

Vol 45 | No.5

FREE

CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

JUNE 2022

**LOVE YOUR
LOCAL NEWS**





A word from the Editor...

Welcome to the June issue of Spotlight

Dear Reader,

I was reminded by Kate Gardner who writes our Gardening page, that the National flower of Ukraine is the Sunflower. The Ukrainian word is Соняшник (Sonyashnyk), and historically they are a symbol of peace. They are beloved by Ukrainians and grown in large quantities throughout the central part of the country. Sunflowers have both cultural and practical value. Most of us use sunflower oil to cook with, and sunflower seeds are great to snack on or add crunch to a topping or salad.

Kate wrote "Wouldn't it be good if we could turn the Village yellow with sunflowers to show our support for Ukraine. It's the perfect time to sow seeds and with such a wide variety of sunflowers there's something for everyone." I completely agree with her and am planning to sow some myself!! Alternatively, if you go along to the Open Gardens event over the weekend of 25th and 26th June, there should be pots of sunflower plants available to buy from the plant stall at St Mary's Church.

Finally, a plea from me (again!). We are still looking for a new Advertising Manager (see page 17). I am filling in for the role at present but need someone to take this over as soon as possible. If you can help, please call me or drop me an email (details below).

***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



There's lots going on in June this year both locally and in the wider community. The Queens Platinum jubilee celebrations kick start the month and then we have the Clophill Open gardens over the weekend of 25th & 26th.

As I'm writing this, I've just finished watching the opening day of the RHS Chelsea flower show and this year there are lots of gardens which focus on the benefits of being outside and encouraging wildlife and wildflowers into our gardens. Mental health and the value of outside space was thrown into the spotlight during the pandemic and for many people this was the first time that they had the time to have a go at gardening. So for the next couple of editions I'm going to show how you can create an edible garden that contains flowers, herbs, seeds, berries and plants that you can eat.

When planning what to plant in your edible garden, things to think about including your favourite fruits, vegetables, herbs and other edible plants. Grow plants you like to see, smell or touch and include plants that you need a small amount of but often, such as herbs.

Examples of flowers, herbs and plants that are suitable for an edible garden include:

- Flowers - borage, chamomile, chrysanthemum, fuchsia, hollyhock, honeysuckle, impatiens, lavender, lilac, marigold, nasturtium, pansy, rose, salvia, sunflowers and violet
- herbs - rosemary, basil, chives, sage, mint, oregano, parsley and thyme
- vegetables - lettuce, tomatoes, beetroot, courgettes, french beans, peas, leeks
- fruits - rhubarb, blueberries, strawberries, raspberries.

Its not too late to start plants from seed, but remember that you don't want to sow everything in one go; otherwise all the plants will be ready at the same time. Take lettuce for example. A packet will keep the village in salad for weeks so just sow a small pinch of seeds every couple of weeks. Prick out the seedlings when they get their first couple of true leaves, grow on in pots for a couple of weeks and then plant your lettuce out in garden in a shady spot.

You can create a wigwam of poles and sow climbing French beans into quite a small space. 2 bean seeds planted at the base of each pole will give you plenty of juicy sweet beans to pick. If you don't fancy growing from seed then pick out some small climbing bean plants from the garden centre. Mulch the soil once they are established to reduce evaporation from around the roots.

Plant a single courgette and pick the fruits when they are young. The amazing yellow male flowers (on a long stem, rather than on a developing baby courgette), can be stuffed or dipped in batter and fried to make an amazing snack. If you plant into the ground make sure you add plenty of good compost or well-rotted horse manure as they are hungry plants.

Autumn fruiting raspberries make a great addition along a fence. They fruit on this years stems anytime from July to the first frosts, they don't need tying in and you cut them back down hard to the ground in the winter. Fresh picked raspberries don't last long in our house!

If you fancy fresh cucumbers then go for an outdoor variety such as Marketmore and let the plants clamber up an established tree or along a fence, Cherry tomatoes can be grown outdoors in pots or growbags and how about growing leeks in an old pair of wellies. How about sunflowers, the national flower of Ukraine, now is the perfect time to sow seeds and they also make amazing cut flowers.

Happy Gardening

St. Mary's Church Clophill

Traditional Church Fete and Village Event

Saturday 14th May 2022

We would like to thank everyone for their support at the Church Fete and Village Event. We were so lucky with the weather as visitors enjoyed the sunshine all afternoon. They all seemed happy to spend time meeting friends, visiting the stalls and sideshows.

The Churchyard was very busy with lots of gazebos, stalls and games. Inside the Church there were more stalls and our famous refreshments with delicious cakes, scones and drinks.

