension – Chair of the VH Committee Steve Langhorn outlined proposals to extend the building to include more space and additional toilet facilities. The project requires funding of c. £100K for the project. The next stage is a 6-month planning and fundraising phase.

Townshott Allotments – Area to north needs clearance to release space for in demand plots – all offers to assist a working gratefully received.

Christmas Tree Lights – 28th November well publicised – all welcome with Ampthill Town band and offer of choir attendance.

The next parish council meeting is November 30th, 7:45pm in the Clophill Methodist Church.

Planning Applications

Decisions required before the meeting:

CB/21/04079/FULL

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

Proposal: Proposed change of use and conversion of existing storage barn into a residential annexe **NO COMMENT**

CB/TCA/21/00472

Location: 110 High Street

Proposal: Works to trees in a Conservation Area. Reduce canopy to 2 Hornbeam Trees; Walnut Tree and Magnolia Tree **NO COMMENT**

CB/21/03778/FULL

Location: 24 Tanqueray Avenue

Proposal: Single storey rear extension **SUPPORT**

Local Government Act 1985 Street Naming and Numbering

Location: 118B High Street

Proposal: Proposed Street Name: "Longacre", for 6 new houses. **SUPPORT**

Considered at the meeting:

CB/21/03776/FULL

Location: Land adjacent to No.15 The Green

Proposal: Erection of a double garage to serve the existing dwelling house approved under CB/16/01416/FULL **SUPPORT**

CB/21/04317/FULL

Location: 2 Mill Lane

Proposal: Detached Cart Shed **OBJECT**

CB/21/04363/FULL

Location: 10 Little Lane

Proposal: Loft conversion with all associated works **SUPPORT**

CB/21/04453/FULL

Location: Land North of Shefford Road

Proposal: Construct a detached bungalow with associated works **OBJECT**

CB/21/04454/FULL

Location: Land North of Shefford Road

Proposal: Construction of detached double garage, detached outbuilding and garden wall with gates **OBJECT**

Proposed 5G Telecommunications Installation for H3G UK

Proposal: 16.0m Phase 8 monopole c/w wraparound cabinet at base and associated works

CPC to send letter of objection, siting conservation area, listed building impact

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...

Arthur Sydney Peat – (known as Sydney) was born in 1900, he had brown hair and blue eyes. In 1911 he lived at 12 High Street with his parents – David and Ellen. He signed up, aged just 17, when he was a Market Garden labourer. He served as a Signaller on HMS Benbow (an Iron Duke- Class Battleship) and also on the Calypso, Ganges and Victory.

This is a photo of the Calypso- a light cruiser- on which he was in action against the "Bolshevik" Naval Forces off Reval in December 1918. The Fleet captured 2 destroyers in this action but Sydney was wounded and invalided out of the navy in July 1919. He married Nellie Bunker in 1921 and had at least 3 children. By 1939 he worked as a cabinetmaker and carpenter and the family lived in "D" Shefford Road. He died locally in 1964.



John Francis Peat – was a Private in the Irish Rifles. In 1918 Ampthill News reported that he was in hospital in Cairo. He was later transferred to the Labour Corps. John was born in Clophill in 1890, son of Mary & Frank. In 1911 he lived with his wife, Sarah - nee Bandy; (they married when John just 18 years old) and had 2 children at 1 Free Cottages, Back Street. He worked as a farm labourer. The family lived in Back Street until around 1928 and then moved to 17 Shefford Road where John continued to live until his death in 1950. He is buried at the Old Church.

William David Peat, brother of Arthur Sydney (see above) was born in Haynes in 1891. By 1911 he was a farm labourer and lived with his parents in the High Street. Enlisting in 1915, he served as a Gunner with the Royal Garrison Artillery, but was invalided from France in April 1917 (thus gaining the Silver badge) and discharged as unfit in October 1917. William married Hilda Wilson in Cambridge in 1921 and the couple lived in 8 High Street for most of their married life. By 1939 William had become a bus conductor. William died in 1965 by which time he was living at 154 Clophill Road, Maulden.



Arthur Samuel Peck (photo) was born in Clophill in 1897, son of Richard and Emmeline. The family lived at 43 High Street. He joined up in 1915, giving his occupation as a horse keeper - working for Mr. Burgoine at Ivy Cottage. He joined the Machine Gun Corps, serving with 101 Company and Right Wing Company.