We were delighted with the whole event as we had an excellent range of stalls and sideshows from the local organisations. Some stalls were raising money for charities – Bedford Women's Refuge, Cheshire Homes and The Heritage Trust. The Coconut shy, Beat the Goalie and Croquet were very popular as usual.

The entertainment was provided by the Greensand Community Choir, the Maypole dancing by the children from St. Mary's School and again this year there was a dance display by children from Clophill Pre-school.

Our aim was to create a traditional Fete for the village and to give organisations the opportunity to raise money for themselves and also raise much needed funds for the Church. This year has been a record as the Grand total was £2,175 for the Church and the local organisations between them raised £3,000. We were delighted with the number of visitors and the friendly community atmosphere.

Thank you all those who contributed with donations of cakes, toys and help.

We would like to hear from you with any ideas and feedback on how we can improve this annual occasion.

Carolyn Cranswick and The Fundraising Team from St. Mary's Church

St. Mary's Church News



Life seems to be very hectic at St. Mary's at the moment. On April 28th we welcomed Bishop Richard of Bedford to conduct our first confirmation service for 20 years, with 2 candidates from our church, (see May's Spotlight) and 2 from Haynes, It was a great joy to see some old friends from Haynes.

Another source of joy was the return of the Fete in the churchyard for the first time since 2019. It was a brilliant day in perfect weather with a good crowd enjoying the events and patronising the many stalls. Altogether over £2,000 was raised for church funds and a similar amount for the other organisations. Contributions from the Greensand Community Choir, the School Maypole Dancers and the Pre-School were greatly enjoyed.

We are enormously grateful for the support from the village in raising the funds needed to pay of the debts accrued during the pandemic, and in coping with the rising cost of keeping the church going. We also need to raise the money needed to carry out the necessary repairs to the building.

The collection for Christian Aid Week amounted to £120.50, not including Gift Aid. Thank you to those who gave.

Next in the diary is the Open Gardens (see poster in this issue), after which our busy fund raising group can have a well-earned rest!

Clophill Heritage Trust

We wanted to celebrate Old St Mary's church new stone step! This is a huge step-up (sorry, couldn't resist a pun) from the wooden step we had in place before, all ready for everyone to stand on including you lovely folks in the village, all your pretty pooches, and our lucky wedding couples saying their vows this Summer!

Events: We wanted to thank everyone for our warm welcome at the village fete, we've checked in with our bee hives and honey will be on the way in summer! As always, a huge thank you to our trustees for caring for these wonderful hives, and producing our delicious honey.

We are now running a community space for Ukrainian people to connect with one another, talk, craft, play games etc. over a drink and some cake, all completely free. Anyone Ukrainian, and any of their hosts, are welcome every Wednesday 11 -1 in the Nest.

Volunteers: As always, we're looking for anyone interested in volunteering, be it doing tours up the church tower, or helping out with gardening, events, and/or site projects across the Church and the Eco Lodges. If interested, pop us an e-mail, text, or give Emily and Izzy a ring on 07935911207.



St Mary's School News

from Mrs. Bingley our Headteacher

I write this as we approach the end of the first half of summer term, and time is flying by! As always we have had a very busy time, some of the highlights include:

We welcomed a dance specialist teacher into school who took sessions for Years 1-4 throughout the day. Each session had a different theme, selected by the class teacher, and the children really enjoyed learning their varied routines. The results were fantastic.

We were so proud of our Year 3 and 4 children who performed the maypole at the church fete. They overcame nerves and gave a wonderful demonstration. Thanks also to Mrs. Burraway for running Maypole club and teaching the children the dances. A big thank you also to Mrs. Hayes and the Nursery team who ran the hook-a-duck and teddy bear stall at the fete, and FOSM who raised a fantastic amount for the school with their summer drinks stall.

Year 3 and 4 have been enjoying cricket lessons, run by Howard from All Stars Cricket, and all children continue to take part in the school's 'Get Caught Reading' campaign. Where children share photos of unusual places / situations they have been caught reading. The staff are enjoying taking part too!

This term we were also able to welcome the Governors back in person, for our half-termly Governor meeting. They visited each class and got to see Forest School in action. The School Council also presented at the meeting, sharing their plans for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations – details of which will be included in next month's Spotlight.

We were also delighted to welcome the Bishop of Bedford, who was finally able to visit the school. We were very proud to show off our school, he spent time talking to the staff and the children also had the opportunity to ask him some interesting and challenging questions.

If you would like to find out more information about our wonderful school then please contact us by email; generaladmin@clophillstmarysschool.co.uk or check out our website; <https://www.clophillstmarysschool.co.uk/> and/or Facebook page; <https://www.facebook.com/clophillstmarysschool>

Jake the School Dog:

Jake has had another busy month.

He's continued his timetable of support across the classes. Here is a picture of him working in Acorn class (Nursery) helping them all with their maths work, using the Numicon resources!



Acorn Nursery news

from Mrs. Hayes our Nursery Manager and Early Years Leader



We've been looking at various types of animals, from those under the sea to ones we can find outside under logs. Continuing with the children's interests in Sea creatures, we made a giant jellyfish complete with tentacles which is now the doorway to our playhouse and, as usual, we had lots of topic related activities available daily - from practicing our cutting skills making fish collages to threading pasta onto pipe cleaners to create our own octopus tentacles!

For hedgehog appreciation week, we learnt some fun facts about them in our Early Years Jack in the Box as well as how to help them. We looked at the hedgehog house outside Acorn Nursery and read the book 'The Hedgehogs full moon party'. Throughout our

Amazing Animals topic, we are learning about David Attenborough and his life's work - the children have been interested in learning about his life and the incredible work he has done in the natural world. Some of our children were particularly interested in some of the amazing birds he discovered and this led to lots of bird related investigation - looking for birds, discussing different types, looking at their life cycle and even their anatomy!

We also planted some flowers and tomato plants in our wooden planter in the garden and learnt about what plants need to grow. The children are excited to measure the growth of these in future weeks as well as to care for them daily.

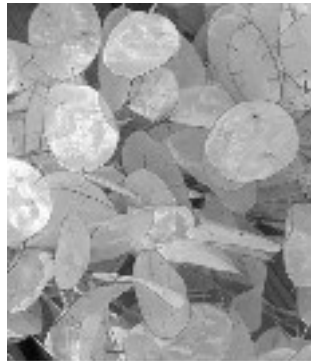
We have spaces available in our superb Nursery for September 2022, if you (or anyone you know) is interested in a place please email me at nursery@clophillstmarysschool.co.uk. We take children from 2 years old at any point in the year, accept 2 and 3 year old funding and welcome visits to come and experience our fantastic setting.



Our Value for June is: *Honesty*

Honesty is telling the truth, being true to ourselves and others, having integrity and using it in everyday life.

In school, we will be encouraging the children to always tell the truth, even when they have done something wrong. Our response to children who are honest will demonstrate that they don't need to be afraid of owning up to wrongdoing and that we always respect honesty and thank people for being honest. We will use various stories to show how important our consciences are. We will also discuss the phrase, 'living a lie' and explore the effect a 'tissue of lies' can have, leading to greater and greater complications and situations which can be very difficult to sort out. Emphasis will also be placed upon the importance of saying, 'sorry' and meaning it when in the wrong, which links to our Value of Forgiveness.



At home, you may like to examine this thought for the month and discuss its meaning:

"If you tell the truth you don't have to remember anything." (Mark Twain)

Everyone in the family could make a special effort to be honest with each other during the month (and in the future!). You can also ensure everyone acknowledges honesty in a positive way, even if there may be a sanction involved for wrongdoing. You could also find out why this plant is called honesty and share it with the class teacher.



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration

Coffee & Croissants

Clophill Methodist Church

10am to 12noon - Saturday 11th June

Jubilee Raffle and Sales Table

All Welcome



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...

Cecil Sharman was born in Clophill in 1897, son of William and Emily. In 1911 he worked as a Farm Labourer and lived at Beadlow. Cecil was an Ordinary Seaman, starting his naval service in 1916. He was based on HMS



HMS Hecla

Pembroke, which were shore barracks at Chatham. He served on H.M.S. Titania a submarine depot ship, H.M.S. Dido and H.M.S. Hecla which were both depot ships. The family had lived in Back Street in previous years. He was a fireman and described as 'of good character'. He was 5' 6" tall and served until 1919. He married Elizabeth (possibly Odell in 1916). By 1939 they were living in Wolverton and Cecil was an Electrical Store Keeper and is believed to be brother of James below.

James Sharman was born in Clophill in 1879 and was probably brother of Cecil above. He had served in the 3rd Bedfordshire Regiment from 1911. He signed up for 4 years, describing himself as married, aged 31, and working for Lord Lucas as a labourer woodman. Lord Lucas of Wrest Park also owned a number of Market Gardens in Clophill.

James was a Corporal during this first period of service but at his own request reverted to the rank of Private in April 1915. He re-enlisted in August 1916 as a member of the 5th Bedfordshire Regiment. He also served in the Dorsetshire Regiment. He gave his address as High Street, Clophill. He served in England until the beginning of 1917 and arrived in France in February 1917, where he fought in many battles including those at Arras, Cambrai and the Somme. He arrived back in England in July 1917 having received "a severe Gun Shot Wound" to the thigh and was invalided out and discharged from the services in November of that year, but spent many months in hospital.