Clophill's Serving Survivors of WW1 continued

Arthur served in France but had periods of disability with both dysentery and enteritis. He was reported in June 1918 in the "Particulars of Character" as being "very sober, exceptionally reputable, very intelligent and a very good NCO, (he was a corporal) with a good command and control and being tactful in the handling of men". He was awarded the Military Medal in 1918, aged just 20 for gallantry and devotion to duty during a big German offensive in March of that year. He did have a couple of disciplinary blemishes on his record though, both for being late on parade!

He was transferred to the reserves on 8th March 1919 having returned to England in Spring 1918. Arthur married Dora in 1923 and they lived and worked as farmers at Woburn Lodge, New Road, Maulden until returning to 43 High Street in the 1950s. Arthur, father of Jean died in 1981.

The Rector Writes.....

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as I was appointed Rector on 1st September. This is the result of a pastoral reorganisation by the Diocese. The former Benefice of Clophill, Campton and Haynes has been dissolved and Clophill has become a new Benefice with Maulden.



I have been Rector of Maulden for eight years and look forward to working in Clophill too. I am also Rural Dean of the Ampthill/ Shefford Deanery which is rather like being a "Patrol leader" leading the Deanery and supporting other parishes in the area.

I grew up in Tingrith and attended school at Toddington and Dunstable. So, I know Bedfordshire well and I enjoy living in the country. I was ordained 31 years ago and was among the first women to be ordained priest in 1994.

I have become a school Governor at St Mary's lower school and look forward to leading "Open the Book" assemblies next term.

We have introduced a new style family service with drama on the first Sunday of each month. The next service will be on **Sunday 7th November at 11am The story of "David and Goliath"**.

I am also pleased that we have had a number of enquiries for Baptism. These usually take place on a Sunday outside the main services; please contact me if you would like to arrange a Baptism.

I look forward to becoming part of Clophill community and I want to thank everyone for their warm welcome.

Revd Canon Lynda Klimas - Rector of Clophill and Maulden

Tel: 01525 403139

rev.l.klimas@btinternet.com

St Mary's Church News

Firstly, a correction and an apology to Nathan and his family. His surname was wrongly stated in the report of his Baptism. It should have read Nathan PARKER-SMITH.



Since the beginning of October our main Sunday Service has started at 11.00am, and the first was a revamped Family Service with drama and simple hymns, which was appreciated by all present. This will be the norm from now on.

The weekend October 16th/17th was a busy one with a Harvest Lunch on the Saturday and a joint service with Maulden on the Sunday to inaugurate the new benefice. This was led by the Archdeacon of Bedford and was followed by a triple birthday celebration for members of the congregation.

There are a number of special services and events planned for November and early December and we hope to see many of you at them.

November 7th Family Praise 11.00am.

All Souls' Service (memorial service for those who have died) 3.00pm.

November 14th Remembrance Sunday 10.15am, followed by the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial.

Friday November 19th. Wine tasting evening, 7:30pm, see Poster in this issue.

Monday November 29th

Christmas Wreath making from 10.00am

Sunday December 5th

Christingle Service 11.00am

Monday December 6th

Greensand Community Choir concert.

Please see posters and The Clophill Grapevine on facebook for other details.

Christmas arrangements will appear in December's Spotlight.

Clophill Methodist Church

Saturday 11th December

Christmas Coffee & Croissant

10am to 3pm

Stalls/Raffle

.....

Croissants served until 12 noon

Afternoon Christmas Refreshments

From 12 noon followed by

Carol Singing in the car park

At 3pm

All Welcome

CLOPHILL UNITED CHARITIES

Christmas donation to Widower(s) and Pensioners – December 2021

This year the distribution will take place in early December: Saturday 4th December 10-11 am in the Oakley Room, St Mary's Church; Sunday 5th December 10.00am at Beverley Court.

Please note that the Sunday distribution will be for Beverley Court Residents ONLY. Anyone else should visit the Church.

No person or group is entitled to receive this benefit as of right. Please be aware that forthcoming Christmas donations should only be claimed by those widow(er)s and pensioners who are really in need of extra help at an expensive time of year and not by those who don't need it. This will enable us to provide help to others throughout the year. Posters will be displayed in the village during November as a reminder of these times. Please remember too that all through the year, Clophill United Charities are pleased to be able to help Clophill villagers of all ages in times of hardship. If you, or anyone you know who lives in the village, is experiencing financial hardship please contact me (on 01525 860900) in total confidence. On behalf of the Trustees: Val Martin Clerk.

If you fancy a fun evening and also like wine, then
- Friday 19th November at St. Mary's Church.



is for you - at 7.30pm!

There is another, very popular

'Call My Bluff' team style Wine Tasting Evening

and it is only £10 per person – including light refreshments!

[How it works: - you receive a taster of a wine; three 'experts' then try to persuade you that it is 'their' wine that you are tasting, one of which is true. In your team you then decide which wine it is that you have in your glass and your choice is displayed on the results chart. This happens seven times. The team (usually of 6) with the most correct, receives a prize. Easy!]

To book your place contact Julie Benson – 860497, or email juliebenson@talktalk.net
(Don't worry if you don't have a team you can join with one.)

Rotary

Barton le Clay



Back by popular demand -

GASTROQUIZ

Saturday 20th November 2021 at 7.30 pm.

Silsoe Village Hall

Tickets £12, to include fish & chip supper.

Bring your own drinks, glasses, etc.


Call 07931-684079 for tickets.

Proceeds in aid of Rotary charities.

Christmas Concert

Festive
Favourites

Audience
carols too!



Monday 6th
December
7.30pm

St. Mary's Church, Clophill

Greensand Community Choir

plus special guests the
Element String Quartet

Free entry.

Refreshments provided.

*Retiring collection in aid of St. John's
Hospice, Moggerhanger and St. Mary's Church*



CLOPHILL AND DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

Our Flower Club resumed meetings in September with a very enjoyable social gathering but we were all looking forward to our October meeting featuring demonstrator Arnaud Metairie. The meeting was well attended and Arnaud came with a reputation for being an excellent demonstrator and entertainer. We were not disappointed.

As his name suggests, but not his accent, Arnaud is French but he has spent the majority of his life living and working in England. He enjoys travelling and this is where he finds inspiration for his floral demonstrations. His title this evening was 'Gardens in the Sky'. Arnaud explained that whilst holidaying in Ecuador and Colombia he visited a rose grower in the mountain region. The garden was at very high altitude and the soil and climatic conditions produced excellent roses having particularly long stems. He was able to experience the picking and treatment of the roses ready for export to America and Europe.



During the evening we visited South Africa, the Equator, Colombia, the 'Gardens in the Sky' and the Galapagos Islands. His five designs, all including roses, were all very different and for each one he gave a clear explanation of how he had constructed his container before skilfully arranging his chosen foliage. To complement and balance the design he then arranged his carefully chosen and well-conditioned flowers.

Useful tips:

1. Cut Phormium leaves diagonally across the base so that they remain firmly in place in floral foam.
2. Take some flowers down into the design to create depth.

Arnaud's demonstration was very entertaining and his completed arrangements were superb. He has an excellent sense of humour and he related many amusing stories which created lots of laughter. It was a most relaxing and enjoyable evening.

Dates for your diary:

2nd December: Please join us for a relaxing and entertaining evening when National Demonstrator Lorena Dyer starts off our Christmas preparations with 'Christmas Sparkle'.

Tickets: Members – free. Non-members - £5 (including mulled wine and mince pies)

Venue: Clophill Village Hall

Time: Doors open at 6.45pm for 7.30pm start.

6th January: Our Annual General Meeting will be held in Clophill Village Hall Committee Room at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

What's on in and around Clophill

NOVEMBER

Saturday 13th

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

Friday 19th

Wine Tasting evening, St. Mary's Church, 7:30pm. *See poster in this issue*

DECEMBER

Thursday 2nd

Flower Club 'Christmas' Sparkle, Clophill Village Hall, 7:30pm. *See Flower Club article in this issue*

Monday 6th

Greensand Community Choir Christmas Concert, St. Mary's Church, 7:30pm. *See poster in this issue*

Saturday 11th

Christmas Coffee and Croissants, Methodist Church, 10am – 3pm, followed by Carol singing in the Car Park at 3pm. *See poster in this issue*
(please note: this replaces the "Alternative Christmas Tree Festival" published in October issue)

Saturday 18th

Christmas evening, St. Mary's churchyard. Food, mulled wine, stalls and carols, 4pm.