James had married Mary Jane King in Haynes in November 1900 and according to his War Record had 6 children up to the time of his discharge. The family lived at 24 Jacques Lane until his death in 1943.

Walter Sharman was born in Clophill in 1888. He was a Horseman in 1911 and his parents were William & Mary Ann. The family lived in Jacques Lane. He married Mary Webb (sister to Augustus & Herbert Charles on our memorial) in 1912. Later his occupation was described as “in the employ of the County Surveyor.” He was a Private in the Royal Army Medical Corps. He enlisted in October 1915 and was in France in 1916. He was severely wounded at Thiepval in September 1916 and invalided home for hospital treatment.

Walter was demobilised in March 1919. He returned to live in Jacques Lane with his wife until 1927 when they moved to 119 High Street. His occupation in 1939 was County Council Labourer. Walter died in 1965.

William Samuel Sharman (or King) –was born in 1898 in Haynes, son of James and Mary Jane (née King). The family had moved to the High Street Clophill by 1911.

He was a Private in the 2nd Bedfordshire Regiment. He volunteered as a 15yr old in August 1914 and served with his Battalion in the UK until drafted to Egypt in March 1917. He took part in fighting at Gaza during the British Advance through Palestine. After the Armistice he proceeded to India and in 1920 he was still serving, having volunteered to serve another 4 years in 1919. In that same year Ampthill News reported “*Pte. W. Sharman, 2nd Batt. Beds Regiment, stationed at Colchester visited Clacton Sept. 21st, 1919 and whilst walking on the pier heard a cry for help. Looking over into the sea he saw a boy in difficulties. Having divested himself of his cap, belt and tunic, he dived into the water and brought the boy safely to shore. A collection was made, and Sharman was the recipient of £4 10s. He was formerly a member of the Clophill Troop of Boy Scouts.*” His home address later was Jacques Lane, Clophill. Nothing further is certain about this man.

Reflections – Clophill in April 1977 - Voices from the past

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

Firstly, I have to say a big ‘Sorry’ to Nicky James, who was on the end of the bottom row of brownies in the photo of last month – and who I ‘cropped off’. Didn’t mean to do that. Also, I understand that it was Mrs Brownley, the Guider with Sally Myers, not Diane Hughes. My sincerest apologies go to both ladies.

Now, way back, as in forty-five years ago, we had our very own local pop group – ‘Home Brew’ – and it played regularly at the village hall and surrounding villages by the sounds of it. None so recent as 13th April (1977) when it provided ‘two lively performances’ at the talent show, where some 120 people enjoyed this and other turns including ‘our very own international illusionist’ – Bobby Voltaire. A couple of months earlier he had accurately predicted the Daily Express headline, the envelope in which this prediction was sealed, was opened at the show. Some £32 was raised for magazine funds too.

The **cover picture** of Maypole Dancing on The Green, was taken in the 1950's and "Rickatsons shop and 'The Green Man' can be seen in the background." Isn't it reassuring to note that this great tradition is still being continued by the school today as those who were at the Village Fete on 14th May experienced. It was just lovely.

On the **fete theme** - plans were well on the way for the 1977 Village Fete, to be opened by the Carnival Princess. Craft, plant, produce, sideshows and a dog show were to be enjoyed, with competitions for children being age grouped poster making; a Silver Jubilee decorated bicycle and a Fancy Dress.

Before this, on 1st April, "**Members of St. Mary's School Choir** gave a talented display at the Parish Church when they took part in a Musical Evening to raise funds for the Church Tower Restoration Fund. The programme had a Jubilee flavour". The choir sang thirteen songs, starting with 'The British Grenadiers' and both the recorder and violin groups played," with an excellent piano duet by Claire O'Connor and Mrs Mason and the evening came to an exciting finale with the singing of 'Rule Britannia' by Mrs Roberts (Headmistress), accompanied by Mrs Mason on piano and Rev Cousins on the organ."

Back in 1977, good ol' 'Copperfield' played at **Darts Spring Buffet Dance** which also incorporated the finals of the Knockout competition where Keith Palmer represented the 'Rising Sun', Brian Pitt – the 'Compasses', Dennis Moss the 'Green Man', George Pitts the 'Flying Horse' and (the actual winner), Bob Woods from the 'Commander-in-Chief'.