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.

CHURCH SERVICES

Regular services at Clophill Methodist Church

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

CHURCH SERVICES

Regular services at St Mary's Church, Clophill

1st Sunday 8am, Holy Communion
11am, Family Praise

2nd & 4th Sundays

10~:45am, Parish Communion

3rd Sunday 10:45am, Morning Praise

Please contact our churchwarden Steve Grylls on 01525 860076/07733 321390 or by email stevegrylls24@gmail.com to let him know that 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

Reflections – Clophill in October 1975

Continuing our series looking back at previous issues of Spotlight and Clophill Village life.....

By Julie Benson

Of course, when any village magazine is published, it cannot contain anything 'now'! It has to be either events that have happened - or (hopefully) will happen. So, the items referred to here, often follow the advertisement for them in the previous article.



The cover photo on the October 1975 (vol 9 No 8) is of the row of cottages next to the (now) Co-op, back then, they were certainly two dwellings and perhaps, originally, they could have been four. It looks as if the ridge has just been re-thatched, doesn't it?

The first item in this magazine begins: "Clophill entered the annual '**It's a Knockout**' competition at Silsoe Fayre on August

Bank Holiday, for the second year and were delighted to win by scoring 24 points from a possible 28. The successful team included: Jane Ennis, Jill Jones – (did he mean Gill?), Ruth Jones, Sue Turner, Stan Jones, Ian Gordon, Brian Parker and Vince Poad." competition were teams from Silsoe, N.I.A.E. Wrest Park and Vauxhall Judo Club. Well done the Clophill team!

The Guides camped at Blacklands Farm, near East Grinstead, Sussex in August, enjoying a trip to the Bentley Wildfowl Collection as well as a swimming pool. That was usually on a Wednesday or Thursday so that the campers were at least pretty clean to go home on the Saturday. Washing facilities in those days were 'adequate', usually the tripod and a bowl style!

The **WI** September meeting was an enjoyable evening provided by the Pulloxhill Singers who had a varied programme covering musicals and more formal tunes such as 'All in an April Evening'. To quote "Their accompanist struggled manfully with the very out-of-tune piano" (t'was ever thus!). Now, the competition that evening was 'The most items in a matchbox' won jointly by Mrs Smith and Mrs Hampson, with Mrs Briggs coming second and Mrs Everitt third.

There were lovely **harvest** celebrations at the **Methodist Church** in September by the read of it, with three services in the day, the morning one conducted by Mr Tony Naylor, the lesson being read by Tracy Pressland.

The afternoon was for children and the evening service “proved to be a great festival of thanksgiving in which the harvest hymns were sung lustily.” Marjorie Brown accompanied at the piano. Then on the following Tuesday evening about fifty people sat to enjoy a Harvest Supper – and then purchased the carrots, peas, potatoes – the gifts which had been kindly donated and £152 was raised.

It seems that the **Darby and Joan club** had an enjoyable visit to Leamington Spa in September, while a coffee evening in aid of St. Mary’s church, held in the Old Rectory, raised £28. Interestingly, the Lych Gate, originally given by members of the Crouch family and which formerly was the entrance to the Old Churchyard, was removed and, after some repair work, is to be incorporated into a new entrance to the Garden of Rest. So, it has been in situ for about fifty years then. Also, to do with St. Mary’s, the clock seems to have been in need of some tlc as, after “the hard work and effort of Dave Smith and Mike Wilson” the clock now strikes once more.

Clophill **Brownies** managed to get their sports evening in before the rains came, with the Pixie Six winning and Karen Sizeland (Sixer) accepting the cup. Congratulations to Juliet Gordon, the first Clophill Brownie to gain the Brownie Friendship Badge.

There were several ‘**letters to the editor**’, one of which is from Alan Horsnail, of the Village Hall Committee and concerns the Junior Youth Club, when a paid leader was being sought – but not found. I found this sentence interesting: “There continues to be a number of activities for junior teenagers in Clophill. I know of dressmaking, flute lessons, piano lessons, first aid lessons, and woodcraft; all in small groups.” So much changes in fifty years doesn’t it!

There were the usual **sporting** reports from the football and netball clubs, the Luton Town F.C. fixtures, with the ‘Guest Spot’ being written by Peter Spirling and ending with the hope that Luton gets “back to Division One where we were so unluckily ousted from last year.”

The **recipe** is for Apple cakes: “2oz marg. / 6oz SR flour / 1 large cooking apple (chopped small) / 1tbsp golden syrup / egg (to bind) / 1oz icing sugar / warm water / glace cherries / paper cases. Rub the fat into the flour. Stir in chopped apple. Bind with syrup and a little egg to give a stiff consistency. Bake in cake cases – 375° / gas mark 5 for 20-25 mins. Mix icing sugar with a little water, trail this over the cooked cakes and decorate with a glace cherry.” Sounds tasty!

The **PTA** advertise their BBQ and Firework Display with admission for adults at 20p and children 10p and all in aid of a cover for the school swimming pool. While St. Mary’s church advertises its Harvest diary culminating in a Harvest Supper at the Village Hall with tickets at 40p covering a turkey salad followed by apple tart and cream. Then of course, we have the Clophill Village Hall Committee advertising their Grand Hallowe’en Buffet Dance – tickets £1.75 – and dancing to ‘Copperfield’. Who else!

Reflections – Clophill in November 1975

Continuing our series looking back at previous issues of Spotlight and Clophill Village life.....

By Julie Benson

By November, we were well into prize winners, mainly of the raffle kind. At the school '**Firework Bonanza**' evening held at the Village Hall on 4th October, where the "BBQ was provided by a member of Chicksands U.S. Airforce and the fireworks displayed by Rx Speake and his helpers". There were sixteen lucky recipients, the first three, Mrs Gee of Goodhall Crescent, R. Gardiner of Cainhoe Road and C. Bull of The Causeway won £5, £3 and £2 respectively; while the remaining thirteen received prizes of wine - Mrs J.P Wynn; chocs - winners including M. Kirby, Mrs Hampson, J. Izzard or squash – some winners Mrs Beatty, Mrs Tompkins and K. Geere.

Later in the month, The **Clophill Colts Autumn Draw** (held at 'The Flying Horse' and raising £123.39), had 21 (perhaps more up-market) prizes including a radio, an Instamatic Camera, a Leg of Ham, 2 x ½ cwt potatoes, an alarm clock (won by Anne Jeffrey) and several bottles of spirits as well as chocs, a carving set, glasses and place mats. Interesting!



The cover picture is of The Old River bridge in the Causeway – the water looks high.

Looking inside the cover at the Group activities, the **WI** members enjoyed an evening on brass rubbing – and "Mr Churchill (not that Mr Churchill) brought a replica brass and members were able to try the art for themselves." The **Wednesday Group** invited Mrs Roberts, Headmistress of St. Mary's School, to talk about the current stage of primary education. In 1975,

the county was undergoing the change from a two-tiered, to a three-tiered education system and she noted that "at present children go to middle school when they are ten years old, by 1978 it is hoped that they will transfer at the age of nine." Future events were advertised – a Toy Party (come and buy type), a Christmas Table Decorations (make your own type) run by Barbara Hudson and a Wine and Cheese party (drinks and nibbles type). The **Darby and Joan Club** 'enjoyed another pleasant Mystery Tour on 21st October, admiring the attractive autumn scenery of the Chiltern Hills, Whippsnade and Ashridge Park and held a coffee morning in aid of the forthcoming Christmas Dinner.

The **Village Hall** had their plans accepted for the new hall and planning permission and tenders were being sought and the **Fete Committee** was elected: - Chairman - Keith Fossey, Vice-Chairman - Derrick Potton, Secretary – Norah Best, Treasurer – Mike Turner with Vera Blunt, Brian Peat and a rep from each local organisation as other members.

Interesting 'bits' – "**A6 Trunk Lighting**: As many of our readers will have noticed, poles have now been erected on the A6 for the street lighting predicted to take place on page one of the December **1972** issue of 'Outlook' The lighting similar to that in Barton should be completed soon." (The D of E rarely works quickly!) A second 'bit' – "Work is due to take place to install a **second manual** (keyboard) on the **organ** at St. Mary's Church....." And a third "**Marvic Stores** John and Beryl are now giving Green Shield Stamps" (there's a blast from the past!).