Raising funds for the church Tower Restoration Fund, Ann Jeffrey and Fred Kirby organised their eighth Annual Spring Ball and made £120 and "A very pleasant Supper Party, held at The Old Rectory by kind permission of Mr. & Mrs. Henman, raised £100 for the fund." (Forty-five years later, the church is still desperately in need of funds to maintain its fabric. Ah me - nothing changes on that front! What has changed though, is the number on the Church electoral roll – in 1977 there were 116, today some 40 fewer.)

Jack Pitts from the **Methodist Church** extended an invitation to the village via 'Correspondence'; "in Jubilee Year to **our very first Flower Festival**" to be held on 5th, 6th & 7th of May and "is to be arranged by Mrs Barbara Hudson". (I bet that was a stunner.) **Other social events** were advertised – a concert by the Luton Temple Salvation Army Songsters at St. Mary's Church – tickets 35p – and a 'Friendly Whist Drive at Beverley Court', or you could pop into Bedford to see 'The Eagle Has Landed' or to Luton for 'A Star is Born' or 'Zoltan-Hound of Dracula' (never heard of it!). The recipe is for Welsh cakes and there is more information on how to do deal with wounds and bleeding. (With a nose bleed, do you still "Sit with the head bent slightly forward. Breathe through the mouth. Pinch the nostrils firmly together for about ten minutes."?) Couldn't see anything from the Parish Council this month – perhaps no room, or too late in submission. (Does this happen nowadays?)



Nature Notes: What to see in the hedgerows and verges.

In the Verges. The cow parsley fades, but look out for the taller hog-weed. It has a large flat head of small white flowers which attract insects. There are other similar flowers like wild carrots, blooming now.



There are many yellow flowers in our verges and waste-land. Apart from the occasional flowers the dandelions are over, but there are many others, often difficult to distinguish. We may know the sow-thistle, prickly and often found in other gardens. Among other yellow flowers blooming in high summer are hawkbit, cats' ears, jack-go-to bed by noon; such attractive names.

One of my favourite summer wild flowers is the scarlet pimpernel because of its bright red flowers, very small, but eye catching. This is another flower which only blooms in sun and will close in the afternoon.

Do not miss the comfrey with tall purple/white flowers opening in damp ground along the By Pass and in some parts of Clophill. You cannot miss the common mallow, it grows everywhere. Its small 5 petalled blooms are mauve, streaked with a darker hue. This often grows alongside red poppies and with some of the afore mentioned yellow flowers makes a lovely combination.

In the churchyard the ox-eye daisies (or marguerites) are out, and the purple knapweed, a striking plant.

Trees. They are all a full leaf now, and really all the same shade of heavy green. It is a good time to learn their different leaf shapes. The Lime trees on the Green come into flower- notice their beautiful scent. Also, near the Green on a fence, you may see some honeysuckle. An even heavier fragrance comes from the elder flower, which are in full bloom in June. Both they and the Lime blossom are teeming with insects.

Birds. During June, they are all still singing but they get quieter and the dawn chorus is over. The kites are soaring high, watch for their forked tails, or you may hear swifts screeching as they fly high above us.

Other. During a wet spell, lots of small toads are appearing (or frogs), I think toads are more common here. They walk, frogs jump, so I am told.

High spots. The elder blossom; it usually coincides with a heat wave, and the wild roses.

Clophill Parish Council



A shorter meeting than normal as it was followed by the Annual Parish Meeting, the first since 2019 due to the pandemic. The meeting in the main discussed some of the new major developments out for consultation;

- Greenwoods new village near Barton
- Marston Mortaine new village
- Clophill A6 Roundabout consultation.

All Parishioners are encouraged to make their views known via the surveys and the planning portal.

The Annual Meeting that followed the CPC meeting was well attended by 8 of the Village Groups.

A round table of reports on the current activities and what was possible during the pandemic made for a lively meeting with lots of good news and exciting activities planned.

These included:

- the good work under taken by Clophill United Charities and Clophill Community care,
- plans for an extension to the village hall,
- the amalgamation of the Clophill Football Club and lower school Club.

A full report on all the groups and their activities will shortly be available on the Parish Council Web site.

Planning

CB/TCA/22/00228

Location: 71 High Street

Proposal: Works to trees within a Conservation Area: reduce Conifer Hedge height to approximately 6ft and reduce Conifer Tree by 2m and tidy.

NO COMMENT

CB/22/01674/FULL

Location: 30 Tanqueray Avenue

Proposal: Single storey rear extension, and two storey side extension, with garage conversion.

CPC resolved to support subject to CPC approving relocation of lamppost and moved at applicant's cost. Rear bathroom window is frosted to protect neighbours.

CB/22/01747/FULL

Location: 22 Goodwood Close

Proposal: Proposed Front Porch.

SUPPORT

CB/22/01754/FULL

Location: 16 Tanqueray Avenue

Proposal: Rear single storey extension replacing existing conservatory.

SUPPORT

CB/22/01539/LB

Location: 12 High Street

Proposal: Listed Building: Re-thatch the roof.

SUPPORT

**The next Parish Council meeting is on
Tuesday 28th June, at 7:45pm
in the Clophill Village Hall.**



GARAGE / YARD SALE!

If you have a few minutes to spare on

Saturday, 18th June,

between 11.00am & 5pm

then why not pop down to

122a, High Street



**and browse through interesting bric-a-brac, pictures,
books, toys,**

clothes and even some lovely lamps.

Once again, Cora Sheppard is raising funds for

Keech Hospice Care

where all of the charity's services are offered free of charge, 24/7.

**All monies raised will go towards the comfort of the terminally ill, both
children and adults and their families.**

WARDEN ABBEY

The community vineyard



Did you know Bedfordshire's medieval vineyard is now an exciting community project?

This beautiful field near Old Warden was first planted by monks at Warden Abbey. Centuries later, the "Lyttel Vineyard" was re-planted and now produces award-winning wines.

Today, it's an army of volunteers who tend the vines all year round as well as run tours and events, school visits, social & therapeutic horticulture, wildlife and heritage projects.

OPEN FOR TOURS MAY TO SEPTEMBER

See website for tour dates, events, vouchers, gifts and stockists

07981 113714 info@wardenvineyard.org.uk



wardenvineyard.org.uk



Local . Ethical . Award-winning

Clophill Preschool

News

Hello everyone, what an exciting time we have been having here in Clophill and what a great Jubilee weekend the village put on. It was so lovely to get everyone together again after the success of the Church Fete.

It was great to be able to share our fantastic setting with so many families, some who come to us already, some who used

to and some who are hoping to join us. We are now full for 2022/2023 and taking bookings for 2023/24 and beyond. Its always fun to explain to people that we are



now an outdoor setting and that means we are outside all day every day; our children and staff have fully embraced this.

We always have people asking us what happens when it rains, and our answer is always the same... we get wet! All of our children are prepared for the weather, it's part of the commitment our parents make when they join us. Children come dressed in waterproofs everyday and are not bothered by the rain, they are busy playing and learning. It is important to us that children get to experience nature in all its guises through all the seasons, there is so much to learn from the world around us.



Since the new EYFS was introduced in September last year, we have gone on to develop our own curriculum based in nature that inspires children's natural curiosity and supports and guides them to learn through experience with a purpose. Their writing emerges as they write labels for the sunflower seeds they plant or draw treasure maps for their pirate game, they use books and spotter cards to recognise and identify birds, plants, trees and bugs; sewing pictures of their favourites. They learned about bats, then drew them and made some out of clay, they examine features, and develop their fine motor skills and creativity. They develop their own ideas to make new sledges for the slope and then test out their ideas. They practice their maths as they count out the right number of cups of grain to feed Rocky and the girls and follow the pattern as they try maypole dancing. Recently one child's fascination for the solar system led to a group discussion about the planets, they then designed their own drawing on pebbles. By fostering children's natural interest in the world around them we find their fascination and learning is contagious.



We are looking forward to this last half term of the summer, it is always busy and those leaving us for their next step in education really start to spread their wings. We look forward to the schools visiting us to meet the children joining them and this year our children will be voyaging on to 14 different settings. We have some

summer events to look forward to before then: sports day and dad's week as well as our end of term graduation and picnic, fun and busy times ahead!

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.

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.**

Clophill and District Flower Club

Every May our members are treated to an extra special demonstration by a nationally qualified demonstrator. On 5th May Tony Brown from Market Harborough came to entertain us to show his love of flowers and garden plant material. This will be the last opportunity for him to visit Clophill as he has now decided to retire after 40 years of travelling the world arranging flowers.

It was obvious how much he loves flowers from the way he handled them and talked about their qualities. He is a very knowledgeable gardener and



he gave us lots of tips during the evening. His use of colour was evident in each arrangement, blending orange and purple with a splash of pink or purple, blue and pink to compliment an unusual tall vase.

Tony used a large selection of flowers including roses, carnations, lilies and lots of hydrangeas. He recommended using pot grown hydrangeas as they are cheaper but to immerse the blooms in water to keep them hydrated. To condition other cut flowers, he always singes the stems before plunging them into deep water. There were alliums, stocks and chrysanthemums in other arrangements with lots of beautiful foliage.

All Tony's designs were traditional in style and large with two placements – one that he did on stage and

another he then brought on that he had created earlier. By the end of the evening the stage was spectacular filled with flowers and colour.