The '**Guest Spot**' from Luton Town Football Club was in this issue, written by Jimmy Husband (who used to live in The Slade). It appears that he had been suffering from "a sprained tendon behind the left knee." The last paragraph was illuminating. "After living in Merseyside for eleven years, where the population eats, drinks and sleeps soccer, I found it amusing recently when I was asked if I still got paid while I was injured. Well, I could just imagine it if we were not. There simply wouldn't be any injuries. Players would be running around on one leg, perhaps on crutches or even in a wheelchair, anything as long as his wage packet was intact! I have a feeling football might suffer in the long term."

The November issue has a resumé of the **Brownie** activities, noting that Mrs D Hughes joined the pack as Assistant Guider in January; they held a couple of Jumble Sales and had First Aid coaching from Mrs Farr. Other speakers supported the Brownie World Venture Scheme – in April. Mrs Nicholson spoke about India, bringing a sari, Mrs T. Eaton gave a talk on Finland; Mrs A. Caves visited in June and showed slides of her holiday in Brazil. Each talk finished with relevant foods being sampled by the pack.

Following the local **cinema guide** – including 'Straw Dogs', 'Airport '75', 'What's Up Doc' - and **Awayday Bargains** – Chesterfield, Nottingham & Leicester (inc. Mystery ride) all at £2.50, there is a poignant '**Thoughts for Remembrance Sunday** – A Pilgrimage to Holland' by Dorothy Cousins. Here she tells of her trip to the Reichwald Forest War Cemetery in 1967, where she visits her brother's grave through the British Legion. "The pilgrimage began on the Friday morning when we met (about 60 in our party) at Liverpool St. Station and finished when we parted company at the same place the following Wednesday. During every hour of this long weekend we were looked after with every care and consideration. We had luxurious meals, comfortable transport to and from the hotel, which was our headquarters, and a programme had been carefully planned to help us – not only to commemorate the fallen, but also to realise that life, laughter and friendship have to go on. There were moments of tremendous heartbreak, but also lots of joy, thankfulness and fun."

Maulden Walking Football Club



We started in June this year and have a few members from Clophill. The club is open to adults of all ages and abilities. Our youngest member is aged 38 whilst the oldest is 70. Most players are in their 40s and 50s. We play every Sunday on the artificial pitches at Flitwick Leisure Centre between 6.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. Not all our members can make our sessions every week.

Our sessions usually consist of a warm-up with Ceri Barnes of www.cerisport.co.uk and this has been well received by our members resulting in reduced injuries too. This is followed by an hour of competitive (but friendly) Walking Football which is not as slow paced as you may imagine, you have to see it to believe it. There is also a lot of support between members to those who are not so competitive but just want to enjoy an hour of football.

Walking Football is a growing sport and I came up with the idea of forming a local club during the lockdown. The camaraderie between members is great with quite a few glad to be kicking a football again. I am playing with members that were my opposition on a Sunday morning 20 years ago.

In October we will be playing teams from Shefford, Milton Keynes and Barton. We are looking to grow this club for the benefit of Maulden residents. Should you require information then please email the club - OBMauldenWalkingFootball@outlook.com or call Martin on 07496 287 628.

Join our Maulden Walking Football Club facebook group and also on twitter @ClubMaulden

Amphill & District Archaeological & Local History Society



Programme 2021 - 2022

The Society will continue with Zoom during November and December and review the situation with the members in time for the start of meetings in 2022.

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

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Benefits Agency (Bedford office)	01234 361500
Registrar's Office (Births/deaths/marriages)	0300 3008089
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Luton Airport	01582 405100
Swimming	(Flitwick) 01525 717744 (Robinson Pool) 01234 212479

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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	TBA

HOSPITALS

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

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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	
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
Clophill Toddler Group	Charlotte Messer	07538 150058
Clophill United Charities	Richard Pearson	861110
Conservation Group	Brian Adams	862297
Flower Club	Gillian Hill	860539
Friends of the Cheshire Home	Sue Pearson	861110
Funzone After School Club		07903 167493
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	
	fosmcllophill@gmail.com	
Scouts and Cubs	www.scouts.org.uk/get-involved	
Tea and Chat	Anita Errick	860695
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Marylin Browning	07821 643936

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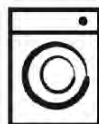
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