In June the members will celebrate the Sapphire Anniversary of the Club with a special meal and floral entertainment. Guests will include our previous Chairman Judy Pitts – there has only been three chairmen in 46 years!



Carolyn Cranswick - Chairman of Clophill and District Flower Club

Parish Registers for May

1821

Baptisms

- 14 Henry son of Thomas and Mary Burley.

Burials

- 05 Mary Ann Chipperfield.
18 William Brazier.

1822

Baptisms

- 02 ? d of Isaac and Mary Garner.
16 George s of William and Sarah Richardson.
Eliza d of Matthew and Sarah Denton.
Mary Ann Taylor, parents not mentioned.

Burials

- 02 Elizabeth Webb.

1871

Baptisms

- 25 Frederick s of George and Jane Braybrook.

Marriages

- 14 William Clarke Stennett, 26, Civil Engineer to Mary Peacock Gudgin, 21.

1921

Burials

- 08 Miranda Pitts, 81.

1922

Baptisms

- 04 Kenneth Odell, f a market gardener.
Maurice John Henlow, f a market gardener.

Marriages

- 12 John Rothwell, of full age, widower to Margaret Cory Tanqueray Williams, of full age, widow.

1971

Baptisms

- 27 Nicola Jane Fox.

1972

Baptisms

- 04 Carl Elliot Anderson.
Philip Charles Wynn.

Marriages

- 19 John Roberts, 22 to Janet Lawler, 18.
Derek Lymer, 33 to Helen Diane Chisholm, 23.

Burials

- 20 Jack Hardwicke, 61.

St Mary's Church Registers for May 2022

Baptism

- 29 Arthur Brant.

Marriage

- 28 Sophie Sanders to Michael Stanley.

Funeral and Burial

- 24 Ian Douglas Colyer, 67.
-



**Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire**

Wildlife walks & talks

**Saturday 11th June, 10.00am-3.00pm, Flitwick Moor
and Folly Wood (TL045354)**

Invertebrate Day - a joint event with the BNHS

Learn about the fascinating invertebrates to be found at this superb reserve. Bedfordshire Natural History Society County Recorders will be searching for their specialist subjects and experts and enthusiasts will be on hand to help with identification. Ideal for families and individuals to go off to the Moor to 'bug hunt' - equipment will be provided for this. Morning and afternoon sessions, come to either or bring lunch and stay for both.

Saturday 9th July, 10.00am-12.00, Fancott Meadow

Wildflower walk * with Graham Bellamy

Join Dr Graham Bellamy on a tour round this spectacular traditional flower-rich meadow with both sweet vernal and quaking-grass and the adjacent mixed-wood spinney. Places are limited.

The Fancott Pub is close by for lunch. *£3 per adult

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

What's on in and around Clophill

JUNE

Saturday 11th

Jubilee Coffee and Croissants, Methodist Church, 10am – 12noon
See poster in this issue.

Saturday 25th and Saturday 26th

Open Gardens, Village Green and St Mary's Church,
12noon – 5pm both days. *See poster in this issue.*

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.*

Wednesdays...

- Tea and Chat, Methodist Church, 10am – 12noon.

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'd like included on this page, please email clophillspotlight1@hotmail.co.uk



Barton-le-Clay

Recent activity:

- Response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine – we had a moving presentation by the organisers of the Central Beds Ukraine Appeal, Emily Roberts from Barton and Kasha Southin from Clophill, who have long standing family ties with Ukraine and Poland.

Emily explained that once the invasion had started and the scale of the pending humanitarian crisis became apparent, the response from the local community has been almost overwhelming and we say a big thank you. Within a few days collection depots were established at Church Halls in Barton, Clophill and Maulden, with local hauliers delivering much needed relief supplies, at their own expense, to Collection Centres in Poland, a round trip of some 2,400 miles. Medical and healthcare supplies are now urgently required and in very short supply. Also, children's toys and games have been delivered to orphanages that have relocated to Poland with the team from Central Beds being enthusiastically received by the Ukrainian youngsters.

Funds raised, including from a rapidly organised quiz night at The Cross Keys in Pulloxhill, have been used to support the purchase of food sourced locally in Poland, eliminating the need for expensive haulage.

Emphasis is now shifting to supporting incoming refugees and their host families in Central Beds.

The Club, along with Rotary in Ampthill, have actively supported this local Relief effort and will continue to work with the Appeal in raising funds and supplying support. Any support is welcome.

- The Club continues to support our established international projects, including CARE International's "Lend with Care" programme, which matches entrepreneurs in the developing world with donors who can provide low-cost micro loans to help establish or expand their local businesses. The Club has now supported the programme for eight years:
 - contributing to over 600 micro-loans supporting over 3,000 emerging entrepreneurs creating over 2,000 jobs
 - Countries include Cambodia, Ecuador, Peru, Malawi, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Vietnam and Zambia.
 - More information of the programme is available at <https://lendwithcare.org>

Upcoming Club meetings:

- 24 May – Ian Earey – HfT: Supporting people with learning difficulties
- 31 May – Rodney Weeks - My Life as a Ballroom Dancer
- 14 June – Sarah Russell – TIBBS Dementia Foundation update
- 21 June – Alex Hill - My life as a pharmacist
- 28 June – Howard Mann - How the Earth has shaped Human History

As always, anyone is welcome to join these meetings and listen to our talks.

Meetings take place on a Tuesday evening at the Jolly Coopers in Flitton at 7.15 for 7.45 pm.

There is a Zoom facility which can be made available for those who would prefer not to meet in person.

Just get in touch with any Club member or check the website for access.

Some useful web addresses: www.bartonleclayrotary.org.uk



Clophill Open Gardens Weekend

25th & 26th June

12 noon – 5pm each day

This year Open Gardens will be bigger and better than last time. We have had a great response and there will be 14 gardens open, 10 of which are open for the first time. There are large, small, natural and landscaped gardens to see. There will also be a Treasure Hunt for the children.

Programmes will be available on The Green and at St Mary's Church. Delicious refreshments will be served at the Church where there will be a large plant stall and Book Stall.

There will be parking available at the school where there will also be activities for the children.

Please support your local community and take the opportunity to spend an afternoon visiting gardens in Clophill.

Proceeds will be for St Mary's Church

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 | Val Martin | 860900 |
| 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 | |
| | 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 |

Introducing the Anne Robson Helpline

If you, or someone close to, you is dying, you can talk to us.



At the Anne Robson Trust we aim to be there to listen to anyone who faces dying or the imminent death of someone they care about. We know that facing the end of life can leave you feeling isolated and alone.

Being able to access support is so important. Gaining knowledge of what may happen towards the end of life and being prepared helps both the person dying and their loved ones to feel a sense of control.

Calls are free and confidential.

Call us on 0808 801 0688 - we have time to talk.

Please visit www.annerobsontrust.org.uk/helpline-service to find out more.

Useful numbers

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Gas (Emergency) | 0800 111999 |
| Electricity (Emergency) | 0800 7838838 |
| 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

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Rev'd 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 Rev'd Silas Wood, email: swood11@me.com, 01525 571392

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | Mr John Errick 01525 860695 |
| 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 | |

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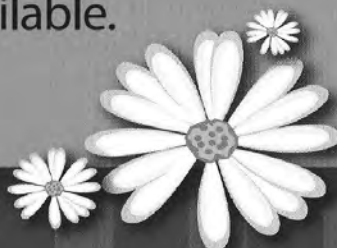
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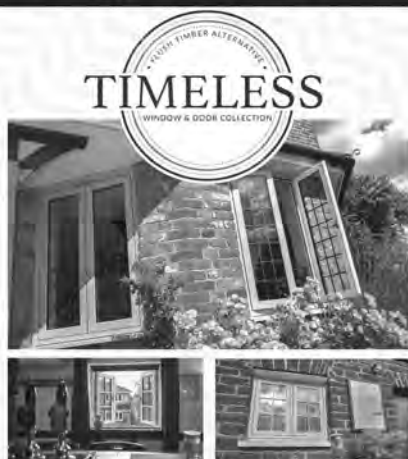


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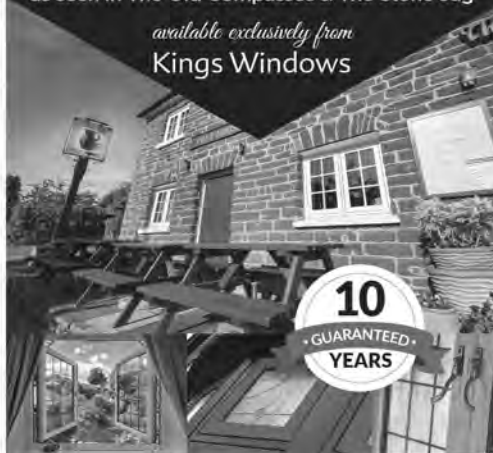


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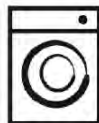
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The background of the advertisement is a photograph of a road stretching into the distance, lined with trees. The view is from the perspective of someone in a car, with the car's hood and side mirror visible in the foreground.A logo consisting of three white triangles arranged in a larger triangle shape on a blue background.

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